

# Echelon Forms + Gaussian Elimination

## Lecture 3

# Practice Problem

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$$

Write a sequence of elementary row operations which transforms the left matrix to the right matrix **without using the exchange operation.**

# Solution

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Objectives

1. Introduce echelon forms as a kind of matrix which "represents" solutions
2. Learn how to "read off" a solution from an echelon form matrix
3. Start discussing Gaussian elimination

# Keywords

leading entries

echelon form

(row-)reduced echelon form (RREF)

pivot positions

pivot columns

free variables

basic variables

general form solutions

forward elimination

back substitution

# Recap

# Recall: Linear Systems (General-form)

$$a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \dots + a_{1n}x_n = b_1$$

$$a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \dots + a_{2n}x_n = b_2$$

$$\vdots$$

$$a_{m1}x_1 + a_{m2}x_2 + \dots + a_{mn}x_n = b_m$$

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$$a_{m1}x_1 + a_{m2}x_2 + \dots + a_{mn}x_n = b_m$$

Does a system have a solution?

How many solutions are there?

What are its solutions?



# Recall: Matrix Representations

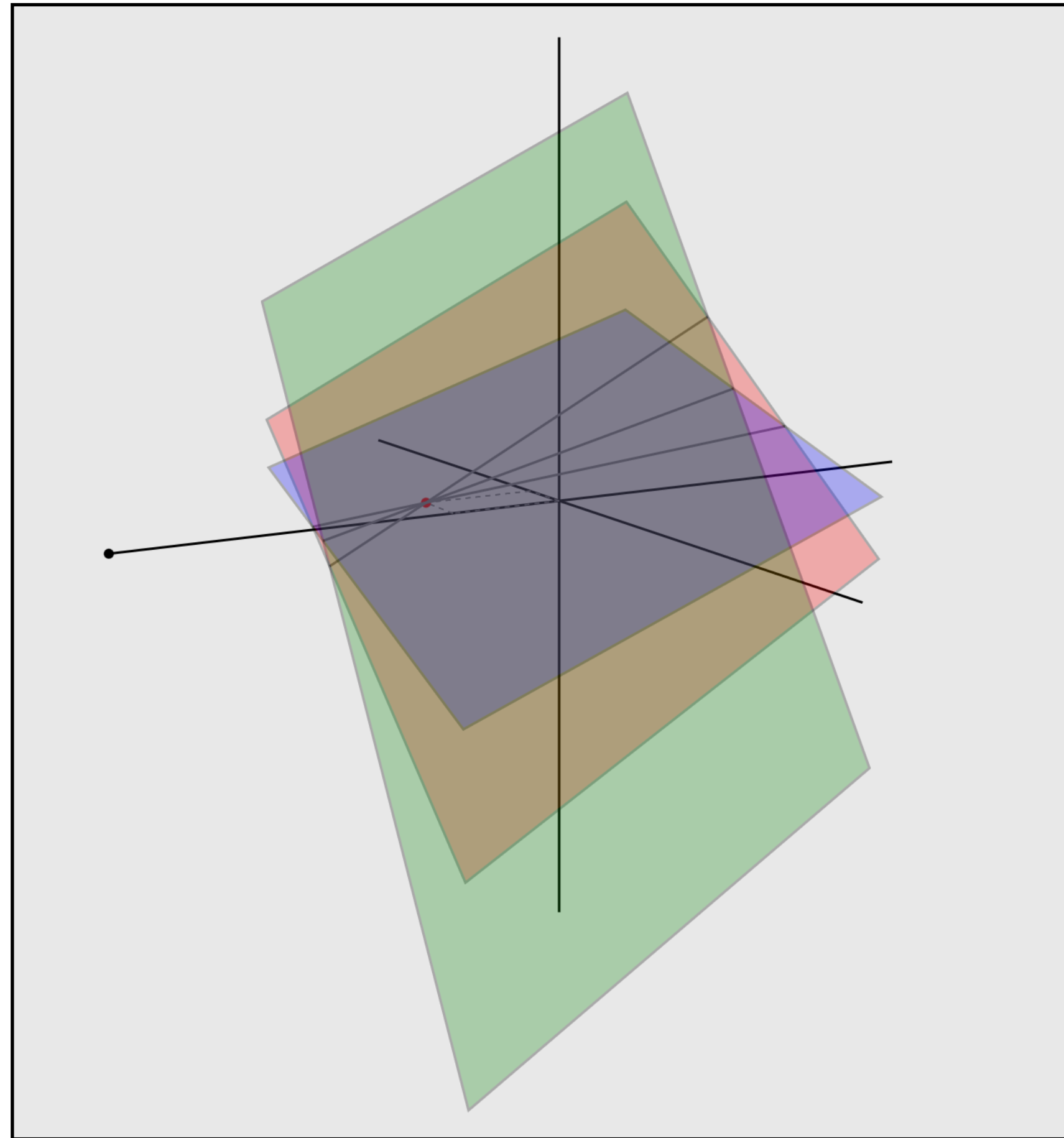
$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} & b_1 \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} & b_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \cdots & a_{mn} & b_m \end{bmatrix}$$

