

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

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

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

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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

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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,

$$\begin{aligned} A + B &= \begin{bmatrix} 1+0 & 3+(-2) \\ 2+6 & 5+1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 8 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

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

Then

$$\begin{aligned} 3A &= \begin{bmatrix} 3(2) & 3(0) & 3(-1) \\ 3(3) & 3(1) & 3(-2) \\ 3(0) & 3(4) & 3(5) \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 0 & -3 \\ 9 & 3 & -6 \\ 0 & 12 & 15 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

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- 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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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:

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

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Express the following system of linear equations in vector form.

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

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Solution

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

Matrix Vector Multiplication

Definition

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

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

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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 .

Matrix Vector Multiplication

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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

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

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Solution

$$AY = 2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} + (-1) \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + 1 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} + 4 \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 9 \\ 12 \end{bmatrix}$$

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

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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.

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

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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 $AX = B$:

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

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

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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 .

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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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.

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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 $B = [B_1 \ B_2 \ \dots \ B_p]$ 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

$$AB = A [B_1 \ B_2 \ \dots \ B_p] = [AB_1 \ AB_2 \ \dots \ AB_p]$$

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

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

AB has columns

$$AB_1 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 3 \\ 2 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, AB_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 3 \\ 2 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\text{and } AB_3 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 3 \\ 2 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$\text{and } AB_3 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 3 \\ 2 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{Thus, } AB = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -1 & -2 \\ -1 & 4 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

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

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

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, $A0 = 0$.

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

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

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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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Example

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

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

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

Questions on Matrix Multiplication

Given matrices A and B , is $AB = BA$?

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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 .

Questions on Matrix Multiplication

Given matrices A and B , is $AB = BA$?

Suppose A is an $m \times n$ matrix and B is an $m' \times n'$ matrix.

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

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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Solution

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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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Let

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

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- Does BA exist? If so, compute it.

Solution

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

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

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- Does HG exist? If so, compute it.

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

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

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Problem

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

Solution

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

$$HG = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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

Let

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

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Let

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

Solution

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

Problem

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

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

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.

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.

Solution

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.

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

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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.

Solution

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

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

Properties of Matrix Multiplication

Theorem

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).
- ④ $r(AB) = (rA)B = A(rB)$.

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

Problem

Let $A = [a_{ij}]$, $B = [b_{ij}]$ and $C = [c_{ij}]$ be three $n \times n$ matrices. For $1 \leq i, j \leq n$ write down a formula for the (i, j) -entry of each of the following matrices.

① AB

② BA

③ $A+C$

④ $A(BC)$

⑤ $(AB)C$

⑥ $(A+B)$

⑦ $C(A+B)$

Elementary Proofs

Problem

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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Proof.

We are given that $AC = CA$ and $BC = CB$. Consider $(A + B)C$.

$$(A + B)C =$$

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$$(A + B)C = AC + BC$$

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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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We are given that $AC = CA$ and $BC = CB$. Consider $(A + B)C$.

$$\begin{aligned}(A + B)C &= AC + BC \\ &= CA + CB \\ &= C(A + B)\end{aligned}$$

Elementary Proofs

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Proof.

We are given that $AC = CA$ and $BC = CB$. Consider $(A + B)C$.

$$\begin{aligned}(A + B)C &= AC + BC \\ &= CA + CB \\ &= C(A + B)\end{aligned}$$

Since $(A + B)C = C(A + B)$, $A + B$ commutes with C . □

Problem

Let A , B and C be $n \times n$ matrices, and suppose that both A and B commute with C , i.e., $AC = CA$ and $BC = CB$. Show that AB commutes with C .

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Let A , B and C be $n \times n$ matrices, and suppose that both A and B commute with C , i.e., $AC = CA$ and $BC = CB$. Show that AB commutes with C .

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We must show that $(AB)C = C(AB)$ given that $AC = CA$ and $BC = CB$.

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

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Proof.

We must show that $(AB)C = C(AB)$ given that $AC = CA$ and $BC = CB$.

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

Problem

Let A , B and C be $n \times n$ matrices, and suppose that both A and B commute with C , i.e., $AC = CA$ and $BC = CB$. Show that AB commutes with C .

Proof.

