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#### THE INVERSE OF A MATRIX





David C. Lay



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 An *n*×*n* matrix *A* is said to be invertible if there is an *n*×*n* matrix *C* such that

$$CA = I$$
 and  $AC = I$ 

where  $I = I_n$ , the  $n \times n$  identity matrix.

- In this case, *C* is an inverse of *A*.
- In fact, C is uniquely determined by A, because if B were another inverse of A, then

B = BI = B(AC) = (BA)C = IC = C.

• This unique inverse is denoted by  $A^{-1}$ , so that  $A^{-1}A = I$  and  $AA^{-1} = I$ .

- Theorem 5: If *A* is an invertible  $n \times n$  matrix, then for each **b** in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , the equation  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  has the unique solution  $\mathbf{x} = A^{-1}\mathbf{b}$ .
- **Proof:** Take any **b** in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .
- A solution exists because if  $A^{-1}b$  is substituted for **x**, then  $A\mathbf{x} = A(A^{-1}b) = (AA^{-1})b = Ib = b$ .
- So  $A^{-1}b$  is a solution.
- To prove that the solution is unique, show that if **u** is any solution, then **u** must be  $A^{-1}b$ .
- If Au = b, we can multiply both sides by  $A^{-1}$  and obtain  $A^{-1}Au = A^{-1}b$ ,  $Iu = A^{-1}b$ , and  $u = A^{-1}b$ .

#### • Theorem 6:

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

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

- b. If *A* and *B* are  $n \times n$  invertible 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,  $(AB)^{-1} = B^{-1}A^{-1}$
- c. 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,  $(A^T)^{-1} = (A^{-1})^T$

• **Proof:** To verify statement (a), find a matrix *C* such that

 $A^{-1}C = I$  and  $CA^{-1} = I$ 

- These equations are satisfied with A in place of C. Hence  $A^{-1}$  is invertible, and A is its inverse.
- Next, to prove statement (b), compute:  $(AB)(B^{-1}A^{-1}) = A(BB^{-1})A^{-1} = AIA^{-1} = AA^{-1} = I$
- A similar calculation shows that  $(B^{-1}A^{-1})(AB) = I$ .
- For statement (c), use Theorem 3(d), read from right to left,  $(A^{-1})^T A^T = (AA^{-1})^T = I^T = I$ .
- Similarly,  $A^{T}(A^{-1})^{T} = I^{T} = I$ .

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- Hence  $A^T$  is invertible, and its inverse is  $(A^{-1})T$ .
- The generalization of Theorem 6(b) is as follows:
  The product of *n* × *n* invertible matrices is invertible, and the inverse is the product of their inverses in the reverse order.
- An invertible matrix A is row equivalent to an identity matrix, and we can find A<sup>-1</sup> by watching the row reduction of A to I.
- An elementary matrix is one that is obtained by performing a single elementary row operation on an identity matrix.

• Example 1: 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.

• Solution: Verify that  $E_1 A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g - 4a & h - 4b & i - 4c \end{bmatrix}, E_2 A = \begin{bmatrix} d & e & f \\ a & b & c \\ g & h & i \end{bmatrix},$ • Solution: Verify that  $E_{3}A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ 5g & 5h & 5i \end{bmatrix}.$ 

• Addition of -4 times row 1 of A to row 3 produces  $E_1A$ .

- An interchange of rows 1 and 2 of A produces  $E_2A$ , and multiplication of row 3 of A by 5 produces  $E_3A$ .
- Left-multiplication by  $E_1$  in Example 1 has the same effect on any  $3 \times n$  matrix.
- Since  $E_1 \cdot I = E_1$ , we see that  $E_1$  itself is produced by this same row operation on the identity.

- Example 1 illustrates the following general fact about elementary matrices.
- If an elementary row operation is performed on an *m*×*n* matrix *A*, the resulting matrix can be written as *EA*, where the *m*×*m* matrix *E* is created by performing the same row operation on *I<sub>m</sub>*.
- Each elementary matrix *E* is invertible. The inverse of *E* is the elementary matrix of the same type that transforms *E* back into *I*.

- Theorem 7: 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  $A^{-1}$ .
- **Proof:** Suppose that *A* is invertible.
- Then, since the equation Ax = b has a solution for each b (Theorem 5), A has a pivot position in every row.
- Because A is square, the n pivot positions must be on the diagonal, which implies that the reduced echelon form of A is  $I_n$ . That is,  $A \sim I_n$ .

- Now suppose, conversely, that  $A \sim I_n$ .
- Then, since each step of the row reduction of A corresponds to left-multiplication by an elementary matrix, there exist elementary matrices  $E_1, \ldots, E_p$  such that

$$A \sim E_{1}A \sim E_{2}(E_{1}A) \sim \dots \sim E_{p}(E_{p-1}\dots E_{1}A) = I_{n}.$$
  
That is, 
$$E_{p}\dots E_{1}A = I_{n} \qquad ----(1)$$

• Since the product  $E_p \dots E_1$  of invertible matrices is invertible, (1) leads to

$$(E_{p}...E_{1})^{-1}(E_{p}...E_{1})A = (E_{p}...E_{1})^{-1}I_{n}$$

$$A = (E_p \dots E_1)^{-1} \cdot$$

- Thus *A* is invertible, as it is the inverse of an invertible matrix (Theorem 6). Also,  $A^{-1} = \left[ (E_p ... E_1)^{-1} \right]^{-1} = E_p ... E_1.$
- Then  $A^{-1} = E_p \dots E_1 \cdot I_n$ , which says that  $A^{-1}$  results from applying  $E_1, \dots, E_p$  successively to  $I_n$ .
- This is the same sequence in (1) that reduced A to  $I_n$ .
- Row reduce the augmented matrix  $\begin{bmatrix} A & I \end{bmatrix}$ . If A is row equivalent to I, then  $\begin{bmatrix} A & I \end{bmatrix}$  is row equivalent to  $\begin{bmatrix} I & A^{-1} \end{bmatrix}$ . Otherwise, A does not have an inverse.

