

Math 415 - Lecture 2

Echelon Forms, General Solution.

Wednesday August 26 2015

Textbook: Chapter 1.3, Chapter 2.2 (just the pages 78 and 79)

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Suggested Practice Exercise: in Chapter 1.3, Exercise 17, 23, 24,
in Chapter 2.2, Exercise 2 (just reduce A, B to
echelon form), 8

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Khan Academy Video: Matrices: Reduced Row Echelon Form 1

Row Reduction and Echelon Forms

Definition

A matrix is of **Echelon form** (or **row echelon form**) if

1. All nonzero rows are above any rows of all zeros.

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3. All entries in a column below a leading entry are zero.

A leading entry of an echelon form matrix is also called a **PIVOT**.

Example

Are the following matrices in Echelon form?

(a)
$$\begin{bmatrix} \blacksquare & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & \blacksquare & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Example

Are the following matrices in Echelon form?

(a)
$$\begin{bmatrix} \blacksquare & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & \blacksquare & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$
 Echelon form ?

1. ✓ 2. ✓ 3. ✓

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Are the following matrices in Echelon form?

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 Echelon form ?

1. ✓ 2. ✓ 3. ✓

(b)
$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & \blacksquare & * & * & * \\ \blacksquare & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Example

Are the following matrices in Echelon form?

(a)
$$\begin{bmatrix} \blacksquare & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & \blacksquare & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$
 Echelon form ?

1. ✓ 2. ✓ 3. ✓

(b)
$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & \blacksquare & * & * & * \\ \blacksquare & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$
 Not echelon form.

1. ✓ 2. Fails 3. Fails
Would be after $R1 \leftrightarrow R2$

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$$\begin{bmatrix} \blacksquare & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & \blacksquare & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$
 Echelon form ?

1. ✓ 2. ✓ 3. ✓

(b)
$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & \blacksquare & * & * & * \\ \blacksquare & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$
 Not echelon form.

1. ✓ 2. Fails 3. Fails
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(c)
$$\begin{bmatrix} \blacksquare & * & * \\ 0 & \blacksquare & * \\ 0 & 0 & \blacksquare \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Example

Are the following matrices in Echelon form?

(a)
$$\begin{bmatrix} \blacksquare & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & \blacksquare & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$
 Echelon form ?

1. ✓ 2. ✓ 3. ✓

(b)
$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & \blacksquare & * & * & * \\ \blacksquare & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$
 Not echelon form.

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Would be after $R1 \leftrightarrow R2$

(c)
$$\begin{bmatrix} \blacksquare & * & * \\ 0 & \blacksquare & * \\ 0 & 0 & \blacksquare \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$
 Echelon form.

1. ✓ 2. ✓ 3. ✓

(d)
$$\begin{bmatrix} \blacksquare & 0 & 0 \\ * & \blacksquare & 0 \\ * & 0 & \blacksquare \\ * & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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Not echelon form.

1. ✓ 2. Fails 3. Fails

(d)
$$\begin{bmatrix} \blacksquare & 0 & 0 \\ * & \blacksquare & 0 \\ * & 0 & \blacksquare \\ * & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$
 Not echelon form.
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(e)
$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & \blacksquare & * & * & * & * & * & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \blacksquare & * & * & * & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \blacksquare & * & * & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \blacksquare & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \blacksquare & * & * \end{bmatrix}$$

(d)
$$\begin{bmatrix} \blacksquare & 0 & 0 \\ * & \blacksquare & 0 \\ * & 0 & \blacksquare \\ * & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$
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(e)
$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & \blacksquare & * & * & * & * & * & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \blacksquare & * & * & * & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \blacksquare & * & * & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \blacksquare & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \blacksquare & * & * \end{bmatrix}$$

Echelon form.

1. ✓ 2. ✓ 3. ✓

Leading column of 0s is OK.

Why Echelon Form?

The echelon form of an augmented matrix is good if you want to know if a system is consistent, and if so if there are infinitely many solutions.

