

MATH 2121 - Lecture # 8

Outline:

- ① Review : matrix operations
- ② Discuss invertible functions = [one to one + onto]
- ③ Invertible matrices

T has standard matrix A which is $s \times r$

U has standard matrix B which is $m \times n$

1 Last time: adding and multiplying matrices

Suppose $T : \mathbb{R}^r \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^s$ and $U : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ are linear.

Let A and B be the standard matrices with $T(x) = Ax$ and $U(x) = Bx$.

1. $cT : \mathbb{R}^r \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^s$ for $c \in \mathbb{R}$ is the linear transformation with $(cT)(x) = cT(x)$.

Standard matrix of cT is matrix cA formed by multiplying all entries by c .

Definition. cA is the matrix $\begin{bmatrix} ca_1 & ca_2 & \dots & ca_r \end{bmatrix}$ where $A = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & \dots & a_r \end{bmatrix}$.

2. If $r = n$ and $s = m$ so A and B have the same size, then can form $T + U : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ as the linear transformation with $(T + U)(x) = T(x) + U(x)$.

The standard matrix of $T + U$ is $A + B$ where:

Definition. $A + B$ is formed by summing corresponding entries of A and B .

$$\underline{\text{Ex}} \quad 5 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 10 \\ 10 & 15 \end{bmatrix} \quad \underline{\text{Ex}} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 5 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

we
can
rescale
 T or A

can
add
 $T+U$
or
 $A+B$

→ in the case when $(\text{codomain } U) = (\text{domain } T)$
 $\# \text{ rows of } B = \# \text{ columns of } A$

We can
compose
 $T \circ U$
or
multiply
 AB

3. If the domain of T is the codomain of U , meaning that $r = m$, then the composition $T \circ U : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^s$ is the function $(T \circ U)(x) = T(U(x))$.

The standard matrix of $T \circ U$ is the product AB where:

Definition. The product AB is the matrix $AB = [Ab_1 \ Ab_2 \ \dots \ Ab_n]$ where $B = [b_1 \ b_2 \ \dots \ b_n]$.

linear as
 T and U are
linear

Some remarks.

$A + B$ is only defined if A and B are matrices of the same size.

We have $A + B = B + A$ when either side is defined.

AB only defined if number of columns of A equals number of rows of B .

AB has same number of rows as A , and same number of columns as B .

Even if AB and BA are both defined, we may still have $AB \neq BA$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 10 \end{bmatrix}$$

Ex $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \\ 5 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \left[\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \\ 5 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \\ 5 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right] = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 1 \\ 10 & 3 \\ 16 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$

Ex

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \begin{array}{cc} \text{A} & \text{B} \end{array} \\
 \left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} 1 & 2 & 3 & 5 \\ 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 \\ \hline 0 & 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 3 & 3 & 4 & 4 \end{array} \right]
 \end{array}
 \begin{array}{c}
 \begin{array}{cc} \text{C} & \text{D} \end{array} \\
 \left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ \hline 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]
 \end{array}
 =
 \begin{array}{c}
 \begin{array}{cc} \text{=B} & \text{=A} \end{array} \\
 \left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} \text{AO+BI} & \text{AI+BO} \\ \hline \text{=D} & \text{=C} \\ \text{CO+DI} & \text{CI+DO} \end{array} \right]
 \end{array}$$

$$O_{2 \times 2} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = O$$

$$I_2 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = I$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} O_{2 \times 2} & I_2 \\ I_2 & O_{2 \times 2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 5 & 1 & 2 \\ 8 & 9 & 6 & 7 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 4 & 4 & 3 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Fact If M is a 2×2 matrix then

$$M I_2 = M \quad \text{and} \quad M O_{2 \times 2} = O_{2 \times 2}$$

Remarks about block matrices:

Suppose A, B, C, D and W, X, Y, Z are matrices

Such that can form $\begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{bmatrix}$ and $\begin{bmatrix} W & X \\ Y & Z \end{bmatrix}$

This means $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \# \text{rows of } A = \# \text{rows of } B \\ \# \text{cols of } A = \# \text{cols of } C \\ \# \text{cols of } B = \# \text{cols of } D \\ \# \text{rows of } C = \# \text{rows of } D \end{array} \right.$

and likewise for
 W, X, Y, Z

If $\# \text{cols}(A) = \# \text{rows}(W)$
 $\# \text{cols}(B) = \# \text{rows}(Y)$ then $\begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} W & X \\ Y & Z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} AW + BY & AX + BZ \\ CW + DY & CX + DZ \end{bmatrix}$

row operations on a matrix A } \longleftrightarrow { multiplying A on the left by an elementary matrix E to form EA

Example. Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c & d \\ e & f & g & h \\ i & j & k & l \end{bmatrix}$ be a 3×4 matrix.

