

2. In each nonzero row, the first nonzero entry is in a column to the left of any leading entries below it.

ex. 
$$\begin{array}{cccccc} 2 & 4 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 1 & & \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 3 & & \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & & \end{array}$$

ex. 
$$\begin{aligned} 2x_1 + 4x_2 &= 1 \\ -x_2 &= 2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow x_2 = -2, x_1 = \frac{1}{2}(1 - 4x_2) = 9/2$$