# Recall: Matrix Representations

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augmented matrix

# Recall: Linear Systems (Pictorially)



# Recall: Number of Solutions

zero the system is inconsistent

one the system has a unique solution

many the system has infinity solutions

# Recall: Number of Solutions

zero the system is inconsistent

one the system has a unique solution

many the system has infinity solutions

These are the **only** options

# Motivating Questions

What matrices "represent solutions"? (which have solutions that are easy to "read off"?)

How does the number of solutions affect the shape of these matrix?

How do we use row operations to get to those matrices?

# Motivating Questions

## echelon forms

What matrices "represent solutions"? (which have solutions that are easy to "read off"?)

How does the number of solutions affect the shape of these matrix?

How do we use row operations to get to those matrices?

# Unique Solution Case



# Unique Solution Case

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & -3 & 5 & 11 \\ 2 & -1 & 13 & 39 \\ 1 & -1 & 5 & 14 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$x = 1$$

$$y = 2$$

$$z = 3$$

# Unique Solution Case

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & -3 & 5 & 11 \\ 2 & -1 & 13 & 39 \\ 1 & -1 & 5 & 14 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$x = 1$$

$$y = 2$$

$$z = 3$$

Like all the  
examples we've seen  
so far

# The Identity Matrix

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

# The Identity Matrix

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

1s along the diagonal

0s elsewhere

# Unique Solution Case

coefficient matrix

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

a system of linear equations whose **coefficient matrix** is the identity matrix represents a unique solution

**No Solution Case**

# Example

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

# No Solution Case

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



# No Solution Case

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

two parallel  
planes

# No Solution Case

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

two parallel  
planes

$\sim$

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

row representing  $0 = 1$

# No Solution Case

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

row representing  $0 = 1$

a system with no solutions can be reduced to a matrix with the row

$$0 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0 \ 1$$

# Infinite Solution Case

# Example

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 2 & 14 \\ 1 & 7 & 1 & 12 \end{bmatrix}$$

demo  
(plane intersection)

# Infinite Solution Case

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 2 & 14 \\ 1 & 7 & 1 & 12 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Infinite Solution Case

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 2 & 14 \\ 1 & 7 & 1 & 12 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$x_1 + x_3 = 2$$

$$x_2 = 1$$



# Infinite Solution Case

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 2 & 14 \\ 1 & 7 & 1 & 12 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$x_1 + x_3 = 2$$

$$x_2 = 1$$

a system with infinity solutions can be  
reduced to a system which leaves a  
variable unrestricted

# Infinite Solution Case

$$x_1 + x_3 = 2$$

$$x_2 = 1$$

it doesn't matter  
what  $x_3$  is if we  
want to satisfy  
this system of  
equations

$$x_1 = 2$$

$$x_2 = 1$$

$$x_3 = 0$$

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$$x_2 = 1$$

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what  $x_3$  is if we  
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equations

$$x_1 = 1.5$$

$$x_2 = 1$$

$$x_3 = 0.5$$

# Infinite Solution Case

$$x_1 + x_3 = 2$$

$$x_2 = 1$$

it doesn't matter  
what  $x_3$  is if we  
want to satisfy  
this system of  
equations

