



Rank of a matrix

Rank of a matrix- Definitions

**Linearly independent
rows or columns in a
matrix**



**Maximum number of nonzero
rows in the echelon matrix of
the given matrix.**



**If $|A|_{n \times n} = 0$, $\text{rank}(A) \neq n$ ($< n$).
(At least one row/column vector
will be dependent).**



**Order of the largest
submatrix with non-zero
determinant**



Examples

Maximum number of non-zero rows in the echelon matrix of the given matrix.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 6 & 9 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$R_2 \rightarrow R_2 - 3R_1$$

$$A \sim E = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \text{Row reduced echelon form}$$

Here \vec{r}_1 is only independent
 \Rightarrow only one linearly independent row
in echelon form.

$$A \sim E \Rightarrow R(A) = R(E) = 1$$

$$\vec{c}_2 = 2\vec{c}_1$$

$$\vec{c}_3 = 3\vec{c}_1$$

$\Rightarrow c_1$ is linearly independent

Rank

= # L.I column vectors

= # L.I row vectors

$$\therefore \boxed{\text{Rank}(A) = 1}$$

Examples

Maximum number of nonzero rows in the echelon matrix of the given matrix.

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 1 & 4 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{Rank}(B) = 2$$

$$R_2 \rightarrow R_2 - 2R_1$$

$$R_3 \rightarrow R_3 - R_1$$

$$B \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow 2 \text{ Non zero rows} \\ \Rightarrow \text{Rank}(B) = 2$$

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

$$\text{Rank}(C) = 1$$

$$R_2 \rightarrow R_2 - 2R_1$$

$$R_3 \rightarrow R_3 - 3R_1$$

$$C \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = E$$

$$R(E) = 1$$

$$C \sim E \Rightarrow R(C) = R(E) = 1$$

$$\therefore \text{Rank}(C) = 1$$

$$D = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 6 & 1 & -2 \\ 5 & -1 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$R_2 \rightarrow R_2 - 6R_1$$

$$R_3 \rightarrow R_3 - 5R_1$$

$$\therefore D \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & -11 & -20 \\ 0 & -11 & -20 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$R_3 \rightarrow R_3 - R_2$$

$$\sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & -11 & -20 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \text{Row reduced Echelon form}$$

Two nonzero rows are there

$$\Rightarrow \text{Rank}(D) = 2$$

Examples

No: of linearly independent row/column vectors in a matrix.

① $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 & 5 \\ 0 & 7 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ ✓
 Rank(A) = 3

② $B = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 7 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 7 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$
 Rank(B) = 5

③ $C = \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 3 \\ 2 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ ✓
 Rank(C) = 2

④ $D = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 9 \\ 0 & 0 & 12 \end{bmatrix}$ ✓
 Rank(D) = 2

⑤ $E = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$
 $\vec{r}_3 = \frac{5}{3} \vec{r}_2$
 $\vec{r}_4 = \frac{7}{3} \vec{r}_2$
 $\left. \begin{array}{l} \vec{r}_3 \text{ and } \vec{r}_4 \\ \text{are depending} \\ \text{on } \vec{r}_2 \end{array} \right\}$
 $R(E) = 2$
 $C_2 = -C_1$
 $C_1 \text{ and } C_3 \text{ are L. Indep.}$
 or
 $C_2 \text{ and } C_3 \text{ are L. Indep.}$
 $R(E) = 2$

⑥ $E = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ Rank(E) = 0

Zero matrix is the only matrix with rank=0

⑦ $E = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$
 $\lambda = 1$

Examples

If $|A|_{n \times n} = 0$, $\text{rank}(A) \neq n$ ($< n$).

(At least one row/column vector will be dependent).

$$\textcircled{1} A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 3 & 3 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$|A| = 0 \Rightarrow \text{rank}(A) \neq 3 \\ \text{rank}(A) = 1$$

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

3×3

$$|B| = 4 \neq 0 \Rightarrow \text{rank}(B) = 3$$

$$\textcircled{n=3} \quad |B| \neq 0 \quad \text{rank}(B) = n = 3 //$$

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

$$|C| = 0 \quad \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{Rank}(C) = 2$$

Examples

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 3 & 3 & 3 \end{bmatrix}_{3 \times 3}$$

Here $|A| = 0 \Rightarrow \text{rank}(A) \neq n$
 $\Rightarrow \text{rank}(A) \neq 3$

Now consider the 2×2 submatrix of A .

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 \end{vmatrix} = 0, \quad \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 3 & 3 \end{vmatrix} = 0, \quad \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 3 & 3 \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

Determinant of all 2×2 submatrices of $A = 0$
 $\Rightarrow \text{rank}(A) \neq 2$

Thus $\boxed{\text{rank}(A) = 1}$

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

Consider the 3×3 submatrices of B .

$$\begin{vmatrix} 2 & -1 & 3 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 \\ -1 & 1 & -1 \end{vmatrix} = 0, \quad \begin{vmatrix} -1 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & -3 \end{vmatrix} = 0,$$

$$\begin{vmatrix} 2 & -1 & 4 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 & -3 \end{vmatrix} = 0 \Rightarrow \text{Rank}(B) \neq 3$$

Then go for the 2×2 submatrix.

$$\begin{vmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{vmatrix} \neq 0 \Rightarrow \boxed{\text{Rank}(B) = 2}$$

Properties of rank of a matrix

- Only the rank of a null matrix is zero.
- Rank of an identity matrix of order $n \times n$ is n .
- Rank of a matrix $A_{m \times n} \leq \min(m, n)$.
- $\text{Rank}(A_{n \times n}) = n$ if $|A| \neq 0$ $< n$ if $|A| = 0$
- $\text{Rank}(A^T) = \text{Rank}(A)$
- Two matrices that are row equivalent have the same rank.

Homework problems

1. Find the rank of the following matrices just by looking at it:

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

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 5 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 & -1 \\ -2 & -2 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$$

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

$$E = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

2. What is the rank of A^T if A is the 5×5 matrix with three independent rows?

Homework problems

3. Find the rank of the matrix by reducing to row reduced echelon form

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

$$b) \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 3 \\ 2 & -2 & 6 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \\ 5 & 0 & 10 \\ 4 & 1 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$$

Homework problems

4. What is the rank of A if A is a non-zero singular 2×2 matrix?

4. If rank of A is 99, what is the rank of (i) $6A$ (ii) $9A^T$?

The scalar multiplication of a matrix does not change its rank. The rank of a matrix A is determined by the number of linearly independent rows or columns, which remains the same after multiplying by a scalar. Therefore, the rank of $6A$ is the same as the rank of A.

$$\text{Rank}(6A) = \text{Rank}(A) = 99.$$

The rank of the transpose of a matrix A^T is the same as the rank of the original matrix A. Again, scalar multiplication (here, by 9) does not change the rank.

$$\text{Rank}(9A^T) = \text{Rank}(A^T) = \text{Rank}(A) = 99$$

4. Find all values of k for which the rank of the matrix, $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ -2 & k \end{bmatrix}$ is one.

Homework problems

7. Write a 3×3 matrix with rank 1.
8. Write a 5×4 matrix with rank 2.
9. Create a 5×5 matrix with all non-zero entries and having rank as three.
10. What should be the value of a and b such that $C = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 4 & 8 & a & b \end{bmatrix}$ and $r(C)=1$.

