

Lecture 10: Invertible matrices. Finding the inverse of a matrix

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Multiplication of matrices

We saw on Wednesday's lecture that if A is an $m \times n$ matrix and B is an $n \times p$ matrix, then the product AB is defined and

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That is, you cannot “divide out by a general matrix A .” Today we will describe all the matrices that you *can* divide out by. This entails finding the “reciprocal” of a matrix A , which is only possible for some matrices.

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Let $m \geq 1$ be an integer. Then I_m , the $m \times m$ **identity matrix**, is the $m \times m$ matrix given by

$$I_m := \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

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That is, I_m is a diagonal matrix with 1s on the diagonal.

Examples of identity matrices

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Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 2 \\ 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ and $C = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ -3 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$.

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Example

Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 2 \\ 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ and $C = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ -3 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$. Then you can check that

$$AC = CA = I_2$$

Thus A is invertible and $A^{-1} = C$.

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$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

So no matter what you multiply A by, you can't get the identity matrix.

Inverses for 2×2 matrices

Probably you noticed a relationship between the entries of the matrices in the previous example.

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Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$. If $ad - bc \neq 0$, then A is invertible and

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The quantity $ad - bc$ (diagonal product minus off-diagonal product) is called the **determinant** of A .

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$A(A^{-1}\mathbf{b}) = (AA^{-1})\mathbf{b}$, and $AA^{-1} = I_n$. So $A(A^{-1}\mathbf{b}) = I_n\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{b}$.

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If \mathbf{x} is a solution to $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$, then multiply both sides of the equation to obtain $A^{-1}(A\mathbf{x}) = A^{-1}\mathbf{b}$.

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If \mathbf{x} is a solution to $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$, then multiply both sides of the equation to obtain $A^{-1}(A\mathbf{x}) = A^{-1}\mathbf{b}$. Then rearrange and cancel on the left to obtain $\mathbf{x} = A^{-1}\mathbf{b}$ □

Example: solving systems with inverses

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Thus the unique solution is $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 17/3 \\ -6 \end{bmatrix}$. So $x = 17/3$ and $y = -6$.

Properties of invertible matrices

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Proof.

Proof in the book is uncomplicated but you should read it. You really only need associativity of matrix multiplication, the fact that $I_n A = A = A I_n$ for $n \times n$ matrices, and properties of the transpose. □

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In general, if A_1, A_2, \dots, A_k are a bunch of invertible $n \times n$ matrices then so is $A_1 A_2 \dots A_k$ and $(A_1 A_2 \dots A_k)^{-1} = A_k^{-1} \dots A_2^{-1} A_1^{-1}$

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are all elementary matrices.

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This gives us that every elementary matrix E corresponding to a row operation is invertible, and E^{-1} is the elementary matrix corresponding to the reverse elementary row operation.

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$$E^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -5 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Elementary matrices in action

Example

Let E_1 be the elementary matrix obtained by adding the first row of I_2 to its second row.

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$$E_1 A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ a+c & b+d \end{bmatrix}.$$

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$$E_1 E_2 \dots E_k A = I,$$

Invertibility and elementary row ops.

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then we necessarily have that

$$E_1 E_2 \dots E_k I = E_1 \dots E_k = A^{-1}.$$

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The theorem in the preceding slide tells us how to compute the inverse of *any invertible matrix*, and it encodes a way to check if an $n \times n$ matrix is invertible, all through row reduction.

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Fact

Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix and form the augmented matrix

$$[A \quad I_n].$$

Row reduce this matrix as usual. If the reduced echelon form looks like

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Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix and form the augmented matrix

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then A is invertible and $C = A^{-1}$. If the reduced echelon form looks any other way, then A is not invertible (in fact, you can decide if A is invertible just by transforming to echelon form and seeing if there are any rows that have n 0s in the left half).

Example of MIA

Let's find determine if the matrix $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ is invertible
and find its inverse, if possible. Form the augmented system

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Ex. of MIA, pt. II

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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Now we can pause at echelon form to say that there are no bad rows.

Row reduction details

We keep row reducing the entire augmented matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 5 & 2 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 18 & 7 & 1 & -5 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 5 & 2 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 7/18 & 1/18 & -5/18 \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & -\frac{3}{18} & \frac{-3}{18} & \frac{15}{18} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \frac{1}{18} & \frac{-5}{18} & \frac{-13}{9} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \frac{7}{18} & \frac{1}{18} & \frac{-5}{18} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -5/18 & 7/8 & 1/18 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1/18 & -5/18 & 7/18 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 7/18 & 1/18 & -5/18 \end{bmatrix}$$

This is in reduced echelon form.

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This is in reduced echelon form. The right half of the augmented matrix is the inverse of A .

We computed that

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} -5/18 & 7/18 & 1/18 \\ 1/18 & -5/18 & 7/18 \\ 7/18 & 1/18 & -5/18 \end{bmatrix}.$$

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If you multiply the two matrices you get the identity

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -5/18 & 7/18 & 1/18 \\ 1/18 & -5/18 & 7/18 \\ 7/18 & 1/18 & -5/18 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

When is a matrix invertible?

We have seen that a matrix is invertible if you can reduce it to the identity matrix via row operations. This description is not complete enough for our purposes—we don't always want to have to run the row reduction algorithm every time.

Theorem (The Invertible Matrix Theorem)

If A is an $n \times n$ matrix then the following are equivalent:

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- 12 A^T is invertible

Proving the IMT: 1 implies 2 implies 3 implies 4 implies 5

If A is invertible then A is row equivalent to I_n by the previous section. So (1) implies (2).

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reduction. There's a whole bunch of ways to check, but one that is nice is: if A has linearly dependent columns, then A is not invertible. We note that the fourth column of A is 2 times the first column of A . Thus the columns of A are linearly dependent, so A is not invertible by the IMT.

Definition

A function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is called **invertible** (or *bijjective*) if there is a map $g : Y \rightarrow X$ such that $f(g(y)) = y$ for all $y \in Y$ and $g(f(x)) = x$ for all $x \in X$. If such a g exists, it is called the **inverse of f** .

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When is a linear transformation T given by $\mathbf{x} \mapsto A\mathbf{x}$ invertible?
Precisely when A is an invertible matrix.

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