
Linear Systems

Math 214 Spring 2007
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Fowler 110 MWF 2:30pm - 3:25pm
<http://faculty.oxy.edu/ron/math/214/07/>

Class 12: Wednesday February 21

SUMMARY The Inverse Matrix

CURRENT READING Poole 3.3

Summary

We will introduce a very important concept, the Inverse Matrix.

Homework Assignment

HW # 12: Section 3.3 # 2,5, 9,10,19,20,21, 22,23 EXTRA CREDIT # 13

1. Inverse Matrix

Consider the matrix $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$ and $M = \frac{1}{ad - bc} \begin{bmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{bmatrix}$

Write down the product of M and A . That is, MA and AM .

We call M , the matrix which when multiplied by A produces the identity matrix, the **inverse matrix**. It is denoted A^{-1} .

It has the property that $A^{-1}A = AA^{-1} = I$

The factor $ad - bc$ is known as the **determinant** of the matrix A . We will learn more about how to compute determinants and their significance later. However, it is true that if the determinant of a matrix equals zero, then that matrix is NOT invertible, i.e. $\det A = 0 \Rightarrow A^{-1}$ doesn't exist. It is also true that if A^{-1} *does not exist* $\Rightarrow \det(A) = 0$.

Theorem 3.6

If A is an invertible matrix, then its inverse A^{-1} is **unique**.

Theorem 3.7

If A is an invertible $n \times n$ matrix, then the system of linear equations given by $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$ has the unique solution $\vec{x} = A^{-1}\vec{b}$ for **any** \vec{b} in \mathbb{R}^n .

2. Computing Inverses: Gauss-Jordan Elimination

In order to actually generate or find an inverse matrix we use a process called Gauss-Jordan elimination. This is identical to the Gaussian elimination process we already know, except extended.

Consider the system

$$\begin{aligned}1x + 2y - 1z &= 1 \\2x + 2y + 4z &= 3 \\1x + 3y - 3z &= 0\end{aligned}$$

Write down the augmented matrix with the identity matrix as the right hand side.

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

We will do Gaussian Elimination on this system until we have produced the identity matrix on the left 3x3 matrix.

3. Properties of Inverses

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

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

(3) $(ABC)^{-1} = C^{-1}B^{-1}A^{-1}$

(4) $(A^{-1})^n = (A^n)^{-1}$ for positive integers n

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

(6) $\frac{1}{c}A^{-1} = (cA)^{-1}$ for positive scalars $c \neq 0$

Exercise

Consider $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 5 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$ and $B = \begin{bmatrix} -5 & -7 \\ 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$. Show that $A^{-1}B^{-1} = (BA)^{-1}$.

4. Determining Singularity

If the determinant of a coefficient matrix is zero, then the system is singular (no solution or infinite number of solutions) and thus the linear system can not be solved.

$$\det(A) = 0 \iff A^{-1} \text{ doesn't exist}$$

So it is NOT always possible to find A^{-1} . A^{-1} exists ONLY IF a $n \times n$ matrix A has $\text{rank}(n)$.

5. Using Gauss-Jordan To Solve Linear Systems

Gauss-Jordan takes the augmented matrix $[A|I]$ and converts it into $[I|A^{-1}]$.

Q: What has happened to each block matrix in the augmented matrix?

A: Each block matrix been multiplied by A^{-1} .

Therefore Gauss-Jordan can also take the matrix $[A|I|\vec{b}]$ and convert into $[I|A^{-1}|A^{-1}\vec{b}]$

Why is this useful?

Gauss-Jordan works by solving n linear systems at once.

For a 3x3 system it is solving $A\vec{x}_1 = \vec{e}_1$, $A\vec{x}_2 = \vec{e}_2$ and $A\vec{x}_3 = \vec{e}_3$

where $\vec{e}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$, $\vec{e}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\vec{e}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$.

The vectors \vec{x}_1 , \vec{x}_2 and \vec{x}_3 which solve the 3 equations above are simply the columns of the inverse matrix.

Example

Consider the system (with $d \neq 0$)

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & (d+1) & 3 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & 2 & d & 0 & 0 & 1 & -4 \end{array} \right]$$
 Let's use Gauss-Jordan to find the solution