Section 2.2

The Inverse of a Matrix

The Definition of Inverse

Recall: The multiplicative inverse (or reciprocal) of a nonzero number a is

The Definition of Inverse

Recall: The multiplicative inverse (or reciprocal) of a nonzero number a is the number b such that $ab = 1$.

The Definition of Inverse

Recall: The multiplicative inverse (or reciprocal) of a nonzero number a is the number b such that $ab = 1$. We define the inverse of a matrix in almost the same way.

The Definition of Inverse

Recall: The multiplicative inverse (or reciprocal) of a nonzero number a is the number b such that $ab = 1$. We define the inverse of a matrix in almost the same way.

Definition

Let A be an $n \times n$ square matrix. We say A is **invertible** (or **nonsingular**) if there is a matrix B of the same size, such that

$$AB = I_n \quad \text{and} \quad BA = I_n.$$

identity matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

The Definition of Inverse

Recall: The multiplicative inverse (or reciprocal) of a nonzero number a is the number b such that $ab = 1$. We define the inverse of a matrix in almost the same way.

Definition

Let A be an $n \times n$ square matrix. We say A is **invertible** (or **nonsingular**) if there is a matrix B of the same size, such that

$$AB = I_n \quad \text{and} \quad BA = I_n.$$

identity matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

In this case, B is the **inverse** of A, and is written A^{-1}.

The Definition of Inverse

Recall: The multiplicative inverse (or reciprocal) of a nonzero number a is the number b such that $ab = 1$. We define the inverse of a matrix in almost the same way.

Definition

Let A be an $n \times n$ square matrix. We say A is **invertible** (or **nonsingular**) if there is a matrix B of the same size, such that

$$AB = I_n \quad \text{and} \quad BA = I_n.$$

identity matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

In this case, B is the **inverse** of A, and is written A^{-1}.

Example

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \qquad B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The 2×2 case

Let $A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$. The **determinant** of A is the number

$$\boxed{\det(A) = \det \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} = ad - bc.}$$

The 2×2 case

Let $A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$. The **determinant** of A is the number

$$\boxed{\det(A) = \det \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} = ad - bc.}$$

Facts:

1. If $\det(A) \neq 0$, then A is invertible and $\boxed{A^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det(A)} \begin{pmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{pmatrix}.}$

The 2×2 case

Let $A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$. The **determinant** of A is the number

$$\boxed{\det(A) = \det \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} = ad - bc.}$$

Facts:

1. If $\det(A) \neq 0$, then A is invertible and $\boxed{A^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det(A)} \begin{pmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{pmatrix}.}$
2. If $\det(A) = 0$, then A is not invertible.

The 2×2 case

Let $A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$. The **determinant** of A is the number

$$\boxed{\det(A) = \det \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} = ad - bc.}$$

Facts:

1. If $\det(A) \neq 0$, then A is invertible and $\boxed{A^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det(A)} \begin{pmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{pmatrix}.}$
2. If $\det(A) = 0$, then A is not invertible.

Why 1?

The 2×2 case

Let $A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$. The **determinant** of A is the number

$$\boxed{\det(A) = \det \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} = ad - bc.}$$

Facts:

1. If $\det(A) \neq 0$, then A is invertible and $\boxed{A^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det(A)} \begin{pmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{pmatrix}.}$
2. If $\det(A) = 0$, then A is not invertible.

Why 1?

Example

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} =$$

The 2×2 case

Let $A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$. The **determinant** of A is the number

$$\boxed{\det(A) = \det \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} = ad - bc.}$$

Facts:

1. If $\det(A) \neq 0$, then A is invertible and $\boxed{A^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det(A)} \begin{pmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{pmatrix}.}$
2. If $\det(A) = 0$, then A is not invertible.

Why 1?

