

Defn: 1) A square matrix A is "symmetric" if $A = A^T$

i.e., $A_{ij} = A_{ji}$ for any i and j .

Ex: $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 5 & 7 \\ 3 & 7 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ is a symmetric matrix.

2) A square matrix A is "skew symmetric" if $A = -A^T$
i.e. $A_{ij} = -A_{ji}$ for any i and j .

Defn: 1) let $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$. The first nonzero entry of each row
is the "leading entry" of that row. (if it exists)

Ex: $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 5 & 7 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$ 1, 1, 2 are the leading entries of A .

2) If the leading entries of A are of the form

$A_{1j_1}, A_{2j_2}, A_{3j_3}, \dots, A_{rj_r}$ where

$j_1 < j_2 < j_3 < \dots < j_{r-1} < j_r$

then A is called an "Echelon Matrix".

Such a matrix is of this form:

$$\left[\begin{array}{cccc|c} 0 & \dots & 0 & A_{1j_1} & \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & A_{2j_2} & \\ 0 & \dots & \dots & \dots & A_{3j_3} \\ \vdots & & & & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & \dots & \dots & A_{rj_r} \\ 0 & \dots & \dots & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & \dots & \dots & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

Ex: $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & -4 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ is NOT an echelon matrix.

$B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 7 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ is an echelon matrix.

3) Let A be an echelon matrix.

If i) The leading entries of A are all equal to 1.

ii) Each leading entry is the only nonzero entry in its column

then A is called a "Row reduced echelon matrix".

in | Each row ending with a column of zeros
then A is called a "Row reduced echelon matrix".

ex: $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ is a row-reduced echelon matrix.

$B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$ is an echelon matrix but not a row-reduced echelon matrix

Elementary Row Operations:

Let $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ with rows R_1, R_2, \dots, R_m considered as $1 \times n$ matrix.

The following operations on the rows of A are "elementary row operations"

Type I: Add cR_i to R_j where $i \neq j$ and $c \in \mathbb{R}$.
(Notation: $cR_i + R_j$)

Type II: Interchange R_i and R_j . (Notation: $R_i \leftrightarrow R_j$)

Type III: Multiply R_i by a non-zero scalar $c \in \mathbb{R}$
(Notation: cR_i)

ex: $\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & -1 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 7 & 1 \\ 6 & 8 & 3 & 11 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{-2R_1 + R_2} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & -1 & 3 \\ 0 & 3 & 9 & -5 \\ 6 & 8 & 3 & 11 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 \\ 1 & 7 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_2 \leftrightarrow R_3} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 7 \\ 4 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\frac{1}{3}R_2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 1 & \frac{4}{3} \end{bmatrix}$$

ex: one can perform several elem. row ops. on a matrix.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 2 & 7 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_1 \leftrightarrow R_3} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 7 & 4 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 2 & 4 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{-2R_2 + R_3} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 7 & 4 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 4 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$\downarrow \frac{1}{2}R_1$

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

Remark: We can think of elem. row operations

Remark: We can think of elem. row operations as a function $\varepsilon: \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$.

Proposition: Each elementary row operation has an inverse of the same type.

Pf: The inverse of $cR_i + R_j$ is $-cR_i + R_j$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{R}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \bar{R}_i \\ \vdots \\ \bar{R}_j \\ \vdots \\ \bar{R}_m \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{cR_i + R_j} \begin{bmatrix} \bar{R}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \bar{R}_i \\ \vdots \\ c\bar{R}_i + \bar{R}_j \\ \vdots \\ \bar{R}_m \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{-cR_i + R_j} \begin{bmatrix} \bar{R}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \bar{R}_i \\ \vdots \\ \bar{R}_j \\ \vdots \\ \bar{R}_m \end{bmatrix}$$

Similarly, the inverse of $R_i \leftrightarrow R_j$ is $R_i \leftrightarrow R_j$

the inverse of cR_i ($c \neq 0$) is $\frac{1}{c}R_i$ end of proof.

Definition: let $A, B \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$.

