

A First Course in
LINEAR ALGEBRA

Lecture Notes
for Math 1503

Matrices: Matrix Arithmetic

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A First Course in Linear Algebra

Lecture Slides

These lecture slides were originally developed by Karen Seyffarth of the University of Calgary. Edits, additions, and revisions have been made to these notes by the editorial team at Lyryx Learning to accompany their text [A First Course in Linear Algebra](#) based on K. Kuttler's original text.

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Matrices - Basic Definitions and Notation

Definitions

Let m and n be positive integers.

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General notation for an $m \times n$ matrix, A :

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} & \cdots & a_{3n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & a_{m3} & \cdots & a_{mn} \end{bmatrix} = [a_{ij}]$$

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- ⑥ **Subtraction:** for $m \times n$ matrices A and B , $A - B = A + (-1)B$.

Matrix Addition

Definition

Let $A = [a_{ij}]$ and $B = [b_{ij}]$ be two $m \times n$ matrices. Then $A + B = C$ where C is the $m \times n$ matrix $C = [c_{ij}]$ defined by

$$c_{ij} = a_{ij} + b_{ij}$$

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Example

Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$, $B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -2 \\ 6 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$. Then,

$$A + B =$$

Theorem (Properties of Matrix Addition)

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(existence of an additive identity).

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- ④ There exists an $m \times n$ matrix $-A$ such that $A + (-A) = 0$.
(existence of an additive inverse).

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Example

$$\text{Let } A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & -1 \\ 3 & 1 & -2 \\ 0 & 4 & 5 \end{bmatrix}.$$

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

Then

$$3A =$$

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(scalar multiplication distributes over matrix addition).

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- ③ $k(pA) = (kp)A$. (scalar multiplication is associative).
- ④ $1A = A$. (existence of a multiplicative identity).

Example

$$2 \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + 4 \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 8 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} =$$

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Problem

Let A and B be $m \times n$ matrices. Simplify the expression

$$2[9(A - B) + 7(2B - A)] - 2[3(2B + A) - 2(A + 3B) - 5(A + B)]$$

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$$2 \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + 4 \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 8 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} =$$

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Solution

$$\begin{aligned} & 2[9(A - B) + 7(2B - A)] - 2[3(2B + A) - 2(A + 3B) - 5(A + B)] \\ = & 2(9A - 9B + 14B - 7A) - 2(6B + 3A - 2A - 6B - 5A - 5B) \\ = & 2(2A + 5B) - 2(-4A - 5B) \\ = & 12A + 20B \end{aligned}$$

Vectors

Definitions

A row matrix or column matrix is often called a **vector**, and such matrices are referred to as **row vectors** and **column vectors**, respectively. If X is a row vector of size $1 \times n$, and Y is a column vector of size $m \times 1$, then we write

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 & \cdots & x_n \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } Y = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_m \end{bmatrix}$$

Vector form of a system of linear equations

Definition

Consider the system of linear equations

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} a_{11}x_1 & + & a_{12}x_2 & + & \cdots & + & a_{1n}x_n & = & b_1 \\ a_{21}x_1 & + & a_{22}x_2 & + & \cdots & + & a_{2n}x_n & = & b_2 \\ \vdots & & \vdots & & & & \vdots & & \vdots \\ a_{m1}x_1 & + & a_{m2}x_2 & + & \cdots & + & a_{mn}x_n & = & b_m \end{array}$$

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Such a system can be expressed in **vector form** or as a **vector equation** by using **linear combinations** of column vectors:

$$x_1 \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} \\ a_{21} \\ \vdots \\ a_{m1} \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \begin{bmatrix} a_{12} \\ a_{22} \\ \vdots \\ a_{m2} \end{bmatrix} + \cdots + x_n \begin{bmatrix} a_{1n} \\ a_{2n} \\ \vdots \\ a_{mn} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_m \end{bmatrix}$$

Vector form of a system of linear equations

Problem

Express the following system of linear equations in vector form.

$$2x_1 + 4x_2 - 3x_3 = -6$$

$$-x_2 + 5x_3 = 0$$

$$x_1 + x_2 + 4x_3 = 1$$

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Solution

$$x_1 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + x_3 \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 5 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -6 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Matrix Vector Multiplication

