

Section 1.2: Row Reduction and Echelon Forms

Recall: If two matrices are row equivalent, then the linear systems for which they are the augmented matrices are equivalent.

E.g. these are row equivalent

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 & 11 & 3 & 4 \\ 3 & 2 & 14 & 4 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 6 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 4 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Echelon Forms

ref

Definition: A matrix is in **echelon form** (a.k.a. **row echelon form**) if the following properties hold

- i Any row of all zeros are at the bottom.
- ii The first nonzero number (called the *leading entry*) in a row is to the right of the first nonzero number in all rows above it.
- iii All entries below a leading entry are zeros.

Is

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$$

Is Not

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & -3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

Reduced Echelon Form

ref

Definition: A matrix is in **reduced echelon form** (a.k.a. **reduced row echelon form**) if it is in echelon form and the following additional properties hold

- iv The leading entry of each row is 1 (called a *leading 1*), and
- v each leading 1 is the only nonzero entry in its column.

Is

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Is Not

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Elementary Row Operations

We defined row equivalence via the three elementary row operations. We'll use the following convenient notation:

- ▶ Swap rows i and j :

$$R_i \leftrightarrow R_j$$

- ▶ Scale row i by k :

$$kR_i \rightarrow R_i$$

- ▶ Replace row j with the sum of itself and k times row i :

$$kR_i + R_j \rightarrow R_j$$

We will obtain row echelon forms (ref) and reduced row echelon forms (rref) using these row operations.

Pivots

Theorem: The reduced row echelon form of a matrix is unique.

This allows the following unambiguous definition:

Definition: A **pivot position** in a matrix A is a location that corresponds to a leading 1 in the reduced echelon form of A . A **pivot column** is a column of A that contains a pivot position.

Identify the pivot position and columns given...

pivot positions

A

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & -3 & -6 & 4 & 9 \\ -1 & -2 & -1 & 3 & 1 \\ -2 & -3 & 0 & 3 & -1 \\ 1 & 4 & 5 & -9 & -7 \end{bmatrix}$$



pivot columns are 1, 2, and 4

leading 1's

rref of A

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -3 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



pivot columns

Row Reduction Algorithm

To obtain an echelon form, we work from left to right beginning with the top row working downward.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 & -6 & 4 & 6 \\ 3 & -7 & 8 & 8 & -5 \\ 3 & -9 & 12 & 6 & -9 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(R_1 \leftrightarrow R_3)$$

$$R_1 \leftarrow R_3$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -9 & 12 & 6 & -9 \\ 3 & -7 & 8 & 8 & -5 \\ 0 & 3 & -6 & 4 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

Step 1: The left most column is a pivot column. The top position is a pivot position. Get a nonzero entry in the top left position by row swapping if needed.

Row Reduction Algorithm

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -9 & 12 & 6 & -9 \\ 3 & -7 & 8 & 8 & -5 \\ 0 & 3 & -6 & 4 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$-R_1 + R_2 \rightarrow R_2$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -9 & 12 & 6 & -9 \\ 0 & 2 & -4 & 2 & 4 \\ 0 & 3 & -6 & 4 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

Step 2: Use row operations to get zeros in all entries below the pivot.

Row Reduction Algorithm

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -9 & 12 & 6 & -9 \\ 0 & 2 & -4 & 2 & 4 \\ 0 & 3 & -6 & 4 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

Scratch

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} 0 & -3 & 6 & -3 & -6 \\ 0 & 3 & -6 & 4 & 6 \end{array}$$

$$\frac{1}{2}R_2 \rightarrow R_2$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -9 & 12 & 6 & -9 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 3 & -6 & 4 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$-3R_2 + R_3 \rightarrow R_3$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -9 & 12 & 6 & -9 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Step 3: Ignore the row with a pivot, all rows above it, the pivot column, and all columns to its left, and repeat steps 1-2.