Consider what happens when we multiply A on the left by various 3×3 matrices.

swap : 1. $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c & d \\ i & j & k & l \\ e & f & g & h \end{bmatrix}$: swaps rows 2 and 3 of A .

rescale : 2. $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c & d \\ 3e & 3f & 3g & 3h \\ i & j & k & l \end{bmatrix}$: rescales row 2 by factor 3.

row replacement : 3. $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} A = \begin{bmatrix} a+2i & b+2j & c+2k & d+2l \\ e & f & g & h \\ i & j & k & l \end{bmatrix}$: adds $2 \times \text{row3}$ to row1.

elementary matrix = a matrix obtained by doing one row op to $I = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

Each of the matrices E that are left-multiplied with A are examples of *elementary matrices*: matrices formed by doing exactly one row operation to the *identity matrix*

$$I = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & 1 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow[\text{op}]{\text{one row op}} E$$

that has all 1's on the diagonal and all 0's in off-diagonal positions.

If E is elementary, then EA is obtained from A by doing one row operation.

Important deduction: **row operations on a matrix correspond to multiplying on the left by elementary matrices.**

3 types of elementary matrices:

① permutations

$$\begin{bmatrix} \vdots & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \vdots \end{bmatrix}$$

② diagonal

$$\begin{bmatrix} \vdots & & \\ & x & \\ & & \vdots \end{bmatrix}$$

$x \neq 0$

③ unipotent

$$\begin{bmatrix} \vdots & & \\ & 1 & \\ & x & \vdots \end{bmatrix}$$

$x \in \mathbb{R}$

A^T "A transpose"

2 Matrix transpose

The *transpose* of $m \times n$ matrix A is $n \times m$ matrix A^T formed by flipping A across the main diagonal, in order to interchange rows and columns.

If $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \end{bmatrix}$ and $A^T = \begin{bmatrix} a & d \\ b & e \\ c & f \end{bmatrix}$.

If $C = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ -3 & 5 & -2 & 7 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ then $C^T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 & 0 \\ 1 & 5 & 0 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 1 & 7 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$.

→ $(A^T)^T = A$ since flipping twice does nothing.

→ When defined, we have $(A + B)^T = A^T + B^T$ and $(cA)^T = c(A^T)$ for all $c \in \mathbb{R}$

→ When defined, we have $(AB)^T = B^T A^T$.

order of multiplication is reversed

3 Inverses

Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be a function with domain X and codomain Y .

Definition. The function f is invertible or bijjective if f is both onto and one-to-one.

Here is a more direct definition of an invertible function:

Proposition. The function f is invertible if and only if for each $b \in Y$ there is exactly one $a \in X$ with $f(a) = b$.

Proof. f is onto iff for each $b \in Y$ there is at least one $a \in X$ with $f(a) = b$.

