

22. Session: The Inverse of a Matrix

Recall: Matrix multiplication

A $m \times n$ -matrix, B $n \times p$ -matrix

$A \cdot B$ is the $m \times p$ -matrix with entries

$$[A \cdot B]_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^n [A]_{ik} \cdot [B]_{kj}.$$

Ex.: $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 0 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 6 \\ -1 & -3 \end{bmatrix}.$

Recall: Identity matrix I_n

$$I_1 = [1], \quad I_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad I_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \dots$$

Recall: • $A \cdot (B \vec{v}) = (A \cdot B) \vec{v}$, \vec{v} $p \times 1$ -vector.

• $I_m \cdot A = A \cdot I_n = A.$

!Def. An $n \times n$ -matrix A is called invertible if there exists an $n \times n$ -matrix B such that

$$A \cdot B = I_n \quad \text{and} \quad B \cdot A = I_n.$$

In this case, B is called the inverse of A and denoted $B = A^{-1}$.

Note: The inverse of an invertible matrix is unique: If both B and C are inverses of A , then

$$B = B I_n = B \cdot (A C) = (B A) C = I_n C = C.$$

Ex. $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} -5 & 2 \\ 3 & -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ and

$$\begin{bmatrix} -5 & 2 \\ 3 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Thus, $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$ is invertible and $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 5 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} -5 & 2 \\ 3 & -1 \end{bmatrix}.$

Note: If A is invertible, then

$$A^{-1} \cdot A \cdot \vec{v} = \vec{v} \quad \text{and} \quad A \cdot A^{-1} \cdot \vec{v} = \vec{v}.$$

This follows from $A^{-1}A = AA^{-1} = I_n$ and $I_n \vec{v} = \vec{v}$. Thus,

$$\vec{v} \xrightarrow{A} A\vec{v} \xrightarrow{A^{-1}} \vec{v} \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{v} \xrightarrow{A^{-1}} A^{-1}\vec{v} \xrightarrow{A} \vec{v}.$$

Note: If A is invertible, then

$$A\vec{x} = \vec{b} \Leftrightarrow \vec{x} = A^{-1}\vec{b}$$

Proof: \Rightarrow) $A^{-1} \cdot$, \Leftarrow) $A \cdot$ q.e.d.

Ex.: $\begin{cases} x_1 + 2x_2 = 1 \\ 3x_1 + 5x_2 = -2 \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{Ex. above}} \Leftrightarrow$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -5 & 2 \\ 3 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix} \Leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -9 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Theorem: Let A and B be invertible matrices. Then,

(1) A^{-1} is invertible and $(A^{-1})^{-1} = A$.

(2) $A \cdot B$ is invertible and $(A \cdot B)^{-1} = B^{-1} \cdot A^{-1}$.

(3) A^T is invertible and $(A^T)^{-1} = (A^{-1})^T$.

Proof of (2):

$$AB B^{-1} A^{-1} = A I_n A^{-1} = A A^{-1} = I_n.$$

$$B^{-1} A^{-1} AB = B^{-1} I_n B = B^{-1} B = I_n. \quad \text{q.e.d.}$$

An Algorithm for Matrix Inversion

Theorem: Let A and B be $n \times n$ -matrices. If

$A \cdot B = I_n$, then A and B are both invertible

and $A^{-1} = B$, $B^{-1} = A$.

(no proof)

Problem: Let A be an $n \times n$ -matrix. Determine whether A is invertible. If so, find its inverse A^{-1} .

Idea: Solve the equation $A \cdot X = I_n$.

$X = [\vec{x}_1 \ \vec{x}_2 \ \dots \ \vec{x}_n]$ unknown $n \times n$ -matrix, and
 $I_n = [\vec{e}_1 \ \vec{e}_2 \ \dots \ \vec{e}_n]$. We have

$$AX = I_n \Leftrightarrow [A\vec{x}_1 \ A\vec{x}_2 \ \dots \ A\vec{x}_n] = [\vec{e}_1 \ \vec{e}_2 \ \dots \ \vec{e}_n] \Leftrightarrow \\ A\vec{x}_1 = \vec{e}_1, \ A\vec{x}_2 = \vec{e}_2, \ \dots, \ A\vec{x}_n = \vec{e}_n.$$

We must solve n systems of linear equations:

$$[A | \vec{e}_1], [A | \vec{e}_2], \dots, [A | \vec{e}_n].$$

We use Gaussian elimination on the $n \times 2n$ -matrix
 $[A | I_n]$.

! Algorithm for Matrix Inversion

Let A be an $n \times n$ -matrix. Form the $n \times 2n$ -matrix $[A | I_n]$. If $[A | I_n]$ can be row-reduced into a matrix of the form

$$[I_n | C], \text{ where } [I_n | C],$$

for some $n \times n$ -matrix C , then A is invertible and $A^{-1} = C$. Otherwise, A is not invertible.

Ex. $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ -2 & -6 \end{bmatrix}$. $2r_1 + r_2 \rightarrow r_2$

$$[A | I_2] = \left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} 1 & 3 & 1 & 0 \\ -2 & -6 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} 1 & 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 1 \end{array} \right]$$

Thus, A is not invertible.

Ex. $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$.

$$[A | I_2] = \left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} 1 & 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 7 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{-2r_1 + r_2 \rightarrow r_2} \left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} 1 & 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{-3r_2 + r_1 \rightarrow r_1} \\ \left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} 1 & 0 & 7 & -3 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 \end{array} \right]$$

Thus, A is invertible, and $A^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & -3 \\ -2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$.

Ex.

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

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 5 & 6 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 4 & 8 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{\substack{-2r_1+r_2 \rightarrow r_2 \\ -3r_1+r_3 \rightarrow r_3}} \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & -1 & -3 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{2r_2+r_3 \rightarrow r_3}$$

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & -7 & 2 & 1 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{-r_3 \rightarrow r_3} \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 7 & -2 & -1 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{-3r_3+r_1 \rightarrow r_1}$$

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 2 & 0 & -20 & 6 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 7 & -2 & -1 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{-2r_2+r_1 \rightarrow r_1} \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & -16 & 4 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 7 & -2 & -1 \end{array} \right].$$

Thus, A is invertible, and

$$A^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} -16 & 4 & 3 \\ -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 7 & -2 & -1 \end{bmatrix}.$$