

## 1 Examples with 2 unknowns

- Unique solution w/o row swaps

## 2 Examples with 3 unknowns

- Unique Solution w/o row swaps
- Unique Solution w/ a row swap
- No Solution
- Infinite Number of Solutions

## 3 Some comments on numerics

## 4 Gaussian Elimination with Partial Pivoting

Consider the system

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$$\left( \begin{array}{cc|c} 4 & 2 & 10 \\ \mathbf{6} & 8 & 5 \end{array} \right) \rho_2 - (6/4)\rho_1 \quad \left( \begin{array}{cc|c} 4 & 2 & 10 \\ 0 & 5 & -10 \end{array} \right)$$

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$$\left( \begin{array}{cc|c} 4 & 2 & 10 \\ 0 & 5 & -10 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{(1/5)\rho_2} \left( \begin{array}{cc|c} 4 & 2 & 10 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 \end{array} \right)$$

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$$\left( \begin{array}{cc|c} 4 & 2 & 10 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{\rho_1 - (2/1)\rho_2}$$

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$$\left( \begin{array}{cc|c} 4 & 0 & 14 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{(1/4)\rho_1} \left( \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 0 & 7/2 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 \end{array} \right)$$

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Now we can read off the solution:

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 7/2 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$$

# No row swaps

Consider the system

$$\begin{array}{rcccccc} 3x_1 & - & 5x_2 & - & 2x_3 & = & 7 \\ 6x_1 & - & 8x_2 & - & x_3 & = & 5 \\ -9x_1 & + & 9x_2 & + & x_3 & = & -14 \end{array}$$

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$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 7 \\ 0 & 2 & 3 & -9 \\ 0 & \mathbf{-6} & -5 & 7 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_3 - (-6/2)\rho_2$$

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$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 7 \\ 0 & 2 & 3 & -9 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 & -20 \end{array} \right) \quad (1/4)\rho_3$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 7 \\ 0 & 2 & 3 & -9 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_2 - (3/1)\rho_3$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 7 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_1 - (-2/1)\rho_3$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right)$$

Now we put this matrix into reduced row echelon form using Back Substitution:

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 7 \\ 0 & 2 & 3 & -9 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 & -20 \end{array} \right) \quad (1/4)\rho_3 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 7 \\ 0 & 2 & 3 & -9 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 7 \\ 0 & 2 & 3 & -9 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_2 - (3/1)\rho_3 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 7 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 7 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_1 - (-2/1)\rho_3 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right) \quad (1/2)\rho_2$$

Now we put this matrix into reduced row echelon form using Back Substitution:

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 7 \\ 0 & 2 & 3 & -9 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 & -20 \end{array} \right) \quad (1/4)\rho_3 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 7 \\ 0 & 2 & 3 & -9 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 7 \\ 0 & 2 & 3 & -9 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_2 - (3/1)\rho_3 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 7 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 7 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_1 - (-2/1)\rho_3 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right) \quad (1/2)\rho_2 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right)$$

Now we put this matrix into reduced row echelon form using Back Substitution:

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 7 \\ 0 & 2 & 3 & -9 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 & -20 \end{array} \right) \quad (1/4)\rho_3 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 7 \\ 0 & 2 & 3 & -9 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 7 \\ 0 & 2 & 3 & -9 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_2 - (3/1)\rho_3 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 7 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 7 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_1 - (-2/1)\rho_3 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right) \quad (1/2)\rho_2 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right)$$

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

Now we put this matrix into reduced row echelon form using Back Substitution:

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 7 \\ 0 & 2 & 3 & -9 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 & -20 \end{array} \right) \quad (1/4)\rho_3 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 7 \\ 0 & 2 & 3 & -9 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 7 \\ 0 & 2 & 3 & -9 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_2 - (3/1)\rho_3 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 7 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 7 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_1 - (-2/1)\rho_3 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right) \quad (1/2)\rho_2 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_1 - (-5/1)\rho_2$$

Now we put this matrix into reduced row echelon form using Back Substitution:

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 7 \\ 0 & 2 & 3 & -9 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 & -20 \end{array} \right) \quad (1/4)\rho_3 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 7 \\ 0 & 2 & 3 & -9 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 7 \\ 0 & 2 & 3 & -9 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_2 - (3/1)\rho_3 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 7 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 7 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_1 - (-2/1)\rho_3 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right) \quad (1/2)\rho_2 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_1 - (-5/1)\rho_2 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & 0 & 0 & 12 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} \mathbf{3} & 0 & 0 & 12 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} \mathbf{3} & 0 & 0 & 12 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right) \quad (1/3)\rho_1$$



$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} \mathbf{3} & 0 & 0 & 12 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{(1/3)\rho_1} \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & 0 & 0 & 12 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{(1/3)\rho_1} \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 \end{array} \right)$$

Now we can read off the solution:

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix}$$

# A row swap

Consider the system

$$\begin{array}{rcccccc} 3x_1 & - & 5x_2 & - & 2x_3 & = & 8 \\ 6x_1 & - & 10x_2 & - & x_3 & = & 7 \\ -9x_1 & + & 9x_2 & + & x_3 & = & -21 \end{array}$$

# A row swap

Consider the system

$$\begin{array}{rclclcl} 3x_1 & - & 5x_2 & - & 2x_3 & = & 8 \\ 6x_1 & - & 10x_2 & - & x_3 & = & 7 \\ -9x_1 & + & 9x_2 & + & x_3 & = & -21 \end{array}$$

This has augmented matrix

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 6 & -10 & -1 & 7 \\ -9 & 9 & 1 & -21 \end{array} \right)$$

# A row swap

Consider the system

$$\begin{array}{rclclcl} 3x_1 & - & 5x_2 & - & 2x_3 & = & 8 \\ 6x_1 & - & 10x_2 & - & x_3 & = & 7 \\ -9x_1 & + & 9x_2 & + & x_3 & = & -21 \end{array}$$

This has augmented matrix

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 6 & -10 & -1 & 7 \\ -9 & 9 & 1 & -21 \end{array} \right)$$

We proceed to put this into row echelon form using Gaussian Elimination:

# A row swap

Consider the system

$$\begin{array}{rclclcl} 3x_1 & - & 5x_2 & - & 2x_3 & = & 8 \\ 6x_1 & - & 10x_2 & - & x_3 & = & 7 \\ -9x_1 & + & 9x_2 & + & x_3 & = & -21 \end{array}$$

This has augmented matrix

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 6 & -10 & -1 & 7 \\ -9 & 9 & 1 & -21 \end{array} \right)$$

We proceed to put this into row echelon form using Gaussian Elimination:

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ \mathbf{6} & -10 & -1 & 7 \\ -9 & 9 & 1 & -21 \end{array} \right)$$

# A row swap

Consider the system

$$\begin{array}{rclclcl} 3x_1 & - & 5x_2 & - & 2x_3 & = & 8 \\ 6x_1 & - & 10x_2 & - & x_3 & = & 7 \\ -9x_1 & + & 9x_2 & + & x_3 & = & -21 \end{array}$$

This has augmented matrix

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 6 & -10 & -1 & 7 \\ -9 & 9 & 1 & -21 \end{array} \right)$$

We proceed to put this into row echelon form using Gaussian Elimination:

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ \mathbf{6} & -10 & -1 & 7 \\ -9 & 9 & 1 & -21 \end{array} \right) \rho_2 - (6/3)\rho_1$$

# A row swap

Consider the system

$$\begin{array}{rccccrcr} 3x_1 & - & 5x_2 & - & 2x_3 & = & 8 \\ 6x_1 & - & 10x_2 & - & x_3 & = & 7 \\ -9x_1 & + & 9x_2 & + & x_3 & = & -21 \end{array}$$

This has augmented matrix

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 6 & -10 & -1 & 7 \\ -9 & 9 & 1 & -21 \end{array} \right)$$