Row Reduction Algorithm

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -9 & 12 & 6 & -9 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

is an echelon form.

Row Reduction Algorithm

To obtain a reduced row echelon form:

Step 4: Starting with the right most pivot and working up and to the left, use row operations to get a zero in each position above a pivot. Scale to make each pivot a 1.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -9 & 12 & 6 & -9 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\frac{1}{3} R_1 \rightarrow R_1$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 & 4 & 2 & -3 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$-R_3 + R_2 \rightarrow R_2$$

$$-2R_3 + R_1 \rightarrow R_1$$

Row Reduction Algorithm

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 & 4 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$3R_2 + R_1 \rightarrow R_1$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} 1 & -3 & 4 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 3 & -6 & 0 & 6 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -2 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

pivot
columns are
1, 2 and 4

Complete Row Reduction isn't needed to find Pivots

Find the pivot positions and pivot columns of the matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 4 \\ -2 & 1 & -2 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Leading entries in an ref
tell us where leading 1's
are in the rref.

● pivot positions

pivot columns are 1 and 2.

This matrix has an ref and rref

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 3 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{respectively.}$$

Echelon Form & Solving a System

Remark: The row operations used to get an rref correspond to an **equivalent** system!

Consider the reduced echelon matrix, and describe the solution set for the associated system of equations (the one who'd have this as its augmented matrix).

$$\left[\begin{array}{cccccc} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -2 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -9 \end{array} \right]$$

$$x_1 + x_2 = 3$$

$$x_3 - 2x_5 = 4$$

$$x_4 = -9$$

This gives the solution set

$$x_1 = 3 - x_2$$

x_2 - free

$$x_3 = 4 + 2x_5$$

$$x_4 = -9$$

x_5 - free

Non free variables are called basic.

Note the basic variables are x_1 , x_3 , and x_4 .

Consistent versus Inconsistent Systems

Consider each rref. Determine if the underlying system (the one with this as its augmented matrix) is consistent or inconsistent.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$x_1 + 2x_2 = 0$$

$$x_3 = 4$$

consistent

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$x_1 = 0$$

$$x_2 = 4$$

$$x_3 = -3$$

consistent

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$x_1 + 2x_3 = 3$$

$$x_2 + x_3 = 0$$

$$0 = 1$$

always false
inconsistent.

An Existence and Uniqueness Theorem

Theorem: A linear system is consistent if and only if the right most column of the augmented matrix is **NOT** a pivot column. That is, if and only if each echelon form **DOES NOT** have a row of the form

$$[0 \ 0 \ \cdots \ 0 \ b], \quad \text{for some nonzero } b.$$

If a linear system is consistent, then it has

- (i) exactly one solution if there are no free variables, or
- (ii) infinitely many solutions if there is at least one free variable.

Section 1.3: Vector Equations

Definition: A matrix that consists of one column is called a **column vector** or simply a **vector**.

e.g.
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

In print vectors are usually written in bold face.

In hand writing, we use an arrow over the variable, like \vec{u} or \vec{v}

The set of vectors of the form $\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$ with x_1 and x_2 any real numbers is denoted by \mathbb{R}^2 (read "R two"). It's the set of all real ordered pairs.

Geometry

Each vector $\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$ corresponds to a point in the Cartesian plane. We can equate them with ordered pairs written in the traditional format $\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = (x_1, x_2)$. This is **not to be confused with a row matrix**.

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} \neq [x_1 \ x_2]$$

We can identify vectors with points or with directed line segments emanating from the origin (little arrows).