Example

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} = \qquad\qquad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix}^{-1} =$$

Solving Linear Systems via Inverses

Solving $Ax = b$ by "dividing by A"

Theorem

If A is invertible, then $Ax = b$ has exactly one solution for every b, namely:

$$x = A^{-1}b.$$

Solving Linear Systems via Inverses

Solving $Ax = b$ by "dividing by A"

Theorem

If A is invertible, then $Ax = b$ has exactly one solution for every b, namely:

$$x = A^{-1}b.$$

Why? Divide by A!

Solving Linear Systems via Inverses

Solving $Ax = b$ by "dividing by A"

Theorem

If A is invertible, then $Ax = b$ has exactly one solution for every b, namely:

$$x = A^{-1}b.$$

Why? Divide by A!

Example

Solve the system

$$\begin{aligned} 2x + 3y + 2z &= 1 \\ x \qquad\quad + 3z &= 1 \\ 2x + 2y + 3z &= 1 \end{aligned} \qquad \text{using} \qquad \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 3 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 2 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} -6 & -5 & 9 \\ 3 & 2 & -4 \\ 2 & 2 & -3 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Answer:

Some Facts

Say A and B are invertible $n \times n$ matrices.

1. A^{-1} is invertible and its inverse is $(A^{-1})^{-1} = _$.

Some Facts

Say A and B are invertible $n \times n$ matrices.

1. A^{-1} is invertible and its inverse is $(A^{-1})^{-1} = A$.

Some Facts

Say A and B are invertible $n \times n$ matrices.

1. A^{-1} is invertible and its inverse is $(A^{-1})^{-1} = A$.
2. AB is invertible and its inverse is $(AB)^{-1} =$

Some Facts

Say A and B are invertible $n \times n$ matrices.

1. A^{-1} is invertible and its inverse is $(A^{-1})^{-1} = A$.
2. AB is invertible and its inverse is $(AB)^{-1} = A^{-1}B^{-1}$

Some Facts

Say A and B are invertible $n \times n$ matrices.

1. A^{-1} is invertible and its inverse is $(A^{-1})^{-1} = A$.
2. AB is invertible and its inverse is $(AB)^{-1} = \cancel{A^{-1}B^{-1}}$ $B^{-1}A^{-1}$.

   Why?

Some Facts

Say A and B are invertible $n \times n$ matrices.

1. A^{-1} is invertible and its inverse is $(A^{-1})^{-1} = A$.
2. AB is invertible and its inverse is $(AB)^{-1} = \cancel{A^{-1}B^{-1}} \quad B^{-1}A^{-1}$.

   Why?
3. A^T is invertible and $(A^T)^{-1} = (A^{-1})^T$.

   Why?

Some Facts

Say A and B are invertible $n \times n$ matrices.

1. A^{-1} is invertible and its inverse is $(A^{-1})^{-1} = A$.
2. AB is invertible and its inverse is $(AB)^{-1} = \cancel{A^{-1}B^{-1}}$ $B^{-1}A^{-1}$.

   Why?
3. A^T is invertible and $(A^T)^{-1} = (A^{-1})^T$.

   Why?

Poll

If A, B, C are invertible $n \times n$ matrices, what is the inverse of ABC?

i. $A^{-1}B^{-1}C^{-1}$ ii. $B^{-1}A^{-1}C^{-1}$ iii. $C^{-1}B^{-1}A^{-1}$ iv. $C^{-1}A^{-1}B^{-1}$

Some Facts

Say A and B are invertible $n \times n$ matrices.

1. A^{-1} is invertible and its inverse is $(A^{-1})^{-1} = A$.
2. AB is invertible and its inverse is $(AB)^{-1} = \cancel{A^{-1}B^{-1}}$ $B^{-1}A^{-1}$.

   Why?
3. A^T is invertible and $(A^T)^{-1} = (A^{-1})^T$.

   Why?

Poll

If A, B, C are invertible $n \times n$ matrices, what is the inverse of ABC?

i. $A^{-1}B^{-1}C^{-1}$ ii. $B^{-1}A^{-1}C^{-1}$ iii. $C^{-1}B^{-1}A^{-1}$ iv. $C^{-1}A^{-1}B^{-1}$

It's (iii):

$$\begin{aligned}(ABC)(C^{-1}B^{-1}A^{-1}) &= AB(CC^{-1})B^{-1}A^{-1} = A(BB^{-1})A^{-1} \\ &= AA^{-1} = I_n.\end{aligned}$$

Some Facts

Say A and B are invertible $n \times n$ matrices.

