

Def: Row Echelon Form (ref)

A matrix is in REF if

- (i) All zero rows are in the bottom
- (ii) The first nonzero entry in each row is to the right of the first nonzero entry of all rows above it.
- (iii) All entries below each first non-zero entry is zero.

Def: Reduced Row Echelon Form (rref)

A matrix A is in rref if

- (i) A is in ref
- (ii) Every leading entry in A is 1.
- (iii) Leading ones are the only nonzero in their column.

Example

1. Use Gauss-Jordan Elimination

$$\left| \begin{array}{ccc|c} 2 & 3 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -3 & 2 \\ 4 & 5 & -2 & 1 \end{array} \right| \begin{array}{l} R_1 \leftrightarrow \frac{1}{2} R_1 \\ \sim \end{array} \left| \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & \frac{3}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 1 & -3 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -\frac{1}{3} \end{array} \right| \begin{array}{l} R_1 \leftrightarrow R_1 + (-\frac{1}{2}) R_3 \\ \sim \end{array}$$

"Row equivalent to"

$$\left| \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & \frac{3}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 1 & -3 & 2 \\ 4 & 5 & -2 & 1 \end{array} \right| \begin{array}{l} R_3 \leftrightarrow R_3 - 4R_1 \\ \sim \end{array} \left| \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & \frac{3}{2} & 0 & -\frac{7}{6} \\ 0 & 1 & -3 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -\frac{1}{3} \end{array} \right| \begin{array}{l} R_1 \leftrightarrow R_1 + (-\frac{3}{2}) R_2 \\ \sim \end{array}$$

$$\left| \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & \frac{3}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 1 & -3 & 2 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & -1 \end{array} \right| \begin{array}{l} R_3 \leftrightarrow R_3 + R_2 \\ \sim \end{array} \left| \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{8}{3} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -\frac{1}{3} \end{array} \right| \text{ (In RREF)}$$

$$\left| \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & \frac{3}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 1 & -3 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & -3 & 1 \end{array} \right| \begin{array}{l} R_3 \leftrightarrow (-\frac{1}{3}) R_3 \\ \sim \end{array}$$

$$\left| \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & \frac{3}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 1 & -3 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -\frac{1}{3} \end{array} \right| \begin{array}{l} R_2 \leftrightarrow R_2 + 3R_3 \\ \sim \end{array}$$

(In REF)

2. Find solution set of
$$\begin{cases} 2x_1 + 4x_2 + 10x_3 = 2 \\ x_1 + 3x_2 + 7x_3 = 0 \\ 3x_1 + 6x_2 + 15x_3 = 3 \end{cases}$$

$$\left| \begin{array}{ccc|c} 2 & 4 & 10 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 & 7 & 0 \\ 3 & 6 & 15 & 3 \end{array} \right| \quad \dots \rightarrow \quad \left| \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right|$$

$$\begin{cases} x_1 + x_3 = 3 \\ x_2 + 2x_3 = -1 \\ 0 = 0 \end{cases} \quad \begin{array}{l} x_1, x_2 \text{ are leading/basic/pivot variables} \\ x_3 \text{ is a free/non-leading variable} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{cases} x_1 = 3 - x_3 \\ x_2 = -1 - 2x_3 \end{cases} \quad \text{Any value for } x_3 \text{ is a solution}$$

Set $s := x_3$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 - s \\ -1 - 2s \\ s \end{pmatrix} = s \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{Solution set: } \left\{ s \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \mid s \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

Theorem: Types of Solutions of a System of Linear Equation

Let S be a system of linear equations and let $[A | \vec{b}]$ be the augmented matrix corresponding to S .
 $n \times m$ $n \times (m+1)$

- (i) No solution or inconsistent system iff there is a leading 1 in the aug col (\vec{b}) of $\text{rref}([A | \vec{b}])$.

$$\text{rref}([A | \vec{b}]) = \left[\begin{array}{cccc|c} & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right]$$

- (ii) Consistent iff all leading ones in the coefficient part of $\text{rref}([A | \vec{b}])$

- (a) A unique solution iff $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1. \text{ No leading one in aug. column} \\ 2. \text{ All variables are leading variables} \end{array} \right.$

- (b) Infinitely many solutions iff $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1. \text{ no leading one in aug. column.} \\ 2. \text{ there is at least one free variable} \end{array} \right.$