$$x_1 = 20$$

$$x_2 = 1$$

$$x_3 = -18$$

# Infinite Solution Case

$$x_1 + x_3 = 2$$

$$x_2 = 1$$

it doesn't matter  
what  $x_3$  is if we  
want to satisfy  
this system of  
equations

$$x_1 = 2 - x_3$$

$$x_2 = 1$$

$x_3$  is free

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general form

# In Sum

- none** reduces to a system with the equation  $0 = 1$
- one** reduces to a system whose coefficient matrix is the identity matrix
- infinity** reduces to a system which leaves a variable unrestricted

# In Sum

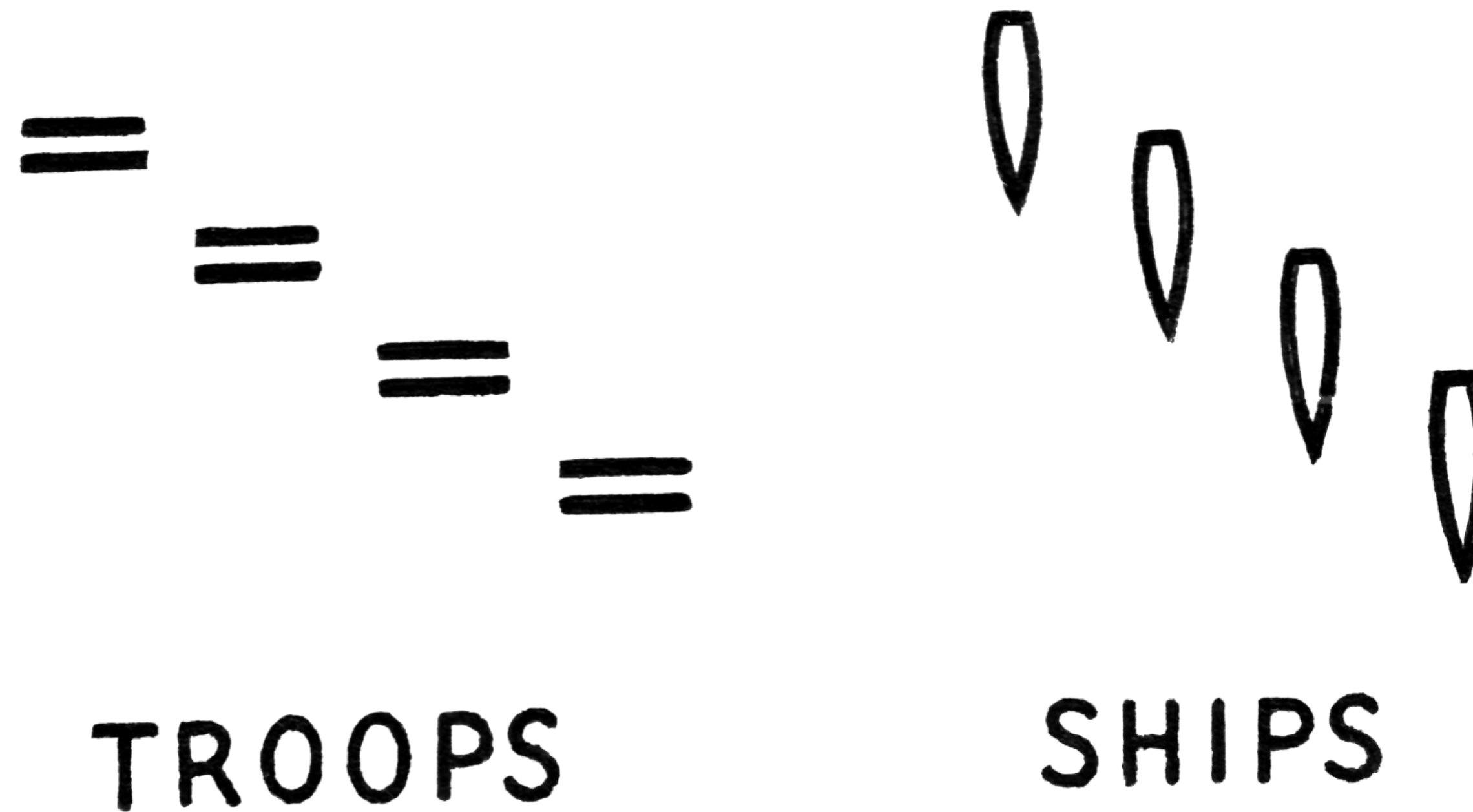
- none** reduces to a system with the equation  $0 = 1$
- one** reduces to a system whose coefficient matrix is the identity matrix
- infinity** reduces to a system which leaves a variable unrestricted

