

Suppose first that $1 + 1 = 0$.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \quad (1)$$

$$L_1 \rightarrow L_1 - L_2 \mid = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (2)$$

$$L_3 \rightarrow L_1 + L_3 \mid = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (3)$$

$$L_4 \rightarrow L_1 + L_4 \mid = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (4)$$

$$L_2 \rightarrow L_2 - L_3 - L_4 \mid = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (5)$$

$$L_1 \rightarrow L_1 + L_2 \mid = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (6)$$

$$L_2 \leftrightarrow L_4 \mid = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (7)$$

$$(8)$$

Thus, if $2 = 0$, then $\text{rank}(A) = 4$. Suppose now that $1 + 1 \neq 0$.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \quad (9)$$

$$L_1 \rightarrow L_1 - L_2 \mid = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (10)$$

$$L_2 \rightarrow L_2 - L_3 \mid = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (11)$$

$$L_4 \rightarrow L_4 - L_2 \mid = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (12)$$

$$L_2 \rightarrow L_2 + L_1 \mid = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (13)$$

$$L_3 \rightarrow L_3 - L_1 \mid = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (14)$$

If $3 = 0$, then

$$L_4 \rightarrow L_4 - 2L_1 \mid = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (15)$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (16)$$

- 1 Thus, if $3 = 0$, then $\text{rank}(A) = 3$.
Suppose now that $3 \neq 0$.

$$L_4 \rightarrow 3^{-1}(L_4 - 2L_1) \mid = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (17)$$

$$L_2 \rightarrow L_2 + L_4, L_1 \rightarrow L_1 + L_4, L_3 \rightarrow L_3 - 2L_4 \mid = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (18)$$

2 Thus, if $3 \neq 0$, then $\text{rank}(A) = 4$.

3 Therefore, if $3 = 0$, then $\text{rank}(A) = 3$, and if $3 \neq 0$, then $\text{rank}(A) = 4$.

4 Suppose now $\text{rank}(A) = 4$ and thus $3 \neq 0$.

5 Consider the following augmented matrix, with the elementary row operations applied
 6 as in steps 9 to 15 above (note that they remain valid in case $0 = 2$ as well, if 3^{-1} is
 7 taken equal to $3 = 1$, and 2 is taken as 0):

$$\left[\begin{array}{cccc|cccc} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] = \quad (19)$$

$$L_1 \rightarrow L_1 - L_2 \mid = \left[\begin{array}{cccc|cccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \quad (20)$$

$$L_2 \rightarrow L_2 - L_3 \mid = \left[\begin{array}{cccc|cccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \quad (21)$$

$$L_4 \rightarrow L_4 - L_2 \mid = \left[\begin{array}{cccc|cccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 1 & 1 \end{array} \right] \quad (22)$$

$$L_2 \rightarrow L_2 + L_1 \mid = \left[\begin{array}{cccc|cccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 1 & 1 \end{array} \right] \quad (23)$$

$$L_3 \rightarrow L_3 - L_1 \mid = \left[\begin{array}{cccc|cccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & -1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 1 & 1 \end{array} \right] \quad (24)$$

$$L_4 \rightarrow 3^{-1}(L_4 - 2L_1) \mid = \left[\begin{array}{cccc|cccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & -1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 \cdot 3^{-1} & 3^{-1} & 3^{-1} & 3^{-1} \end{array} \right] \quad (25)$$

$$\begin{array}{l} L_2 \rightarrow L_2 + L_4 \\ L_1 \rightarrow L_1 + L_4 \\ L_3 \rightarrow L_3 - 2L_4 \end{array} \mid = \left[\begin{array}{cccc|cccccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 - 2 \cdot 3^{-1} & -1 + 3^{-1} & 3^{-1} & 3^{-1} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 - 2 \cdot 3^{-1} & 3^{-1} & -1 + 3^{-1} & 3^{-1} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 + 4 \cdot 3^{-1} & 1 - 2 \cdot 3^{-1} & 1 - 2 \cdot 3^{-1} & -2 \cdot 3^{-1} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 \cdot 3^{-1} & 3^{-1} & 3^{-1} & 3^{-1} \end{array} \right] \quad (26)$$

Since $[3] \cdot [3^{-1}] = 1$, then

$$(A|I) = \left[\begin{array}{cccc|cccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 - 2 \cdot 3^{-1} & -1 + 3^{-1} & 3^{-1} & 3^{-1} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 - 2 \cdot 3^{-1} & 3^{-1} & -1 + 3^{-1} & 3^{-1} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 + 4 \cdot 3^{-1} & 1 - 2 \cdot 3^{-1} & 1 - 2 \cdot 3^{-1} & -2 \cdot 3^{-1} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 \cdot 3^{-1} & 3^{-1} & 3^{-1} & 3^{-1} \end{array} \right] \quad (27)$$

$$= \left[\begin{array}{cccc|cccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 3^{-1} & -2 \cdot 3^{-1} & 3^{-1} & 3^{-1} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 3^{-1} & 3^{-1} & -2 \cdot 3^{-1} & 3^{-1} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 3^{-1} & 3^{-1} & 3^{-1} & -2 \cdot 3^{-1} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 \cdot 3^{-1} & 3^{-1} & 3^{-1} & 3^{-1} \end{array} \right] \quad (28)$$

8 Since the standard basis is

$$I_{\mathbb{R}^4} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

9 then

$$A^{-1} = 3^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & -2 \\ -2 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

10 If $\text{rank}(A) < 4$, then $3 = 0$, and hence

$$A' = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

11 hence the vectors in the solution space, $x = (x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda)$, are in the following form:

$$\begin{cases} x_1 - \lambda = 0 \\ x_2 - \lambda = 0 \\ x_3 - \lambda = 0 \end{cases}$$

12 Therefore, a basis of the solution space is

$$\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}.$$