We say "A is row equivalent to B" if B can be obtained from A by a sequence of elementary row operations.

[i.e., there exists elem. row operations $\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \dots, \varepsilon_r$ s.t.]

$$B = \varepsilon_r \varepsilon_{r-1} \dots \varepsilon_3 \varepsilon_2 \varepsilon_1(A)$$

ex: $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 3 & 1 \\ 4 & -1 & 6 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ $B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

are row equivalent since:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 3 & 1 \\ 4 & -1 & 6 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{-2R_1 + R_2} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & -9 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\downarrow -\frac{1}{9}R_2$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \xleftarrow{-4R_2 + R_1} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\downarrow R_1 \leftrightarrow R_2$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = B$$

(r.e.=row equiv.)

Theorem: let $A, B, C \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$.

1) A is row equivalent to itself

2) If A is r.e. to B then B is r.e. to A.

\rightarrow if A is r.e. to B and B is r.e. to C then

- 2) If A is r.e. to B
 3) If A is r.e. to B and B is r.e. to C then
 A is r.e. to C .

Pf: 1) Clear.

2) Suppose $B = E_r E_{r-1} \dots E_2 E_1 (A)$

$$\text{Then } A = E_r^{-1} E_{r-1}^{-1} \dots E_2^{-1} E_1^{-1} (B)$$

so B is r.e. to A .

3) Suppose $B = E_r E_{r-1} \dots E_2 E_1 (A)$

$$C = E_k' E_{k-1}' \dots E_2' E_1' (B)$$

E_1, \dots, E_r are
 E_1', \dots, E_k' elem.
 row ops.

$$\text{Then } C = \underbrace{E_k' E_{k-1}' \dots E_2' E_1'}_{\text{which means}} \underbrace{E_r E_{r-1} \dots E_2 E_1}_{(A)} (A)$$

which means A is r.e. to C .
 end of proof.

Theorem: Every matrix is row equivalent to a row reduced echelon matrix.

Pf: Sketch by an example:

$$\left[\begin{array}{rrrrr} 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 0 & 2 & 6 & 8 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 5 & 6 & 1 \\ 0 & 10 & 5 & 10 & 5 \end{array} \right] \xleftrightarrow{R_1 \leftrightarrow R_2} \left[\begin{array}{rrrrr} 0 & 2 & 6 & 8 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 5 & 6 & 1 \\ 0 & 10 & 5 & 10 & 5 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{-\frac{1}{2}R_1 + R_3} \left[\begin{array}{rrrrr} 0 & 2 & 6 & 8 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 & 6 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 & 10 & 5 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{-5R_1 + R_4} \left[\begin{array}{rrrrr} 0 & 2 & 6 & 8 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 2 & \frac{3}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & -25 & -30 & 10 \end{array} \right]$$

an echelon matrix

$$\left[\begin{array}{rrrrr} 0 & 2 & 0 & -4 & -25 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -\frac{5}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -2 & -\frac{13}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 45 \end{array} \right] \xleftarrow{-6R_2 + R_1} \left[\begin{array}{rrrrr} 0 & 2 & 6 & 8 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -2 & -\frac{13}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 45 \end{array} \right] \xleftarrow{10R_3 + R_4} \left[\begin{array}{rrrrr} 0 & 2 & 6 & 8 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -2 & -\frac{13}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 20 & 110 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\frac{1}{45}R_4 \downarrow -2R_3 + R_1$$

$$\left[\begin{array}{rrrrr} 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 & -12 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -\frac{5}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -2 & -\frac{13}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{12R_4 + R_1} \left[\begin{array}{rrrrr} 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\xrightarrow{\frac{5}{2}R_4 + R_2} \left[\begin{array}{rrrrr} 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\xrightarrow{\frac{13}{2}R_4 + R_3} \left[\begin{array}{rrrrr} 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\begin{matrix} -\frac{1}{2}R_3 \downarrow & \frac{1}{2}R_1 \\ \left[\begin{array}{ccccc} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \end{matrix} \rightarrow \text{a matrix in row reduced echelon form.}$$

Defn: A matrix which is obtained from the identity matrix by applying one elementary row operation is called an "elementary matrix".

ex: identity matrix $\left[\begin{array}{ccc} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right]$ $\xrightarrow{-5R_3+R_1}$ $\left[\begin{array}{ccc} 1 & 0 & -5 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right]$ \rightarrow an elementary matrix.

