

## Some basic properties of idempotent matrices

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**Received**  
**25 / 12 / 2006**

**Accepted**  
**03 / 10 / 2007**

### Abstract

In this paper we give some properties of the zero commut idempotent matrices ,and give some properties of non-singular matrices .

## 1. Introduction

Throughout, this paper all matrices considered are square and commutative unless otherwise stated.

In [2], Koliha, Rakocevic and Straskraba present new results on the invertibility of the sum of projectors, new relations between the non-singularity of the difference and the sum of projectors, and present a simple proof of the invertibility of  $n \times n$  matrix A exists by showing that  $N(A) = \{0\}$ . In this paper we present some basic properties of an idempotent matrices and relations between the range and the null spaces and give some results on the non-singularity of the difference and sum of idempotent matrices. We recall that;

- 1) A matrix A is said to be idempotent if  $A^2 = A$  .
- 2) A two matrices A and B are said to be zero commut if  $AB = BA = 0$  .
- 3) A null space of a matrix A is the set of all solutions to the equation  $A\bar{x} = 0$  ,  $N(A) = \{\bar{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n : A\bar{x} = 0\}$  , and we denote that  $N(A)$  .
- 4) A range space of a matrix A is the set of all solutions to the equation  $A\bar{x} = \bar{x}$  , and we denote that  $R(A)$  .

## 2. Idempotent matrices

In this section we give some basic properties of the idempotent matrices.

### Lemma 2.1 :

If A is idempotent matrix, then  $(I-A)$  is idempotent .

#### Proof:

Trivial.

### Proposition 2.2 [2] :

If A is a matrix, then  $N(A) = R(I-A)$ ,  
also  $N(I-A) = R(A)$  .

### Proposition 2.3 :

If A is a matrix, then  $R(A) \cap N(A) = \{0\}$  .

#### Proof:

Let  $\bar{x} \in R(A) \cap N(A)$  , then  $\bar{x} \in R(A)$  and  $\bar{x} \in N(A)$  .

Then  $\bar{x} = A\bar{x}$  and  $A\bar{x} = 0$ , so,  $\bar{x} = 0$  .

Hence  $R(A) \cap N(A) = \{0\}$  . ■

### Proposition 2.4 :

If A and B be are idempotent matrices, then  $R(A) \cap R[B(I-A)] = \{0\}$ .

#### Proof:

Let  $\bar{y} \in R(A) \cap R[B(I-A)]$  , then  $\bar{y} = A\bar{y}$  and  $\bar{y} = B(I-A)\bar{y}$  .

So  $A\bar{y} = AB(I-A)\bar{y} = AB\bar{y} - ABA\bar{y} = 0$  .

But  $A\bar{y} = \bar{y}$ , so  $\bar{y} = 0$  .

Hence  $R(A) \cap R[B(I-A)] = \{0\}$  . ■

**Proposition 2.5 :**

If A and B be are matrices, with  $AB=A$  and  $BA=B$  . Then  $N(A)=N(B)$  .

**Proof:**

Let  $\bar{x} \in N(A)$ , then  $A\bar{x}=0$ , so  $BA\bar{x}=0$ , but  $BA=B$ . Therefore  $B\bar{x}=0$  and  $\bar{x} \in N(B)$  . Hence  $N(A) \subseteq N(B)$  .

Similarly  $N(B) \subseteq N(A)$  .

Therefore  $N(A)=N(B)$  . ■

**Proposition 2.6 :**

If A and B be are idempotent matrices, then  $R(AB) = R(A) \cap R(B)$  .

**Proof:**

Let  $\bar{x} \in R(AB)$ , then  $\bar{x}=AB\bar{x}$  .

So  $(I-A)\bar{x} = (I-A)AB\bar{x} = 0$  .

Hence  $\bar{x} \in N(I-A)=R(A)$  [by Proposition 2.2] .

Similarly  $\bar{x} \in R(B)$  ,so  $\bar{x} \in R(A) \cap R(B)$  .

Therefore  $R(AB) \subseteq R(A) \cap R(B)$  .

Now, let  $\bar{y} \in R(A) \cap R(B)$  ,then  $\bar{y}=A\bar{y}$  and  $\bar{y}=B\bar{y}$  .

So  $A\bar{y}=B\bar{y}$  . That is  $A\bar{y}=AB\bar{y}$  ,

but  $\bar{y}=A\bar{y}$  ,therefore  $\bar{y}=AB\bar{y} \in R(AB)$  .

So  $R(A) \cap R(B) \subseteq R(AB)$  .

Hence  $R(AB) = R(A) \cap R(B)$  . ■

**Proposition 2.7 :**

If A and B be are idempotent matrices, and  $R(A) \cap R(B)=\{0\}$ , then  $N(A-B)=N(A) \cap N(B)$  .