Definition

Let $A = [a_{ij}]$ be an $m \times n$ matrix with columns A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n , written $A = \begin{bmatrix} A_1 & A_2 & \cdots & A_n \end{bmatrix}$, and let X be an $n \times 1$ column vector,

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}$$

Matrix Vector Multiplication

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$$X = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}$$

Then **the product of matrix A and (column) vector X** is the $m \times 1$ column vector given by

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_1 & A_2 & \cdots & A_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} = x_1 A_1 + x_2 A_2 + \cdots + x_n A_n = \sum_{j=1}^n x_j A_j$$

that is, AX is a **linear combination** of the columns of A . Notice how this is a generalization of the dot product between vectors.

Matrix Vector Multiplication

Problem

Compute the product AX for

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

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Solution

$$AX = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 \\ 5 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = 2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} + 3 \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 10 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 12 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 14 \\ 10 \end{bmatrix}$$

Matrix Vector Multiplication

Problem

Compute AY for

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 & -1 \\ 2 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 3 & 1 & 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } Y = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

Matrix Vector Multiplication

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$$AY =$$

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Such a system can be expressed in **matrix form** using matrix vector multiplication,

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \cdots & a_{mn} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_m \end{bmatrix}$$

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Thus a system of linear equations can be expressed as a **matrix equation** $AX = B$, where **A** is the coefficient matrix, **B** is the constant matrix, and **X** is the matrix of variables.

Matrix form of a system of linear equations

Problem

Express the following system of linear equations in matrix form.

$$\begin{array}{rcccccl} 2x_1 & + & 4x_2 & - & 3x_3 & = & -6 \\ & & - & x_2 & + & 5x_3 & = & 0 \\ x_1 & + & x_2 & + & 4x_3 & = & 1 \end{array}$$

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Solution

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & -3 \\ 0 & -1 & 5 \\ 1 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -6 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Matrix and Vector Equations

Theorem

- 1 Every system of m linear equations in n variables can be written in the form $AX = B$ where A is the coefficient matrix, X is the matrix of variables, and B is the constant matrix.

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- 3 The vector $X = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}$ is a solution to the system $AX = B$ if and only if x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n are a solution to the vector equation

$$x_1 A_1 + x_2 A_2 + \cdots + x_n A_n = B$$

where A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n are the columns of A .

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Proof.

(a) One first checks that (x_1, \dots, x_n) is a solution to the original system if and only if $X = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}$ is a solution to $AX = B$.

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This depends on the way that the matrix arithmetics (addition, multiplication by scalars, multiplication) was defined.

Proof continued

Proof.

(b) Once (a) is taken care of, it gives a one-to-one correspondence between the set of solutions to the original system and the set of solutions to $AX = B$:

$$(x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}.$$

Proof continued

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(b) Once (a) is taken care of, it gives a one-to-one correspondence between the set of solutions to the original system and the set of solutions to $AX = B$:

$$(x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}.$$

This is (3), and it implies that the two sets have the same cardinality, and (2) follows. □

Problem

Let

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 & -1 \\ 2 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 3 & 1 & 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Express B as a linear combination of the columns A_1, A_2, A_3, A_4 of A , or show that this is impossible.

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Solution

Solve the system $AX = B$ where X is a column vector with four entries.

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$$\left[\begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & 0 & 2 & -1 & 1 \\ 2 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 3 & 1 & 3 & 1 & 1 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & \frac{1}{7} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & -\frac{5}{7} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & \frac{3}{7} \end{array} \right]$$

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$$\left[\begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & 0 & 2 & -1 & 1 \\ 2 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 3 & 1 & 3 & 1 & 1 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & \frac{1}{7} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & -\frac{5}{7} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & \frac{3}{7} \end{array} \right]$$

Since there are infinitely many solutions (x_4 is assigned a parameter), choose any value for x_4 .

