Elementary Transformations

→ key to solving a system of lin. eq.; keep solution set the same, but transform the equation system into simpler form:

- → exchanging 2 equations (rows in matrix)
- → multiplying an equation (row) by a constant $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$
- → addition of 2 equations (rows)

→ Example

$$\begin{aligned} -2x_1 + 4x_2 - 2x_3 - x_4 + 4x_5 &= -3 \\ 4x_1 - 8x_2 + 3x_3 - 3x_4 + x_5 &= 2 \\ x_1 - 2x_2 + x_3 - x_4 + x_5 &= 0 \\ x_1 - 2x_2 \qquad - 3x_4 + 4x_5 &= a \end{aligned} \longrightarrow \left[\begin{array}{ccccc|c} -2 & 4 & -2 & -1 & 4 & -3 \\ 4 & -8 & 3 & -3 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & -2 & 0 & -3 & 4 & a \end{array}\right]$$

SWAP 1 & 3

$$\rightsquigarrow \left[\begin{array}{ccccc|c} 1 & -2 & 1 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 4 & -8 & 3 & -3 & 1 & 2 \\ -2 & 4 & -2 & -1 & 4 & -3 \\ 1 & -2 & 0 & -3 & 4 & a \end{array}\right] \begin{array}{l} \\ -4R_1 \\ +2R_1 \\ -R_1 \end{array} \rightsquigarrow \left[\begin{array}{ccccc|c} 1 & -2 & 1 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 & -3 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -3 & 6 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & -2 & 3 & a \end{array}\right] \begin{array}{l} \\ \cdot(-1) \\ \cdot(-\tfrac{1}{3}) \\ \\ \end{array}$$

ROW-ECHELON

$$\rightsquigarrow \left[\begin{array}{ccccc|c} 1 & -2 & 1 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 3 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & a+1 \end{array}\right] \longrightarrow \begin{aligned} x_1 - 2x_2 + x_3 - x_4 + x_5 &= 0 \\ x_3 - x_4 + 3x_5 &= -2 \\ x_4 - 2x_5 &= 1 \\ 0 &= a+1 \end{aligned}$$

Particular Solution ($a = -1$)

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \\ x_5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ -1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

General Solution

$$\left\{ x \in \mathbb{R}^5 : x = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \lambda_1 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \lambda_2 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ -1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

→ Pivot: the leading coefficient of a row (first nonzero from left) is the pivot and always strictly to the right of the pivot above it.