We must show that $(AB)C = C(AB)$ given that $AC = CA$ and $BC = CB$.

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

Problem

Let A , B and C be $n \times n$ matrices, and suppose that both A and B commute with C , i.e., $AC = CA$ and $BC = CB$. Show that AB commutes with C .

Proof.

We must show that $(AB)C = C(AB)$ given that $AC = CA$ and $BC = CB$.

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

Problem

Let A , B and C be $n \times n$ matrices, and suppose that both A and B commute with C , i.e., $AC = CA$ and $BC = CB$. Show that AB commutes with C .

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We must show that $(AB)C = C(AB)$ given that $AC = CA$ and $BC = CB$.

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

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We must show that $(AB)C = C(AB)$ given that $AC = CA$ and $BC = CB$.

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

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 .

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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

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

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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

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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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Since $(A^T + 2B)^T = A^T + 2B$, $A^T + 2B$ is symmetric. □

Skew Symmetric Matrices

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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Show that if A is a square matrix, then $A - A^T$ is skew-symmetric.

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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

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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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 $I_m A$ 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

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

which is never equal to I_2 . (Why?)

Uniqueness of an Inverse

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

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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

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- If A has an inverse, then we say that A is invertible.

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

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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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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.

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Using the matrix inversion algorithm (fill in the operations)

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

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)

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

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$$\begin{aligned} [A \mid I] &= \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 3 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 4 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & -1 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 4 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \\ &\left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & -1 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 & -7 & 1 & -3 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 1 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & -1 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -8 & 1 & -2 & -1 \\ 0 & 3 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 1 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \\ &\left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & -5 & 1 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & -8 & 1 & -2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 25 & -3 & 5 & 4 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & -5 & 1 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & -8 & 1 & -2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -\frac{3}{25} & \frac{5}{25} & \frac{4}{25} \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \\ &\left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & \frac{10}{25} & 0 & -\frac{5}{25} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \frac{1}{25} & -\frac{10}{25} & \frac{7}{25} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -\frac{3}{25} & \frac{5}{25} & \frac{4}{25} \end{array} \right] = [I \mid A^{-1}] \end{aligned}$$

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 $A^{-1}A$.

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

Example (continued)

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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 $B \neq C$.

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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 the **mathematical induction**)

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

Example

Given $(3I - A^T)^{-1} = 2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$, we wish to find the matrix A .

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True or false? Justify your answer.

If $A^3 = 4I$, then A is invertible.

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Therefore A is invertible, and $A^{-1} = \frac{1}{4}A^2$.

A Fundamental Result

Theorem

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(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 $BA = I$.

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Definition

An **elementary matrix** is a matrix obtained from an identity matrix by performing a **single** elementary row operation.

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Elementary Row Operations.

- **Type I:** Interchange two rows.
- **Type II:** Multiply a row by a nonzero number.
- **Type III:** Add a (nonzero) multiple of one row to a different row.

Example

$$E = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, F = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, G = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -3 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

are examples of elementary matrices of types I, II and III, respectively.

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We are interested in the effect that (left) multiplication of A by E , F and G has on the matrix A .

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We are interested in the effect that (left) multiplication of A by E , F and G has on the matrix A . Computing EA , FA , and $GA \dots$

Example (continued)

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

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Notice that EA is the matrix obtained from A by interchanging row 2 and row 4, which is the same row operation used to obtain E from I_4 . What about FA and GA ?

Multiplication by an Elementary Matrix

Theorem

Let A be an $m \times n$ matrix, and suppose that B is obtained from A by performing a single elementary row operation.

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Let A be an $m \times n$ matrix, and suppose that B is obtained from A by performing a single elementary row operation. Then $B = EA$ where E is the elementary matrix obtained from I_m by performing the same elementary operation on I_m as was performed on A .

Problem

Let

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

Find elementary matrices E and F so that $C = FEA$.

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Note. The statement of the problem implies that C can be obtained from A by a sequence of two elementary row operations, represented by elementary matrices E and F .

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You can check your work by doing the matrix multiplication.

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Without using the matrix inversion algorithm, find the inverse of the elementary matrix

$$G = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -3 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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Hint. What row operation can be applied to G to transform it to I_4 ?

