

4.3 - Gauss-Jordan Elimination

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Goals: (1) Reduced Row-Echelon form of a matrix.

(2) Gauss-Jordan Elimination.

E.g. $x + 2y - z = 5$

$$2x - 3y + z = 3$$

$$3x - y - 2z = 7$$

Augmented Matrix for the system

$$\left(\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & -1 & 5 \\ 2 & -3 & 1 & 3 \\ 3 & -1 & -2 & 7 \end{array} \right)$$

Some possible "nice" form that tells us something about the solution to the 3-by-3 system

$$\left(\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 7 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 8 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} x &= 6 \\ y &= 7 \\ z &= 8 \end{aligned}$$

$$\left(\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

No Solutions

$$\left(\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 7/10 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

Infinitely many solutions

Reduced Row Echelon Form

A matrix is in Reduced Row Echelon form if:

- ① Each row consisting entirely of zeros must be below any row having at least a nonzero entry.
- ② The left-most nonzero element in each row must be 1.
- ③ All other elements in the column containing the left-most 1 of a given row must be zero.
- ④ The left-most 1 in any row is to the right of the left most 1 in the row above it.

E.g.

$$\left(\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 10 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

in reduced
row echelon
form

$$\left(\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 4 \end{array} \right)$$

Not in
reduced
row echelon
form

$$\left(\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 3 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right)$$

Not in
reduced
row
echelon
form

Eg. Use Gauss-Jordan elimination to turn a matrix into reduced row-echelon form

$$\left(\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & -1 & -2 \\ 2 & -1 & 1 & 5 \\ -1 & 2 & 2 & 1 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{R_2 \leftrightarrow -2R_1 + R_2}$$

$$\left(\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & -1 & -2 \\ 0 & -3 & 3 & 9 \\ -1 & 2 & 2 & 1 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{R_3 \leftrightarrow R_1 + R_3}$$

$$\left(\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & -1 & -2 \\ 0 & -3 & 3 & 9 \\ 0 & 3 & 1 & -1 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{R_2 \leftrightarrow -\frac{1}{3}R_2}$$

$$\left(\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & -1 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & -3 \\ 0 & 3 & 1 & -1 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{R_1 \leftrightarrow -R_2 + R_1}$$

$$\left(\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & -3 \\ 0 & 3 & 1 & -1 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{R_3 \leftrightarrow -3R_2 + R_3}$$

$$\left(\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 & 8 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{R_3 \leftrightarrow \frac{1}{4}R_3}$$

$$\left(\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{R_2 \leftrightarrow R_3 + R_2}$$

$$\left(\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \end{array} \right); \quad \begin{array}{l} x = 1 \\ y = -1 \\ z = 2 \end{array}$$