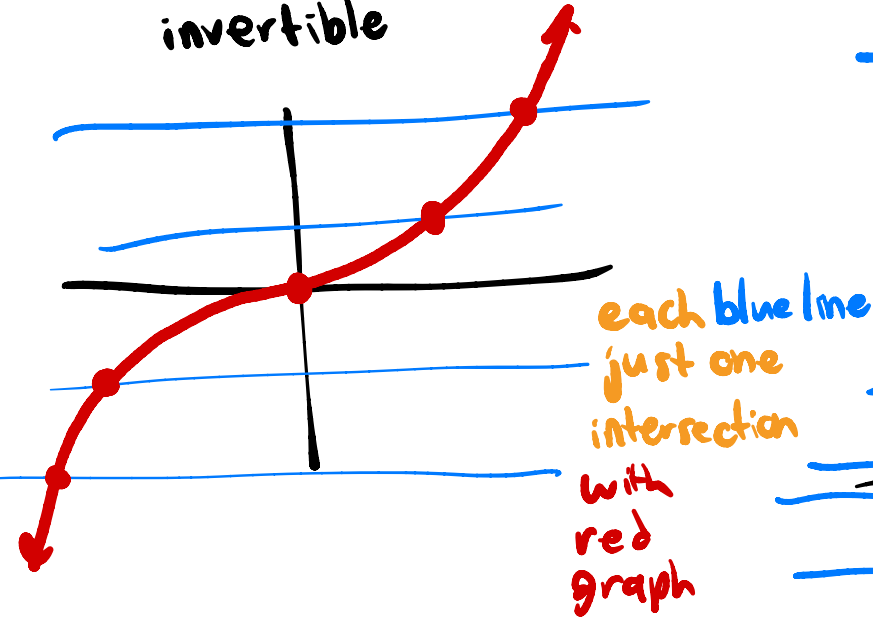
f is one-to-one iff for each $b \in Y$ there is at most one $a \in X$ with $f(a) = b$.

Therefore f is both onto and one-to-one if and only if the given condition holds. \square

→ each elem of Y is the output of one and only one input in X (under f)

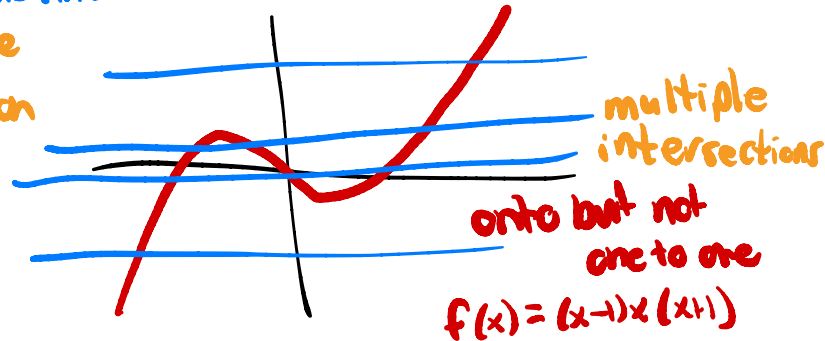
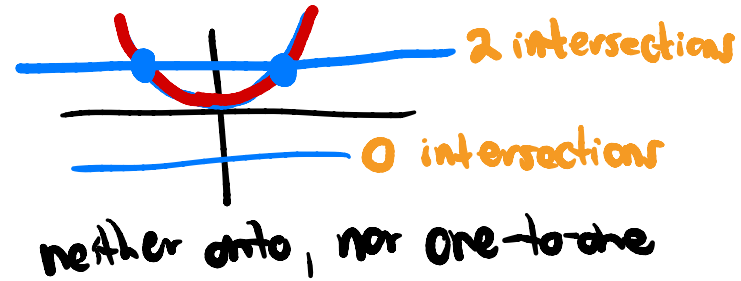
Calculus examples: $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is invertible iff
each horizontal line intersects graph exactly once

$f(x) = x^3$
invertible



NOT invertible

$f(x) = x^2$



$f \circ \text{id}_X = f$ as $f \circ \text{id}_X(a) = f(\text{id}_X(a)) = f(a)$
 $\text{id}_Y \circ f = f$ by similar reasoning

The *identity function* $\text{id}_X : X \rightarrow X$ on a set X has formula $\text{id}_X(a) = a$ for all $a \in X$.

If $f : X \rightarrow Y$ and $g : Y \rightarrow X$ are any functions then $f \circ \text{id}_X = f$ and $\text{id}_X \circ g = g$.

Example. The identity function on \mathbb{R}^n is the linear transformation $\text{id}_{\mathbb{R}^n} : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ whose standard matrix is the $n \times n$ *identity matrix*.

$[e_1 \ e_2 \ \dots \ e_n] = I_n = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

standard matrix

If AI_n is defined then $AI_n = A$. If $I_n A$ is defined then $I_n A = A$.

often write I instead of I_n

Then always true that $AI = IA = A$

→ A function is invertible if and only if it has an inverse in the following sense.

Proposition. The function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is invertible if and only if there is a function

$$f^{-1} : Y \rightarrow X \quad \text{"f inverse"}$$

such that $f \circ f^{-1} = \text{id}_Y$ and $f^{-1} \circ f = \text{id}_X$.

