

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  $m \times n$  matrix, then  $\forall \vec{b} \in \mathbb{R}^m \exists$  unique  $\vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that  
 $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$ .

e.g. Not every matrix is invertible

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thm: If  $A$  is  $2 \times 2$  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  $\tilde{A}$  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.  $\blacksquare$

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

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

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

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

Def - A  $f_n$   $T: \mathbb{R}^T \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is invertible if  $\exists$  another  $f_n$   $S: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$

such that  $S \circ T(\vec{x}) = \vec{x}$  and  $T \circ S(\vec{y}) = \vec{y}$   $\forall \vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $\vec{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

We write  $T^{-1} = S$ .

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