

Special Matrices

Elementary Matrix $E_{ij}(a)$: This is the matrix that arises from the identity I by adding a times row i to row j

Example:

$$E_{12}(-2) = \text{Row 2} + (-2) \times \text{Row 1 of } I = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 4 & -6 & 0 \\ -2 & 7 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \text{Row 2} + (-2) \times \text{Row 1 of } A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -8 & -2 \\ -2 & 7 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Note that

$$E_{12}(-2)A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 4 & -6 & 0 \\ -2 & 7 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -8 & -2 \\ -2 & 7 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

That is, we can perform a row operation on A by multiplying on the left by an elementary matrix.