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Let

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Solution

Solve the system $AX = B$ where X is a column vector with four entries. Do so by putting the **augmented matrix** $[A \mid B]$ in reduced row-echelon form.

$$\left[\begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & 0 & 2 & -1 & 1 \\ 2 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 3 & 1 & 3 & 1 & 1 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & \frac{1}{7} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & -\frac{5}{7} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & \frac{3}{7} \end{array} \right]$$

Since there are infinitely many solutions (x_4 is assigned a parameter), choose any value for x_4 . Choosing $x_4 = 0$ (which is the simplest thing to do) gives us

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{7} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} - \frac{5}{7} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + \frac{3}{7} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{7}A_1 - \frac{5}{7}A_2 + \frac{3}{7}A_3 + 0A_4.$$

Matrix Multiplication

Definition (Product of two matrices)

Let A be an $m \times n$ matrix and let $B = \begin{bmatrix} B_1 & B_2 & \cdots & B_p \end{bmatrix}$ be an $n \times p$ matrix, whose columns are B_1, B_2, \dots, B_p . The **product of A and B** is the matrix

$$AB = A \begin{bmatrix} B_1 & B_2 & \cdots & B_p \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} AB_1 & AB_2 & \cdots & AB_p \end{bmatrix}$$

i.e., the first column of AB is AB_1 , the second column of AB is AB_2 , etc. Note that AB has size $m \times p$.

Definition (The (i, j) -entry of a product)

Let $A = [a_{ij}]$ be an $m \times n$ matrix and $B = [b_{ij}]$ be an $n \times p$ matrix. Then the (i, j) -entry of AB is given by

$$a_{i1}b_{1j} + a_{i2}b_{2j} + \cdots + a_{in}b_{nj} = \sum_{k=1}^n a_{ik}b_{kj}$$

(Note: This can simply be viewed as the dot product of the i 'th row of A with the j 'th column of B .)

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Example

Using the above definition, the $(2,3)$ -entry of the product

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 3 \\ 2 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & -2 & 4 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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is computed using the **second row** of the first matrix, and the **third column** of the second matrix, resulting in

$$2(2) + (-1)(4) + 1(0) = 4 - 4 + 0 = 0.$$

Problem

Find the product AB of matrices

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 3 \\ 2 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } B = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & -2 & 4 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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Solution

Compatibility for Matrix Multiplication

Definition

Let A and B be matrices, and suppose that A is $m \times n$.

- In order for the product AB to exist, the number of rows in B must be equal to the number of columns in A , implying that B is an $n \times p$ matrix for some p .
- When defined, AB is an $m \times p$ matrix.

If the product is defined, then A and B are said to be **compatible** for (matrix) multiplication.

Example

As we saw in the previous problem

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 3 \\ 2 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{matrix} 2 \times 3 \\ \end{matrix} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & -2 & 4 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{matrix} 3 \times 3 \\ \end{matrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -1 & -2 \\ -1 & 4 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{matrix} 2 \times 3 \\ \end{matrix}$$

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Note that the product

$$\begin{matrix} 3 \times 3 \\ \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & -2 & 4 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} 2 \times 3 \\ \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 3 \\ 2 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

does not exist.

Multiplication by the Zero Matrix

Example

Compute the product $A0$ for the matrix

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

and the 2×2 zero matrix given by $0 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

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Solution

In this product, we compute

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

Hence, $A0 = 0$.

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Therefore the equation $AB = BA$ makes sense if and only if A is an $m \times n$ matrix and B is an $n \times m$ matrix for some—possibly different— m and n .

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The product BA is defined if and only if $m = n'$.

Therefore the equation $AB = BA$ makes sense if and only if A is an $m \times n$ matrix and B is an $n \times m$ matrix for some—possibly different— m and n .

So the right question is:

Given matrices A and B such that both AB and BA are defined, is $AB = BA$?

Matrix Multiplication is Not Commutative

Problem

Let

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ -3 & 0 \\ 1 & -4 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 2 & 0 \\ 3 & -2 & 1 & -3 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Does AB exist? If so, compute it.
- Does BA exist? If so, compute it.

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- Does AB exist? If so, compute it.
- Does BA exist? If so, compute it.

Solution

$$AB = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & -5 & 4 & -6 \\ -3 & 3 & -6 & 0 \\ -11 & 7 & -2 & 12 \end{bmatrix}$$

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- Does BA exist? If so, compute it.

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$$AB = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & -5 & 4 & -6 \\ -3 & 3 & -6 & 0 \\ -11 & 7 & -2 & 12 \end{bmatrix}$$

BA does not exist

Problem

Let

$$G = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } H = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Does GH exist? If so, compute it.
- Does HG exist? If so, compute it.

