

## 2 Matrix Algebra

### 2.1 Matrix Operations

**Definition** If  $A$  is an  $m \times n$  matrix, then the scalar entry in the  $i$ th row and  $j$ th column of  $A$  is denoted by  $a_{ij}$  and is called the  $(i, j)$ -**entry** of  $A$ . The **diagonal entries** of  $A$  are  $a_{11}, a_{22}, a_{33}, \dots$  and they form the **main diagonal** of  $A$ . A **diagonal matrix** is a square  $n \times n$  matrix whose nondiagonal entries are zero (note that the diagonal entries can also be zero). Two matrices are **equal** if all of their entries are the same. The **sum**  $A + B$  of two  $m \times n$  matrices is the matrix whose entries are the sums of corresponding entries in  $A$  and  $B$ . That is, if  $C = A + B$ , then  $c_{ij} = a_{ij} + b_{ij}$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq m$  and  $1 \leq j \leq n$ . If  $r$  is a real number, then  $rA$  is the **scalar multiple** of  $A$  where each entry of  $A$  is multiplied by  $r$ .

As outlined in the following theorem, many properties we saw for vector addition and scalar multiplication also hold for addition and scalar multiplication of matrices.

**Theorem** Let  $A, B$  and  $C$  be matrices of the same size, and let  $r$  and  $s$  be scalars. Then:

- (a)  $A + B = B + A$ ;
- (b)  $(A + B) + C = A + (B + C)$ ;
- (c)  $A + 0 = A$  (we think of 0 as the matrix whose entries are all zero);
- (d)  $r(A + B) = rA + rB$ ;
- (e)  $(r + s)A = rA + sA$ ;
- (f)  $r(sA) = (rs)A$ .

**Matrix Multiplication** Recall that we saw for an  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$  that we can define a linear map  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  by  $T(\bar{x}) = A\bar{x}$ . We define matrix multiplication in such a way that it corresponds to composition of linear maps. That is, if  $A$  is an  $m \times n$  matrix and  $B$  is an  $n \times p$  matrix, where  $A$  and  $B$  correspond to matrix transformations  $T_1 : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  and  $T_2 : \mathbb{R}^p \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ , respectively, then we define the product  $AB$  in such a way that  $T_1 \circ T_2 : \mathbb{R}^p \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  is given by

$$T_1 \circ T_2(\bar{x}) = T_1(T_2(\bar{x})) = T_1(B\bar{x}) = AB\bar{x}.$$

**Definition** If  $A$  is an  $m \times n$  matrix and  $B$  is an  $n \times p$  matrix with columns  $\bar{b}_1, \dots, \bar{b}_p$ , then the product  $AB$  is the  $m \times p$  matrix whose columns are  $A\bar{b}_1, \dots, A\bar{b}_p$ . That is

$$AB = A[\bar{b}_1 \quad \bar{b}_2 \quad \dots \quad \bar{b}_p] = [A\bar{b}_1 \quad A\bar{b}_2 \quad \dots \quad A\bar{b}_p].$$

It is worth saying again, *matrix multiplication corresponds to composition of matrix transformations*.

**Example** Compute the matrix  $AB$ , where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{and} \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

By the definition of multiplication given above,

$$\begin{aligned} AB &= \left[ A \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \quad A \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right] \\ &= \left[ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right] \\ &= \left[ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \cdot 2 + 2 \cdot 3 \\ 2 \cdot 2 + 3 \cdot 3 \\ 3 \cdot 2 + 4 \cdot 3 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 \cdot (-1) + 2 \cdot 1 \\ 2 \cdot (-1) + 3 \cdot 1 \\ 3 \cdot (-1) + 4 \cdot 1 \end{bmatrix} \right] \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 8 & 1 \\ 13 & 1 \\ 18 & 1 \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

**Note** The first column of  $AB$  is  $A\bar{b}_1$ , which is just shorthand for a linear combination of the columns of  $A$  using the weights in  $\bar{b}_1$ . In general, each column of  $AB$  is a linear combination of the columns of  $A$  using weights from the corresponding column of  $B$ .

**Example** If  $A$  is  $3 \times 5$  and  $B$  is  $5 \times 2$ , what are the sizes of  $AB$  and  $BA$  (assuming they are defined)?  
 - The product  $AB$  is defined since the number of columns of  $A$  matches the number of rows of  $B$  (5). The resulting matrix  $AB$  is a  $3 \times 2$  matrix.  
 - The product  $BA$  is not defined, since the number of columns of  $B$  (2) does not match the number of rows of  $A$  (3).

