Sparse Matrix

In computer programming, a matrix can be defined with a 2-dimensional array. Any array with 'm' columns and 'n' rows represent a m X n matrix. There may be a situation in which a matrix contains more number of ZERO values than NON-ZERO values. Such matrix is known as sparse matrix.

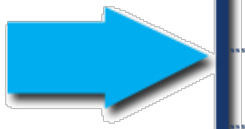
A sparse matrix can be represented by using TWO representations, those are as follows...

1.Triplet Representation (Array Representation)

2.Linked Representation

Triplet Representation (Array Representation)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 9 & 0 \\ 0 & 8 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 4 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



Rows	Columns	Values
5	6	6
0	4	9
1	1	8
2	0	4
2	3	2
3	5	5
4	2	2

In above example matrix, there are only 6 non-zero elements (those are 9, 8, 4, 2, 5 & 2) and matrix size is 5 X 6. We represent this matrix as shown in the above image. Here the first row in the right side table is filled with values 5, 6 & 6 which indicates that it is a sparse matrix with 5 rows, 6 columns & 6 non-zero values. The second row is filled with 0, 4, & 9 which indicates the non-zero value 9 is at the 0th-row 4th column in the Sparse matrix. In the same way, the remaining non-zero values also follow a similar pattern.

Sparse matrix representation using linked list