• Example 2: Find the inverse of the matrix  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 4 & -3 & 8 \end{bmatrix}$ , if it exists.

#### Solution:

$$\begin{bmatrix} A & I \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 4 & -3 & 8 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 4 & -3 & 8 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

 Theorem 7 shows, since A ~ I, that A is invertible, and

$$A^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} -9/2 & 7 & -3/2 \\ -2 & 4 & -1 \\ 3/2 & -2 & 1/2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

• Now, check the final answer.  $AA^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 4 & -3 & 8 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -9/2 & 7 & -3/2 \\ -2 & 4 & -1 \\ 3/2 & -2 & 1/2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ 

#### ANOTHER VIEW OF MATRIX INVERSION

- It is not necessary to check that  $A^{-1}A = I$  since A is invertible.
- Denote the columns of  $I_n$  by  $\mathbf{e}_1, \dots, \mathbf{e}_n$ .
- Then row reduction of  $\begin{bmatrix} A & I \end{bmatrix}$  to  $\begin{bmatrix} I & A^{-1} \end{bmatrix}$  can be viewed as the simultaneous solution of the *n* systems

$$A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{e}_1, A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{e}_2, \dots, A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{e}_n$$
 ----(2)  
where the "augmented columns" of these systems  
have all been placed next to  $A$  to form  
 $A = \mathbf{e}_1 = \mathbf{e}_2 \cdots = \mathbf{e}_n = \begin{bmatrix} A & I \end{bmatrix}$ .

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## ANOTHER VIEW OF MATRIX INVERSION

• The equation  $AA^{-1} = I$  and the definition of matrix multiplication show that the columns of  $A^{-1}$  are precisely the solutions of the systems in (2).



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#### CHARACTERIZATIONS OF INVERTIBLE MATRICES





David C. Lay



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- Theorem 8: Let A be a square n×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 Ax = 0 has only the trivial solution.
  - e. The columns of *A* form a linearly independent

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- f. The equation Ax = b has at least one solution for each b in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .
- g. The columns of A span  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .
- h.  $A^T$  is an invertible matrix.

- Theorem 8 could also be written as "The equation  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  has a unique solution for each  $\mathbf{b}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ."
- This statement implies (b) and hence implies that *A* is invertible.
- The following fact follows from Theorem 8. Let *A* and *B* be square matrices. If AB = I, then *A* and *B* are both invertible, with  $B = A^{-1}$  and  $A = B^{-1}$ .
- The Invertible Matrix Theorem divides the set of all *n×n* matrices into two disjoint classes: the invertible (nonsingular) matrices, and the noninvertible (singular) matrices.

- Each statement in the theorem describes a property of every  $n \times n$  invertible matrix.
- The *negation* of a statement in the theorem describes a property of every  $n \times n$  singular matrix.
- For instance, an  $n \times n$  singular matrix is *not* row equivalent to  $I_n$ , does *not* have *n* pivot position, and has linearly *dependent* columns.

• Example 1: Use the Invertible Matrix Theorem to decide if *A* is invertible:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -2 \\ 3 & 1 & -2 \\ -5 & -1 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$$

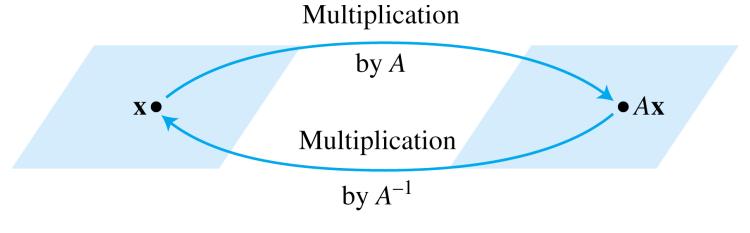
Solution:

$$A \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & -1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

- So *A* has three pivot positions and hence is invertible, by the Invertible Matrix Theorem, statement (c).
- The Invertible Matrix Theorem *applies only to square matrices*.
- For example, if the columns of a  $4 \times 3$  matrix are linearly independent, we cannot use the Invertible Matrix Theorem to conclude anything about the existence or nonexistence of solutions of equation of the form Ax = b.

# INVERTIBLE LINEAR TRANSFORMATIONS

- Matrix multiplication corresponds to composition of linear transformations.
- When a matrix A is invertible, the equation  $A^{-1}Ax = x$ can be viewed as a statement about linear transformations. See the following figure.



#### $A^{-1}$ transforms $A\mathbf{x}$ back to $\mathbf{x}$ .