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Definition

A matrix is of the **reduced echelon form** if in addition to conditions 1, 2, and 3 above it also satisfies

4. The leading entry in each nonzero row is 1.
5. Each leading 1 is the only nonzero entry in its column.

Example

Are the following matrices in reduced echelon form?

(a)
$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & * & 0 & 0 & * & * & 0 & 0 & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & * & * & 0 & 0 & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & * & * & 0 & 0 & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & * & * \end{bmatrix}$$

(b)
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 5 & 0 & -7 \\ 0 & 2 & 4 & 0 & -6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Example

Are the following matrices in reduced echelon form?

(a)
$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & * & 0 & 0 & * & * & 0 & 0 & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & * & * & 0 & 0 & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & * & * & 0 & 0 & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & * & * \end{bmatrix}$$

Reduced row echelon form.

1. ✓ 2. ✓ 3. ✓ 4. ✓ 5. ✓

(b)
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 5 & 0 & -7 \\ 0 & 2 & 4 & 0 & -6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Example

Are the following matrices in reduced echelon form?

(a)
$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & * & 0 & 0 & * & * & 0 & 0 & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & * & * & 0 & 0 & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & * & * & 0 & 0 & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & * & * \end{bmatrix}$$

Reduced row echelon form.

1. ✓ 2. ✓ 3. ✓ 4. ✓ 5. ✓

(b)
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 5 & 0 & -7 \\ 0 & 2 & 4 & 0 & -6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

No:

4. Fails 5. ✓

$$(c) \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -2 & 3 & 2 & -24 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 2 & 0 & -7 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(c) \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -2 & 3 & 2 & -24 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 2 & 0 & -7 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

No:

4. ✓ 5. Fails

Theorem (Uniqueness of The Reduced Echelon Form)

Each matrix is row-equivalent to one and only one reduced echelon matrix.

Question: Is the same statement true for Echelon form?

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No:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Both are row-equivalent and in echelon form.

Pivots

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A **pivot position** is the position of a leading entry in an echelon form of the matrix.

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A **pivot** of a matrix is a (nonzero) number that appears in a pivot position.

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In a Reduced Row Echelon Form matrix the pivots are 1.

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Pivots are used to create 0's.

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A **pivot** of a matrix is a (nonzero) number that appears in a pivot position.

In a Reduced Row Echelon Form matrix the pivots are 1.
Pivots are used to create 0's.

Definition

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

Example

In this example, highlight the pivot positions and pivot columns.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 5 & 0 & 7 \\ 0 & 2 & 4 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Example

In this example, highlight the pivot positions and pivot columns.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 5 & 0 & 7 \\ 0 & 2 & 4 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & \downarrow & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 5 & 0 & 7 \\ 0 & 2 & 4 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{array}$$

Example

Row reduce to echelon form and locate the pivot columns for the following matrix.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & -3 & -6 & 4 & 9 \\ -1 & -2 & -1 & 3 & 1 \\ -2 & -3 & 0 & 3 & -1 \\ 1 & 4 & 5 & -9 & -7 \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & -3 & -6 & 4 & 9 \\ -1 & -2 & -1 & 3 & 1 \\ -2 & -3 & 0 & 3 & -1 \\ 1 & 4 & 5 & -9 & -7 \end{bmatrix}$$

Solution:

