

Section 2.1Row Echelon Form and Rank of  
a Rectangular matrix

The goal is to use the Gaussian Elimination process to reduce the rectangular system (using elementary transformations) to something "like ~~triangular~~ triangular", that is with the pivots leading the rows (and zeros before them).

Process: - If (nonzero) pivot. Eliminate below

- If zero in pivot position and below there is some nonzero (in same column).

Do row interchanges

- If below there are all zeros, move to the next column (repeat if necessary)

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Example

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & 3 & 3 \\ 2 & 4 & 0 & 4 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 5 & 5 \\ 2 & 4 & 0 & 4 & 7 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \textcircled{1} & 2 & 1 & 3 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & \textcircled{-2} & -2 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 & -2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$E_2 - 2E_1$$

$$E_3 - E_1$$

$$E_4 - 2E_1$$

First pivot in (1,1) position

Second pivot in (2,3) position (of  $s'$ )

[Note value is -2, which is not  $a_{23} = 0$ ]

$$\rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & 3 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 & -2 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \textcircled{1} & 2 & 1 & 3 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & \textcircled{-2} & -2 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \textcircled{3} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = E = E_A$$

$$E_3' - E_2'$$

$$E_4' - E_2'$$

exchange  
row 3 and row 4

Row Echelon Form of A



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Note. The Echelon form of a matrix is unique in the sense that the number and location of the pivots is fixed.

Definition Rank  $A = \#$  of pivots in  $E_A$   
 $= \#$  of non zero rows in  $E_A$

Basic columns of  $A$ , are the columns where the pivots are.

In example columns 1, 3, 5, that is,

$$\begin{array}{c|c|c} \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 0 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \\ 7 \end{array} \end{array}$$

Rank of a matrix  $= \#$  of basic columns

The other columns are non-basic columns.

In example these are columns 2, 4.

Another example

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$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 & -1 & 2 \\ 3 & 1 & 2 & 4 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 0 & -3 & -3 & -9 & -8 \\ 0 & -5 & -7 & -8 & -14 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$E_2 - 2E_1$$

$$E_3 - 3E_1$$

$$\rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 0 & -3 & -3 & -9 & -8 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 & 7 & -\frac{2}{3} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$-7 + \frac{5}{3} \cdot 3 = -2$$

$$E_3' - \frac{5}{3} E_2'$$

$$-8 - \left(-\frac{5}{3}\right)(-8) = -8 + 15 = 7$$

$$-14 - \left(-\frac{5}{3}\right)(-8) = \frac{-14 \cdot 3 + 40}{3} = \frac{-2}{3}$$

Rank 3 - basic columns 1, 2, 3

that is

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$



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last example

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

$E_3 - E_1$

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

$E_3 - E_2$

Rank is 2

basic columns 1, 2.  $\left[ \begin{array}{c|c} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 \end{array} \right]$

Matrix is  $m \times n$

if  $\text{Rank } A < m$ , we have zero columns in  $EA$

this statement is  $\Leftrightarrow$   
i.e. implication in both directions  
"if and only if".

Can do all exercises of section 2.1 (p.46)

2.1.1 part of homework 1