

9/22/25

Lecture 13

Def - A matrix A is invertible if \exists matrix B such that $AB = I$ and $BA = I$.
We then call B the inverse of A and write $A^{-1} = B$.

Theorem: If A is an invertible $n \times n$ matrix, then $\forall \vec{b} \in \mathbb{R}^n \exists$ unique $\vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$.

e.g. Not every matrix is invertible

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 \\ 3 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \text{ is not invertible}$$

$$\text{To find } A^{-1}, \text{ solve } \left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} 2 & 4 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 6 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} I & & A^{-1} & \end{array} \right]$$

$$\left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} 2 & 4 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 6 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \begin{matrix} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \\ \cdot \frac{1}{3} \end{matrix}$$

$$\rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} 1 & 2 & \frac{1}{2} & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 & \frac{1}{3} \end{array} \right] - R_1$$

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

left side is not row equivalent to I , so A is not invertible.

Thm: If A is 2×2 matrix $\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$, then A is invertible i.f.f. $ad - bc \neq 0$.

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

Cor - Invertible matrices are square. (All of them)

Proof: If A is invertible then $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$ always has exactly one solution. Hence A is row equivalent to a RREF matrix A with a pivot in each row. Since $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$ never has infinitely many solutions, \tilde{A} has a pivot in each column too.

Since each row and column of \tilde{A} have at most one pivot, I see that \tilde{A} of A has same number of rows and columns, i.e. A is square. \square

Theorem: The Following Are Equivalent (TFAE) for an $n \times n$ matrix of A .

1. A is invertible
2. A is row equivalent to I
3. A has rank n
4. $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$ always has one solution
5. $\exists B$ such that $AB = I$
6. $\exists B$ such that $BA = I$

• Suppose $A = n \times n$ we find a matrix B such that $BA = I$

I claim that then A is invertible. To see this consider a linear system:

$$A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$$

$$B(A\vec{x}) = B\vec{b}$$

$$(BA)\vec{x} = B\vec{b}$$

$$\vec{x} = B\vec{b}$$

• This shows $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$ has at most one solution.

• Suppose A and B are invertible $n \times n$ matrices

• Then

• A^{-1} is invertible with $(A^{-1})^{-1} = A$

• \forall positive integer n , A^n is invertible with $(A^n)^{-1} = (A^{-1})^n$

• AB is invertible with $(AB)^{-1} = B^{-1}A^{-1}$

$$\begin{aligned} \hookrightarrow \text{check } (AB)(B^{-1}A^{-1}) &= A(BB^{-1})A^{-1} \\ &= (AI)A^{-1} \\ &= AA^{-1} \\ &= I \end{aligned}$$

Ex $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 5 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$, $B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$, are both invertible

$$\begin{aligned} \rightarrow \left(\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 5 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right)^{-1} &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 5 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \\ &= \frac{1}{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -5 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \left. \vphantom{\begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{use the formula for} \\ \text{the inverse of } 2 \times 2 \text{ matrices} \\ \text{above.} \end{array} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -5 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Def - A fn $T: \mathbb{R}^T \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is invertible if \exists another fn $S: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^T$ such that $S \circ T(\vec{x}) = \vec{x}$ and $T \circ S(\vec{y}) = \vec{y} \quad \forall \vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}^T \text{ and } \vec{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$.
We write $T^{-1} = S$.

Theorem: If $T: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is an invertible linear transformation, then $T^{-1}: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is also a linear transformation. Hence $[T^{-1}] = [T]^{-1}$.