**Row-Column Rule for Computing  $AB$**  If the product  $AB$  is defined, then the  $(i, j)$ -entry of  $AB$  is the dot product of the  $i$ th row of  $A$  with the  $j$ th column of  $B$ . That is, if  $A$  is  $m \times n$  and  $B$  is  $n \times p$ , then

$$(AB)_{ij} = a_{i1}b_{1j} + a_{i2}b_{2j} + \cdots + a_{in}b_{nj}.$$

**Example** Compute the product  $AB$  in the example above using the row-column rule. (We basically just skip the first two steps in the computation above.)

$$\begin{aligned} AB &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 \cdot 2 + 2 \cdot 3 & 1 \cdot (-1) + 2 \cdot 1 \\ 2 \cdot 2 + 3 \cdot 3 & 2 \cdot (-1) + 3 \cdot 1 \\ 3 \cdot 2 + 4 \cdot 3 & 3 \cdot (-1) + 4 \cdot 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 8 & 1 \\ 13 & 1 \\ 18 & 1 \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

Now we list a few (probably unsurprising) properties of matrix multiplication.

**Theorem** Let  $A$  be an  $m \times n$  matrix, and let  $B$  and  $C$  have sizes for which the indicated sums and products are defined.

- (a)  $A(BC) = (AB)C$ ;
- (b)  $A(B + C) = AB + AC$ ;
- (c)  $(B + C)A = BA + CA$ ;
- (d)  $r(AB) = (rA)B = A(rB)$  for any scalar  $r$ ;
- (e)  $I_m A = A = A I_n$ .

**Note** It is very important to observe that, in general, the *commutative* law does *not* hold for matrix multiplication. That is, it is often the case that  $AB \neq BA$ , as in the following example.

**Example** Let

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & -1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{and } B = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} AB &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 6 \\ 5 & 11 \end{bmatrix}, \text{ and} \\ BA &= \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 14 & 0 \\ 4 & 1 \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

If  $A$  is a square  $n \times n$  matrix, then it makes sense to multiply  $A$  with itself. In general,

$$A^k = \underbrace{A \cdot A \cdots A}_{k \text{ times}}.$$

**Definition** If  $A$  is an  $m \times n$  matrix, then the **transpose** of  $A$ , denoted  $A^T$ , is the  $n \times m$  matrix whose columns are formed from the corresponding rows of  $A$ .

**Example** If

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 1 \\ 3 & 2 \\ 7 & 8 \end{bmatrix},$$

then

$$A^T = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 3 & 7 \\ 1 & 2 & 8 \end{bmatrix}.$$

**Theorem** Let  $A$  and  $B$  denote matrices whose sizes are appropriate for the following sums and products.

- (a)  $(A^T)^T = A$ ;
- (b)  $(A + B)^T = A^T + B^T$ ;
- (c)  $(rA)^T = rA^T$  for scalars  $r$ ;
- (d)  $(AB)^T = B^T A^T$ .

**Example** The following is to be worked on in class (time-permitting):

(Practice Problem 1 on Page 100)

Let

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 \\ -2 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Compute  $(A\bar{x})^T$ ,  $\bar{x}^T A^T$ ,  $\bar{x}\bar{x}^T$ , and  $\bar{x}^T \bar{x}$ . Is  $A^T \bar{x}^T$  defined?

## 2.2 The Inverse of a Matrix

**Definition** An  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$  is said to be **invertible** (or **nonsingular**) if there is an  $n \times n$  matrix  $C$  such that

$$AC = CA = I_n.$$

Computing matrix inverses is of great interest in linear algebra. In the case of  $2 \times 2$  matrices, computing the inverse is quite straightforward.

**Theorem** Let  $A$  be the  $2 \times 2$  matrix  $\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$ . If  $ad - bc \neq 0$ , then the inverse of  $A$ , denoted  $A^{-1}$ , is given by

$$A^{-1} = \frac{1}{ad - bc} \begin{bmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{bmatrix}.$$

If  $ad - bc = 0$ , then  $A$  is not invertible.

**Note** The quantity  $ad - bc$  is called the **determinant** of  $A$ , and we write

$$\det A = ad - bc.$$

So a  $2 \times 2$  matrix is invertible if and only if its determinant is nonzero. This idea generalizes to larger matrices, as we will see later in the course.

**Example** We let

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

and compute  $A^{-1}$ . By the theorem, we have

$$\begin{aligned} A^{-1} &= \frac{1}{1 \cdot 4 - 2 \cdot 3} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -2 \\ -3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -2 \\ -3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ \frac{3}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

Now we confirm that  $AA^{-1} = I_2$ :

$$\begin{aligned} AA^{-1} &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ \frac{3}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 1(-2) + 2(\frac{3}{2}) & 1(1) + 2(-\frac{1}{2}) \\ 3(-2) + 4(\frac{3}{2}) & 3(1) + 4(-\frac{1}{2}) \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} -2 + 3 & 1 - 1 \\ -6 + 6 & 3 - 2 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

You should check on your own that  $A^{-1}A = I_2$  as well.