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Problem

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- Does GH exist? If so, compute it.
- Does HG exist? If so, compute it.

Solution

In this example, GH and HG both exist, but they are not equal. They aren't even the same size!

Problem

Let

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } Q = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Does PQ exist? If so, compute it.
- Does QP exist? If so, compute it.

Problem

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- Does PQ exist? If so, compute it.
- Does QP exist? If so, compute it.

Solution

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

$$QP = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 6 & -3 \end{bmatrix}$$

In this example, PQ and QP both exist and are the same size, but $PQ \neq QP$.

Fact

The three preceding problems illustrate an important property of matrix multiplication.

*In general, matrix multiplication is **not** commutative, i.e., the order of the matrices in the product is important.*

In other words, in general $AB \neq BA$.

Problem

Let

$$U = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } V = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Does UV exist? If so, compute it.
- Does VU exist? If so, compute it.

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- Does UV exist? If so, compute it.
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$$U = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } V = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Does UV exist? If so, compute it.
- Does VU exist? If so, compute it.

Solution

$$UV = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 \\ 6 & 8 \end{bmatrix}$$

Problem

Let

$$U = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } V = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Does UV exist? If so, compute it.
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Solution

$$UV = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 \\ 6 & 8 \end{bmatrix}$$

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In this particular example, the matrices **commute**, i.e., $UV = VU$.

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Let A , B , and C be matrices of the appropriate sizes, and let $r \in \mathbb{R}$ be a scalar. Then the following properties hold.

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- ③ $A(BC) = (AB)C$. (matrix multiplication is associative).

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This applies to matrix-vector multiplication as well, since a vector is a row matrix or a column matrix.

Elementary Proofs

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Let A and B be $m \times n$ matrices, and let C be an $n \times p$ matrix. Prove that if A and B commute with C , then $A + B$ commutes with C .

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$$(AB)C = A(BC) \quad (\text{matrix multiplication is associative})$$

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$$\begin{aligned}(AB)C &= A(BC) \quad (\text{matrix multiplication is associative}) \\ &= A(CB) \quad (B \text{ commutes with } C)\end{aligned}$$

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Therefore, AB commutes with C . □

Definition (Matrix Transpose)

If A is an $m \times n$ matrix, then its **transpose**, denoted A^T , is the $n \times m$ whose i^{th} row is the i^{th} column of A , $1 \leq i \leq n$; i.e., if $A = [a_{ij}]$, then

$$A^T = [a_{ij}]^T = [a_{ji}]$$

i.e., the (i, j) -entry of A^T is the (j, i) -entry of A .

LECTURE 2

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④ $(AC)^T = C^T A^T$

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Let A and B be $m \times n$ matrices, C be a $n \times p$ matrix, and $r \in \mathbb{R}$ a scalar. Then

① $(A^T)^T = A$

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③ $(A + B)^T = A^T + B^T$

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To prove each these properties, you only need to compute the (i, j) -entries of the matrices on the left-hand side and the right-hand side.

Definition (Matrix Transpose)

If A is an $m \times n$ matrix, then its **transpose**, denoted A^T , is the $n \times m$ whose i^{th} row is the i^{th} column of A , $1 \leq i \leq n$; i.e., if $A = [a_{ij}]$, then

$$A^T = [a_{ij}]^T = [a_{ji}]$$

i.e., the (i, j) -entry of A^T is the (j, i) -entry of A .

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To prove each these properties, you only need to compute the (i, j) -entries of the matrices on the left-hand side and the right-hand side. **And you can do it!**

Problem

Find the matrix A if $\left(A + 3 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}\right)^T = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 5 \\ 3 & 8 \end{bmatrix}$.

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Symmetric Matrices

Definition

Let $A = [a_{ij}]$ be an $m \times n$ matrix. The entries $a_{11}, a_{22}, a_{33}, \dots$ are called the **main diagonal** of A .

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Examples

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & -3 \\ -3 & 17 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & 2 & 11 \\ 5 & 11 & -3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 & 5 & -1 \\ 2 & 1 & -3 & 0 \\ 5 & -3 & 2 & -7 \\ -1 & 0 & -7 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

are symmetric matrices, and each is symmetric about its main diagonal.