$$\xrightarrow{R4 \leftrightarrow R1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & 5 & -9 & -7 \\ -1 & -2 & -1 & 3 & 1 \\ -2 & -3 & 0 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 & 4 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \xrightarrow{\quad} \\ R2 \rightarrow R2 + R1 \\ R3 \rightarrow R3 + 2R1 \end{array} \left[\begin{array}{ccccc} 1 & 4 & 5 & -9 & -7 \\ 0 & 2 & 4 & -6 & -6 \\ 0 & 5 & 10 & -15 & -15 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 & 4 & 9 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \longrightarrow \\ R2 \rightarrow R2 + R1 \\ R3 \rightarrow R3 + 2R1 \end{array} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & 5 & -9 & -7 \\ 0 & 2 & 4 & -6 & -6 \\ 0 & 5 & 10 & -15 & -15 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 & 4 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \longrightarrow \\ \dots \end{array} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & 5 & -9 & -7 \\ 0 & 2 & 4 & -6 & -6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -5 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \longrightarrow \\ R2 \rightarrow R2 + R1 \\ R3 \rightarrow R3 + 2R1 \end{array} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & 5 & -9 & -7 \\ 0 & 2 & 4 & -6 & -6 \\ 0 & 5 & 10 & -15 & -15 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 & 4 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$\begin{array}{l} \longrightarrow \\ R3 \leftrightarrow R4 \end{array} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & 5 & -9 & -7 \\ 0 & 2 & 4 & -6 & -6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Note:

$$\begin{array}{l} \longrightarrow \\ R2 \rightarrow R2 + R1 \\ R3 \rightarrow R3 + 2R1 \end{array} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & 5 & -9 & -7 \\ 0 & 2 & 4 & -6 & -6 \\ 0 & 5 & 10 & -15 & -15 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 & 4 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$\begin{array}{l} \longrightarrow \\ R3 \leftrightarrow R4 \end{array} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & 5 & -9 & -7 \\ 0 & 2 & 4 & -6 & -6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Note: There is no more than one pivot in any row. There is no more than one pivot in any column.

Example

Row reduce to echelon form and then to reduced echelon form:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 & -6 & 6 & 4 & -5 \\ 3 & -7 & 8 & -5 & 8 & 9 \\ 3 & -9 & 12 & -9 & 6 & 15 \end{bmatrix}$$

Solution:

Example

Row reduce to echelon form and then to reduced echelon form:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 & -6 & 6 & 4 & -5 \\ 3 & -7 & 8 & -5 & 8 & 9 \\ 3 & -9 & 12 & -9 & 6 & 15 \end{bmatrix}$$

Solution:

$$\xrightarrow{R1 \leftrightarrow R3} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -9 & 12 & -9 & 6 & 15 \\ 3 & -7 & 8 & -5 & 8 & 9 \\ 0 & 3 & -6 & 6 & 4 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

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Solution:

$$\begin{array}{l} \xrightarrow{R1 \leftrightarrow R3} \\ \xrightarrow{R2 \rightarrow R2 - R1} \end{array} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -9 & 12 & -9 & 6 & 15 \\ 3 & -7 & 8 & -5 & 8 & 9 \\ 0 & 3 & -6 & 6 & 4 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -9 & 12 & -9 & 6 & 15 \\ 0 & 2 & -4 & 4 & 2 & -6 \\ 0 & 3 & -6 & 6 & 4 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\xrightarrow{R2 \rightarrow R2 - R1} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -9 & 12 & -9 & 6 & 15 \\ 0 & 2 & -4 & 4 & 2 & -6 \\ 0 & 3 & -6 & 6 & 4 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$\xrightarrow{R3 \rightarrow R3 - \frac{3}{2}R2} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -9 & 12 & -9 & 6 & 15 \\ 0 & 2 & -4 & 4 & 2 & -6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

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This is echelon form!