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Inverses of Elementary Matrices

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Without using the matrix inversion algorithm, find the inverse of the elementary matrix

$$G = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -3 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Hint. What row operation can be applied to G to transform it to I_4 ? The row operation $G \rightarrow I_4$ is to **add** three times row one to row three, and thus

$$G^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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Check by computing $G^{-1}G$.

Example (continued)

Similarly,

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

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and

$$F^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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or, more concisely, $B = UA$ where $U = E_k E_{k-1} \cdots E_2 E_1$.

To find U so that $B = UA$, we **could** find E_1, E_2, \dots, E_k and multiply these together (in the correct order), but there is an easier method for finding U .

Definition

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$$A \rightarrow B$$

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- ① there exists an invertible $m \times m$ matrix U such that $B = UA$;
- ② U can be computed by performing elementary row operations on $[A \mid I_m]$ to transform it into $[B \mid U]$;
- ③ $U = E_k E_{k-1} \cdots E_2 E_1$, where E_1, E_2, \dots, E_k are elementary matrices corresponding, in order, to the elementary row operations used to obtain B from A .

Problem

Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 & 1 \\ 2 & -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$, and let R be the reduced row-echelon form of A . Find a matrix U so that $R = UA$.

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Solution

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Starting with $[A \mid I]$, we've obtained $[R \mid U]$.

Therefore $R = UA$, where

$$U = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{3} & 0 \\ \frac{2}{3} & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

A Matrix as a Product of Elementary Matrices

Example

Let

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & -4 \\ -3 & -6 & 13 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

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Notice that the reduced row-echelon form of A equals I_3 . Now find the matrices E_1, E_2, E_3, E_4 and E_5 .

Example (continued)

$$E_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

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$$E_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, E_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

Example (continued)

$$E_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, E_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, E_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Example (continued)

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$$E_4 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

Example (continued)

$$E_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, E_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, E_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$E_4 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, E_5 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Example (continued)

$$E_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, E_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, E_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$
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It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} (E_5(E_4(E_3(E_2(E_1A)))))) &= I \\ (E_5E_4E_3E_2E_1)A &= I \end{aligned}$$

and therefore

$$A^{-1} = E_5E_4E_3E_2E_1$$

Example (continued)

Since $A^{-1} = E_5E_4E_3E_2E_1$,

$$\begin{aligned} A^{-1} &= E_5E_4E_3E_2E_1 \\ (A^{-1})^{-1} &= (E_5E_4E_3E_2E_1)^{-1} \\ A &= E_1^{-1}E_2^{-1}E_3^{-1}E_4^{-1}E_5^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

This example illustrates the following result.

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This example illustrates the following result.

Theorem

Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix. Then, A^{-1} exists if and only if A can be written as the product of elementary matrices.

Problem

Express $A = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 1 \\ -3 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ as a product of elementary matrices.

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$$\begin{bmatrix} 4 & 1 \\ -3 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{E_1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ -3 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{E_2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 11 \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$E_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, E_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, E_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{11} \end{bmatrix},$$

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Since $E_4 E_3 E_2 E_1 A = I$, $A^{-1} = E_4 E_3 E_2 E_1$, and hence

$$A = E_1^{-1} E_2^{-1} E_3^{-1} E_4^{-1}$$

Solution (continued)

Therefore,

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{11} \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1}$$

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i.e.,

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Check your work by computing the product.

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Is the $n \times n$ identity matrix an elementary matrix? Justify your answer.

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One result that we have assumed in all our work involving reduced row-echelon matrices is the following.

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Theorem

If A is an $m \times n$ matrix and R and S are reduced row-echelon forms of A , then $R = S$.

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One result that we have assumed in all our work involving reduced row-echelon matrices is the following.

Theorem

If A is an $m \times n$ matrix and R and S are reduced row-echelon forms of A , then $R = S$.

This theorem ensures that the reduced row-echelon form of a matrix is unique,

Problem

Is the $n \times n$ identity matrix an elementary matrix? Justify your answer.

One result that we have assumed in all our work involving reduced row-echelon matrices is the following.

Theorem

If A is an $m \times n$ matrix and R and S are reduced row-echelon forms of A , then $R = S$.

This theorem ensures that the reduced row-echelon form of a matrix is unique, and its proof follows from the results about elementary matrices.