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$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ \mathbf{6} & -10 & -1 & 7 \\ -9 & 9 & 1 & -21 \end{array} \right) \rho_2 - (6/3)\rho_1 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -9 \\ -9 & 9 & 1 & -21 \end{array} \right)$$



# A row swap

Consider the system

$$\begin{array}{rclcrcl} 3x_1 & - & 5x_2 & - & 2x_3 & = & 8 \\ 6x_1 & - & 10x_2 & - & x_3 & = & 7 \\ -9x_1 & + & 9x_2 & + & x_3 & = & -21 \end{array}$$

This has augmented matrix

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 6 & -10 & -1 & 7 \\ -9 & 9 & 1 & -21 \end{array} \right)$$

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$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ \mathbf{6} & -10 & -1 & 7 \\ -9 & 9 & 1 & -21 \end{array} \right) \rho_2 - (6/3)\rho_1 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -9 \\ -9 & 9 & 1 & -21 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -9 \\ -\mathbf{9} & 9 & 1 & -21 \end{array} \right)$$

# A row swap

Consider the system

$$\begin{array}{rclcrcl} 3x_1 & - & 5x_2 & - & 2x_3 & = & 8 \\ 6x_1 & - & 10x_2 & - & x_3 & = & 7 \\ -9x_1 & + & 9x_2 & + & x_3 & = & -21 \end{array}$$

This has augmented matrix

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$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ \mathbf{6} & -10 & -1 & 7 \\ -9 & 9 & 1 & -21 \end{array} \right) \rho_2 - (6/3)\rho_1 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -9 \\ -9 & 9 & 1 & -21 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -9 \\ \mathbf{-9} & 9 & 1 & -21 \end{array} \right) \rho_3 - (-9/3)\rho_1$$

# A row swap

Consider the system

$$\begin{array}{rclclcl} 3x_1 & - & 5x_2 & - & 2x_3 & = & 8 \\ 6x_1 & - & 10x_2 & - & x_3 & = & 7 \\ -9x_1 & + & 9x_2 & + & x_3 & = & -21 \end{array}$$

This has augmented matrix

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 6 & -10 & -1 & 7 \\ -9 & 9 & 1 & -21 \end{array} \right)$$

We proceed to put this into row echelon form using Gaussian Elimination:

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ \mathbf{6} & -10 & -1 & 7 \\ -9 & 9 & 1 & -21 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_2 - (6/3)\rho_1 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -9 \\ -9 & 9 & 1 & -21 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -9 \\ \mathbf{-9} & 9 & 1 & -21 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_3 - (-9/3)\rho_1 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -9 \\ 0 & -6 & -5 & 3 \end{array} \right)$$

# A row swap

Consider the system

$$\begin{array}{rclclcl} 3x_1 & - & 5x_2 & - & 2x_3 & = & 8 \\ 6x_1 & - & 10x_2 & - & x_3 & = & 7 \\ -9x_1 & + & 9x_2 & + & x_3 & = & -21 \end{array}$$

This has augmented matrix

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 6 & -10 & -1 & 7 \\ -9 & 9 & 1 & -21 \end{array} \right)$$

We proceed to put this into row echelon form using Gaussian Elimination:

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ \mathbf{6} & -10 & -1 & 7 \\ -9 & 9 & 1 & -21 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_2 - (6/3)\rho_1 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -9 \\ -9 & 9 & 1 & -21 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -9 \\ \mathbf{-9} & 9 & 1 & -21 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_3 - (-9/3)\rho_1 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -9 \\ 0 & -6 & -5 & 3 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -9 \\ 0 & \mathbf{-6} & -5 & 3 \end{array} \right)$$

# A row swap

Consider the system

$$\begin{array}{rclclcl} 3x_1 & - & 5x_2 & - & 2x_3 & = & 8 \\ 6x_1 & - & 10x_2 & - & x_3 & = & 7 \\ -9x_1 & + & 9x_2 & + & x_3 & = & -21 \end{array}$$

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We proceed to put this into row echelon form using Gaussian Elimination:

