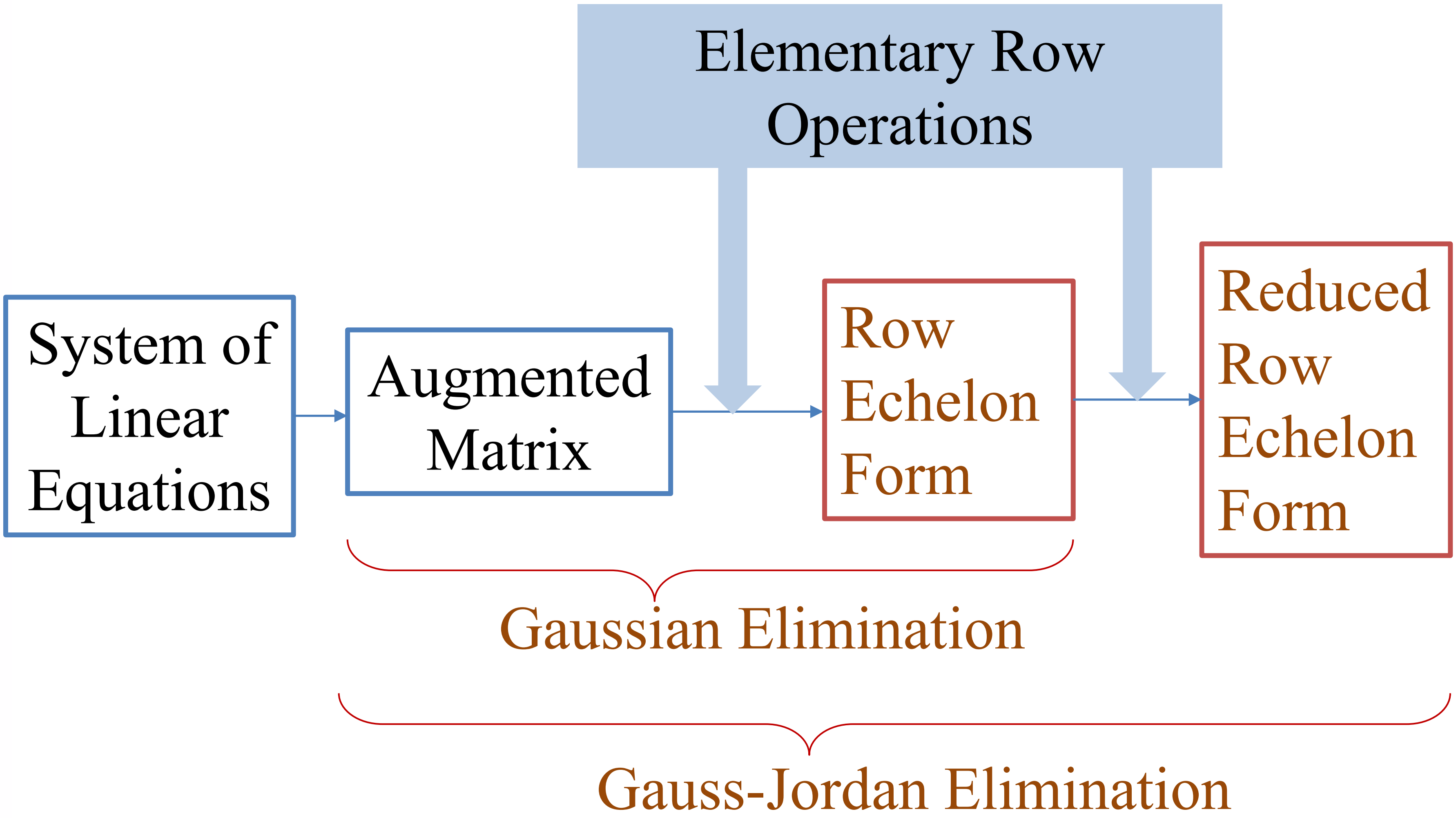
Chapter 1

Systems of Linear Equations and Matrices

Chapter 1.2

Gaussian Elimination

Overview


Elementary Row Operations
System of Linear Equations
Augmented Matrix
Row Echelon Form
Reduced Row Echelon Form
Gaussian Elimination
Gauss-Jordan Elimination

Row Echelon Form and Reduced Row Echelon Form

1. If a row does not consist entirely of zeros, then the first nonzero number in the row is a 1. We call this a *leading 1*.
2. If there are any rows that consist entirely of zeros, then they are grouped together at the bottom of the matrix.
3. In any two successive rows that do not consist entirely of zeros, the leading 1 in the lower row occurs farther to the right than the leading 1 in the higher row.
4. Each column that contains a leading 1 has zeros everywhere else in that column.

