

Finding Inverses

Let

$$e_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, e_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \dots, e_n = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

denote the columns of the identity I . Then we can write $I = [e_1 \ e_2 \ \cdots \ e_n]$ in terms of its columns. Similarly write B in terms of its columns: $B = [b_1 \ b_2 \ \cdots \ b_n]$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} AB = I &\Leftrightarrow A [b_1 \ b_2 \ \cdots \ b_n] = [e_1 \ e_2 \ \cdots \ e_n] \\ &\Leftrightarrow [Ab_1 \ Ab_2 \ \cdots \ Ab_n] = [e_1 \ e_2 \ \cdots \ e_n] \\ &\Leftrightarrow Ab_1 = e_1, Ab_2 = e_2, \dots, Ab_n = e_n \end{aligned}$$

and so we have n linear systems to solve for the unknown vectors b_1, \dots, b_n .