If there exists such a function f^{-1} , then it is unique, and we call it the inverse of f .

Ex $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
 $f(x) = x^3$

has inverse

$$f^{-1}(x) = x^{1/3} = \sqrt[3]{x}$$

Ex what about $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
not invertible \longrightarrow $g(x) = x^2$

why isn't the inverse of g
given by $g^{-1}(x) = \sqrt{x}$?

the domain of \sqrt{x} is not \mathbb{R}

How to detect invertibility of linear functions and compute the inverse?

Example. Suppose $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ is the linear function $T(v) = Av$ for $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$.

We have $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \text{RREF}(A) = \mathbf{I}$

This means A has a pivot position in every row and every column.

This implies that T is onto and one-to-one, i.e., bijective.

What is the inverse T^{-1} of T ?

(invertible)

We know that $T^{-1}: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ exists.

Computing any single value $T^{-1}(y)$ amounts to solving $Ax=y$

Note that $T^{-1}\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}\right)$ is the unique vector $x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$ such that $Ax = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$.

We can solve for x by row reducing the augmented matrix of this matrix equation:

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

which means that the equation's unique solution is $x = T^{-1}\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}\right) = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 3/2 \end{bmatrix}$

why?

$$AT^{-1}(y) = T(T^{-1}(y)) = (T \circ T^{-1})(y) = \text{id}_{\mathbb{R}^2}(y) = y$$

~

treat

this as

variable x

then solve $Ax=y$

Similarly, $T^{-1} \left(\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right)$ is the unique vector $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$ such that $\mathbf{Ax} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$.

We again solve by row reduction to reduced echelon form:

$$[\mathbf{A} | \mathbf{y}] = \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 4 & 1 & 1 \end{array} \right] \sim \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & 1 & 1 \end{array} \right] \sim \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & 1 & 1 \end{array} \right] \sim \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1/2 & -1/2 \end{array} \right] = \text{REF}$$

which means that $y = T^{-1} \left(\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1/2 \end{bmatrix}$

Note: we have computed $\vec{T}(e_1)$ and $\vec{T}(e_2)$
 so if T^{-1} were linear then its standard matrix
 would be precisely $[\vec{T}(e_1) \ \vec{T}(e_2)] = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ 3/2 & -1/2 \end{bmatrix}$

If we knew that T^{-1} were linear, then we could conclude that

$$T^{-1}(v) = Bv \quad \text{for} \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ 3/2 & -1/2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

→ This turns out to be the right formula for T^{-1} . To see why, just check that

$$AB = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ 3/2 & -1/2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

and

$$BA = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ 3/2 & -1/2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

so $T \circ T^{-1} = T^{-1} \circ T = \text{id}_{\mathbb{R}^2}.$

→ $T \circ T^{-1}(x) = T(T^{-1}(x)) = A(Bx) = (AB)x = Ix = x$

Similarly $T^{-1} \circ T(x) = B(Ax) = (BA)x = Ix = x$

It turns out that the inverse of an invertible linear transformation is always linear. Moreover, a linear transformation is invertible only if its standard matrix is square:

Let $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ be a function.

Proposition. If T is linear and invertible, then $n = m$ and T^{-1} is linear.

Proof. From results last time, we know that T is onto only if $n \geq m$.

Likewise, T is one-to-one only if $n \leq m$.

If T is both onto and one-to-one, then necessarily $n = m$.

To check that T^{-1} is linear, use its definition to verify the two needed properties. \square

If T is linear then so is T^{-1} (when defined)
what is standard of T^{-1} in terms of T ?

Definition. Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix and define $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ by $T(x) = Ax$.

The matrix A is invertible if the function T is invertible.

The inverse of A is the unique matrix A^{-1} such that $T^{-1}(x) = A^{-1}x$.

More concretely:

$A^{-1} = (\text{standard matrix of } T^{-1})$

Proposition. Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix. The following mean the same thing:

- ① A is invertible.
- ② There is an $n \times n$ matrix A^{-1} such that $AA^{-1} = A^{-1}A = I_n$.
- ③ For each $b \in \mathbb{R}^n$ the equation $Ax = b$ has a unique solution.
- ④ $\text{RREF}(A) = I_n$.

A synonym for an invertible matrix is a *non-singular matrix*.