Row echelon form (conditions 1–3)

Reduced row echelon form (conditions 1–4)

EXAMPLE 1 Row Echelon and Reduced Row Echelon Form

The following matrices are in row echelon form but not reduced row echelon form.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & -3 & 7 \\ 0 & 1 & 6 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 5 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 6 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

The following matrices are in reduced row echelon form.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 7 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & -2 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

EXAMPLE 2 More on Row Echelon and Reduced Row Echelon Form

Row echelon form:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & * & * & * \\ 0 & 1 & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & * & * & * \\ 0 & 1 & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & * & * & * \\ 0 & 1 & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & * & * & * & * & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & * & * & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & * & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & * \end{bmatrix}$$

Reduced row echelon form:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & * \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & * \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & * & * \\ 0 & 1 & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & * & 0 & 0 & 0 & * & * & 0 & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & * & * & 0 & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & * & * & 0 & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & * & * & 0 & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & * \end{bmatrix}$$

EXAMPLE 3 Unique Solution

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

This matrix is in reduced row echelon form and corresponds to the equations

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 \qquad\qquad\qquad &= 3 \\ x_2 \qquad\qquad &= -1 \\ x_3 \qquad &= 0 \\ x_4 &= 5 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the system has a unique solution, namely, $x_1 = 3, x_2 = -1,$ $x_3 = 0, x_4 = 5$, which can also be expressed as the 4-tuple $(3, -1, 0, 5)$.

EXAMPLE 4 Linear Systems in Three Unknowns

In each part, suppose that the augmented matrix for a linear system in the unknowns x, y, and z has been reduced by elementary row operations to the given reduced row echelon form. Solve the system.

$$(a)\ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \qquad (b)\ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & -4 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \qquad (c)\ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -5 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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Solution (*a*) The equation that corresponds to the last row of the augmented matrix is

$$0x + 0y + 0z = 1$$

Since this equation is not satisfied by any values of x, y, and z, the system is inconsistent.

Solution (*b*) The equation that corresponds to the last row of the augmented matrix is

$$0x + 0y + 0z = 0$$

This equation can be omitted since it imposes no restrictions on x, y, and z; hence, the linear system corresponding to the augmented matrix is

$$\begin{aligned} x \quad\quad + 3z &= -1 \\ y - 4z &= 2 \end{aligned}$$

In general, the variables in a linear system that correspond to the leading l's in its augmented matrix are called the ***leading variables***, and the remaining variables are called the ***free variables***. In this case the leading variables are x and y, and the variable z is the only free variable. Solving for the leading variables in terms of the free variables gives

$$\begin{aligned} x &= -1 - 3z \\ y &= 2 + 4z \end{aligned}$$

From these equations we see that the free variable z can be treated as a parameter and assigned an arbitrary value t, which then determines values for x and y. Thus, the solution set can be represented by the parametric equations

$$x = -1 - 3t, \quad y = 2 + 4t, \quad z = t$$

By substituting various values for t in these equations we can obtain various solutions of the system. For example, setting $t = 0$ yields the solution

$$x = -1, \quad y = 2, \quad z = 0$$

and setting $t = 1$ yields the solution

$$x = -4, \quad y = 6, \quad z = 1$$

Solution (c) As explained in part (b), we can omit the equations corresponding to the zero rows, in which case the linear system associated with the augmented matrix consists of the single equation

$$x - 5y + z = 4 \tag{1}$$

from which we see that the solution set is a plane in three-dimensional space. Although (1) is a valid form of the solution set, there are many applications in which it is preferable to express the solution set in parametric form. We can convert (1) to parametric form by solving for the leading variable x in terms of the free variables y and z to obtain

$$x = 4 + 5y - z$$

From this equation we see that the free variables can be assigned arbitrary values, say $y = s$ and $z = t$, which then determine the value of x. Thus, the solution set can be expressed parametrically as

$$x = 4 + 5s - t, \quad y = s, \quad z = t \tag{2}$$

Construct Solutions to a SLE

Example [Note]

General Solution

DEFINITION 1

If a linear system has infinitely many solutions, then a set of parametric equations from which all solutions can be obtained by assigning numerical values to the parameters is called a *general solution* of the system.