**Proof:**

Let  $\bar{x} \in N(A-B)$ , then  $(A-B)\bar{x}=0$  and  $A\bar{x}=B\bar{x}$  .

So  $A\bar{x}=A^2\bar{x}=AB\bar{x}=BA\bar{x}$  .

Now, from  $A\bar{x}=BA\bar{x}$  we get  $(B-I)A\bar{x}=0$  , so  $A\bar{x} \in N(B-I)=R(B)$  [by Proposition 2.2], but  $A\bar{x}=B\bar{x}$ ,so  $B\bar{x} \in R(B)$  .

Similarly from  $B\bar{x}=AB\bar{x}$  we get  $A\bar{x}, B\bar{x} \in R(A)$  .

So  $A\bar{x}, B\bar{x} \in R(A) \cap R(B)=\{0\}$ , therefore  $\bar{x} \in N(A)$  .

Also ,  $\bar{x} \in N(B)$  , so  $\bar{x} \in N(A) \cap N(B)$  .

Hence  $N(A-B) \subseteq N(A) \cap N(B)$  .

Now, let  $\bar{y} \in N(A) \cap N(B)$  , then  $A\bar{y}=0$  and  $B\bar{y}=0$  .

So  $(A-B)\bar{y}=0$ , therefore  $\bar{y} \in N(A-B)$  .

So  $N(A) \cap N(B) \subseteq N(A-B)$  .

Hence  $N(A-B)=N(A) \cap N(B)$  . ■

**Proposition 2.8 :**

If A and B be are idempotent matrices, then  $R[B(I-A)] = N(A) \cap R(B)$ .

**Proof:**

Let  $\bar{x} \in R[B(I-A)]$ , then  $\bar{x} = B(I-A)\bar{x}$ .

So  $A\bar{x} = AB(I-A)\bar{x} = AB\bar{x} - ABA\bar{x} = 0$ .

So  $\bar{x} \in N(A)$ .

Also,  $(I-B)\bar{x} = (I-B)B(I-A)\bar{x} = 0$ , so  $\bar{x} = B\bar{x}$ , therefore  $\bar{x} \in R(B)$ .

So  $\bar{x} \in N(A) \cap R(B)$ .

Hence  $R[B(I-A)] \subseteq N(A) \cap R(B)$ .

Now, let  $\bar{y} \in N(A) \cap R(B)$  then  $A\bar{y} = 0$  and  $\bar{y} = B\bar{y}$ .

So  $A\bar{y} = AB\bar{y} = 0$ .

Now,  $B(I-A)\bar{y} = B(I-A)B\bar{y} = B\bar{y} - BAB\bar{y}$ .

Therefore  $B(I-A)\bar{y} = B\bar{y} = \bar{y}$ , so  $\bar{y} \in R[B(I-A)]$ .

Hence  $N(A) \cap R(B) \subseteq R[B(I-A)]$ .

Therefore  $R[B(I-A)] = N(A) \cap R(B)$ . ■

**Proposition 2.9 :**

If A and B be are idempotent matrices, then  $R(A) = R(B)$  if and only if  $N(A) = N(B)$ .

**Proof:**

Let  $R(A) = R(B)$ , then  $A\bar{x} = B\bar{x}$  and let  $\bar{x} \in N(A)$ , then  $A\bar{x} = 0$ , so  $B\bar{x} = 0$ .

Then  $\bar{x} \in N(B)$ , therefore  $N(A) \subseteq N(B)$ .

Similarly  $N(B) \subseteq N(A)$ , so  $N(A) = N(B)$ .

Now, let  $N(A) = N(B)$  and let  $\bar{y} \in R(A)$ , then  $\bar{y} = A\bar{y}$ .

So  $B\bar{y} = BA\bar{y} = AB\bar{y}$ .

From  $B(I-B)\bar{y} = 0$ , we get  $(I-B)\bar{y} \in N(B) = N(A)$  and  $A(I-B)\bar{y} = 0$ .

So  $A\bar{y} = AB\bar{y}$ , but  $\bar{y} = A\bar{y}$  and  $B\bar{y} = AB\bar{y}$ .

Therefore  $\bar{y} = B\bar{y}$  and  $\bar{y} \in R(B)$ , so  $R(A) \subseteq R(B)$ .

Similarly  $R(B) \subseteq R(A)$ .

Hence  $R(A) = R(B)$ . ■

**Proposition 2.10 :**

If A and B be are idempotent matrices, then  $N(A) \cap N(B) = N(A+B-AB)$ .

**Proof:**

Let  $\bar{x} \in N(A) \cap N(B)$ , then  $A\bar{x} = 0$  and  $B\bar{x} = 0$ , so  $AB\bar{x} = 0$ .