Notation: If \mathcal{E} is an elementary row op. then the corresponding elem. matrix is denoted by $\mathcal{E}(I)$.

Thm: Let \mathcal{E} be an elem. row op. let $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ matrix.

$$\text{Then, } \mathcal{E}(A) = \mathcal{E}(I) \cdot A$$

i.e., $\mathcal{E}(A)$ is obtained from A by multiplying $\mathcal{E}(I)$ by A .

ex: let $\mathcal{E} = -5R_2 + R_1$, $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 7 \\ 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\mathcal{E}(A) = \begin{bmatrix} -3 & 17 \\ 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathcal{E}(I) = \mathcal{E}\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}\right) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -5 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathcal{E}(I) \cdot A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -5 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 7 \\ 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -3 & 17 \\ 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Proof: Observe: If $A = \begin{bmatrix} R_1 \\ \vdots \\ R_m \end{bmatrix}_{m \times n}$, R_1, \dots, R_m are the rows of A considered as $1 \times n$ matrices

and B is another matrix

then $AB = \begin{bmatrix} R_1B \\ \vdots \\ R_mB \end{bmatrix}$ where R_1B, \dots, R_mB are rows of AB

let $\mathcal{E} = cR_i + R_j$ let $A = \begin{bmatrix} R_1 \\ \vdots \\ R_m \end{bmatrix}$ then $\mathcal{E}(A) = \begin{bmatrix} R_1 \\ \vdots \\ cR_i + R_j \\ \vdots \\ R_m \end{bmatrix}$

let $I = \begin{bmatrix} e_1 \\ e_2 \\ \vdots \\ e_n \end{bmatrix}$ where $e_i = [0 \dots 0 \underset{\uparrow i\text{-th position}}{1} 0 \dots 0]$

Then

$$\mathcal{E}(I) = \begin{bmatrix} e_1 \\ \vdots \\ ce_i + e_j \\ \vdots \\ e_m \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathcal{E}(I) \cdot A = \begin{bmatrix} e_1 \\ \vdots \\ ce_i + e_j \\ \vdots \\ e_m \end{bmatrix} A = \begin{bmatrix} e_1 A \\ e_2 A \\ \vdots \\ (ce_i + e_j)A \\ \vdots \\ e_m A \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} R_1 \\ R_2 \\ \vdots \\ cR_i + R_j \\ \vdots \\ R_m \end{bmatrix} = \mathcal{E}(A)$$

Note: $e_1 A = [1 0 0 \dots 0] A = [1 0 \dots 0] \begin{bmatrix} R_1 \\ R_2 \\ \vdots \\ R_m \end{bmatrix} = R_1$
 in general $e_i A = R_i$

Similarly this is true for other type of row operations
 end of proof.

ex: $A = \begin{bmatrix} x & y & z \\ a & b & c \\ k & l & m \end{bmatrix}$ we want $\mathcal{E} = R_2 \leftrightarrow R_3$

$$\mathcal{E}(I) = \mathcal{E}\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}\right) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathcal{E}(I) \cdot A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x & y & z \\ a & b & c \\ k & l & m \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x & y & z \\ k & l & m \end{bmatrix} = \mathcal{E}(A)$$

$$\mathcal{E}(I) \cdot A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x & y & z \\ a & b & c \\ k & l & m \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x & y & z \\ k & l & m \\ a & b & c \end{bmatrix} = E(A)$$

Prop: Suppose B is obtained from A by a sequence of elementary row operations $\mathcal{E}_1, \mathcal{E}_2, \dots, \mathcal{E}_r$

Then $B = P \cdot A$ where $P = \underbrace{\mathcal{E}_r(I) \dots \mathcal{E}_2(I) \mathcal{E}_1(I)}_{\text{a product of elementary matrices}}$