Geometry

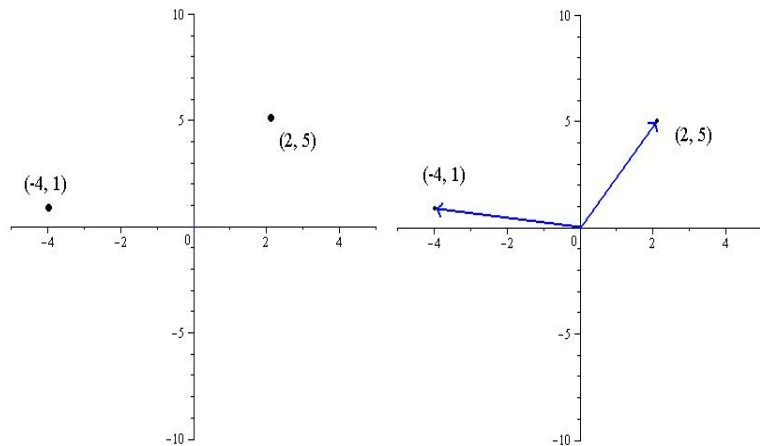


Figure: Vectors characterized as points, and vectors characterized as directed line segments.

Algebraic Operations

Let $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \end{bmatrix}$, $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{bmatrix}$, and c be a scalar¹.

Scalar Multiplication: The scalar multiple of \mathbf{u}

$$c\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} cu_1 \\ cu_2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Vector Addition: The sum of vectors \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v}

$$\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 + v_1 \\ u_2 + v_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Vector Equivalence: Equality of vectors is defined by

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{v} \quad \text{if and only if} \quad u_1 = v_1 \quad \text{and} \quad u_2 = v_2.$$

¹A **scalar** is an element of the set from which u_1 and u_2 come. For our purposes, a scalar is a *real* number.

Examples

$$\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ \frac{3}{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

Evaluate

$$(a) \quad -2\mathbf{u} = -2 \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \cdot 4 \\ -2 \cdot (-2) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -8 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(b) \quad -2\mathbf{u} + 3\mathbf{v} = -2 \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix} + 3 \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -8 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 3 \cdot (-1) \\ 3 \cdot 7 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -8 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 21 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -8 - 3 \\ 4 + 21 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -11 \\ 25 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{Is it true that } \mathbf{w} = -\frac{3}{4}\mathbf{u}? \quad -\frac{3}{4}\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{3}{4} \cdot 4 \\ -\frac{3}{4} \cdot (-2) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ \frac{3}{2} \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{w}$$

yes

Geometry of Algebra with Vectors

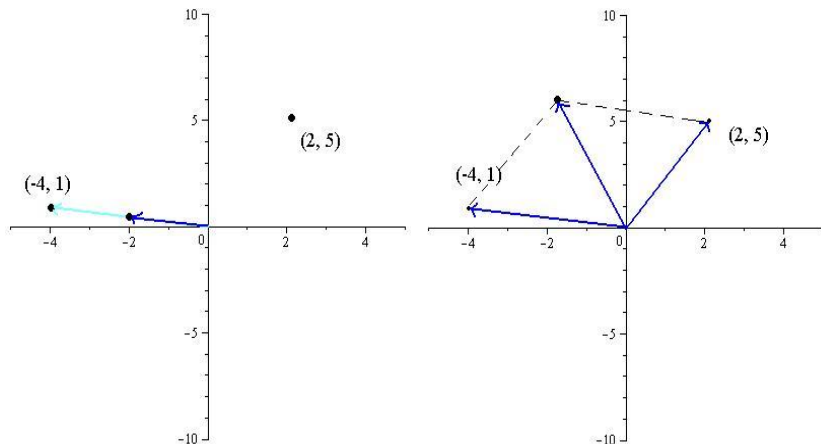


Figure: Left: $\frac{1}{2}(-4, 1) = (-2, 1/2)$. Right: $(-4, 1) + (2, 5) = (-2, 6)$

Geometry of Algebra with Vectors

Scalar Multiplication: stretches or compresses a vector but can only change direction by an angle of 0 (if $c > 0$) or π (if $c < 0$). We'll see that $0\mathbf{u} = (0, 0)$ for any vector \mathbf{u} .