1. A^{-1} is invertible and its inverse is $(A^{-1})^{-1} = A$.
2. AB is invertible and its inverse is $(AB)^{-1} = \cancel{A^{-1}B^{-1}}$ $B^{-1}A^{-1}$.

   Why?
3. A^T is invertible and $(A^T)^{-1} = (A^{-1})^T$.

   Why?

Poll

If A, B, C are invertible $n \times n$ matrices, what is the inverse of ABC?

i. $A^{-1}B^{-1}C^{-1}$ ii. $B^{-1}A^{-1}C^{-1}$ iii. $C^{-1}B^{-1}A^{-1}$ iv. $C^{-1}A^{-1}B^{-1}$

It's (iii):

$$\begin{aligned}(ABC)(C^{-1}B^{-1}A^{-1}) &= AB(CC^{-1})B^{-1}A^{-1} = A(BB^{-1})A^{-1} \\ &= AA^{-1} = I_n.\end{aligned}$$

In general, a product of invertible matrices is invertible, and the inverse is the product of the inverses, in the *reverse order*.

Computing A^{-1}

Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix. Here's how to compute A^{-1}.

Example

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 \end{pmatrix}$$

Computing A^{-1}

Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix. Here's how to compute A^{-1}.

1. Row reduce the augmented matrix $(\, A \mid I_n \,)$.

Example

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 \end{pmatrix}$$

Computing A^{-1}

Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix. Here's how to compute A^{-1}.

1. Row reduce the augmented matrix $(\, A \mid I_n \,)$.
2. If the result has the form $(\, I_n \mid B \,)$, then A is invertible and $B = A^{-1}$.

Example

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 \end{pmatrix}$$

Computing A^{-1}

Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix. Here's how to compute A^{-1}.

1. Row reduce the augmented matrix $(\, A \mid I_n \,)$.
2. If the result has the form $(\, I_n \mid B \,)$, then A is invertible and $B = A^{-1}$.
3. Otherwise, A is not invertible.

Example

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 \end{pmatrix}$$

Computing A^{-1}

Example

Computing A^{-1}

Example

Check:

Why Does This Work?

First answer: We can think of the algorithm as simultaneously solving the equations

$$Ax_1 = e_1 : \quad \left(\begin{array}{rrr|rrr} 1 & 0 & 4 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array}\right)$$

$$Ax_2 = e_2 : \quad \left(\begin{array}{rrr|rrr} 1 & 0 & 4 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array}\right)$$

$$Ax_3 = e_3 : \quad \left(\begin{array}{rrr|rrr} 1 & 0 & 4 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array}\right)$$

Why Does This Work?

First answer: We can think of the algorithm as simultaneously solving the equations

$$Ax_1 = e_1 : \quad \left(\begin{array}{rrr|rrr} 1 & 0 & 4 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array}\right)$$

$$Ax_2 = e_2 : \quad \left(\begin{array}{rrr|rrr} 1 & 0 & 4 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array}\right)$$

$$Ax_3 = e_3 : \quad \left(\begin{array}{rrr|rrr} 1 & 0 & 4 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array}\right)$$

Now note $A^{-1}e_i = A^{-1}(Ax_i) = x_i$, and x_i is the ith column in the augmented part.

Why Does This Work?

First answer: We can think of the algorithm as simultaneously solving the equations

$$Ax_1 = e_1 : \quad \left(\begin{array}{rrr|rrr} 1 & 0 & 4 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array}\right)$$

$$Ax_2 = e_2 : \quad \left(\begin{array}{rrr|rrr} 1 & 0 & 4 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array}\right)$$

$$Ax_3 = e_3 : \quad \left(\begin{array}{rrr|rrr} 1 & 0 & 4 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array}\right)$$

Now note $A^{-1}e_i = A^{-1}(Ax_i) = x_i$, and x_i is the ith column in the augmented part. Also $A^{-1}e_i$ is the ith column of A^{-1}.