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ \mathbf{6} & -10 & -1 & 7 \\ -9 & 9 & 1 & -21 \end{array} \right) \rho_2 - (6/3)\rho_1 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -9 \\ -9 & 9 & 1 & -21 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -9 \\ \mathbf{-9} & 9 & 1 & -21 \end{array} \right) \rho_3 - (-9/3)\rho_1 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -9 \\ 0 & -6 & -5 & 3 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -9 \\ 0 & \mathbf{-6} & -5 & 3 \end{array} \right) \begin{array}{l} \rho_3 \\ \rho_2 \end{array}$$

# A row swap

Consider the system

$$\begin{array}{rclcrcl} 3x_1 & - & 5x_2 & - & 2x_3 & = & 8 \\ 6x_1 & - & 10x_2 & - & x_3 & = & 7 \\ -9x_1 & + & 9x_2 & + & x_3 & = & -21 \end{array}$$

This has augmented matrix

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 6 & -10 & -1 & 7 \\ -9 & 9 & 1 & -21 \end{array} \right)$$

We proceed to put this into row echelon form using Gaussian Elimination:

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ \mathbf{6} & -10 & -1 & 7 \\ -9 & 9 & 1 & -21 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_2 - (6/3)\rho_1 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -9 \\ -9 & 9 & 1 & -21 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -9 \\ \mathbf{-9} & 9 & 1 & -21 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_3 - (-9/3)\rho_1 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -9 \\ 0 & -6 & -5 & 3 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -9 \\ 0 & \mathbf{-6} & -5 & 3 \end{array} \right) \quad \begin{array}{l} \rho_3 \\ \rho_2 \end{array} \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & -5 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -9 \end{array} \right)$$

## A row swap

Now we put this matrix into reduced row echelon form using Back Substitution:

## A row swap

Now we put this matrix into reduced row echelon form using Back Substitution:

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & -5 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -9 \end{array} \right)$$



## A row swap

Now we put this matrix into reduced row echelon form using Back Substitution:

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & -5 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -9 \end{array} \right) \quad (1/3)r_3$$

Now we put this matrix into reduced row echelon form using Back Substitution:

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & -5 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -9 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{(1/3)\rho_3} \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & -5 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right)$$

# A row swap

Now we put this matrix into reduced row echelon form using Back Substitution:

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & -5 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -9 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{(1/3)\rho_3} \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & -5 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & -5 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right)$$

# A row swap

Now we put this matrix into reduced row echelon form using Back Substitution:

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & -5 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -9 \end{array} \right) \quad (1/3)\rho_3 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & -5 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & -5 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_2 - (-5/1)\rho_3$$

# A row swap

Now we put this matrix into reduced row echelon form using Back Substitution:

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & -5 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -9 \end{array} \right) \quad (1/3)\rho_3 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & -5 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & -5 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_2 - (-5/1)\rho_3 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & 0 & -12 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right)$$

# A row swap

Now we put this matrix into reduced row echelon form using Back Substitution:

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & -5 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -9 \end{array} \right) \quad (1/3)\rho_3 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & -5 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & -5 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_2 - (-5/1)\rho_3 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & 0 & -12 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & 0 & -12 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right)$$

Now we put this matrix into reduced row echelon form using Back Substitution:

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & -5 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -9 \end{array} \right) \quad (1/3)\rho_3 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & -5 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & -5 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_2 - (-5/1)\rho_3 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & 0 & -12 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & 0 & -12 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_1 - (-2/1)\rho_3$$

Now we put this matrix into reduced row echelon form using Back Substitution:

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & -5 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -9 \end{array} \right) \quad (1/3)\rho_3 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & -5 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & -5 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_2 - (-5/1)\rho_3 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & 0 & -12 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & 0 & -12 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_1 - (-2/1)\rho_3 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & -6 & 0 & -12 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right)$$



Now we put this matrix into reduced row echelon form using Back Substitution:

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & -5 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -9 \end{array} \right) \quad (1/3)\rho_3 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & -5 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & -5 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_2 - (-5/1)\rho_3 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & 0 & -12 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right)$$

