Section 2.2

The Inverse of a Matrix

The Definition of Inverse

Definition

Let A be an $n \times n$ square matrix. We say A is **invertible** (or **nonsingular**) if there is a matrix B of the same size, such that

$$AB = I_n \quad \text{and} \quad BA = I_n.$$

identity matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

In this case, B is the **inverse** of A, and is *written* A^{-1}.

Example

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \qquad B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Wild guess: $B = A^{-1}$. Check:

$$AB = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$BA = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

✔

Elementary Matrices

Definition

An **elementary matrix** is a matrix E that *differs* from I_n by one *row operation*.

There are **three kinds**, corresponding to the three elementary row operations:

scaling $(R_2 = 2R_2)$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

row replacement $(R_2 = R_2 + 2R_1)$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

swap $(R_1 \longleftrightarrow R_2)$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Important Fact: For any $n \times n$ matrix A, if E is the elementary matrix for a row operation, then *EA differs from A by the same row operation*.

Example:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_2 = R_2 + 2R_1} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 4 \\ 2 & 1 & 10 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 4 \\ 2 & 1 & 10 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 \end{pmatrix}$$

Inverse of Elementary Matrices

Elementary matrices are invertible. The inverse is the elementary matrix which un-does the row operation.

$R_2 = R_2 \times 2$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}^{-1} =$$

$R_2 = R_2 \div 2$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$R_2 = R_2 + 2R_1$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}^{-1} =$$

$R_2 = R_2 - 2R_1$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$R_1 \longleftrightarrow R_2$

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

$R_1 \longleftrightarrow R_2$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Poll

Poll

Let E be the 3×3 matrix corresponding to *swapping rows* 1 and 3. Mark *both E and E^{-1}* from the list below

$$a) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \qquad b) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$c) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \qquad d) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Solution: Both E and E^{-1} are equal to $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$.

Solving Linear Systems via Inverses

Theorem

If A is **invertible**, then for every b there is *unique solution* to $Ax = b$:

$$x = A^{-1}b.$$

Verify: Multiple by A on the left!

$$Ax = AA^{-1}b = I_n b = b$$

Example

Solve the system

could be any other vector

$$\begin{aligned} 2x + 3y + 2z &= \boxed{1} \\ x \qquad\quad + 3z &= \boxed{1} \\ 2x + 2y + 3z &= \boxed{1} \end{aligned} \qquad \text{using} \qquad \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 3 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 2 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} -6 & -5 & 9 \\ 3 & 2 & -4 \\ 2 & 2 & -3 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Answer: $$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 3 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 2 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \boxed{\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}} = \begin{pmatrix} -6 & -5 & 9 \\ 3 & 2 & -4 \\ 2 & 2 & -3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Computing A^{-1}

Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix. Here's how to compute A^{-1}.

1. Row reduce the augmented matrix $(A \mid I_n)$.
2. If the result has the form $(I_n \mid B)$, then A is invertible and $B = A^{-1}$.
3. Otherwise, A is not invertible.

Example

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 \end{pmatrix}$$

Computing A^{-1}

Example

$$\left(\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 4 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array}\right) \xrightarrow{R_3 = R_3 + 3R_2} \left(\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 4 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 3 & 1 \end{array}\right)$$

$$\xrightarrow[R_2 = R_2 - R_3]{R_1 = R_1 - 2R_3} \left(\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -6 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 3 & 1 \end{array}\right)$$

$$\xrightarrow{R_3 = R_3 \div 2} \left(\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -6 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 3/2 & 1/2 \end{array}\right)$$

So $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 \end{pmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -6 & -2 \\ 0 & -2 & -1 \\ 0 & 3/2 & 1/2 \end{pmatrix}$.

Check: $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -6 & -2 \\ 0 & -2 & -1 \\ 0 & 3/2 & 1/2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ ✔

Why Does This Work?

First answer: We can think of the algorithm as *simultaneously solving* the equations

$$Ax_1 = e_1 : \quad \left(\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 4 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array}\right)$$

$$Ax_2 = e_2 : \quad \left(\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 4 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array}\right)$$

$$Ax_3 = e_3 : \quad \left(\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 4 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array}\right)$$

- From theory: $x_i = A^{-1}Ax_i = A^{-1}e_i$. So *$x_i$ is the i-th column of A^{-1}*.
- *Row reduction*: the solution *x_i appears* in i-th column in the augmented part.

Second answer: Through *elementary matrices*, see extra material at the end.

The 2×2 case

Let $A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$. The **determinant** of A is the number

$$\det(A) = \det \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} = ad - bc.$$

Fact

A is **invertible only when** $\det(A) \neq 0$, and

$$A^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det(A)} \begin{pmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{pmatrix}.$$

We can **get the identity** only when $ad - bc \neq 0$. Verify:

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}\begin{pmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} ad-bc & 0 \\ 0 & ad-bc \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{pmatrix}\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$$

Example

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} = 1 \cdot 4 - 2 \cdot 3 = -2 \qquad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix}^{-1} = -\frac{1}{2}\begin{pmatrix} 4 & -2 \\ -3 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Useful Facts

Suppose A, B and C are invertible $n \times n$ matrices.

1. A^{-1} is invertible and its inverse is $(A^{-1})^{-1} = A$.
2. A^T is invertible and $(A^T)^{-1} = (A^{-1})^T$.

Important: AB is invertible and its inverse is $(AB)^{-1} =$ ~~$A^{-1}B^{-1}$~~ $B^{-1}A^{-1}$.

Why? $(B^{-1}A^{-1})AB = B^{-1}(A^{-1}A)B = B^{-1}I_nB = B^{-1}B = I_n$.
Similarly, $(ABC)^{-1} = C^{-1}B^{-1}A^{-1}$

$$(ABC)(C^{-1}B^{-1}A^{-1}) = AB(CC^{-1})B^{-1}A^{-1} = A(BB^{-1})A^{-1} = AA^{-1} = I_n.$$

In general

The product of invertible matrices is invertible.
The *inverse is the product* of the inverses, in the *reverse order*.

Why Does The Inversion Algorithm Work?

Theorem

An $n \times n$ matrix A is invertible if and only if it is row equivalent to I_n.

Why? Say the row operations taking A to I_n are the elementary matrices $E_1, E_2, \dots, E_k$. So

pay attention to the order! $\longrightarrow$ $E_k E_{k-1} \cdots E_2 E_1 A = I_n$

$$\implies E_k E_{k-1} \cdots E_2 E_1 A A^{-1} = A^{-1}$$

$$\implies E_k E_{k-1} \cdots E_2 E_1 I_n = A^{-1}.$$

This is what we do when row reducing the augmented matrix:
Do same row operations to A (first line above) and to I_n (last line above).
Therefore, you'll end up with I_n and A^{-1}.

$$\left(A \mid I_n \right) \rightsquigarrow \left(I_n \mid A^{-1} \right)$$