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Definition

An $n \times n$ matrix A is said to be **skew symmetric** if $A^T = -A$.

Example (Skew Symmetric Matrices)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ -2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 9 & 4 \\ -9 & 0 & -3 \\ -4 & 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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We must show that $(A - A^T)^T = -(A - A^T)$. Using the properties of matrix addition, scalar multiplication, and transposition

$$(A - A^T)^T = A^T - (A^T)^T = A^T - A = -(A - A^T).$$

The $n \times n$ Identity Matrix

Definition

For each $n \geq 2$, the $n \times n$ identity matrix, denoted I_n , is the matrix having ones on its main diagonal and zeros elsewhere, and is defined for all $n \geq 2$.

Example

$$I_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, I_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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Definition

Let $n \geq 2$. For each j , $1 \leq j \leq n$, we denote by E_j the j^{th} column of I_n .

Example

$$\text{When } n = 3, E_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, E_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, E_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Theorem

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Let A be an $m \times n$ matrix. Then $AI_n = A$ and $I_m A = A$.

Proof

The (i, j) -entry of AI_n is the product of the i^{th} row of $A = [a_{ij}]$, namely $[a_{i1} \ a_{i2} \ \cdots \ a_{ij} \ \cdots \ a_{in}]$ with the j^{th} column of I_n , namely E_j . Since E_j has a one in row j and zeros elsewhere,

$$[a_{i1} \ a_{i2} \ \cdots \ a_{ij} \ \cdots \ a_{in}] E_j = a_{ij}$$

Since this is true for all $i \leq m$ and all $j \leq n$, $AI_n = A$.

The proof of $I_m A = A$ is analogous—work it out!

Instead of AI_n and I_mA we often write AI and IA , respectively, since the size of the identity matrix is clear from the context: the sizes of A and I must be compatible for matrix multiplication.

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Thus

$$AI = A \text{ and } IA = A$$

which is why I is called an **identity** matrix – it is an identity for matrix multiplication.

Matrix Inverses

Definition

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Example

Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$ and $B = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ \frac{3}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}$. Then

$$AB = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

and

$$BA = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

so B is an inverse of A .

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No! Take e.g. the zero matrix $\mathbf{0}_n$ (all entries of $\mathbf{0}_n$ are equal to 0)

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for all $n \times n$ matrices A :

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Does every **nonzero** square matrix have an inverse?

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is an inverse of A . Then

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

which is never equal to I_2 . (Why?)

Uniqueness of an Inverse

Theorem

If A is a square matrix and B and C are inverses of A , then $B = C$.

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Proof.

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$$B = BI$$

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so $B = C$. □

Example (revisited)

For $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$ and $B = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ \frac{3}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}$, we saw that

$$AB = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } BA = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

The preceding theorem tells us that B is **the inverse** of A , rather than just **an inverse** of A .

Definitions

Let A be a square matrix, i.e., an $n \times n$ matrix.

- The inverse of A , if it exists, is denoted A^{-1} , and

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- The inverse of A , if it exists, is denoted A^{-1} , and

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- If A has an inverse, then we say that A is invertible (or nonsingular).

Finding the inverse of a 2×2 matrix

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Suppose that $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$.

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Suppose that $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$. If $ad - bc \neq 0$, then there is a formula for A^{-1} :

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

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This can easily be verified by computing the products AA^{-1} and $A^{-1}A$.

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$$\begin{aligned} AA^{-1} &= \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \frac{1}{ad - bc} \begin{bmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \frac{1}{ad - bc} \left(\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{bmatrix} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{ad - bc} \begin{bmatrix} ad - bc & 0 \\ 0 & -bc + ad \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

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Showing that $A^{-1}A = I_2$ is left as an exercise.

Finding the inverse of an $n \times n$ matrix

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Suppose that A is any $n \times n$ matrix.

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Solution

The matrix inversion algorithm.

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Although the formula for the inverse of a 2×2 matrix is quicker and easier to use than the matrix inversion algorithm, the general formula for the inverse an $n \times n$ matrix, $n \geq 3$ (which we will see later), is more complicated and difficult to use than the matrix inversion algorithm. To find inverses of square matrices that are not 2×2 , the matrix inversion algorithm is the most efficient method to use.