Another Example

$$\begin{array}{cccccc} x_1 & x_2 & x_3 & x_4 & x_5 & \\ \end{array}$$
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 6 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -8 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 \quad +6x_2 \qquad\quad +3x_4 \qquad &= 0 \\ x_3 \quad -8x_4 \qquad &= 5 \\ x_5 \quad &= 7 \end{aligned}$$

$\Rightarrow$

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &= -6x_2 - 3x_4 \\ x_3 &= 5 + 8x_4 \\ x_5 &= 7 \end{aligned}$$

x_2 and x_4 are *free*

General solution of the above system is

$x_1 = -6s - 3t, \quad x_2 = s, \quad x_3 = 5 + 8t, \quad x_4 = t, \quad x_5 = 7$

where the free variables have been replaced by parameters.

Gaussian Elimination

Perform a sequence of elementary row operations to the augmented matrix to obtain a row echelon form.

Gauss-Jordan Elimination

Perform a sequence of elementary row operations to the augmented matrix to obtain a reduced row echelon form.

EXAMPLE 5 Gauss-Jordan Elimination

Solve by Gauss–Jordan elimination.

$$
\begin{aligned}
x_1 + 3x_2 - 2x_3 \phantom{{}- 2x_4} + 2x_5 \phantom{{}- 3x_6} &= 0 \\
2x_1 + 6x_2 - 5x_3 - 2x_4 + 4x_5 - 3x_6 &= -1 \\
5x_3 + 10x_4 \phantom{{}+ 4x_5} + 15x_6 &= 5 \\
2x_1 + 6x_2 \phantom{{}- 5x_3} + 8x_4 + 4x_5 + 18x_6 &= 6
\end{aligned}
$$

exe

Solution The augmented matrix for the system is

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & -2 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 6 & -5 & -2 & 4 & -3 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 & 10 & 0 & 15 & 5 \\ 2 & 6 & 0 & 8 & 4 & 18 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

Adding -2 times the first row to the second and fourth rows gives

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & -2 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & -2 & 0 & -3 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 & 10 & 0 & 15 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 & 8 & 0 & 18 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

Multiplying the second row by -1 and then adding -5 times the new second row to the third row and -4 times the new second row to the fourth row gives

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & -2 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 6 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Interchanging the third and fourth rows and then multiplying the third row of the resulting matrix by $\frac{1}{6}$ gives the row echelon form

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & -2 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & \frac{1}{3} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

This completes the forward phase since there are zeros below the leading 1's.

Adding -3 times the third row to the second row and then adding 2 times the second row of the resulting matrix to the first row yields the reduced row echelon form

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 0 & 4 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & \frac{1}{3} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

This completes the backward phase since there are zeros above the leading 1's.

The corresponding system of equations is

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 + 3x_2 \qquad + 4x_4 + 2x_5 \qquad &= 0 \\ x_3 + 2x_4 \qquad &= 0 \\ x_6 &= \tfrac{1}{3} \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

Solving for the leading variables, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &= -3x_2 - 4x_4 - 2x_5 \\ x_3 &= -2x_4 \\ x_6 &= \tfrac{1}{3} \end{aligned}$$

Finally, we express the general solution of the system parametrically by assigning the free variables x_2, x_4, and x_5 arbitrary values r, s, and t, respectively. This yields

$$x_1 = -3r - 4s - 2t, \quad x_2 = r, \quad x_3 = -2s, \quad x_4 = s, \quad x_5 = t, \quad x_6 = \tfrac{1}{3}$$

Homogeneous Linear Systems

A system of linear equations is said to be *homogeneous* if the constant terms are all zero

