



102S207 CS10L01

Engineering Experiments (Me) (Nanyang Technological University)



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2.4 The Inverse of a Matrix

Theorem 2.5

Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix. Then A is invertible if and only if the reduced row echelon form of A is I_n .

Proof First, suppose that A is invertible.

For $\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{R}^n$, $A\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0} \Rightarrow A^{-1}A\mathbf{v} = A^{-1}\mathbf{0} = \mathbf{0} \Rightarrow \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$
 $\Rightarrow \text{rank } A = n$ by Theorem 1.8 (d)(f)
 \Rightarrow reduced row echelon form of A is I_n since A is $n \times n$

So, the reduced row echelon form of A must equal I_n .

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Proof Conversely, suppose that the reduced row echelon form of A equals I_n .

Therefore, A is invertible.

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Examples:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 5 & 6 \\ 3 & 4 & 8 \end{bmatrix}$$

has the reduced row echelon form $I_n \Rightarrow$ invertible.

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

has the reduced row echelon form $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

\Rightarrow not invertible.

Algorithm for Matrix Inversion

Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix. Use elementary row operations to transform $\begin{bmatrix} A & I_n \end{bmatrix}$ into the form $\begin{bmatrix} R & B \end{bmatrix}$, where R is a matrix in reduced row echelon form. Then either

- (a) $R = I_n$, in which case A is invertible and $B = A^{-1}$; or
- (b) $R \neq I_n$, in which case A is not invertible.

Proof

(a) $[R \ B] = P[A \ I_n] = [PA \ PI_n] = [PA \ P]$

(b) By Thm 2.5


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- (b) $R \neq I_n$, in which case A is not invertible.

Example:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \begin{bmatrix} A & I_3 \end{bmatrix} &= \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 5 & 6 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 4 & 8 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & -1 & -3 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \\
 &\rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & -7 & 2 & 1 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 7 & -2 & -1 \end{array} \right] \\
 &\rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 2 & 0 & -20 & 6 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 7 & -2 & -1 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & -16 & 4 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 7 & -2 & -1 \end{array} \right] = \begin{bmatrix} I_3 & B \end{bmatrix}
 \end{aligned}$$

A^{-1} 

Algorithm for Computing $A^{-1}B$

Let A be an invertible $n \times n$ matrix and B be an $n \times p$ matrix. Suppose that the $n \times (n + p)$ matrix $\begin{bmatrix} A & B \end{bmatrix}$ is transformed by means of elementary row operations into the matrix $\begin{bmatrix} I_n & C \end{bmatrix}$ in reduced row echelon form. Then $C = A^{-1}B$.

Proof $\begin{bmatrix} I_n & C \end{bmatrix} = P \begin{bmatrix} A & B \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} PA & PB \end{bmatrix}$

Example:

$$\begin{bmatrix} A & B \end{bmatrix} = \left[\begin{array}{ccc|cc} 1 & 2 & 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 2 & 5 & 1 & 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 4 & 1 & 0 & 2 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{ccc|cc} 1 & 2 & 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & -3 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & -4 & 4 \end{array} \right]$$

Clearly, it is easier
to compute $A^{-1}B$
directly than to
compute A^{-1} first
and get $A^{-1}B$
afterwards.

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

$$\rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{ccc|cc} 1 & 0 & 0 & -4 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 & -4 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow A^{-1}B$$

Theorem 2.6 (Invertible Matrix Theorem)

Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix. The following statements are equivalent:

- (a) A is invertible.
- (b) The reduced row echelon form of A is I_n .
- (c) The rank of A equals n .
- (d) The span of the columns of A is \mathcal{R}^n .
- (e) The equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ is consistent for every \mathbf{b} in \mathcal{R}^n .
- (f) The nullity of A equals zero.
- (g) The columns of A are linearly independent.
- (h) The only solution of $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ is $\mathbf{0}$.
- (i) There exists an $n \times n$ matrix B such that $BA = I_n$.
- (j) There exists an $n \times n$ matrix C such that $AC = I_n$.
- (k) A is a product of elementary matrices.

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Proof

(a) \Leftrightarrow (b): Theorem 2.5.

(d) \Leftrightarrow (e): By definition of span and matrix-vector products.

(b) \Leftrightarrow (c): $\text{rank}(A)$ = the number of nonzero rows of reduced row echelon form of A , $I_n = n$.

(a) \Rightarrow (e) $\mathbf{x} = A^{-1}\mathbf{b}$.

(e) \Rightarrow (a) $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ has at least a solution for any \mathbf{b} in \mathcal{R}^n .

Let $A = PR$, where R is the reduced row echelon form.

Suppose A is NOT invertible, then R is not I_n , and the last row of R is zero.

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- (g) The columns of A are linearly independent.

Proof

(c) \Leftrightarrow (f) Nullity = $n - \text{rank}(A) = n - n = 0$. (# of free variables = 0)

(g) \Leftrightarrow (c) Thm 1.8 (a)(d).

(g) \Leftrightarrow (f) Thm 1.8 (a)(c).

(g) \Leftrightarrow The columns of R are linearly independent. They are all pivot columns. $\Leftrightarrow R = I_n \Leftrightarrow$ (b).

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- (h) The only solution of $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ is $\mathbf{0}$.
- (k) A is a product of elementary matrices.

Proof

(a) \rightarrow (h): $\mathbf{x} = A^{-1} \mathbf{0} = \mathbf{0}$;

(h) \Leftrightarrow (g): By definitions of l.i. and matrix-vector product.

(b) \rightarrow (k) $I_n = E_k \dots E_2 E_1 A \rightarrow E_k^{-1} = E_{k-1} \dots E_2 E_1 A \rightarrow A = E_1^{-1} E_2^{-1} \dots E_k^{-1}$

(k) \rightarrow (a) $A =$ is invertible (Thm 2.2 b)

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- (h) The only solution of $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ is $\mathbf{0}$.
- (i) There exists an $n \times n$ matrix B such that $BA = I_n$.
- (j) There exists an $n \times n$ matrix C such that $AC = I_n$.

Proof (a) \Rightarrow (i) obvious. (a) \Rightarrow (j) obvious (by def.)

(i) \Rightarrow (h) \Rightarrow (a) : Let \mathbf{x} be any vector in \mathcal{R}^n such that $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$.

Then $\mathbf{x} =$

(j) \Rightarrow (e) \Rightarrow (a): Let \mathbf{b} be any vector in \mathcal{R}^n and let $\mathbf{v} = C\mathbf{b}$.

Then $A\mathbf{v} =$

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- (i) There exists an $n \times n$ matrix B such that $BA = I_n$.
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- (k) A is a product of elementary matrices.

$$R = I_n$$

$$\text{rank}(A) = n$$

$$\text{span}\{\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2, \dots, \mathbf{a}_n\} = \mathcal{R}^n$$

$$\forall \mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{R}^n, \exists \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{R}^n \text{ s.t. } A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$$

$$\text{nullity}(A) = 0$$

$$\{\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2, \dots, \mathbf{a}_n\} \text{ is l.i.}$$

$$A = E_1 E_2 \cdots E_k$$

Note that though only one of $BA = I_n$ or $AC = I_n$ is needed to show the invertibility of A , **the matrix A has to be square.**

There are nonsquare matrices A and C for which the product AC is an identity matrix. For instance, let

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

Then $AC =$

Of course, A and C are not invertible.

Homework Set for Section 2.4

Section 2.4: Problems 1, 8, 14, 19, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32.