Why Does This Work?

First answer: We can think of the algorithm as simultaneously solving the equations

$$Ax_1 = e_1 : \quad \left(\begin{array}{rrr|rrr} 1 & 0 & 4 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array}\right)$$

$$Ax_2 = e_2 : \quad \left(\begin{array}{rrr|rrr} 1 & 0 & 4 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array}\right)$$

$$Ax_3 = e_3 : \quad \left(\begin{array}{rrr|rrr} 1 & 0 & 4 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array}\right)$$

Now note $A^{-1}e_i = A^{-1}(Ax_i) = x_i$, and x_i is the ith column in the augmented part. Also $A^{-1}e_i$ is the ith column of A^{-1}.

Second answer: Elementary matrices.

Elementary Matrices

Definition

An **elementary matrix** is a square matrix E which differs from I_n by one row operation.

Elementary Matrices

Definition

An **elementary matrix** is a square matrix E which differs from I_n by one row operation.

There are three kinds, corresponding to the three elementary row operations:

Elementary Matrices

Definition

An **elementary matrix** is a square matrix E which differs from I_n by one row operation.

There are three kinds, corresponding to the three elementary row operations:

Fact: if E is the elementary matrix for a row operation, then EA differs from A by the same row operation.

Elementary Matrices

Definition

An **elementary matrix** is a square matrix E which differs from I_n by one row operation.

There are three kinds, corresponding to the three elementary row operations:

Fact: if E is the elementary matrix for a row operation, then EA differs from A by the same row operation.

Example:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 4 \\ 2 & 1 & 10 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_2 = R_2 + 2R_1} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 4 \\ 2 & 1 & 10 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 \end{pmatrix}$$

Elementary Matrices

Continued

Fact: if E is the elementary matrix for a row operation, then EA differs from A by the same row operation.

Elementary Matrices

Continued

Fact: if E is the elementary matrix for a row operation, then EA differs from A by the same row operation.

Consequence

Elementary matrices are invertible, and the inverse is the elementary matrix which un-does the row operation.

Why Does The Inversion Algorithm Work?

Second answer

Theorem

An $n \times n$ matrix A is invertible if and only if it is row equivalent to I_n.

Why Does The Inversion Algorithm Work?

Second answer

Theorem

An $n \times n$ matrix A is invertible if and only if it is row equivalent to I_n. In this case, the sequence of row operations taking A to I_n also takes I_n to A^{-1}.

Why Does The Inversion Algorithm Work?

Second answer

Theorem

An $n \times n$ matrix A is invertible if and only if it is row equivalent to I_n. In this case, the sequence of row operations taking A to I_n also takes I_n to A^{-1}.

Why? Say the row operations taking A to I_n have elementary matrices $E_1, E_2, \ldots, E_k$.

Why Does The Inversion Algorithm Work?

Second answer

Theorem

An $n \times n$ matrix A is invertible if and only if it is row equivalent to I_n. In this case, the sequence of row operations taking A to I_n also takes I_n to A^{-1}.

Why? Say the row operations taking A to I_n have elementary matrices $E_1, E_2, \ldots, E_k$.

This means if you do these same row operations to A and to I_n, you'll end up with I_n and A^{-1}.

Why Does The Inversion Algorithm Work?

Second answer

Theorem

An $n \times n$ matrix A is invertible if and only if it is row equivalent to I_n. In this case, the sequence of row operations taking A to I_n also takes I_n to A^{-1}.

Why? Say the row operations taking A to I_n have elementary matrices $E_1, E_2, \ldots, E_k$.

This means if you do these same row operations to A and to I_n, you'll end up with I_n and A^{-1}. This is what you do when you row reduce the augmented matrix:

$$\left(A \;\middle|\; I_n \right) \rightsquigarrow \left(I_n \;\middle|\; A^{-1} \right)$$