**Theorem** If  $A$  is an invertible  $n \times n$  matrix, then for each  $\bar{b} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , the matrix  $A\bar{x} = \bar{b}$  has a *unique* solution given by  $\bar{x} = A^{-1}\bar{b}$ .

**Proof** The solution exists, since if we substitute  $A^{-1}\bar{b}$  for  $\bar{x}$ , we get

$$A(A^{-1}\bar{b}) = AA^{-1}\bar{b} = I_n\bar{b} = \bar{b}.$$

It is unique, since if  $\bar{u}$  is any solution, then

$$A\bar{u} = \bar{b} \implies A^{-1}A\bar{u} = A^{-1}\bar{b} \implies I_n\bar{u} = A^{-1}\bar{b} \implies \bar{u} = A^{-1}\bar{b}.$$

**Example** We use the inverse in the example above to solve the linear system

$$\begin{aligned}x_1 + 2x_2 &= 5 \\3x_1 + 4x_2 &= 6.\end{aligned}$$

We think of this in matrix terms as  $A\bar{x} = \bar{b}$ , where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \bar{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The theorem tells us that  $\bar{x} = A^{-1}\bar{b}$  is a solution, i.e. that

$$\begin{aligned}\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ \frac{3}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} -2(5) + 1(6) \\ \frac{3}{2}(5) - \frac{1}{2}(6) \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} -4 \\ \frac{9}{2} \end{bmatrix}.\end{aligned}$$

**Theorem** Let  $A$  and  $B$  be invertible  $n \times n$  matrices. Then:

(a)  $A^{-1}$  is invertible, with

$$(A^{-1})^{-1} = A;$$

(b) The product  $AB$  is invertible, with

$$(AB)^{-1} = B^{-1}A^{-1};$$

(c) The transpose of  $A$  is also invertible, i.e.  $A^T$  is invertible, with

$$(A^T)^{-1} = (A^{-1})^T.$$

**Proof** The proof of part (a) is immediate. For part (b), note that

$$(AB)(B^{-1}A^{-1}) = A(BB^{-1})A^{-1} = AI_nA^{-1} = AA^{-1} = I_n, \text{ and}$$

$$(B^{-1}A^{-1})(AB) = B^{-1}(A^{-1}A)B = B^{-1}I_nB = B^{-1}B = I_n.$$

For (c), we use the general fact from section 2.1 that  $(AB)^T = B^T A^T$ . Now observe that

$$A^T(A^{-1})^T = (A^{-1}A)^T = I_n^T = I_n, \text{ and}$$

$$(A^{-1})^T A^T = (AA^{-1})^T = I_n^T = I_n.$$

This completes the proof.

**Elementary Matrices** An **elementary matrix** is a matrix that is obtained by performing a single elementary row operation (replacement, swap, or scaling) on an identity matrix. For example, the matrix

$$E_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -2 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

is an elementary matrix since it is obtained from  $I_3$  via the single elementary row operation  $r_3 \mapsto r_3 - 2r_1$ .

**Example** Let  $A$  be a general  $3 \times 3$  matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{bmatrix},$$

and we let  $E_1$ ,  $E_2$ , and  $E_3$  be the elementary matrices

$$E_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -2 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad E_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{and} \quad E_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Notice, then, that  $E_1$  corresponds to  $r_3 \mapsto r_3 - 2r_1$ ,  $E_2$  corresponds to  $r_2 \longleftrightarrow r_3$ , and  $E_3$  corresponds to  $r_2 \mapsto 3r_2$ . We also have the following products:

$$E_1 A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g - 2a & h - 2b & i - 2c \end{bmatrix}, \quad E_2 A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ g & h & i \\ d & e & f \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{and} \quad E_3 A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ 3d & 3e & 3f \\ g & h & i \end{bmatrix}.$$

Notice that  $E_1 A$  is the matrix obtained by performing the row operation  $r_3 \mapsto r_3 - 2r_1$  on  $A$ . In general, multiplying  $A$  on the left by an elementary matrix is the same as performing the corresponding row operation on  $A$ . We can also represent a sequence of row operations by multiplication of several elementary matrices. For example,

$$E_2 E_1 A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ g - 2a & h - 2b & i - 2c \\ d & e & f \end{bmatrix}$$

corresponds to performing  $r_3 \mapsto r_3 - 2r_1$  followed by  $r_2 \longleftrightarrow r_3$  on the matrix  $A$ .

As we have observed before, row operations are reversible. It follows that elementary matrices are also invertible. This leads to the following theorem.

**Theorem** An  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$  is invertible if and only if  $A$  is row equivalent to  $I_n$ . In this case, any sequence of elementary row operations that reduces  $A$  to  $I_n$  also transforms  $I_n$  into  $A^{-1}$ .