Ideally, we want one *form* that handles all three cases



# Echelon Form

# The Picture (and a bit of history)



# Echelon Form (Pictorially)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & \blacksquare & * & * & * & * & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \blacksquare & * & * & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \blacksquare & * & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \blacksquare & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \blacksquare & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$\blacksquare$  = nonzero,  $*$  = anything

# Leading Entries

**Definition.** the *leading entry* of a row is the first nonzero value

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & -3 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 10 \end{bmatrix} \leftarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{no leading} \\ \text{entry} \end{array}$$

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**Definition.** A matrix is in *echelon form* if

1. The leading entry of each row appears to the right of the leading entry above it
2. Every all-zeros row appears below any non-zero rows



# Echelon Form (Pictorially)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & \blacksquare & * & * & * & * & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \blacksquare & * & * & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \blacksquare & * & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \blacksquare & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \blacksquare & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$\blacksquare$  = nonzero,  $*$  = anything

# Echelon Form (Pictorially)

next leading entry  
to the right

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & \blacksquare & * & * & * & * & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \blacksquare & * & * & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \blacksquare & * & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \blacksquare & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \blacksquare & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

all-zero rows at  
the bottom

$\blacksquare$  = nonzero,  $*$  = anything

# Question

*Is the identity matrix in echelon form?*

**Answer: Yes**

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

the leading entries of each row appears to the right of the leading entry above it

it has no all-zero rows

# Question

*Is this matrix in echelon form?*

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 & -8 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

**Answer: No**

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 & -8 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

The leading entry of the least row is not to the right of the leading entry of the second row

# What's special about Echelon forms?

**Theorem.** Let  $A$  be the augmented matrix of an inconsistent linear system. If  $A \sim B$  and  $B$  is in echelon form then  $B$  has the row

$$[0 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0 \ 0 \ \blacksquare]$$

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**Theorem.** Let  $A$  be the augmented matrix of an inconsistent linear system. If  $A \sim B$  and  $B$  is in echelon form then  $B$  has the row

$$[0 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0 \ 0 \ \blacksquare]$$

If all we care about is consistency then we just need to find an echelon form



# Example

$$x - 2z = 4$$

$$-x + y + 5z = -3$$

$$x + 2y + 4z = 7$$

# The Problem with Echelon Forms

If our system *is* consistent, we can't get a solution quite yet.

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If our system *is* consistent, we can't get a solution quite yet.

We need to simplify our matrix a bit more until it  
"represents" a solution

# Reduced Echelon Form

# Row-Reduced Echelon Form (RREF)

**Definition.** A matrix is in *(row-)reduced echelon form* if

1. The leading entry of each row appears to the right of the leading entry above it
2. Every all-zeros row appears below any non-zero rows
3. The leading entries of non-zero rows are 1
4. the leading entries are the only non-zero entries of their columns



# Reduced Echelon Form (Pictorially)

leading entries are 1

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & \boxed{1} & * & 0 & 0 & 0 & * & * & \boxed{0} & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \boxed{1} & 0 & 0 & * & * & \boxed{0} & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & * & * & \boxed{0} & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & * & * & \boxed{0} & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \boxed{0} & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

other column entries are 0

# Reduced Echelon Form (A Simple Example)

$$\begin{array}{rcl} x_1 + x_3 & = & 2 \\ x_2 & = & 1 \end{array}$$



# Reduced Echelon Form (A Simple Example)

$$x_1 + x_3 = 2$$

$$x_2 = 1$$

$$x_1 = 2 - x_3$$

$$x_2 = 1$$

$$x_3 \text{ is free}$$

# The Fundamental Points

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**Point 1.** we can "read off" the solutions of a system of linear equations from its RREF

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**Point 2.** *every* matrix is row equivalent to a unique matrix in reduced echelon form

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Our next topic

demo  
(a.rref())

# What's special about RREF?

Every leading variable can  
be written in terms of only  
non-leading variables.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & * & 0 & 0 & 0 & * & * & 0 & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & * & * & 0 & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & * & * & 0 & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & * & * & 0 & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



# **Why we care about Reduced Echelon Forms?**

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# Why we care about Reduced Echelon Forms?

