

## Section 2.2 The Inverse of a Matrix

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### Definitions:

1. An  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$  is said to be invertible if there is an  $n \times n$  matrix  $C$  such that

$$CA = I \quad \text{and} \quad AC = I$$

$$CA = A \cdot C = I$$

identity matrix

where  $I = I_n$  is the  $n \times n$  identity matrix.  $C$  is an inverse of  $A$ , and  $C$  is uniquely determined by  $A$ . The unique inverse is denoted by  $A^{-1}$ .

2. A matrix that is not invertible is sometimes called a singular matrix, and an invertible matrix is called a nonsingular matrix.

**Theorem:** Let  $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$ . If  $ad - bc \neq 0$ , then  $A$  is invertible and

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

If  $ad - bc = 0$ , then  $A$  is not invertible.

The quantity  $ad - bc$  is called the determinant of  $A$ ,

$$\det(A) = ad - bc$$

**Example 1:** Find the inverse of  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$ .

$$\det(A) = 1 \cdot 5 - 2 \cdot 3 = -1$$

$$A^{-1} = \frac{1}{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 5 & -2 \\ -3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -5 & 2 \\ 3 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

**Theorem:** If  $A$  is an invertible  $n \times n$  matrix, then for each  $\mathbf{b}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , the equation  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  has the unique solution  $\mathbf{x} = A^{-1}\mathbf{b}$ .

**Example 2:** Use the inverse of the matrix  $A$  to solve the system

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 + 2x_2 &= 1 \\ 3x_1 + 5x_2 &= 3 \end{aligned}$$

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \begin{matrix} \nearrow \# \text{ eqns} \\ \rightarrow \# \text{ of unknowns} \end{matrix}$$

$$x = A^{-1} \cdot b = \begin{pmatrix} -5 & 2 \\ 3 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{2 \cdot 2} \quad \underbrace{\hspace{2em}}_{2 \cdot 1}$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} (-5, 2) \text{ dot } (1, 3) \\ -5 \cdot 1 + 2 \cdot 3 = 1 \\ (3, -1) \text{ dot } (1, 3) \\ 3 \cdot 1 - 1 \cdot 3 = 0 \end{pmatrix}_{2 \cdot 1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

**Theorem:**

1. If  $A$  is an invertible matrix, then  $A^{-1}$  is invertible and

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

2. If  $A$  and  $B$  are  $n \times n$  matrices, then so is  $AB$ , and the inverse of  $AB$  is the product of the inverses of  $A$  and  $B$  in the reverse order. That is,

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

3. If  $A$  is an invertible matrix, then so is  $A^T$ , and the inverse of  $A^T$  is the transpose of  $A^{-1}$ . That is,

$$(A^T)^{-1} = (A^{-1})^T$$

**Elementary Matrices:** An elementary matrix is one that is obtained by performing a single elementary row operation on an identity matrix.

**Example 3:** Let  $E_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -4 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $E_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $E_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{bmatrix}$ .

Compute  $E_1A$ ,  $E_2A$  and  $E_3A$ , and describe how these products can be obtained by elementary row operations on  $A$ .

$E_1$ : go from the  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}_{3 \times 3} = I_3$

$R_3 = R_3 - 4R_1$  (replacement).

$E_2$ : interchange  $R_1$  &  $R_2$  of  $I_3$

$E_3$ :  $R_3 = 5 \cdot R_3 \rightarrow$  (comes from  $I_3$ )

**Remark:** If an elementary row operation is performed on an  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$ , the resulting matrix can be written as  $EA$ , where the  $m \times m$  matrix  $E$  is created by performing the same row operation on  $I_m$ .

$$\bar{E}_1 A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -4 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ -4a+g & -4b+h & -4c+i \end{pmatrix}$$

**Theorem:** An  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$  is invertible if and only if  $A$  is row equivalent to  $I_n$ , and in this case, any sequence of elementary row operations that reduces  $A$  to  $I_n$  also transforms  $I_n$  into  $A^{-1}$ .

Algorithm for finding  $A^{-1}$ :

Row reduce the augmented matrix  $[A \ I]$ . If  $A$  is row equivalent to  $I$ , then  $[A \ I]$  is row equivalent to  $[I \ A^{-1}]$ . Otherwise,  $A$  does not have an inverse

$E_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, E_1 \cdot I$

**Example 4:** Find the inverse of the matrix  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$  if it exists.

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cc|cc} 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 4 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{\substack{R_2 = R_2 - 3R_1 \\ 3 \rightarrow 0}} \left[ \begin{array}{cc|cc} 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 4-6 & 0-3 & 1-3 \cdot 0 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\xrightarrow{\substack{R_1 = R_1 + R_2 \\ 3 \rightarrow 0}} \left[ \begin{array}{cc|cc} 1 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & -2 & -3 & 1 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\xrightarrow{\substack{R_2 = (-\frac{1}{2})R_2 \\ -2 \rightarrow 1}} \left[ \begin{array}{cc|cc} 1 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 3/2 & -1/2 \end{array} \right]$$

$A^{-1}$

## Section 2.3 Characterizations of Invertible Matrices

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### Theorem:

#### The Invertible Matrix Theorem

Let  $A$  be a square  $n \times n$  matrix. Then the following statements are equivalent. That is, for a given  $A$ , the statements are either all true or all false.

- a.  $A$  is an invertible matrix.
- b.  $A$  is row equivalent to the  $n \times n$  identity matrix.
- c.  $A$  has  $n$  pivot positions.
- d. The equation  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$  has only the trivial solution.
- e. The columns of  $A$  form a linearly independent set.
- f. The linear transformation  $\mathbf{x} \mapsto A\mathbf{x}$  is one-to-one.
- g. The equation  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  has at least one solution for each  $\mathbf{b}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .
- h. The columns of  $A$  span  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .
- i. The linear transformation  $\mathbf{x} \mapsto A\mathbf{x}$  maps  $\mathbb{R}^n$  onto  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .
- j. There is an  $n \times n$  matrix  $C$  such that  $CA = I$ .
- k. There is an  $n \times n$  matrix  $D$  such that  $AD = I$ .
- l.  $A^T$  is an invertible matrix.