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$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & 0 & -12 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_1 - (-2/1)\rho_3 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & -6 & 0 & -12 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & -6 & 0 & -12 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right) \quad (1/-6)\rho_2$$

Now we put this matrix into reduced row echelon form using Back Substitution:

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & -5 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -9 \end{array} \right) \quad (1/3)\rho_3 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & -5 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & -5 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_2 - (-5/1)\rho_3 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & -6 & 0 & -12 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right)$$

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$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & -6 & 0 & -12 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right) \quad (1/-6)\rho_2 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right)$$

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$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & -5 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_1 - (-5/1)\rho_2 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 3 & 0 & 0 & 12 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} \mathbf{3} & 0 & 0 & 12 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} \mathbf{3} & 0 & 0 & 12 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right) \quad (1/3)\rho_1$$



$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} \mathbf{3} & 0 & 0 & 12 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{(1/3)\rho_1} \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} \mathbf{3} & 0 & 0 & 12 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{(1/3)\rho_1} \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -3 \end{array} \right)$$

Now we can read off the solution:

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix}$$

# No Solution

Consider the system

$$\begin{array}{rcccccc} x_1 & + & 2x_2 & + & 3x_3 & = & 2 \\ 4x_1 & + & 5x_2 & + & 6x_3 & = & 1 \\ 7x_1 & + & 8x_2 & + & 9x_3 & = & 4 \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{array}{rccccrcr} x_1 & + & 2x_2 & + & 3x_3 & = & 2 \\ 4x_1 & + & 5x_2 & + & 6x_3 & = & 1 \\ 7x_1 & + & 8x_2 & + & 9x_3 & = & 4 \end{array}$$

This has augmented matrix

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & 2 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 & 1 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 & 4 \end{array} \right)$$

























# Infinite Number of Solutions

Consider the system

$$\begin{array}{rcccccc} x_1 & + & 2x_2 & + & 3x_3 & = & -2 \\ 4x_1 & + & 5x_2 & + & 6x_3 & = & 1 \\ 7x_1 & + & 8x_2 & + & 9x_3 & = & 4 \end{array}$$



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This has augmented matrix

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 & 1 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 & 4 \end{array} \right)$$

We proceed to put this into row echelon form using Gaussian Elimination:

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$$\begin{array}{rccccrcrcl} x_1 & + & 2x_2 & + & 3x_3 & = & -2 \\ 4x_1 & + & 5x_2 & + & 6x_3 & = & 1 \\ 7x_1 & + & 8x_2 & + & 9x_3 & = & 4 \end{array}$$

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$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 & 1 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 & 4 \end{array} \right) \rho_2 - (4/1)\rho_1 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 & 9 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 & 4 \end{array} \right)$$

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$$\begin{array}{rccccrcrcl} x_1 & + & 2x_2 & + & 3x_3 & = & -2 \\ 4x_1 & + & 5x_2 & + & 6x_3 & = & 1 \\ 7x_1 & + & 8x_2 & + & 9x_3 & = & 4 \end{array}$$

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$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 & 9 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 & 4 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_3 - (7/1)\rho_1 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 & 9 \\ 0 & -6 & -12 & 18 \end{array} \right)$$







# Infinite Number of Solutions

Consider the system

$$\begin{array}{rclcrcl} x_1 & + & 2x_2 & + & 3x_3 & = & -2 \\ 4x_1 & + & 5x_2 & + & 6x_3 & = & 1 \\ 7x_1 & + & 8x_2 & + & 9x_3 & = & 4 \end{array}$$

This has augmented matrix

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 & 1 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 & 4 \end{array} \right)$$

We proceed to put this into row echelon form using Gaussian Elimination:

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 & 1 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 & 4 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_2 - (4/1)\rho_1 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 & 9 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 & 4 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 & 9 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 & 4 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_3 - (7/1)\rho_1 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 & 9 \\ 0 & -6 & -12 & 18 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 & 9 \\ 0 & -6 & -12 & 18 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_3 - (-6/-3)\rho_2 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 & 9 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

# Infinite Number of Solutions

Consider the system

$$\begin{array}{rccccrcrcl} x_1 & + & 2x_2 & + & 3x_3 & = & -2 \\ 4x_1 & + & 5x_2 & + & 6x_3 & = & 1 \\ 7x_1 & + & 8x_2 & + & 9x_3 & = & 4 \end{array}$$

This has augmented matrix

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 & 1 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 & 4 \end{array} \right)$$

We proceed to put this into row echelon form using Gaussian Elimination:

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 & 1 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 & 4 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_2 - (4/1)\rho_1 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 & 9 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 & 4 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 & 9 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 & 4 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_3 - (7/1)\rho_1 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 & 9 \\ 0 & -6 & -12 & 18 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 & 9 \\ 0 & -6 & -12 & 18 \end{array} \right) \quad \rho_3 - (-6/-3)\rho_2 \quad \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 & 9 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

# Infinite Number of Solutions

We use backsubstitution to put this matrix in reduced row echelon form.

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 & 9 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

# Infinite Number of Solutions

We use backsubstitution to put this matrix in reduced row echelon form.

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 & 9 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right) \quad (1/-3)\rho_2$$

# Infinite Number of Solutions

We use backsubstitution to put this matrix in reduced row echelon form.

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 & 9 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{(1/-3)\rho_2} \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

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We use backsubstitution to put this matrix in reduced row echelon form.

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



# Infinite Number of Solutions

We use backsubstitution to put this matrix in reduced row echelon form.

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 & 9 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{(1/-3)\rho_2} \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{\rho_1 - (2/1)\rho_2}$$

# Infinite Number of Solutions

We use backsubstitution to put this matrix in reduced row echelon form.

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 & 9 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{(1/-3)\rho_2} \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$
$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{\rho_1 - (2/1)\rho_2} \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & -1 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

# Infinite Number of Solutions

We use backsubstitution to put this matrix in reduced row echelon form.

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 & 9 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{(1/-3)\rho_2} \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$
$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{\rho_1 - (2/1)\rho_2} \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & -1 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

The nonzero rows of the our last matrix correspond to the system

$$\begin{array}{rclcl} x_1 & & - & x_3 & = & 4 \\ & x_2 & + & 2x_3 & = & -3 \end{array}$$

# Infinite Number of Solutions

We use backsubstitution to put this matrix in reduced row echelon form.

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 & 9 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{(1/-3)\rho_2} \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$
$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{\rho_1 - (2/1)\rho_2} \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & -1 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

The nonzero rows of the our last matrix correspond to the system

$$\begin{array}{rclcl} x_1 & & & & = & 4 \\ & x_2 & + & 2x_3 & = & -3 \end{array}$$

The pivot columns of this last matrix are 1 and 2 so we see that  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  are *basic* variables and  $x_3$  is a *free* variable.

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In order to avoid doing anything silly, let's give the free variable a parameter name  $x_3 = r$  and then write all the variables in terms of this parameter. We have:

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &= 4 + r \\ x_2 &= -3 - 2r \\ x_3 &= r \end{aligned}$$

where  $r$  is arbitrary.

## Efficiency

A system with  $n$  equations in  $n$  unknowns can be solved using Gaussian elimination and Back Substitution with approximately  $2n^3/3$  *flops* (floating point operations). There are no known algorithms that do any better than this.

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There is no restriction on the multipliers in the shear operations during back substitution.

Consider the system

$$\begin{array}{rcccccc} 6x_1 & - & x_2 & - & 14x_3 & = & -40 \\ -12x_1 & + & 10x_2 & + & 27x_3 & = & 27 \\ 18x_1 & - & 18x_2 & - & 12x_3 & = & -30 \end{array}$$

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This has augmented matrix

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 6 & -1 & -14 & -40 \\ -12 & 10 & 27 & 27 \\ 18 & -18 & -12 & -30 \end{array} \right)$$

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After applying back substitution to this matrix we obtain the solution:

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -77/9 \\ -20/3 \\ -1/3 \end{pmatrix}$$

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