Solving square systems of linear equations

- suppose A is invertible
- for any b, $Ax = b$ has the unique solution

$$x = A^{-1}b$$

- matrix generalization of simple scalar equation $ax = b$ having solution $x = (1/a)b$ (for $a \neq 0$)
- simple-looking formula $x = A^{-1}b$ is basis for many applications

Invertible matrices

the following are equivalent for a square matrix A:

- A is invertible
- columns of A are linearly independent
- rows of A are linearly independent
- A has a left inverse
- A has a right inverse

if any of these hold, all others do

Examples

- $I^{-1} = I$
- if Q is orthogonal, *i.e.*, square with $Q^T Q = I$, then $Q^{-1} = Q^T$
- 2×2 matrix A is invertible if and only $A_{11}A_{22} \neq A_{12}A_{21}$

$$A^{-1} = \frac{1}{A_{11}A_{22} - A_{12}A_{21}} \begin{bmatrix} A_{22} & -A_{12} \\ -A_{21} & A_{11} \end{bmatrix}$$

  - you need to know this formula
  - there are similar but *much* more complicated formulas for larger matrices (and no, you do not need to know them)

Non-obvious example

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

- A is invertible, with inverse

$$A^{-1} = \frac{1}{30} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -20 & -10 \\ -6 & 5 & -2 \\ 6 & 10 & 2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

- verified by checking $AA^{-1} = I$ (or $A^{-1}A = I$)
- we'll soon see how to compute the inverse

Properties

- $(AB)^{-1} = B^{-1}A^{-1}$ (provided inverses exist)
- $(A^T)^{-1} = (A^{-1})^T$ (sometimes denoted A^{-T})
- negative matrix powers: $(A^{-1})^k$ is denoted A^{-k}
- with $A^0 = I$, identity $A^k A^l = A^{k+l}$ holds for any integers k, l

Triangular matrices

- lower triangular L with nonzero diagonal entries is invertible
- so see this, write $Lx = 0$ as

$$\begin{array}{lcl} L_{11}x_1 & = & 0 \\ L_{21}x_1 + L_{22}x_2 & = & 0 \\ & \vdots & \\ L_{n1}x_1 + L_{n2}x_2 + \cdots + L_{n,n-1}x_{n-1} + L_{nn}x_n & = & 0 \end{array}$$

  - from first equation, $x_1 = 0$ (since $L_{11} \neq 0$)
  - second equation reduces to $L_{22}x_2 = 0$, so $x_2 = 0$ (since $L_{22} \neq 0$)
  - and so on

  this shows columns of L are linearly independent, so L is invertible
- upper triangular R with nonzero diagonal entries is invertible

Inverse via QR factorization

- suppose A is square and invertible
- so its columns are linearly independent
- so Gram–Schmidt gives QR factorization
  - $A = QR$
  - Q is orthogonal: $Q^T Q = I$
  - R is upper triangular with positive diagonal entries, hence invertible
- so we have

$$A^{-1} = (QR)^{-1} = R^{-1}Q^{-1} = R^{-1}Q^T$$

Outline

Left and right inverses

Inverse

Solving linear equations

Examples

Pseudo-inverse

Back substitution

- suppose R is upper triangular with nonzero diagonal entries
- write out $Rx = b$ as

$$\begin{aligned} R_{11}x_1 + R_{12}x_2 + \cdots + R_{1,n-1}x_{n-1} + R_{1n}x_n &= b_1 \\ &\vdots \\ R_{n-1,n-1}x_{n-1} + R_{n-1,n}x_n &= b_{n-1} \\ R_{nn}x_n &= b_n \end{aligned}$$

- from last equation we get $x_n = b_n/R_{nn}$
- from 2nd to last equation we get

$$x_{n-1} = (b_{n-1} - R_{n-1,n}x_n)/R_{n-1,n-1}$$

- continue to get $x_{n-2}, x_{n-3}, \ldots, x_1$

Back substitution

- called *back substitution* since we find the variables in reverse order, substituting the already known values of x_i
- computes $x = R^{-1}b$
- complexity:
  - first step requires 1 flop (division)
  - 2nd step needs 3 flops
  - ith step needs $2i - 1$ flops

  total is $1 + 3 + \cdots + (2n - 1) = n^2$ flops

Solving linear equations via QR factorization

- assuming A is invertible, let's solve $Ax = b$, *i.e.*, compute $x = A^{-1}b$
- with QR factorization $A = QR$, we have

$$A^{-1} = (QR)^{-1} = R^{-1}Q^T$$

- compute $x = R^{-1}(Q^T b)$ by back substitution

Solving linear equations via QR factorization

given an $n \times n$ invertible matrix A and an n-vector b

1. *QR factorization:* compute the QR factorization $A = QR$
2. compute $Q^T b$.
3. *Back substitution:* Solve the triangular equation $Rx = Q^T b$ using back substitution

- complexity $2n^3$ (step 1), $2n^2$ (step 2), n^2 (step 3)
- total is $2n^3 + 3n^2 \approx 2n^3$