Pf: Clear!

$$\text{ex: } A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ -1 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{-R_1 + R_2} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ -3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_1 \leftrightarrow R_2} \begin{bmatrix} -3 & 4 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathcal{E}_1(I) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathcal{E}_2(I) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathcal{E}_3(I) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \quad \downarrow 4R_2 \quad) \mathcal{E}_3 = B$$

$$B \stackrel{?}{=} \underbrace{\mathcal{E}_3(I) \mathcal{E}_2(I) \mathcal{E}_1(I)}_P A$$

$$B \stackrel{?}{=} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 4 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ -1 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \\ = \begin{bmatrix} -3 & 4 \\ 8 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \quad \checkmark$$

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 4 & 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{= \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 4 & 0 \end{bmatrix}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 4 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Systems of Linear Equations :

An $m \times n$ system of linear equations is:

An $m \times n$ system of linear equations is:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} A_{11}x_1 + A_{12}x_2 + \dots + A_{1n}x_n = b_1 \\ A_{21}x_1 + A_{22}x_2 + \dots + A_{2n}x_n = b_2 \\ \vdots \\ A_{m1}x_1 + A_{m2}x_2 + \dots + A_{mn}x_n = b_m \end{array} \right. \quad \begin{array}{l} n \text{ unknowns} \\ m \text{ equations} \end{array}$$

System S

If system has solution(s) we will call it "consistent" and "inconsistent" otherwise.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & \dots & A_{1n} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} & \dots & A_{2n} \\ \vdots & & & \vdots \\ A_{m1} & A_{m2} & \dots & A_{mn} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \text{"Coefficient matrix"} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{m} \times \text{n} \rightarrow \# \text{ of unknowns} \\ \text{# equations} \end{array}$$

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_m \end{bmatrix}_{m \times 1} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{A solution to System S is} \\ \text{a } n \times 1 \text{ matrix } X = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} \end{array}$$

$$A \cdot X = B \rightarrow \text{"matrix equation"}$$

System S is completely determined by the matrices A and B.
We write this an "augmented matrix"

$$\begin{bmatrix} A & | & B \end{bmatrix}_{m \times (n+1)} \rightarrow \text{augmented matrix corresponding to system S}$$

Defn: Two $m \times n$ systems S_1 and S_2 are "equivalent" if their corresponding augmented matrices are row equivalent

Theorem: Equivalent systems have the same solutions.

Theorem : Equivalent systems

Pf: Suppose S_1 is the system $[A_1 | B_1]$

 S_2 _____ $[A_2 | B_2]$

Suppose they are equivalent,

i.e., $[A_1 | B_1]$ and $[A_2 | B_2]$ are row equivalent.
From the above observations, there is a matrix P s.t.

$$[A_2 | B_2] = P [A_1 | B_1]$$
$$\Rightarrow A_2 = PA_1 \text{ and } B_2 = PB_1 \quad (\text{Why?})$$

Let X be a solution to the system $[A_1 | B_1]$.

This means $A_1 X = B_1$.

$$\Rightarrow P(A_1 X) = PB_1 \Rightarrow (PA_1) \cdot X = PB_1$$
$$\Rightarrow A_2 \cdot X = B_2$$

So, X is also a solution to the system $[A_2 | B_2]$.

Similarly, there is a matrix Q s.t $[A_1 | B_1] = Q[A_2 | B_2]$

$$\Rightarrow A_1 = QA_2 \text{ and } B_1 = QB_2$$

If Y is a solution of $[A_2 | B_2]$ then $A_2 Y = B_2$

$$\Rightarrow QA_2 Y = QB_2 \Rightarrow A_1 \cdot Y = B_1$$

$\Rightarrow Y$ is a solution of $[A_1 | B_1]$
end of proof.

