

# Inverting Matrices

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## 1 Properties of Transpose

Transpose has higher precedence than multiplication and addition, so

$$AB^T = A(B^T) \text{ and } A + B^T = A + (B^T)$$

As opposed to the bracketed expressions

$$(AB)^T \text{ and } (A + B)^T$$

### Example 1

Let  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 5 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ .

Find  $AB^T$ , and  $(AB)^T$ .

$$\begin{aligned} AB^T &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 5 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}^T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 5 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 7 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Whereas  $(AB)^T$  is undefined.

**Theorem 2 (Properties of Transpose)** *Given matrices  $A$  and  $B$  so that the operations can be performed*

1.  $(A^T)^T = A$
2.  $(A + B)^T = A^T + B^T$  and  $(A - B)^T = A^T - B^T$
3.  $(kA)^T = kA^T$
4.  $(AB)^T = B^T A^T$

## 2 Matrix Algebra

**Theorem 3 (Algebraic Properties of Matrix Multiplication)**

1.  $(k + \ell)A = kA + \ell A$  (Distributivity of scalar multiplication I)
2.  $k(A + B) = kA + kB$  (Distributivity of scalar multiplication II)

3.  $A(B + C) = AB + AC$  (Distributivity of matrix multiplication)
4.  $A(BC) = (AB)C$  (Associativity of matrix multiplication)
5.  $A + B = B + A$  (Commutativity of matrix addition)
6.  $(A + B) + C = A + (B + C)$  (Associativity of matrix addition)
7.  $k(AB) = A(kB)$  (Commutativity of Scalar Multiplication)

The matrix  $0$  is the identity of matrix addition. That is, given a matrix  $A$ ,

$$A + 0 = 0 + A = A.$$

Further  $0A = A0 = 0$ , where  $0$  is the appropriately sized  $0$  matrix.

Note that it is possible to have two non-zero matrices which multiply to  $0$ .

**Example 4**

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1-1 & 1-1 \\ -1+1 & -1+1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

The matrix  $I$  is the identity of matrix multiplication. That is, given an  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$ ,

$$AI_n = I_m A = A$$

**Theorem 5** *If  $R$  is in reduced row echelon form then either  $R = I$ , or  $R$  has a row of zeros.*

**Theorem 6 (Power Laws)** *For any square matrix  $A$ ,*

$$A^r A^s = A^{r+s} \text{ and } (A^r)^s = A^{rs}$$

**Example 7**

1.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 & 0 \end{pmatrix}^4 = \left( \left( \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 & 0 \end{pmatrix}^2 \right)^2 \right)$$

2. Find  $A^6$ , where

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$A^6 = A^2 A^4 = A^2 (A^2)^2$ . Now  $A^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ , so

$$\begin{aligned} A^2 (A^2)^2 &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 5 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

### 3 Inverse of a matrix

Given a square matrix  $A$ , the *inverse* of  $A$ , denoted  $A^{-1}$ , is defined to be the matrix such that

$$AA^{-1} = A^{-1}A = I$$

Note that inverses are only defined for square matrices

**Note** Not all matrices have inverses.

If  $A$  has an inverse, it is called *invertible*.

If  $A$  is not invertible it is called *singular*.

#### Example 8

$$1. \quad A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \quad A^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 & -2 \\ -2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{Check: } \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 5 & -2 \\ -2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$2. \quad A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{Has no inverse}$$

$$3. \quad A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad A^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{Check: } \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 3 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$4. \quad A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{Has no inverse}$$

#### 3.1 Inverses of $2 \times 2$ Matrices

Given a  $2 \times 2$  matrix

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$$

$A$  is invertible if and only if  $ad - bc \neq 0$  and

$$A^{-1} = \frac{1}{ad - bc} \begin{pmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{pmatrix}$$

The quantity  $ad - bc$  is called the *determinant* of the matrix and is written  $\det(A)$ , or  $|A|$ .

#### Example 9

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \quad A^{-1} = \frac{1}{-3} \begin{pmatrix} 3 & -2 \\ -3 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & \frac{2}{3} \\ 1 & -\frac{1}{3} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{Check: } \frac{1}{-3} \begin{pmatrix} 3 & -2 \\ -3 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 3 \end{pmatrix} = -\frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} -3 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 \end{pmatrix} = I$$

## 4 Algebra of Invertibility

**Theorem 10** Given an invertible matrix  $A$ :

1.  $(A^{-1})^{-1} = A$ ,
2.  $(A^n)^{-1} = (A^{-1})^n \quad (= A^{-n})$ ,
3.  $(kA)^{-1} = \frac{1}{k}A^{-1}$ ,
4.  $(A^T)^{-1} = (A^{-1})^T$ ,

**Theorem 11** Given two invertible matrices  $A$  and  $B$

$$(AB)^{-1} = B^{-1}A^{-1}.$$

**Proof:** Let  $A$  and  $B$  be invertible matrices and let  $C = AB$ , so  $C^{-1} = (AB)^{-1}$ . Consider  $C = AB$ .

Multiply both sides on the left by  $A^{-1}$ :

$$A^{-1}C = A^{-1}AB = B.$$

Multiply both sides on the left by  $B^{-1}$ .

$$B^{-1}A^{-1}C = B^{-1}B = I.$$

So,  $B^{-1}A^{-1}$  is the matrix you need to multiply  $C$  by to get the identity. Thus, by the definition of inverse

$$B^{-1}A^{-1} = C^{-1} = (AB)^{-1}.$$

## 5 A Method for Inverses

Given a square matrix  $A$  and a vector  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , consider the equation

$$A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$$

This represents a system of equations with coefficient matrix  $A$ .