Reason for ④ : this only way to have pivots in
all rows and all columns

By def only square matrices can be invertible

Example (Warning).

Suppose $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ and $B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$. Then $AB = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = I_3$.

Neither A nor B is invertible, however.

There is no matrix A' such that $A'A = I_4$ and no matrix B' such that $BB' = I_3$.

A is the standard matrix of a linear transformation which is not one-to-one.

B is the standard matrix of a linear transformation which is not onto.

$\rightarrow BA = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & 0 \end{bmatrix} \neq I_4$

Ex the 1×1 matrix $A = [a]$ is invertible iff $a \neq 0$
and then $A^{-1} = [1/a]$

The following is a useful formula for small calculations.

Theorem. Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$ be an arbitrary 2×2 matrix.

(1) A is invertible if and only if $ad - bc \neq 0$.

(2) If $ad - bc \neq 0$ then $A^{-1} = \frac{1}{ad-bc} \begin{bmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{bmatrix}$.

Proof. When $ad - bc = 0$, can deduce that one row is a scalar multiple of the other, so $\text{RREF}(A)$ has at least one zero row and is not equal to I_2 , so A is not invertible.

When $ad - bc \neq 0$, can check directly that formula for A^{-1} has $AA^{-1} = A^{-1}A = I_2$. \square

Example. Earlier example showed that $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ 3/2 & -1/2 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{-2} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -2 \\ -3 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$.

$A^{-1} =$ ① swap diag entries
② negate offdiag entries
③ divide by $\det = ad - bc$

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

$$= \frac{1}{ad-bc} \begin{bmatrix} da-bc & db-bd \\ -ca+ac & -bc+ad \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{1}{ad-bc} \begin{bmatrix} ad-bc & 0 \\ 0 & ad-bc \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = (\text{also } AA^{-1})$$

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

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

$$\text{like } \frac{1}{1/a} = a \text{ if } 0 \neq a \in \mathbb{R}$$

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

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

2. If A and B are both invertible then AB is invertible with $(AB)^{-1} = B^{-1}A^{-1}$.

3. If A is invertible then A^T is invertible with $(A^T)^{-1} = (A^{-1})^T$.

A corollary of this theorem is that the product of a list of $n \times n$ invertible matrices is itself invertible, with inverse the product of the inverses in reverse order. In symbols:

$$(ABC \cdots Z)^{-1} = Z^{-1} \cdots C^{-1}B^{-1}A^{-1}.$$

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

$$= \cdots$$

$$= I$$

and

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

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

$$= B^{-1}IB = B^{-1}B = I$$

How to compute A^{-1} if A is $n \times n$ and $n \geq 2$?

Checking whether a matrix is invertible is almost same process as computing inverse.

Process to compute A^{-1}

①

Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix. Consider the $n \times 2n$ matrix

$$[A \ I_n] = [A \ | \ \begin{smallmatrix} 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \end{smallmatrix}]$$

②

If A is invertible then $\text{RREF}([A \ I_n]) = [I_n \ A^{-1}]$

So to compute A^{-1} , row reduce $[A \ I_n]$, and then take the last n columns.

in general, for any square matrix A ,

$$\text{RREF}([A \ I]) = [\text{RREF}(A) \ B]$$

if A is invertible, $\text{RREF}(A) = I$ and $A^{-1} = B$
(otherwise $\text{RREF}(A) \neq I$)

form $[A \ I]$

Example. To find the inverse of $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 4 & -3 & 8 \end{bmatrix}$ we row reduce

$$\begin{aligned} \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 0 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 4 & -3 & 8 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] &\rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 4 & -3 & 8 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] &\rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & -4 & 0 & -4 & 1 \end{array} \right] \\ &\rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 3 & -4 & 1 \end{array} \right] &\rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -2 & 4 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 3 & -4 & 1 \end{array} \right] \\ &\rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & -9/2 & 7 & -3/2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -2 & 4 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 3 & -4 & 1 \end{array} \right] &\rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & -9/2 & 7 & -3/2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -2 & 4 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 3/2 & -2 & 1/2 \end{array} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Now check directly that $A^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} -9/2 & 7 & -3/2 \\ -2 & 4 & -1 \\ 3/2 & -2 & 1/2 \end{bmatrix}$