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} a_{11}x_1 & + & a_{12}x_2 & + \cdots + & a_{1n}x_n & = 0 \\ a_{21}x_1 & + & a_{22}x_2 & + \cdots + & a_{2n}x_n & = 0 \\ \vdots & & \vdots & & \vdots & \vdots \\ a_{m1}x_1 & + & a_{m2}x_2 & + \cdots + & a_{mn}x_n & = 0 \end{array}$$

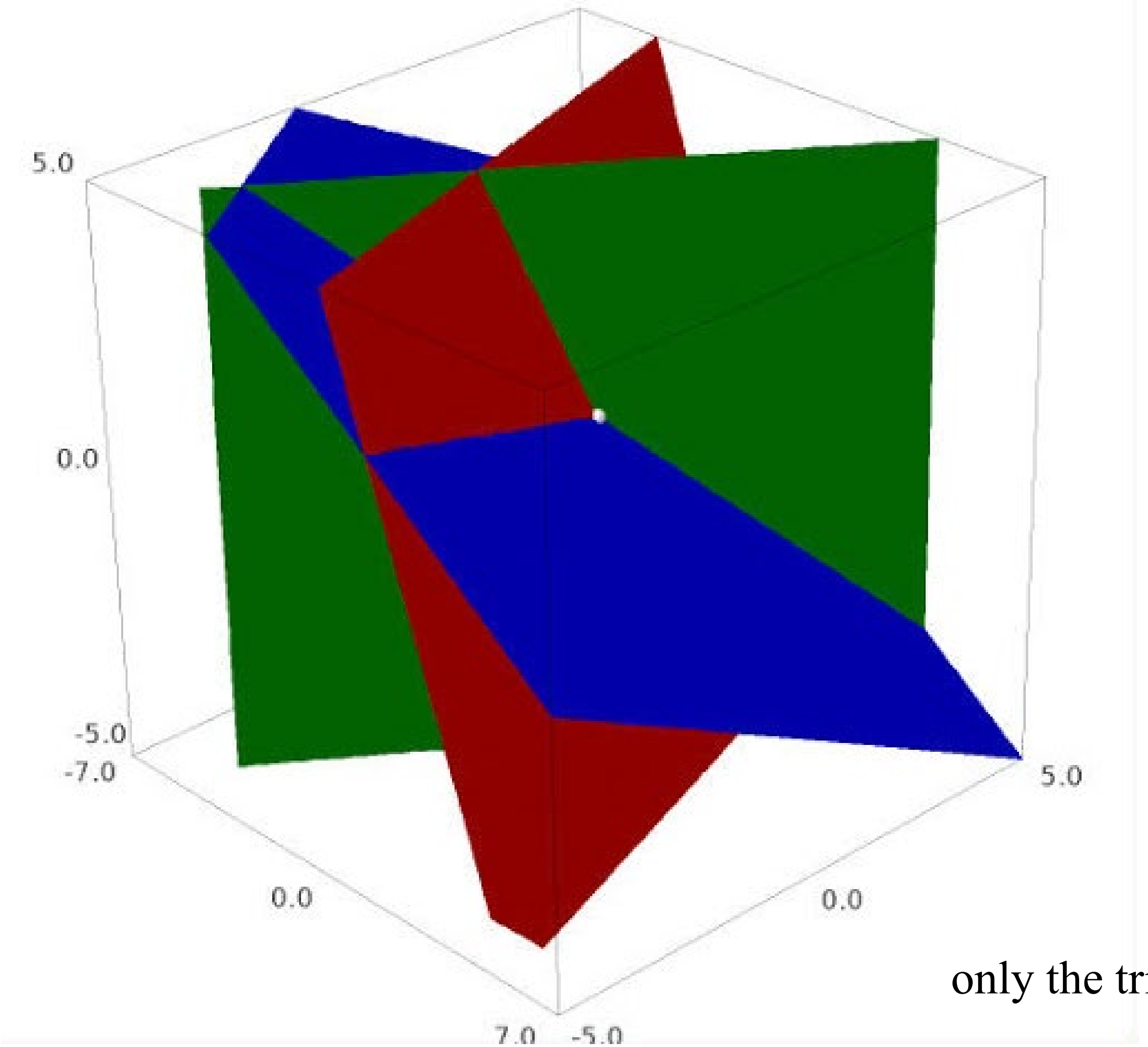
Every homogeneous system of linear equations is consistent because all such systems have $x_1 = 0, x_2 = 0, \ldots, x_n = 0$ as a solution. This solution is called the *trivial solution*.