Therefore  $(A+B-AB)\bar{x} = 0$  and  $\bar{x} \in N(A+B-AB)$ .

So  $N(A) \cap N(B) \subseteq N(A+B-AB)$ .

Now, let  $\bar{y} \in N(A+B-AB)$ , then  $(A+B-AB)\bar{y} = 0$ , so  $A\bar{y} + B\bar{y} - AB\bar{y} = 0$ .

Hence  $A^2\bar{y} + AB\bar{y} = A^2B\bar{y}$ . So  $A\bar{y} = 0$  and  $\bar{y} \in N(A)$ .

Similarly  $B\bar{y}=0$  and  $\bar{y} \in N(B)$ .

So  $\bar{y} \in N(A) \cap N(B)$ .

Hence  $N(A+B-AB) \subseteq N(A) \cap N(B)$ .

Therefore  $N(A) \cap N(B) = N(A+B-AB)$ . ■

### **3. Basic properties of zero commut idempotent matrices.**

In this section we present some basic properties of the zero commut idempotent matrices.

#### **Proposition 3.1 :**

If A and B be are zero commut idempotent matrices, then  $N(A-B) = N(A) \cap N(B)$ .

#### **Proof:**

Let  $\bar{x} \in N(A-B)$ , then  $(A-B)\bar{x}=0$  and  $A\bar{x}=B\bar{x}$ .

So  $A\bar{x}=AB\bar{x}=0$ .

Hence  $\bar{x} \in N(A)$ .

Similarly  $\bar{x} \in N(B)$ , so  $\bar{x} \in N(A) \cap N(B)$ .

Hence  $N(A-B) \subseteq N(A) \cap N(B)$ .

Now, let  $\bar{y} \in N(A) \cap N(B)$ , then  $A\bar{y}=0$  and  $B\bar{y}=0$ , so  $(A-B)\bar{y}=0$ .

Therefore  $\bar{y} \in N(A-B)$ , so  $N(A) \cap N(B) \subseteq N(A-B)$ .

Hence  $N(A-B) = N(A) \cap N(B)$ . ■

#### **Proposition 3.2 :**

If A and B be are zero commut idempotent matrices, then  $N(A+B) = N(A) \cap N(B)$ .

#### **Proof:**

Similar to the proof of proposition 3.1

#### **Corollary 3.3 :**

If A and B be are zero commut idempotent matrices, then  $N(A+B) = N(A-B)$ .

#### **Proposition 3.4 :**

If A and B be are zero commut idempotent matrices, then  $R(A+B) = R(A)+R(B)$ .

#### **Proof:**

Let  $\bar{y} = \bar{y}_1 + \bar{y}_2 \in R(A) + R(B)$ ,

where  $\bar{y}_1 \in R(A)$  and  $\bar{y}_2 \in R(B)$ .

So  $(A+B)(\bar{y}_1 + \bar{y}_2) = A\bar{y}_1 + A\bar{y}_2 + B\bar{y}_1 + B\bar{y}_2$

$$= \bar{y}_1 + \bar{y}_2 + A\bar{y}_2 + B\bar{y}_1 - 0$$

$$= \bar{y}_1 + \bar{y}_2 + A\bar{y}_2 + B\bar{y}_1 - AB(\bar{y}_1 + \bar{y}_2)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \bar{\mathbf{y}}_1 + \bar{\mathbf{y}}_2 + A(\bar{\mathbf{y}}_2 - B\bar{\mathbf{y}}_2) + B(\bar{\mathbf{y}}_1 - A\bar{\mathbf{y}}_1) \\
 &= \bar{\mathbf{y}}_1 + \bar{\mathbf{y}}_2 = \bar{\mathbf{y}}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $\bar{\mathbf{y}} = \bar{\mathbf{y}}_1 + \bar{\mathbf{y}}_2 \in R(A+B)$ , so  $R(A)+R(B) \subseteq R(A+B)$ .

Now, let  $\bar{\mathbf{x}} \in R(A+B)$ , then  $\bar{\mathbf{x}} = (A+B)\bar{\mathbf{x}} = A\bar{\mathbf{x}} + B\bar{\mathbf{x}}$ .

Let  $\bar{\mathbf{x}}_1 = A\bar{\mathbf{x}}$ , then  $A\bar{\mathbf{x}}_1 = A\bar{\mathbf{x}} = \bar{\mathbf{x}}_1$ , so  $\bar{\mathbf{x}}_1 \in R(A)$ .

Also, let  $\bar{\mathbf{x}}_2 = B\bar{\mathbf{x}}$ , then  $B\bar{\mathbf{x}}_2 = B\bar{\mathbf{x}} = \bar{\mathbf{x}}_2$ , so  $\bar{\mathbf{x}}_2 \in R(B)$ .