*the goal of back-substitution is to reduce an echelon form matrix to a **reduced** echelon form*

*the goal of Gaussian elimination is to reduce an **augmented** matrix to a **reduced** echelon form*

***reduced echelon forms describe solutions to linear equations***



# General-Form Solutions

# What's Left?

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We know how to use an RREF to see if a system is inconsistent.

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We know how to use an RREF to read off a unique solution, if there is one.

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We know how to use an RREF to see if a system is inconsistent.

We know how to use an RREF to read off a unique solution, if there is one.

**But how do we characterize *all* solutions in the infinite solution case?**

# Basic and Free Variables

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**Definition.** A variable is *basic* if its column has a pivot position (this is called a *pivot column*). It is *free* otherwise.



# Basic and Free Variables

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$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Basic and Free Variables

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**Definition.** A variable is ***basic*** if its column has a pivot position (this is called a ***pivot column***). It is ***free*** otherwise.

The diagram shows a matrix in reduced echelon form:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Annotations:

- $x_1$  is basic (points to the first column, which contains a pivot 1 in the first row)
- $x_2$  is basic (points to the second column, which contains a pivot 1 in the second row)
- $x_3$  is free (points to the third column, which does not contain a pivot)

# Solutions of Reduced Echelon Forms

*the row  $i$  of a pivot position describes the value of  $x_i$  in a solution to the system, in terms of the free variables*

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

# How-To: General Form Solution

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$x_1 = 2 - x_3$$

$$x_2 = 1$$

$x_3$  is free

# How-To: General Form Solution

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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1. For each pivot position  $(i,j)$ , isolate  $x_j$  in the equation in row  $i$

# How-To: General Form Solution

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$x_1 = 2 - x_3$$

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1. For each pivot position  $(i,j)$ , isolate  $x_j$  in the equation in row  $i$

2. If  $x_i$  is not in a pivot column then write

$x_i$  **is free**

# Example

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & -2 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 3 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Question

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

*Circle the pivot positions, highlight the pivot rows.*

*Which variables are free? Which are basic?*

*Write down a solution in general form for this reduced echelon form matrix.*

*Write down a **particular** solution given the general form.*



**Answer**

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

# Defining the Gaussian Elimination (GE) Algorithm

**At a High Level**

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eliminations + back-substitution

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*we've already done this*

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**Keep in mind.** How do we turn our intuitions  
into a formal procedure?

# ***A Word of Warning***



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**You should roughly use Gaussian Elimination when solving a system by hand.**

demo  
( Step-throughs )

# The Algorithm

# Gaussian Elimination (Specification)

**FUNCTION** GE(A):

**# INPUT:**  $m \times n$  matrix A

**# OUTPUT:** equivalent  $m \times n$  RREF matrix

...

# Gaussian Elimination (High Level)

**FUNCTION** fwd\_elim(A):

# **INPUT:**  $m \times n$  matrix A

# **OUTPUT:** equivalent  $m \times n$  echelon form matrix

...

**FUNCTION** back\_sub(A):

# **INPUT:**  $m \times n$  echelon form matrix A

# **OUTPUT:** equivalent  $m \times n$  RREF matrix

...

**FUNCTION** GE(A):

**RETURN** back\_sub(fwd\_elim(A))

# Elimination Stage



# Elimination Stage (High Level)

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**Input:** matrix  $A$  of size  $m \times n$

**Output:** echelon form of  $A$

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starting at the top left and move down, find a leading entry and eliminate it from latter equations

# Edge cases

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What if the first equation doesn't have the variable  $x_1$ ?