The Matrix Inversion Algorithm

Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix. To find A^{-1} , if it exists,

- take the $n \times 2n$ matrix

$$\left[A \mid I_n \right]$$

obtained by augmenting A with the $n \times n$ identity matrix, I_n .

- Perform elementary row operations to transform $\left[A \mid I_n \right]$ into a reduced row-echelon matrix.

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Theorem (Matrix Inverses)

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

- ① A is invertible.
- ② the reduced row-echelon form on A is I .
- ③ $\left[A \mid I_n \right]$ can be transformed into $\left[I_n \mid A^{-1} \right]$ using the Matrix Inversion Algorithm.

Problem

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Using the matrix inversion algorithm (fill in the operations)

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$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & 1 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right]$$

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$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & 1 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right]$$

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From this, we see that **A has no inverse**.

Problem

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

Solution (continued)

Using the matrix inversion algorithm (fill in the operations)

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$$[A \mid I] = \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 3 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 4 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right]$$

Solution (continued)

Using the matrix inversion algorithm (fill in the operations)

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$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & -1 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 & -7 & 1 & -3 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 1 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & -1 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -8 & 1 & -2 & -1 \\ 0 & 3 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 1 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow$$

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & -5 & 1 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & -8 & 1 & -2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 25 & -3 & 5 & 4 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & -5 & 1 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & -8 & 1 & -2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -\frac{3}{25} & \frac{5}{25} & \frac{4}{25} \end{array} \right] \rightarrow$$

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & \frac{10}{25} & 0 & -\frac{5}{25} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \frac{1}{25} & -\frac{10}{25} & \frac{7}{25} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -\frac{3}{25} & \frac{5}{25} & \frac{4}{25} \end{array} \right] = [I \mid A^{-1}]$$

Solution (continued)

Therefore, A^{-1} exists, and

$$A^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{10}{25} & 0 & -\frac{5}{25} \\ \frac{1}{25} & -\frac{10}{25} & \frac{7}{25} \\ -\frac{3}{25} & \frac{5}{25} & \frac{4}{25} \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{25} \begin{bmatrix} 10 & 0 & -5 \\ 1 & -10 & 7 \\ -3 & 5 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

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You can check your work by computing AA^{-1} and $A^{-1}A$.

Systems of Linear Equations and Inverses

Suppose that a system of n linear equations in n variables is written in matrix form as $AX = B$, and suppose that A is invertible.

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Example

The system of linear equations

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can be written in matrix form as $AX = B$:

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You can check that $A^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 18 & -7 \\ 5 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$.

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$$X = A^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 18 & -7 \\ 5 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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You should verify that $x = -2$, $y = -1$ is a solution to the system.

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Problem

Find square matrices A , B and C for which $AB = AC$ but $B \neq C$.

Inverses of Transposes and Products

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Suppose A is an invertible matrix. Then

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- ③ If A_1, A_2, \dots, A_k are invertible, then $A_1A_2 \cdots A_k$ is invertible and

$$(A_1A_2 \cdots A_k)^{-1} = A_k^{-1}A_{k-1}^{-1} \cdots A_2^{-1}A_1^{-1}$$

(the third part is proved by iterating the above, or, more formally, by using mathematical induction)

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- 4 If A is invertible and $p \in \mathbb{R}$ is nonzero, then pA is invertible, and $(pA)^{-1} = \frac{1}{p}A^{-1}$.

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Proof of Theorem:

(1) \Rightarrow (2) The rank of A is the number of leading 1s in the RREF of A . Since the size of A is $n \times n$, $\text{rank}(A) = n$ is equivalent to A being row-equivalent to I_n .

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We already know that A^{-1} exists if and only if $(A^T)^{-1}$ exists.

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Important Fact

In the second Theorem, it is essential that the matrices be square.

Theorem

If A and B are matrices such that $AB = I$ and $BA = I$, then A and B are square matrices (of the same size).

Example

Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 4 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ and $B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$.

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This example illustrates why “an inverse” of a non-square matrix doesn’t make sense. If A is $m \times n$ and B is $n \times m$, where $m \neq n$, then even if $AB = I$, it will never be the case that $BA = I$.