This theorem leads to a nice algorithm for finding the inverse of an  $n \times n$  matrix, assuming such an inverse exists.

**Algorithm for Finding  $A^{-1}$**  Row reduce the augmented matrix  $[A \ I]$ . If  $A$  is row equivalent to  $I$ , then  $[A \ I]$  is row equivalent to  $[I \ A^{-1}]$ . Otherwise,  $A$  does not have an inverse.

**Example** We find the inverse of

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 4 & 5 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix},$$

if it exists. We row reduce  $[A \ I]$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 2 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 4 & 5 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] &\sim \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 2 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & -1 & -4 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \\ &\sim \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 2 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & -1 & -4 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} \end{array} \right] \\ &\sim \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -\frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & -3 & 0 & -4 & 1 & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} \end{array} \right] \\ &\sim \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -\frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \frac{4}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{6} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} \end{array} \right] \\ &\sim \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{5}{3} & \frac{2}{3} & -\frac{1}{6} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \frac{4}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{6} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} \end{array} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$A^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{5}{3} & \frac{2}{3} & -\frac{1}{6} \\ \frac{4}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{6} \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}.$$

**Example** The following examples are to be worked on in class (time-permitting):

(a) Use the determinant to figure out which of the following are invertible:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{and} \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}.$$

(b) Compute the inverse of

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 3 & 3 & 2 \\ -1 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix},$$

if it exists.

## 2.3 Characterizations of Invertible Matrices

The following theorem summarizes many things we have already seen. We will be adding things to the list as the course progresses.

**Theorem** (The Invertible Matrix Theorem)

Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix. Then the following statements are equivalent.

- (a)  $A$  is invertible.
- (b)  $A$  is row equivalent to  $I_n$ .
- (c)  $A$  has  $n$  pivot positions (i.e. one for each row and column).
- (d) The equation  $A\bar{x} = \bar{0}$  has *only* the trivial solution.
- (e) The columns of  $A$  are linearly independent.
- (f) The linear transformation  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  given by  $T(\bar{x}) = A\bar{x}$  is one-to-one.
- (g) The equation  $A\bar{x} = \bar{b}$  has at least one solution for each  $\bar{b}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .
- (h) The columns of  $A$  span  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .
- (i) The linear transformation  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  given by  $T(\bar{x}) = A\bar{x}$  is onto.
- (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 invertible.

**Example** We decide if the following matrix is invertible:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 & 1 \\ 4 & 4 & 6 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Performing row operations, we see

$$\begin{aligned} A &\sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 4 & 4 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \\ &\sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & -4 & 0 \\ 0 & -8 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \\ &\sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & -4 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \end{aligned}$$

which has 3 pivots, so by (c) we have that  $A$  is invertible.

**Definition** A linear transformation  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is said to be **invertible** if there exists a function  $S : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} S(T(\bar{x})) &= \bar{x} \quad \text{for all } \bar{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n, \text{ and} \\ T(S(\bar{x})) &= \bar{x} \quad \text{for all } \bar{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n. \end{aligned}$$

We call  $S$  the **inverse** of  $T$ , and we write it as  $T^{-1}$ .

**Theorem** Let  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  be a linear transformation and let  $A$  be the standard matrix for  $T$ . Then  $T$  is invertible if and only if  $A$  is an invertible matrix. In that case, the linear transformation  $S$  given by  $S(\bar{x}) = A^{-1}\bar{x}$  is the unique function satisfying the two equations in the above definition.

**Proof** (We don't prove uniqueness.) Suppose  $T$  is invertible. Then  $T$  is onto  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , since for all  $\bar{b} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , we have  $T(S(\bar{b})) = \bar{b}$ . Hence  $A$  is invertible by part (i) of the theorem above. For the reverse, suppose that  $A$  is invertible and set  $S(\bar{x}) = A^{-1}\bar{x}$ . Then  $S$  is a linear transformation and satisfies the equations in the definition above, since

$$\begin{aligned} S(T(\bar{x})) &= S(A\bar{x}) = A^{-1}A\bar{x} = I_n\bar{x} = \bar{x}, \text{ and} \\ T(S(\bar{x})) &= T(A^{-1}\bar{x}) = AA^{-1}\bar{x} = I_n\bar{x} = \bar{x}. \end{aligned}$$



**Examples** The following are to be worked on in class (time-permitting):

(a) Determine which of the following matrices are invertible:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ -2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}, \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 6 & 5 & 4 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 \end{bmatrix}, \quad C = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 3 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

(b) (Exercise 13 on Page 115)

An  $m \times n$  **upper triangular matrix** is one whose entries *below* the main diagonal are 0's. When is a square upper triangular matrix invertible? Justify your answer.