

A matrix is said to be in **row echelon form**

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- (i) If the first nonzero entry in each nonzero row is 1.
- (ii) If row k does not consist entirely of zeros, the number of leading zero entries in row $k + 1$ is greater than the number of leading zero entries in row k .
- (iii) If there are rows whose entries are all zero, they are below the rows having nonzero entries.

(i) start with 1 as First non Zero Entry row

→ ALL zeros must be placed below rows of non zeros
i.e.

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REF From 1-3
RREF From 1-3 & 4-5

A rectangular matrix is in **echelon form** (or **row echelon form**) if it has the following three properties:

1. All nonzero rows are above any rows of all zeros.
2. Each leading entry of a row is in a column to the right of the leading entry of the row above it.
3. All entries in a column below a leading entry are zeros.

If a matrix in echelon form satisfies the following additional conditions, then it is in **reduced echelon form** (or **reduced row echelon form**):

4. The leading entry in each nonzero row is 1.
5. Each leading 1 is the only nonzero entry in its column.

Definition: A matrix is in row echelon form (REF) if it satisfies the following three properties:

→ states non zero

(i) All nonzero rows are above any rows of all zeros.

Mnemonic: "Rows of zeros have to be at the bottom!"

(ii) Each leading (nonzero) entry of a row is in a column to the right of the leading (nonzero) entry of the row above it.

Mnemonic: "As you go down, leading entries must move to the right!"

(iii) All entries in a column below a leading (nonzero) entry are zeros.

Mnemonic: "Entries below leading entries must be zero!"

Definition: A matrix is in reduced row echelon form (RREF) if it satisfies the following three properties:

(i)–(iii) It is in REF.

(iv) The leading (nonzero) entry in each row is 1.

← must
Equal 1

Mnemonic: “Leading entries must equal 1!”

(v) Each leading 1 is the only nonzero entry in its column.

Mnemonic: “Entries above leading entries must also be zero!”

Case - 1 as r.E.F

First leading pivot is non Zero, First Entry is ①

row k $0's = 1$ $\left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} 0 & 1 & d \end{array} \right.$

row $k+1$ $0's = 2$ $\left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right.$

Row-echelon form

2nd Leading $\left[\begin{array}{ccc} 1 & a & b \\ 0 & \textcircled{1} & d \\ 0 & \boxed{0} & 1 \end{array} \right]$

2nd Leading \rightarrow First non-Zero Element in - Row-2

\rightarrow Located below and to the right from - 1st-Leading

\rightarrow Column 2, one Zero below the 2nd Leading

Case - 1

Row-echelon form

First Leading $\left[\begin{array}{ccc} \textcircled{1} & a & b \\ \boxed{0} & 1 & d \\ \boxed{0} & \boxed{0} & 1 \end{array} \right]$

Zeros are below the pivot \downarrow Zero

$\left[\begin{array}{ccc} 1 & & \\ 0 & 1 & \\ & 0 & \end{array} \right]$ First non Zero Element 2nd row

This is how the process might work for a 3×4 matrix:

 has a value

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

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

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

Once an augmented matrix is in row-echelon form, we can solve the corresponding linear system using back-substitution. This technique is called **Gaussian elimination**, in honor of its inventor, the German mathematician C. F. Gauss (see page 326).

What is a pivot column?

A **pivot position** in a matrix A is a location in A 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.

$$\begin{array}{ccc|c} \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \\ 1 & \boxed{\blacksquare} & \boxed{\blacksquare} & \boxed{\blacksquare} \\ 0 & 1 & \boxed{\blacksquare} & \boxed{\blacksquare} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \boxed{\blacksquare} \end{array}$$

First, 2nd, 3rd
pivot
Columns

RREF

Reduced Row Echelon Method

⇒ Gauss - Jordan

Another matrix method for solving systems is the **reduced row echelon method**. Earlier, we saw that the row echelon form of a matrix has 1s along the main diagonal and 0s below. *The reduced row echelon form has 1s along the main diagonal and 0s both below and above.* For example, the augmented matrix of the system

$$\begin{array}{rcl} x + y + z & = & 6 \\ 2x - y + z & = & 5 \\ 3x + y - 2z & = & 9 \end{array} \quad \text{is} \quad \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & 1 & 6 \\ 2 & -1 & 1 & 5 \\ 3 & 1 & -2 & 9 \end{array} \right].$$

By using row transformations, this augmented matrix can be transformed to

Reduced row
echelon form

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{array} \right],$$

which represents the system

$$x = 3$$

$$y = 2$$

$$z = 1.$$

Zeros
are above
and below
1's

The solution set is $\{(3, 2, 1)\}$. There is no need for back-substitution with reduced row echelon form.

Three pivots = Three pivot Columns

A **pivot position** in a matrix A is a location in A 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.

EXAMPLE 2 Row reduce the matrix A below to echelon form, and locate the pivot columns of A .

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

Solution

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

↑ Zero cannot be a pivot

Definition: A matrix is in row echelon form (REF) if it satisfies the following three properties:

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Mnemonic: "Rows of zeros have to be at the bottom!"

(ii) Each leading (nonzero) entry of a row is in a column to the right of the leading (nonzero) entry of the row above it.

Mnemonic: "As you go down, leading entries must move to the right!"

(iii) All entries in a column below a leading (nonzero) entry are zeros.

Mnemonic: "Entries below leading entries must be zero!"

$R_4 \rightarrow R_1$ ↓

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

1 is the First pivot $\Rightarrow (-1, -2, 1)$ to be zeros

$$R_2 + \left(\frac{+1}{1}\right)R_1 \rightarrow R_2, \quad R_3 + \left(\frac{+2}{1}\right)R_1 \rightarrow R_3 \\ R_4 + (1)R_1 \rightarrow R_4$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \textcircled{1} & 4 & 5 & -9 & -7 \\ -1 & -2 & -1 & 3 & 1 \\ -2 & -3 & 0 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 & 4 & 9 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{Same} \\ R_2 + R_1 \rightarrow R_2 \\ R_3 + 2R_1 \rightarrow R_3 \end{array}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & 5 & -9 & -7 \\ 0 & +2 & 4 & -6 & -6 \\ 0 & +5 & 10 & -15 & -15 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 & 4 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$$

2nd pivot $\rightarrow R_2 \& C_2$ is non zero ok

\hookrightarrow below to be zeros $R_3 - \frac{5}{2}R_2 \rightarrow R_3$
 $R_4 + \frac{3}{2}R_2 \rightarrow R_4$

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

$\uparrow R_4 \rightarrow R_3$ because zeros should be at the bottom

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

Pivot Columns are $C_1 \& C_2 \& C_4$
Pivots are 1 & 2 & -5

The matrix is in echelon form and thus reveals that columns 1, 2, and 4 of A are pivot columns.

C_1 C_2 C_4

Pivot positions

Original matrix

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

Pivot columns

(3)

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