Theory of Matrices

Chapter 3. Basic Properties of Matrices 3.6. Generalized Inverses—Proofs of Theorems









Theorem 3.6.1. Let A be an $n \times m$ matrix. Then a generalized inverse of A exists.

Proof. If rank(A) = 0 (and so A = 0) then every $m \times n$ matrix is a generalized inverse of A, as observed above.

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If rank(A) > 0 then by Theorem 3.3.9, there are matrices P and Q, both products of elementary matrices, such that $A = P \begin{bmatrix} I_r & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} Q$. All elementary matrices are invertible so P^{-1} and Q^{-1} exist.

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Proof (continued). Then

$$A\left(Q^{-1}\left[\begin{array}{cc}I_r & U\\V & W\end{array}\right]P^{-1}\right)A$$
$$= P\left[\begin{array}{cc}I_r & 0\\0 & 0\end{array}\right]QQ^{-1}\left[\begin{array}{cc}I_r & U\\V & W\end{array}\right]P^{-1}P\left[\begin{array}{cc}I_r & 0\\0 & 0\end{array}\right]Q$$
$$= P\left[\begin{array}{cc}I_r & U\\0 & 0\end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{cc}I_r & 0\\0 & 0\end{array}\right]Q$$
$$= P\left[\begin{array}{cc}I_r & 0\\0 & 0\end{array}\right]Q = A$$
and so $A^- = Q^{-1}\left[\begin{array}{cc}I_r & U\\V & W\end{array}\right]P^{-1}$ is a generalized inverse of A.

Theorem 3.6.2. Every matrix A with rank(A) = r > 0 has a pseudoinverse given be $A^+ = R^T (L^T A R^T)^{-1} L^T$ where A = LR is a full rank factorization of A (such a factorization exists as shown in equations (**) and (* * *) of Section 3.4).

Proof. Let A be $n \times m$ with rank(A) = r > 0. Then there is a full rank factorization of A, A = LR where L is a $n \times r$ full column rank matrix and R is a $r \times m$ full row rank matrix.

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Theorem 3.6.3. For any matrix A, the pseudoinverse A^+ is unique.

Proof. The case A = 0 is addressed in the note above. For A with rank(A) > 0, suppose both B and C are pseudoinverses. We use the four properties of a pseudoinverse to prove that B = C.

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$$B = BAB \text{ by Property (2) for } B$$

= $(BA)^T B = A^T B^T B$ by Property (3) for B
= $(ACA)^T B^T B$ by Property (1) for C
= $A^T C^T A^T B^T B = (CA)^T A^T B^T B$
= $CAA^T B^T B$ by Property (3) for C
= $CA(BA)^T B = CA(BA)B$ by Property (3) for B
= $C(ABA)B = CAB$ by Property (1) for B

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Theorem 3.6.3 (continued)

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$$CAB = C(ACA)B = C(AC)AB \text{ by Property (1) for } C$$

= $C(AC)^T AB = CC^T A^T AB \text{ by Property (3) for } C$
= $CC^T A^T (AB)^T = CC^T (ABA)^T \text{ by Property (4) for } B$
= $CC^T A^T = C(AC)^T \text{ by Property (1) for } B$
= CAC by Property (4) for C
= C by Property (2) for C .

So B = C and the pseudoinverse of A is unique.