

Homework #5: Appendix B

In class, we saw that matrix multiplication was not commutative. This means, for example that if A and B are both 2×2 matrices, then it may be the case that AB and BA are different matrices, that is $AB \neq BA$. This however, begs the question of which properties of *real multiplication* (i.e. multiplication of real numbers) do generalize to matrix multiplication. Real multiplication has a multiplicative identity, the number 1 ($x \cdot 1 = 1 \cdot x = x$) and we have seen in class that matrix multiplication has a multiplicative identity as well, namely the identity matrix

$$I = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ or } \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

If A and I are of the proper size we have $AI = A = IA$. (Can you determine the additive identities for real and matrix multiplication?)

In the following two questions, we will generalize two more properties of real multiplication to matrix multiplication.

- Here we will show that the *distributive property* ($a(x + y) = ax + ay$ for real numbers a, x and y) holds for matrix multiplication. To simplify the computations we restrict our attention to 2×2 matrices and 2×1 column vectors. Specifically, let

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix}, \text{ and } \mathbf{y} = \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- Show that matrix multiplication distributes over matrix addition by verifying that

$$A(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y}) = A\mathbf{x} + A\mathbf{y}$$

Distribution can be shown in full generality: that is if A, B and C have the necessary products defined then

$$A(B + C) = AB + AC \text{ and } (B + C)A = BA + CA.$$

You do not need to do this.

For two square matrices A and B , we can now add them ($A + B$), subtract them ($A - B = A + (-1)B$) and multiply them (AB or BA). Is there any way to generalize division to matrices? Though we cannot straight-forwardly define “matrix division” per se, we can define a suitable analog. In the real numbers, dividing by a number a is equivalent to multiplying by the number $1/a$ or a^{-1} where a^{-1} is the unique number such that

$$a \cdot a^{-1} = \frac{a}{a} = 1.$$

Indeed $4 \div 2 = 4 \cdot 2^{-1} = 4 \cdot (1/2) = 2$ and $2 \div 2 = 2 \cdot 2^{-1} = 2 \cdot (1/2) = 1$. For a given number a , we call the number a^{-1} its multiplicative inverse for it essentially cancels the effect of multiplying by a .

Thus our question of generalizing division to matrix multiplication becomes “for a given matrix A , can we find another matrix B so that $AB = BA = I$?” For certain matrices, we can, and we call the matrix B the *multiplicative inverse* of A . The next two questions deal with when we can, and how we, find such an inverse.

- Let

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 7 \\ 1 & 4 \end{pmatrix}, B = \begin{pmatrix} -4 & 7 \\ 1 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } C = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & -7 \\ -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Determine which of B and C is the multiplicative inverse of A and label it A^{-1} .

Hint: $AA^{-1} = I = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$

Now that we see matrices have inverses, how do we find the inverse? Well, when trying to determine an \mathbf{x} such that $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ for some matrix A and vector \mathbf{b} , we used row reduction on the augmented matrix $(A \mid \mathbf{b})$. As it turns out, this approach will also work for finding matrix inverses. Given a matrix

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$$

if it has an inverse matrix A^{-1} such that $AA^{-1} = I$, we can determine A^{-1} by row reducing the augmented matrix $(A \mid I)$. (For an example see App-21 in the text.)

3. Let

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- Write the augmented matrix $(A \mid I)$ where I is the 3×3 identity matrix.
- Row reduce your solution to part (a). You should obtain a matrix of the form $(I \mid B)$ for some 3×3 B .
- Verify that the matrix B you found in part (b) is the inverse of A . Label it A^{-1} .

Having the inverse of a coefficient matrix makes it quite simple to solve linear systems with that coefficient matrix. For example, the system

$$\begin{aligned} ax + by &= b_1 \\ cx + dy &= b_2 \end{aligned}$$

can be written in matrix notation as $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ where $A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$, $\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \end{pmatrix}$.

If A has an inverse, then we can find the values of x and y as follows

$$A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b} \implies A^{-1}A\mathbf{x} = A^{-1}\mathbf{b} \implies \mathbf{x} = A^{-1}\mathbf{b} \implies \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = A^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

4. Consider the system

$$\begin{aligned} x + 2y &= b_1 \\ 3x + 5y &= b_2. \end{aligned}$$

- Rewrite this system as a matrix equation.
- Find the inverse of the coefficient matrix.
- Use this to solve the three systems in which

$$\begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

without row reduction.

Not all matrices have inverses, we will not investigate why that is here, but we will state the following fact.

Fact: If A a matrix such that $\det A = 0$, the A has no inverse and is called *noninvertible* or *singular*.

As we saw in the previous problem, if a coefficient matrix has an inverse, then the corresponding system has a unique solution. When a matrix is noninvertible, then a system with that coefficient matrix may have 0, 1, or infinitely many solutions.

We'll investigate this next.

5. Consider the system

$$\begin{aligned}x + 3y - 2z &= -7 \\4x + y + 3z &= 5 \\2x - 5y + 7z &= 19\end{aligned}$$

- (a) Rewrite this system as a matrix equation. Give the associated augmented matrix for this system.
- (b) Row reduce the augment matrix given above and translate the resulting matrix into a system of equations.
Hint: You should obtain only two equations.
- (c) Let k be any real number and set $z = k$. Give the solution to the original system in terms of the relationship between x , y and z with k .

When finding the eigenvalues of a matrix A , we find λ such that the matrix $A - \lambda I$ has determinant zero. That is, we choose λ such that $A - \lambda I$ does not have an inverse. This ensures that the system of equations defined by

$$A\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{x} \implies (A - \lambda I)\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$$

has infinitely many nonzero solutions. We finish this homework by showing that if λ is an eigenvalue of A , then λ must have infinitely many eigenvectors.

- 6. Let A be a matrix with eigenvalue λ for which \mathbf{v} is an eigenvector. Prove that for any constant k , $k\mathbf{v}$ is also an eigenvector of A with eigenvalue λ . This shows that λ has infinitely many distinct eigenvalues.