

# Introduction to Mathematics for Political Science

## Problem Set 9: Matrix Inversion and Determinants

**Instructions:** You are encouraged to work in groups and actively participate on the course discussion page. Submitted solutions must be your individual work. Do not use a calculator or search for solutions. Show all of your work. Submit typed solutions using the link on the course page.

1. Consider the following system of equations:

$$\begin{aligned}3x_1 - x_2 &= 10 \\ -x_1 + 4x_2 &= 4\end{aligned}$$

Write this system in  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  form and solve via matrix inversion.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 \\ -1 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 10 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned}A\mathbf{x} &= \mathbf{b} \\ A^{-1}A\mathbf{x} &= A^{-1}\mathbf{b} \\ \mathbf{x} &= A^{-1}\mathbf{b}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}A^{-1} &= \frac{1}{3(4) - (-1)(-1)} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 1 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{11} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 1 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{4}{11} & \frac{1}{11} \\ \frac{1}{11} & \frac{3}{11} \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} \frac{4}{11} & \frac{1}{11} \\ \frac{1}{11} & \frac{3}{11} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 10 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}\end{aligned}$$

2. Let  $C = AB$  where  $C$  is invertible and  $A$  and  $B$  are square matrices. Solve for  $A^{-1}$ .<sup>1</sup>

If  $C$  is invertible and  $A$  and  $B$  are square then  $A$  and  $B$  are also invertible. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}C^{-1} &= B^{-1}A^{-1} \\ BC^{-1} &= (BB^{-1})A^{-1} \\ BC^{-1} &= A^{-1}\end{aligned}$$

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<sup>1</sup>Strang p. 90 #12

3. Let  $M = ABC$  where  $M$  is invertible and  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are square matrices. Solve for  $B^{-1}$ .<sup>2</sup>

If  $M$  is invertible and  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are square then  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are also invertible. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}M^{-1} &= C^{-1}B^{-1}A^{-1} \\CM^{-1}A &= (CC^{-1})B^{-1}(A^{-1}A) \\CM^{-1}A &= B^{-1}\end{aligned}$$

4. If  $B$  is the inverse of  $A^2$ , show that  $AB$  is the inverse of  $A$ .<sup>3</sup>

$$\begin{aligned}B &= (A^2)^{-1} \\B &= (AA)^{-1} \\(AA)B &= AA(AA)^{-1} \\(AA)B &= I \\A^{-1}(AA)B &= A^{-1} \\(A^{-1}A)AB &= A^{-1} \\AB &= A^{-1}\end{aligned}$$

5. Let

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad Y = \begin{bmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{bmatrix}$$

What are  $X^{-1}$  and  $Y^{-1}$ , assuming  $ad \neq bc$ .<sup>4</sup> **Hint:** First, multiply the two matrices  $XY$ . Then, attempt to solve for  $X^{-1}$  and  $Y^{-1}$ .

$$XY = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} ad - bc & -ab + ab \\ cd - cd & ad - bc \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} ad - bc & 0 \\ 0 & ad - bc \end{bmatrix} = (ad - bc) \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned}XY &= (ad - bc) \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \\(X^{-1}X)Y &= (ad - bc)X^{-1} \\Y &= (ad - bc)X^{-1} \\\frac{1}{ad - bc}Y &= X^{-1}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}XY &= (ad - bc) \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \\X(YY^{-1}) &= (ad - bc)Y^{-1} \\\frac{1}{ad - bc}X &= Y^{-1}\end{aligned}$$

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<sup>2</sup>Strang p. 90 #13

<sup>3</sup>Strang p. 90 #18

<sup>4</sup>Strang p. 90 #16

Notice that  $\det X = ad - bc$  so this obeys our usual rules for inversion of  $2 \times 2$  matrices.

6.  $A$  is an *idempotent* matrix if and only if  $AA = A$ . Show that if  $A$  is symmetric ( $A^\top = A$ ) and idempotent then  $(I - A) = (I - A)(I - A)^\top$ , where  $I$  is the identity matrix.

$$\begin{aligned} I - A &= I - AA^T && \text{by idempotency of } A \\ &= I - \underbrace{(A - A^T)}_{=0} - AA^T && \text{by symmetry of } A \\ &= (I - A)(I - A^T) \\ &= (I - A)(I - A)^T \end{aligned}$$

7. Let  $R_{m \times n}$  be a rectangular matrix ( $m \neq n$ ) and  $A_{m \times m}$  be a symmetric matrix. Show  $R^T A R$  is also symmetric. What are the dimensions of this matrix?<sup>5</sup>

$$\begin{aligned} (R^T A R)^T &= R^T A^T (R^T)^T \\ (R^T A R)^T &= R^T A^T R \\ (R^T A R)^T &= R^T A R && \text{by symmetry of } A \end{aligned}$$

$$R_{n \times m}^T A_{m \times m} R_{m \times n} = M_{n \times n}$$

8. Show every orthogonal matrix  $A$  has determinant 1 or -1. Hint: Apply the product rule ( $|AB| = |A||B|$ ) and the transpose rule ( $|A| = |A^T|$ ) for determinants.<sup>6</sup>

By the orthogonality of  $A$ ,  $A^T A = I$ . By the product rule,

$$\begin{aligned} |A^T A| &= |I| \\ |A^T| |A| &= 1 && \text{by the product rule and definition of the determinant} \\ (|A|)^2 &= 1 && \text{by the transpose rule} \end{aligned}$$

and  $\sqrt{1} \in \{-1, 1\}$ .

9. Let  $\mathbf{x} = \{x_1, \dots, x_{50}\}$  denote the number of electoral votes for each state. Let  $\mathbf{y}_i = \{y_{i1}, \dots, y_{ij}, \dots, y_{i50}\}$  denote whether or not candidate  $i \in \{R, D\}$  won the votes of a given state, where  $y_{ij} \in \{0, 1\}$ . Write an expression for the total number of votes for each candidate.

Candidate  $R$ :

$$\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{y}_R$$

Candidate  $D$ :

$$\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{y}_D$$

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<sup>5</sup>Strang 117 #19

<sup>6</sup>Strang p. 252 #8