

8.1 Matrices Enrichment

Def: Matrix - A matrix is an ordered array of numbers written in brackets

1	2	3	→ row
4	5	6	
7	8	9	→ element

column

Each number in the matrix is called an element and matrices have rows and columns

Def: Order - The order of a matrix is the number of columns (m) by the number of rows (n)

1	2
3	4

2x2

→ order

3	2	1
-1	5	6

2x3

Def: Main Diagonal - Runs from upper left to lower right

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9

1	2	3
4	5	6

Ex: Given the following system

$$\begin{aligned}x - y + 3z &= 8 \\ 3x + y - 2z &= -2 \\ 2x + 4y + z &= 0\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & -2 \\ 2 & 4 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \text{coefficient matrix}$$

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & -1 & 3 & 8 \\ 3 & 1 & -2 & -2 \\ 2 & 4 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \text{Augmented matrix}$$

To solve a system using matrices we must write the matrix in row echelon form.
A matrix is in row-echelon form when all elements below the main diagonal are zeros.

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 6 & 12 \end{array} \right]$$

row echelon form

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 6 & 12 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 5 \end{array} \right]$$

not row echelon form

To write a matrix in row-echelon we use elementary-row operations.

R1: Row Scaling - Multiply the row by a non-zero scalar (constant)

R2: Row interchange - Switch any two rows

R3: Row addition - Replace any row with the sum of that row and any other row.

Def Gaussian Elimination Method - Method used to solve a system of equations by writing the coefficient portion of the augmented matrix in row-echelon form using elementary row operations. We then use back substitution to solve.

→ named after Carl Friedrich Gauss (1777-1855) - a German mathematician.