

The Invertible Matrix Theorem

Let A be a square $n \times n$ matrix. Then the following statements are equivalent.

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| a. A is an invertible matrix. | |
| b. A is row equivalent to the $n \times n$ identity matrix. | equiv to (a) by §2.2 |
| c. A has n pivot positions. | easily shown equiv to (b) |
| d. The equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ has only the trivial solution. | equiv to (c): no free variables |
| e. The columns of A form a linearly independent set. | equiv to (d): linearly dep cols
\Leftrightarrow nontrivial zeros |
| f. The linear transformation $\mathbf{x} \mapsto A\mathbf{x}$ is one-to-one. | equiv to (d) by §1.9 |
| g. The equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ has at least one solution for each \mathbf{b} in \mathbb{R}^n . | equiv to (c) by §1.2 |
| h. The columns of A span \mathbb{R}^n . | equiv to (g) by def of matrix mult |
| i. The linear transformation $\mathbf{x} \mapsto A\mathbf{x}$ is onto \mathbb{R}^n . | equiv to (h) by §1.9 |
| j. There is an $n \times n$ matrix C such that $CA = I_n$. | both (j), (k) equiv to (a) by showing C, D two-sided inverse:
eg $C = I_n C = C A C = C (A C)$,
so $A C = I_n$ |
| k. There is an $n \times n$ matrix D such that $AD = I_n$. | |
| l. A^T is an invertible matrix. | equiv to (a) by §2.2 |

Table of equivalences as in margin:

