

2.2 The inverse of a matrix

$$I_n \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Def If A is an $n \times n$ matrix, the inverse of A is the $n \times n$ matrix C such that:

$$AC = I_n \text{ and } CA = I_n$$

The inverse of A is denoted by A^{-1}

Def If A has an inverse, A is called invertible or non-singular.

If A^{-1} doesn't exist, A is called not invertible or singular.

Note: Non-square matrices are never invertible.

Ex $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 5 \\ -3 & -7 \end{bmatrix}, C = \begin{bmatrix} -7 & -5 \\ 3 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$

$$AC = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 5 \\ -3 & -7 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -7 & -5 \\ 3 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = \left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} 2 \cdot -7 + 5 \cdot 3 & 2 \cdot -5 + 5 \cdot 2 & & \\ -3 \cdot -7 - 7 \cdot 3 & -3 \cdot -5 - 7 \cdot 2 & & \end{array} \right] = \begin{bmatrix} -14+15 & -10+10 \\ 21-21 & 15-14 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$CA = \begin{bmatrix} -7 & -5 \\ 3 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 5 \\ -3 & -7 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{So } C = A^{-1} \text{ and } A = C^{-1}$$

An algorithm for finding A^{-1}

- Row reduce the augmented matrix $[A | I]$
- If A is row equivalent to I , then $[A | I] \xrightarrow{\text{row}} [I | A^{-1}]$
If not, A doesn't have an inverse

Ex Find the inverse of $A = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 2 \\ 3 & -6 \end{bmatrix}$, if it exists.

$$[A | I] = \left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} -1 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & -6 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{3R_1 + R_2} \left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} -1 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 1 \end{array} \right]$$

Note: $\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ is a (row) echelon form that is row equivalent to A

There is only one pivot, so it is not row equivalent to $I = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

which has two pivots. So A is not row equivalent to I .

Thus A is not invertible

Ex (Sec 2.2 Example 7)

Find the inverse of $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 4 & -3 & 8 \end{bmatrix}$, if it exists

$$\begin{aligned}
 [A | I] &= \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 0 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 4 & -3 & 8 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \sim \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 4 & -3 & 8 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \\
 &\sim \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 & 0 & -4 & 1 \end{array} \right] \sim \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 3 & -4 & 1 \end{array} \right] \\
 &\sim \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 3/2 & -2 & 1/2 \end{array} \right] \\
 &\sim \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & -9/2 & 7 & -3/2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -2 & 4 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 3/2 & -2 & 1/2 \end{array} \right] = [I | A^{-1}]
 \end{aligned}$$

$A^{-1} //$

→ This is a row echelon form that is row equivalent to A . Since it has 3 pivots, it's row equivalent to I_3 . So $A \sim_{\text{row}} I_3$, so we can keep going.

Thm (Sec 2.2 Thm 6)

Let A and B be $n \times n$ matrices. Suppose A, B are invertible.

(1) Then A^{-1} is also invertible, and $(A^{-1})^{-1} = A$

(2) ("Socks-shoes" property)

Then AB is also invertible, and $(AB)^{-1} = B^{-1}A^{-1}$

(3) Then A^T is also invertible, and $(A^T)^{-1} = (A^{-1})^T$
(the transpose of A)

The inverse of A^T is the transpose of A^{-1}

Proof of (2): $(AB)(B^{-1}A^{-1}) = A(BB^{-1})A^{-1}$ since matrix multiplication is associative

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= A I A^{-1} \quad \text{since } B^{-1} \text{ is the inverse of } B \\
 &= A A^{-1} \\
 &= I
 \end{aligned}$$

We can also compute $(B^{-1}A^{-1})(AB) = I$

This shows that $B^{-1}A^{-1}$ is the inverse of AB $\square$

Sec 2.3 Characterizations of Invertible matrices

I Thm (The invertible matrix theorem (IMT))

Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix.

The following are equivalent

- a. A has an inverse
- b. A is row equivalent to I_n
- c. A has n pivot positions
- d. The homogeneous equation $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$ has only the trivial solution.

Proof of (c) $\Rightarrow$ (d) (Read "(c) implies (d)" or "If (c) holds then (d) holds")

Since A has n pivot positions, the augmented matrix

$$\left[A \mid \begin{smallmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{smallmatrix} \right] \text{ is row equivalent to } \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & & & & & \\ 0 & 1 & & & & \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & & & \\ & & & \ddots & & \\ 0 & & & & 1 & \\ & & & & & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

so $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$ has exactly one solution $\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

- e. The columns of A are linearly independent

Proof of (d) $\Leftrightarrow$ (e) (Read "(d) is true if and only if (e) is true")

This follows from the definition of linear independence (in Sec 1.7)

- f. The linear map $\vec{x} \mapsto A\vec{x}$ is one-to-one
- g. For every $\vec{b}$ in $\mathbb{R}^n$, the equation $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$ has at least one solution.
- h. The columns of A span $\mathbb{R}^n$
- i. The linear map $\vec{x} \mapsto A\vec{x}$ maps $\mathbb{R}^n$ onto $\mathbb{R}^n$
- j. A^T is invertible.

The Invertible Matrix Theorem (IMT)

Let A be a square $n \times n$ matrix. Then the following statements are equivalent. That is, for a given A , the statements are either all true or all false.

- a. A is an invertible matrix.
- b. A is row equivalent to the $n \times n$ identity matrix.
- c. A has n pivot positions.
- d. The equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ has only the trivial solution.
- e. The columns of A form a linearly independent set.
- f. The linear transformation $\mathbf{x} \mapsto A\mathbf{x}$ is one-to-one.
- g. The equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ has at least one solution for each $\mathbf{b}$ in $\mathbb{R}^n$.
- h. The columns of A span $\mathbb{R}^n$.
- i. The linear transformation $\mathbf{x} \mapsto A\mathbf{x}$ maps $\mathbb{R}^n$ onto $\mathbb{R}^n$.
- j. There is an $n \times n$ matrix C such that $CA = I$.
- k. There is an $n \times n$ matrix D such that $AD = I$.
- l. A^T is an invertible matrix.

Ex: Determine if $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$ is invertible.

(Extra)

Ans: A is row equivalent to $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ so it has 1 pivot.

To be invertible, a 4×4 matrix must have 4 pivots.
So A is not invertible.

Ex A upper triangular matrix is a matrix whose entries below the main diagonal are 0's, e.g.

(Sec 2.3 Exercise # 21 & 22) in MML

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 3 & 6 \\ 0 & 5 & 7 & 8 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

When is a square upper triangular matrix invertible?

Sol: By the IMT an $n \times n$ matrix A is invertible if and only if A has n pivot positions.

If all entries in the main diagonal are nonzero,
then A is already in row echelon form,
and we see A has n pivot positions.

If one of the entries in the main diagonal is 0, say,
in column k , then column k cannot be a pivot column,
so A has fewer than n pivot positions.

Ans An $n \times n$ upper triangular matrix A is
invertible if and only if
all entries on the main diagonal of A are nonzero.

II. Invertible linear maps

Def If $T: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is a linear map, the inverse of T is

a function $S: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ such that

$$(1) \quad S(T(\vec{x})) = \vec{x} \text{ for all } \vec{x} \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^n$$

$$(2) \quad T(S(\vec{x})) = \vec{x} \text{ for all } \vec{x} \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^n$$

The inverse of T is denoted by T^{-1} .

Def A linear map $T: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is called invertible if

T has an inverse map.

Note: A linear map $T: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ is never invertible if $n \neq m$.

Thm (Sec 2.3 Thm 9)

Let $T: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a linear map &

let A be the standard matrix for T .

Then T is invertible if and only if

A is an invertible matrix.

If T is invertible, the inverse of T is

given by $S(\vec{x}) = A^{-1} \vec{x}$.

Ex

Consider the map $T: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$

defined by $T\left(\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}\right) = \begin{bmatrix} -5x + 9y \\ 4x - 7y \end{bmatrix}$

• Is T linear? Ans: yes, since $T\left(\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}\right) = \begin{bmatrix} -5 & 9 \\ 4 & 7 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$

so T is defined by matrix multiplication.

• Is T invertible? If so, find a formula for T^{-1} .

Ans: The standard matrix for T is $\begin{bmatrix} -5 & 9 \\ 4 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$.

Use the algorithm $[A | I] \rightarrow$ Row reduce:

$$[A | I] = \left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} -5 & 9 & 1 & 0 \\ 4 & -7 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{\frac{4}{5}R_1 + R_2} \left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} -5 & 9 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{5} & \frac{4}{5} & 1 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{5R_2} \left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} -5 & 9 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 & 5 \end{array} \right]$$

*We see A is invertible,
so we keep going*

$$\xrightarrow{-9R_2 + R_1} \left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} -5 & 0 & -35 & -45 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 & 5 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{-\frac{1}{5}R_1} \left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} 1 & 0 & 7 & 9 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 & 5 \end{array} \right] = [I | A^{-1}]$$

So T is invertible. Its inverse is the linear map

$T^{-1}: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ defined by

$$T^{-1}\left(\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}\right) = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 9 \\ 4 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{or} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 7x + 9y \\ 4x + 5y \end{bmatrix}. \quad \square$$

(Extra)

Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$. Then $\det A = ad - bc$

Thm 4 (Sec 2.2)

If $\det(A) \neq 0$ then A is invertible with

$$A^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det(A)} \begin{bmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{bmatrix}$$

If $\det(A) = 0$ then A is not invertible.