$$\begin{array}{l} \longrightarrow \\ R1 \rightarrow \frac{1}{3}R1 \\ R2 \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}R2 \end{array} \left[\begin{array}{cccccc} 1 & -3 & 4 & -3 & 2 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 2 & 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \longrightarrow \\ R1 \rightarrow \frac{1}{3}R1 \\ R2 \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}R2 \end{array} \left[\begin{array}{cccccc} 1 & -3 & 4 & -3 & 2 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 2 & 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \longrightarrow \\ R1 \rightarrow R1 - 2R3 \\ R2 \rightarrow R2 - R1 \end{array} \left[\begin{array}{cccccc} 1 & -3 & 4 & -3 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 2 & 0 & -7 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \longrightarrow \\ R1 \rightarrow \frac{1}{3}R1 \\ R2 \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}R2 \end{array} \left[\begin{array}{cccccc} 1 & -3 & 4 & -3 & 2 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 2 & 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \longrightarrow \\ R1 \rightarrow R1 - 2R3 \\ R2 \rightarrow R2 - R1 \end{array} \left[\begin{array}{cccccc} 1 & -3 & 4 & -3 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 2 & 0 & -7 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \longrightarrow \\ R1 \rightarrow R1 + 3R2 \end{array} \left[\begin{array}{cccccc} 1 & 0 & -2 & 3 & 0 & -24 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 2 & 0 & -7 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \end{array} \right]$$

This is reduced row echelon form (RREF)!

Solution of linear systems

Why do we care about pivots and pivot columns?

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A **pivot variable** (or *basic variable*) is a variable that corresponds to a pivot column in the coefficient matrix of a system.

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Definition

A **pivot variable** (or *basic variable*) is a variable that corresponds to a pivot column in the coefficient matrix of a system.

Definition

A **free variable** is variable that is *not* a pivot variable.

Example

Consider the following system of linear equations:

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccccc|c} 1 & 6 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -8 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 7 \end{array} \right]$$

Example

Consider the following system of linear equations:

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccccc|c} 1 & 6 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -8 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 7 \end{array} \right]$$

$$x_1 + 6x_2 + 3x_4 = 0$$

$$x_3 - 8x_4 = 5$$

$$x_5 = 7$$

Example

Consider the following system of linear equations:

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccccc|c} 1 & 6 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -8 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 7 \end{array} \right]$$
$$\begin{array}{rclcl} x_1 & +6x_2 & & +3x_4 & = 0 \\ & & x_3 & -8x_4 & = 5 \\ & & & & x_5 = 7 \end{array}$$

What are the pivot columns?

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Consider the following system of linear equations:

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What are the pivot columns?

1st, 3rd, and 5th columns.

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Consider the following system of linear equations:

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What are the pivot variables?

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Consider the following system of linear equations:

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

What are the pivot columns?

1st, 3rd, and 5th columns.

What are the pivot variables? x_1 , x_3 , and x_5 .

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

What are the pivot columns?

1st, 3rd, and 5th columns.

What are the pivot variables? x_1 , x_3 , and x_5 .

What are the free variables?

Example

Consider the following system of linear equations:

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

What are the pivot columns?

1st, 3rd, and 5th columns.

What are the pivot variables? x_1 , x_3 , and x_5 .

What are the free variables?

x_2 and x_4 .

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Solve each equation for the pivot variable in terms of the free variables (if any) in the equation.

Example (A general solution)

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

Example (A general solution)

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

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} x_1 = -6x_2 - 3x_4 \\ x_2 = \text{free} \\ x_3 = 8x_4 + 5 \\ x_4 = \text{free} \\ x_5 = 7 \end{array} \right.$$

The **general solution** of the system provides a **parametric description of the solution set**.

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- The free variables act as parameters.
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Warning: Use only the reduced echelon form to solve a system.

Example

Find the parametric description of the solution set of

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$$\text{General solution: } \begin{cases} x_1 = 2x_3 - 3x_4 - 24 \\ x_2 = 2x_3 - 2x_4 - 7 \\ x_3 = \text{free} \\ x_4 = \text{free} \\ x_5 = 4 \end{cases}$$

Existence And Uniqueness

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- Echelon Form \rightarrow Existence & Uniqueness.
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In an earlier example, we obtained the echelon form:

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccccc|c} 3 & -9 & 12 & -9 & 6 & 15 \\ 0 & 2 & -4 & 4 & 2 & -6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \end{array} \right]$$

Example Continued

So for the echelon form matrix

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So we see that there are infinitely many solutions.

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Examples, cont.

The (reduced) echelon form of

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