Matrix theory Assignment 10

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Abstract—**This document explains the conversion of a matrix into both row and column reduced echelon form.**

1 PROBLEM

Let A be a $m \times n$ matrix. Show that by a finite number of elementary row and/or column operations one can pass from A to a matrix R which is both row-reduced echelon and column-reduced echelon , i.e., $R_{ij} = 0$ if $i \neq j$, $R_{ii} = 1$, $1 \leq i \leq r$, $R_{ii} = 0$, if $i > r$. Show that $R = PAQ$, where P is an invertible $m \times m$ matrix and Q is an invertible $n \times n$ matrix.

2 LEMMA

Every elementary matrix is invertible and the inverse is again an elementary matrix. If an elementary matrix E is obtained from I by using a certain row or column operation q, then E^{-1} is obtained from I by the "inverse" operation q^{-1}.

3 SOLUTION

Given $\mathbf{A}$ is a $m \times n$ matrix. Converting $\mathbf{A}$ into row reduced echelon form by performing a series of elementary row operations $\mathbf{P}$. Let $\mathbf{R}'$ be the row reduced echelon matrix. Also, by using the lemma we can tell that $\mathbf{P}$ is invertible and order $m \times m$.

$$\mathbf{R}' = \mathbf{PA} \qquad (3.0.1)$$

where,

$$\mathbf{R}' = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{F} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix}$$

$\mathbf{I}$ is an identity matrix, $\mathbf{F}$ is Free variables matrix and $\mathbf{0}$ represents a block of zeroes

$\mathbf{R}'$ is in row-reduced echelon form. To perform column operations, elementary matrices should be multiplied on the right side in order to convert the $\mathbf{R}'$ into column-reduced echelon form

$$\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{R}'\mathbf{Q} \qquad (3.0.2)$$

But performing column operations on a matrix is equivalent to performing row operations on the transposed matrix.

$$\mathbf{R}^T = (\mathbf{R}'\mathbf{Q})^T$$
$$\implies \mathbf{R}^T = \mathbf{Q}^T\mathbf{R}'^T \qquad (3.0.3)$$

Hence, by using lemma it can be observed that $\mathbf{Q}^T$ is invertible and of the order $n \times n$. Converting $\mathbf{R}^T$ to row-reduced echelon is equivalent to converting $\mathbf{R}$ to column-reduced echelon.

$$\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{PAQ} \qquad (3.0.4)$$

where,

$$\mathbf{R} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix}$$

$\mathbf{I}$ is an identity matrix and $\mathbf{0}$ represents a block of zeroes. $\mathbf{R}$ in (3.0.4) is in both row and column reduced echelon form. Hence proved.