So, Given a system, one can reduce its augmented matrix to echelon form (or row reduced echelon form).
i.e. the system will be equivalent to a system of the form:

$$A_{1j_1}x_{j_1} + \dots = b_1$$

$$A_{2j_2}x_{j_2} + \dots = b_2$$

⋮
⋮
⋮

(A system
in echelon
form)

$$A_{rj_r}x_{j_r} + \dots = b_r$$

This process
is called "Gaussian Elimination"
(or "Gaus-Jordan Elimination")

$$\begin{matrix} 0 & = & b_{r+1} \\ 0 & = & 0 \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ 0 & = & 0 \end{matrix}$$

There are 3 possibilities:

Possibility 1: $b_{r+1} \neq 0$ the system has no solutions!
(i.e. it is inconsistent)

ex: $x+y-z=2$

$$2x+3y-z=0$$

$$3x+4y-2z=1$$

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & -1 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 & -1 & 0 \\ 3 & 4 & -2 & 1 \end{array} \right]$$

↓ equivalent systems.

$$x+y-z=2$$

$$y+z=-4$$

$$0 = \textcircled{-1} = b_{r+1}$$

↙ has no solutions!

↓ Gaussian Elimination

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & -1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & -4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{array} \right]$$

(echelon
matrix)

Possibility 2 $b_{r+1} = 0$

↳ Possibility 2.1 $\{x_{j_1}, x_{j_2}, \dots, x_{j_r}\}$ = set of all unknowns.

In this case there is a unique solution and it can be found by "back substitution"

ex :
$$\begin{array}{l} x - 3y + z = 4 \\ 2x - 8y + 8z = -2 \\ -6x + 3y - 15z = -9 \end{array} \rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -3 & 1 & 4 \\ 2 & -8 & 8 & -2 \\ -6 & 3 & -15 & -9 \end{array} \right] \downarrow (G.E)$$

$$\begin{array}{l} x - 3y + z = 4 \\ -y + 3z = -5 \\ -18z = 36 \end{array} \leftarrow \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -3 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & -1 & 3 & -5 \\ 0 & 0 & -18 & 36 \end{array} \right] \text{(echelon form)}$$

$$\Rightarrow z = -2 \stackrel{\text{eq2}}{\Rightarrow} y = -1 \stackrel{\text{eq1}}{\Rightarrow} x = 3 \quad ("Back\ subst.")$$

So the unique solution of the system is $\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}$.

→ Possibility 2.2 There are more unknowns than $\{x_{j_1}, \dots, x_{j_r}\}$.

let us call $x_{j_1}, x_{j_2}, \dots, x_{j_r}$ "basic variables"
and the remaining ones "free variables"

In this case the basic variables can be written in terms of the free variables, and there will be infinitely many solutions:

ex :
$$\begin{array}{l} x + y - z + t + u = 1 \\ -x + 2y + 3z - t + 2u = -1 \\ 2x + y - z + 2t - u = 2 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 2x + y - z + 2t - u &= 2 \\
 x + 6y + 4z + t + 4u &= 1 \\
 8y + 7z + 6u &= 0
 \end{aligned}$$

$$3x + 7y + 3z + 3t + 3u = 3$$

$$\left[\begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & 1 & -1 & 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 2 & 3 & -1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 & -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 6 & 4 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 8 & 7 & 0 & 6 \\ 3 & 7 & 3 & 3 & 3 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{\text{G.E.}} \left[\begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & 1 & -1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 & 0 & -6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\textcircled{x} + y - z + t + u = 1 \quad \checkmark$$

$$\textcircled{-y} + z - 3u = 0$$

$$5\textcircled{z} - 6u = 0$$

x, y, z are basic var.

t, u are free var.

$$z \stackrel{\text{eq } 1}{=} \frac{6}{5}u$$

$$y \stackrel{\text{eq } 2}{=} -\frac{9}{5}u$$

$$x \stackrel{\text{eq } 1}{=} 1 - t + 2u$$

So, a general solution of the system is of the form:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1-t+2u \\ -\frac{9}{5}u \\ \frac{6}{5}u \\ t \\ u \end{bmatrix}, \quad t, u \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + u \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -\frac{9}{5} \\ \frac{6}{5} \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad u, t \in \mathbb{R}$$