Therefore  $\bar{\mathbf{x}} = \bar{\mathbf{x}}_1 + \bar{\mathbf{x}}_2 \in R(A)+R(B)$ , so  $R(A+B) \subseteq R(A)+R(B)$ .

Hence  $R(A+B) = R(A)+R(B)$ . ■

### **Corollary 3.5 :**

If A is an idempotent matrix, then  $R^n = R(A)+N(A)$ .

#### **Proof:**

Since  $A(I-A) = (I-A)A = 0$ .

Then A and  $I-A$  are zero commut idempotent matrices.

Now, from [Proposition3.4] we get  $R(A+I-A) = R(A)+R(I-A)$ .

Hence  $R(I) = R(A)+N(A)$ .

Therefore  $R^n = R(A)+N(A)$ . ■

### **Proposition 3.6 :**

If A is an idempotent matrix, then  $R^n = R(A) \oplus N(A)$ .

#### **Proof:**

By [Corollary3.5] we get  $R^n = R(A)+N(A)$ , and by [Proposition2.3] we get  $R(A) \cap N(A) = \{0\}$ .

Hence  $R^n = R(A) \oplus N(A)$ . ■

## **4. Basic properties of non-singular matrices.**

In this section we give some basic properties of a non-singular matrices.

#### **Remark:**

The only nonsingular idempotent matrix is identity matrix ( $I_n$ ). Every idempotent matrix (except  $I_n$ ) is singular but a singular matrix may not be idempotent.

#### **Theorem 4.1 [1]:**

An  $n \times n$  matrix A over a number field F has rank n if and only if  $A^{-1}$  exists, that is, if and only if A is non-singular.

#### **Theorem 4.2 [2]:**

If A and B be are idempotent matrices, then the following conditions are equivalent:

- 1)  $A-B$  is non-singular.
- 2)  $A+B$  and  $I-AB$  are non-singular.

**Proposition4.3:**

Let A and B be are idempotent matrices and AB is non-singular, then  $N(A) \cap R(B) = \{0\}$ .

**Proof:**

Let  $\bar{x} \in N(A) \cap R(B)$ , then  $A\bar{x}=0$  and  $\bar{x}=B\bar{x}$ .  
So  $A\bar{x}=AB\bar{x}$ . Hence  $AB\bar{x}=0$ .  
Therefore  $\bar{x} \in N(AB)=\{0\}$  (since AB is non-singular), so  $\bar{x}=0$ .  
Hence  $N(A) \cap R(B) = \{0\}$ . ■

**Theorem 4.4 :**

If A and B be are zero commut idempotent matrices, and A-B is non-singular, then  $R^n = R(A) \oplus R(B)$ .

**Proof:**

Let  $\bar{x} \in R(A) \cap R(B)$ , then  $\bar{x} \in R(A)$  and  $\bar{x} \in R(B)$ .  
Therefore  $\bar{x}=A\bar{x}$  and  $\bar{x}=B\bar{x}$ , so  $A\bar{x}=B\bar{x}$ , then  $(A-B)\bar{x}=0$ .  
Hence  $\bar{x} \in N(A-B)=0$  (since A-B is non-singular).  
So  $\bar{x}=0$ , hence  $R(A) \cap R(B) = \{0\}$ .  
Since  $(A-B)(I-A-B)\bar{x}=0$ , then  $(I-A-B)\bar{x} \in N(A-B)=0$ ,  
and  $(I-A-B)\bar{x}=0$ . Hence  $\bar{x}=A\bar{x}+B\bar{x} \in R(A)+R(B)$  by [Proposition3.4].  
So  $R^n = R(A)+R(B)$ .  
Hence  $R^n = R(A) \oplus R(B)$ . ■

**Proposition 4.5 :**

If A and B be are zero commut idempotent matrices, then the following conditions are equivalent :

- 1) A-B is non-singular .
- 2)  $N(A) \cap N(B) = \{0\}$  .

**Proof:**

(1→2) let  $\bar{x} \in N(A) \cap N(B)$ , then  $A\bar{x}=0$  and  $B\bar{x}=0$ . So  $(A-B)\bar{x}=0$ , therefore  $\bar{x} \in N(A-B)=0$  (since A-B is non-singular). So  $\bar{x}=0$ .

Hence  $N(A) \cap N(B) = \{0\}$ .

(2→1) from [Proposition3.1] we get  $N(A) \cap N(B) = N(A-B)$ ,

but  $N(A) \cap N(B) = \{0\}$ , then  $N(A-B) = \{0\}$ .

Hence A-B is non-singular . ■

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