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**Swap rows with an equation that does.**

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What if *none* of the equations have the variable  $x_1$ ?

# Edge cases

What if the first equation doesn't have the variable  $x_1$ ?

**Swap rows with an equation that does.**

What if *none* of the equations have the variable  $x_1$ ?

**Find the *leftmost* variable which appears in *any* of the remaining equations.**



# Elimination Stage (Pseudocode)

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**IF** [rows i...m are all-zeros]: # if remaining rows are zero

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**FOR** [i from 1 to m]: # for each row from top to bottom

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**ELSE:**

            (j, k) ← [position of leftmost entry in the rows i...m]

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**FUNCTION** fwd\_elim(A):

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**ELSE:**

            (j, k) ← [position of leftmost entry in the rows i...m]

            [swap row i and row j]



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            (j, k)  $\leftarrow$  [position of leftmost entry in the rows i...m]

            [swap row i and row j]

**FOR** [l from i + 1 to m]: # for all remaining rows

# Elimination Stage (Pseudocode)

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**FOR** [i from 1 to m]: # for each row from top to bottom

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**RETURN** A

**ELSE:**

            (j, k) ← [position of leftmost entry in the rows i...m]

            [swap row i and row j]

**FOR** [l from i + 1 to m]: # for all remaining rows

                [zero out A[l, k] using a replacement operation]

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            [swap row i and row j]

**FOR** [l from i + 1 to m]: # for all remaining rows

                [zero out A[l, k] using a replacement operation]

**RETURN** A

# Elimination Stage (Example)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 & -6 & 6 & 4 & -5 \\ 3 & -7 & 8 & -5 & 8 & 9 \\ 3 & -9 & 12 & -9 & 6 & 15 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Elimination Stage (Example)

leftmost  
nonzero  
entry

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 & -6 & 6 & 4 & -5 \\ 3 & -7 & 8 & -5 & 8 & 9 \\ 3 & -9 & 12 & -9 & 6 & 15 \end{bmatrix}$$

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Swap  $R_1$  and  $R_3$

# Elimination Stage (Example)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -9 & 12 & -9 & 6 & 15 \\ 3 & -7 & 8 & -5 & 8 & 9 \\ 0 & 3 & -6 & 6 & 4 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Elimination Stage (Example)

next entry  
to zero

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -9 & 12 & -9 & 6 & 15 \\ 3 & -7 & 8 & -5 & 8 & 9 \\ 0 & 3 & -6 & 6 & 4 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$$



# Elimination Stage (Example)

next entry  
to zero

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -9 & 12 & -9 & 6 & 15 \\ 3 & -7 & 8 & -5 & 8 & 9 \\ 0 & 3 & -6 & 6 & 4 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$R_3 \leftarrow R_3 - R_1$$

# Elimination Stage (Example)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -9 & 12 & -9 & 6 & 15 \\ 0 & 2 & -4 & 4 & 2 & -6 \\ 0 & 3 & -6 & 6 & 4 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Elimination Stage (Example)

leftmost  
nonzero  
entry

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -9 & 12 & -9 & 6 & 15 \\ 0 & 2 & -4 & 4 & 2 & -6 \\ 0 & 3 & -6 & 6 & 4 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Elimination Stage (Example)

leftmost  
nonzero  
entry

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -9 & 12 & -9 & 6 & 15 \\ 0 & 2 & -4 & 4 & 2 & -6 \\ 0 & 3 & -6 & 6 & 4 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

swap  $R_2$  with  $R_2$

# Elimination Stage (Example)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -9 & 12 & -9 & 6 & 15 \\ 0 & 2 & -4 & 4 & 2 & -6 \\ 0 & 3 & -6 & 6 & 4 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Elimination Stage (Example)

next entry  
to zero

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -9 & 12 & -9 & 6 & 15 \\ 0 & 2 & -4 & 4 & 2 & -6 \\ 0 & 3 & -6 & 6 & 4 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Elimination Stage (Example)

next entry  
to zero

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -9 & 12 & -9 & 6 & 15 \\ 0 & 2 & -4 & 4 & 2 & -6 \\ 0 & 3 & -6 & 6 & 4 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$R_3 \leftarrow R_3 - \frac{3R_2}{2}$$