Homogeneous Linear Systems

there are only two possibilities for its solutions:

- The system has only the trivial solution.
- The system has infinitely many solutions in addition to the trivial solution.

Homogeneous Linear Systems



only the trivial solution

EXAMPLE 6 A Homogeneous System

$$\begin{aligned}
x_1 + 3x_2 - 2x_3 \quad\quad\quad + 2x_5 \quad\quad\quad &= 0\\
2x_1 + 6x_2 - 5x_3 - 2x_4 + 4x_5 - 3x_6 &= 0\\
5x_3 + 10x_4 \quad\quad\quad + 15x_6 &= 0\\
2x_1 + 6x_2 \quad\quad\quad + 8x_4 + 4x_5 + 18x_6 &= 0
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & -2 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 0\\ 2 & 6 & -5 & -2 & 4 & -3 & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 5 & 10 & 0 & 15 & 0\\ 2 & 6 & 0 & 8 & 4 & 18 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 0 & 4 & 2 & 0 & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Augmented matrix

Reduced row echelon form

Reduced row echelon form
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 0 & 4 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 + 3x_2 \quad\quad + 4x_4 + 2x_5 \quad\quad &= 0 \\ x_3 + 2x_4 \quad\quad &= 0 \\ x_6 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &= -3x_2 - 4x_4 - 2x_5 \\ x_3 &= -2x_4 \\ x_6 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

x_2, x_4, and x_5 are free

Assign arbitrary values r, s, and t, to the free variables x_2, x_4, and x_5, respectively, and express the solution set parametrically as

$$x_1 = -3r - 4s - 2t, \quad x_2 = r, \quad x_3 = -2s, \quad x_4 = s, \quad x_5 = t, \quad x_6 = 0$$

Free Variable Theorem for Homogeneous Systems

THEOREM 1.2.1

If a homogeneous linear system has n unknowns, and if the reduced row echelon form of its augmented matrix has r nonzero rows, then the system has $n - r$ free variables.

$$\begin{array}{l}\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 0 & 4 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{n=6} \end{array} \quad r = 3$$

Thus 3 free variables

Homogeneous Linear Systems

THEOREM 1.2.2

A homogeneous linear system with more unknowns than equations has infinitely many solutions.

Some Properties

No matter how you calculate it, you'll always get the same reduced row echelon form for a given matrix.

A matrix can have different row echelon forms.

Although row echelon form are not unique, the number of zero rows is the same for every row echelon form of a matrix, and the leading 1's always occur in the same positions.

Pivot Positions

A *pivot position* in a matrix A is a location in A that corresponds to a leading 1 in the reduced echelon form of A.

A *pivot column* is a column of A that contains a pivot position.

There is no more than one pivot position in any row.

There is no more than one pivot position in any column.

Pivot Positions

EXAMPLE 7 Pivot Positions and Columns

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \boxed{0} & 0 & -2 & 0 & 7 & 12 \\ 2 & 4 & \boxed{-10} & 6 & 12 & 28 \\ 2 & 4 & -5 & 6 & \boxed{-5} & -1 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \boxed{1} & 2 & -5 & 3 & 6 & 14 \\ 0 & 0 & \boxed{1} & 0 & -\frac{7}{2} & -6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \boxed{1} & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\uparrow \qquad\qquad \uparrow \qquad\qquad \uparrow$$

Pivot positions and columns

Chapter 1-2 Objectives

- Recognize whether a given matrix is in row echelon form, reduced row echelon form, or neither.
- Construct solutions to linear systems whose corresponding augmented matrices that are in row echelon form or reduced row echelon form.
- Use Gaussian elimination to find the general solution of a linear system.
- Use Gauss-Jordan elimination in order to find the general solution of a linear system.
- Analyze homogeneous linear systems using the Free Variable Theorem for Homogeneous Systems.