# Elimination Stage (Example)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -9 & 12 & -9 & 6 & 15 \\ 0 & 2 & -4 & 4 & 2 & -6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$



# Elimination Stage (Example)

leftmost  
nonzero  
entry

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -9 & 12 & -9 & 6 & 15 \\ 0 & 2 & -4 & 4 & 2 & -6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -9 & 12 & -9 & 6 & 15 \\ 0 & 2 & -4 & 4 & 2 & -6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

swap  $R_3$  with  $R_3$

# Elimination Stage (Example)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -9 & 12 & -9 & 6 & 15 \\ 0 & 2 & -4 & 4 & 2 & -6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Elimination Stage (Example)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -9 & 12 & -9 & 6 & 15 \\ 0 & 2 & -4 & 4 & 2 & -6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

done with elimination stage  
going to back substitution stage

# Back Substitution Stage

# Back Substitution Stage (High Level)

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**Input:** matrix  $A$  of size  $m \times n$  in echelon form

**Output:** reduced echelon form of  $A$

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**Input:** matrix  $A$  of size  $m \times n$  in echelon form

**Output:** reduced echelon form of  $A$

scale pivot positions and eliminate the variables for that column from the other equations



# Back Substitution (Psuedocode)

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**FUNCTION** back\_sub(A) :

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```
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```

```
    FOR [i from 1 to m]: # for each row from top to bottom
```

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**FOR** [k from 1 to i - 1]: # for the rows above the current one

$R_k(A) \leftarrow R_k(A) - R[k, j] * R_i(A)$

# zero out R[k, j] above the leading entry



# Back Substitution (Pseudocode)

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**FOR** [k from 1 to i - 1]: # for the rows above the current one

$R_k(A) \leftarrow R_k(A) - R[k, j] * R_i(A)$

        # zero out R[k, j] above the leading entry

**RETURN** A

You will have to implement  
this part in HW2...

# Gaussian Elimination (Example)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -9 & 12 & -9 & 6 & 15 \\ 0 & 2 & -4 & 4 & 2 & -6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Gaussian Elimination (Example)

pivot  
position

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -9 & 12 & -9 & 6 & 15 \\ 0 & 2 & -4 & 4 & 2 & -6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Gaussian Elimination (Example)

pivot  
position

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -9 & 12 & -9 & 6 & 15 \\ 0 & 2 & -4 & 4 & 2 & -6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$R_1 \leftarrow R_1 / 3$$

# Gaussian Elimination (Example)

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

# Gaussian Elimination (Example)

pivot  
position

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

# Gaussian Elimination (Example)

pivot  
position

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

$$R_2 \leftarrow R_2 / 2$$



# Gaussian Elimination (Example)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 & 4 & -3 & 2 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 2 & 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Gaussian Elimination (Example)

next entry  
to zero

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 & 4 & -3 & 2 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 2 & 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Gaussian Elimination (Example)

next entry  
to zero

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 & 4 & -3 & 2 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 2 & 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$R_1 \leftarrow R_1 + 3R_2$$

# Gaussian Elimination (Example)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -2 & 3 & 5 & -4 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 2 & 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Gaussian Elimination (Example)

pivot  
position

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -2 & 3 & 5 & -4 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 2 & 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Gaussian Elimination (Example)

pivot  
position

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -2 & 3 & 5 & -4 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 2 & 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$R_3 \leftarrow R_3 / 1$$

# Gaussian Elimination (Example)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -2 & 3 & 5 & -4 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 2 & 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Gaussian Elimination (Example)

next entry  
to zero

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -2 & 3 & 5 & -4 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 2 & 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$



# Gaussian Elimination (Example)

next entry  
to zero

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -2 & 3 & 5 & -4 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 2 & 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$R_2 \leftarrow R_2 - R_1$$

# Gaussian Elimination (Example)

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

# Gaussian Elimination (Example)

next entry  
to zero

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

# Gaussian Elimination (Example)

next entry  
to zero

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

$$R_1 \leftarrow R_1 - 5R_3$$

# Gaussian Elimination (Example)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -2 & 3 & 0 & -24 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 2 & 0 & -7 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Gaussian Elimination (Example)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -2 & 3 & 0 & -24 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 2 & 0 & -7 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

done with back substitution phase

# Gaussian Elimination (Example)

$$x_1 = (-24) + 2x_3 - 3x_4$$

$$x_2 = (-7) + 2x_3 - 2x_4$$

$x_3$  is free

$x_4$  is free

$$x_5 = 4$$

# Gaussian Elimination (Example)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -2 & 3 & 0 & -24 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 2 & 0 & -7 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$



# How-To: Solving a System of Linear Equations

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Gaussian elimination

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# **Extra Topic: Analyzing the Algorithm**

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We will not use  $O(\cdot)$  notation!



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For numerics, we care about number of **F**loating-**o**int **O**perations (FLOPs):

- >> addition
- >> subtraction
- >> multiplication
- >> division
- >> square root

# Analyzing the Algorithm

We will not use  $O(\cdot)$  notation!

For numerics, we care about number of **F**loating-**o**int **O**perations (FLOPs):

- >> addition
- >> subtraction
- >> multiplication
- >> division
- >> square root

$2n$  vs.  $n$  is very different  
when  $n \sim 10^{20}$

# Dominant Terms

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A function  $f(n)$  is ***asymptotically equivalent*** to  $g(n)$  if

$$\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(i)}{g(i)} = 1$$

# Dominant Terms

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A function  $f(n)$  is ***asymptotically equivalent*** to  $g(n)$  if

$$\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(i)}{g(i)} = 1$$

for polynomials, they are equivalent to their dominant term

# Dominant Terms

the dominant term of a polynomial is the monomial with the highest degree

$$\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3x^3 + 100000x^2}{3x^3} = 1$$

$3x^3$  dominates the function even though the coefficient for  $x^2$  is so large

# Parameters

$n$  : number of variables

$m$  : number of equations (we will assume  $m = n$ )

$n + 1$  : number of rows in the augmented matrix



# The Cost of a Row Operation

$$R_i \leftarrow R_i + aR_j$$

$n + 1$  multiplications for the scaling

$n + 1$  additions for the row additions

Tally:  $2(n + 1)$  FLOPS

# Cost of First Iteration of Elimination

$$R_2 \leftarrow R_2 + a_2 R_1$$

$$R_3 \leftarrow R_3 + a_3 R_1$$

$$\vdots$$

$$R_n \leftarrow R_n + a_n R_1$$

repeated row operations for each row except the first

Tally:  $\approx 2n(n+1)$  FLOPS

# Rough Cost of Elimination

repeating this last process at most  $n$  times  
gives us a dominant term  $2n^3$

we can give a better estimation...

Tally:  $\approx 2n^2(n + 1)$  FLOPS

# Cost of Elimination

0	■	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
0	0	0	■	*	*	*	*	*	*
0	0	0	0	*	*	*	*	*	*
0	0	0	0	*	*	*	*	*	*
0	0	0	0	*	*	*	*	*	*
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

At iteration  $i$ , we're only interested in rows after  $i$

And to the right of column  $i$

# Cost of Elimination

Iteration 1:  $2n(n+1)$

Iteration 2:  $2(n-1)n$

Iteration 3:  $2(n-2)(n-1)$

$\vdots$

+

---

$$\sum_{k=1}^n 2k(k+1) \approx \frac{2n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6} \sim (2/3)n^3$$

Tally:  $\sim (2/3)n^3$  FLOPS

# Cost of Back Substitution

(Let's assume no free variables)

for each pivot, we only need to:

- >> zero out a position in 1 row (0 FLOPS)

- >> add a value to the last row (1 FLOP)

**at most 1 FLOP per row per pivot  $\sim n^2$**

Tally:  $\sim (2/3)n^3$  FLOPS

# Cost of Gaussian Elimination

Tally:  $\sim (2/3)n^3$  FLOPS

(dominated by elimination)

# Summary

Echelon form "represent solutions"

General form solutions can be used to describe the infinite solution sets

Gaussian elimination uses forward elimination and back-substitution to solve linear equations in general