Multiply both sides by  $A^{-1}$  on the left, to get

$$A^{-1}A\mathbf{x} = A^{-1}\mathbf{b}.$$

But  $A^{-1}A = I_n$  and  $I\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}$ , so we have

$$\mathbf{x} = A^{-1}\mathbf{b}.$$

Note that we have a unique solution. The assumption that  $A$  is invertible is equivalent to the assumption that  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  has unique solution.

During the course of Gauss-Jordan elimination on the augmented matrix  $(A|\mathbf{b})$  we reduce  $A \rightarrow I$  and  $\mathbf{b} \rightarrow A^{-1}\mathbf{b}$ , so  $(A|\mathbf{b}) \rightarrow (I|A^{-1}\mathbf{b})$ .

If we instead augment  $A$  with  $I$ , row reducing will produce (hopefully)  $I$  on the left and  $A^{-1}$  on the right, so  $(A|I) \rightarrow (I|A^{-1})$ .

The Method:

1. Augment  $A$  with  $I$
2. Use Gauss-Jordan to obtain  $(I|A^{-1})$ .
3. If  $I$  does not appear on the left,  $A$  is not invertible.  
Otherwise,  $A^{-1}$  is given on the right.

**Example 12**

1. Find  $A^{-1}$ , where

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 5 & 5 \\ 3 & 5 & 8 \end{pmatrix}$$

Augment with  $I$  and row reduce:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & | & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 5 & 5 & | & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 5 & 8 & | & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{array}{l} R_2 \rightarrow R_2 - 2R_1 \\ R_3 \rightarrow R_3 - 3R_1 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & | & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & | & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & -1 & | & -3 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} R_3 \rightarrow R_3 + R_2$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & | & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & | & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 & | & -5 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} R_3 \rightarrow -\frac{1}{2}R_3$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & | & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & | & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & | & 5/2 & -1/2 & -1/2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{array}{l} R_1 \rightarrow R_1 - 3R_3 \\ R_2 \rightarrow R_2 + R_3 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & | & -13/2 & 3/2 & 3/2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & | & 1/2 & 1/2 & -1/2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & | & 5/2 & -1/2 & -1/2 \end{pmatrix} R_1 \rightarrow R_1 - 2R_2$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & | & -15/2 & 1/2 & 5/2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & | & 1/2 & 1/2 & -1/2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & | & 5/2 & -1/2 & -1/2 \end{pmatrix}$$

So

$$A^{-1} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} -15 & 1 & 5 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 5 & -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

To check inverse multiply together:

$$\begin{aligned} AA^{-1} &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 5 & 5 \\ 3 & 5 & 8 \end{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} -15 & 1 & 5 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 5 & -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = I \end{aligned}$$

2. Solve  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  in the case where  $\mathbf{b} = (2, 2, 4)^T$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{x} &= A^{-1}\mathbf{b} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} -15 & 1 & 5 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 5 & -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} -18 \\ 0 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -9 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}\end{aligned}$$

3. Solve  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  in the case where  $\mathbf{b} = (2, 0, 2)^T$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{x} &= A^{-1}\mathbf{b} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} -15 & 1 & 5 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 5 & -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} -20 \\ 0 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -9 \\ 0 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}\end{aligned}$$

4. Give a solution to  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  in the general case where  $\mathbf{b} = (b_1, b_2, b_3)$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{x} &= \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} -15 & 1 & 5 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 5 & -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} -15b_1 + b_2 + 5b_3 \\ b_1 + b_2 - b_3 \\ 5b_1 - b_2 - b_3 \end{pmatrix}\end{aligned}$$

## 6 Elementary Matrices

**Definition 13** An Elementary matrix is a matrix obtained by performing a single row operation on the identity matrix.

### Example 14

$$1. \quad \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (R_1 \rightarrow 2R_1)$$

$$2. \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (R_2 \rightarrow R_2 + 3R_1)$$

$$3. \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (R_1 \leftrightarrow R_2)$$

**Theorem 15** If  $E$  is an elementary matrix obtained from  $I_m$  by performing the row operation  $R$  and  $A$  is any  $m \times n$  matrix, then  $EA$  is the matrix obtained by performing the same row operation  $R$  on  $A$ .

**Example 16**

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$1. \quad \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \sim 2R_2 \text{ on } A$$

$$2. \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 5 & 4 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \sim \begin{matrix} R_2 \rightarrow R_2 + 3R_1 \\ \text{on } A \end{matrix}$$

$$3. \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \sim \begin{matrix} R_2 \leftrightarrow R_3 \\ \text{on } A \end{matrix}$$

## 6.1 Inverses of Elementary Matrices

If  $E$  is an elementary matrix then  $E$  is invertible and  $E^{-1}$  is an elementary matrix corresponding to the row operation that undoes the one that generated  $E$ . Specifically:

- If  $E$  was generated by an operation of the form  $R_i \rightarrow cR_i$  then  $E^{-1}$  is generated by  $R_i \rightarrow \frac{1}{c}R_i$ .
- If  $E$  was generated by an operation of the form  $R_i \rightarrow R_i + cR_j$  then  $E^{-1}$  is generated by  $R_i \rightarrow R_i - cR_j$ .
- If  $E$  was generated by an operation of the form  $R_i \leftrightarrow R_j$  then  $E^{-1}$  is generated by  $R_i \leftrightarrow R_j$ .

**Example 17**

$$1. \quad E = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad E^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$2. \quad E = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad E^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$3. \quad E = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad E^{-1} = E$$

## 6.2 Elementary Matrices and Solving Equations

Consider the steps of Gauss Jordan elimination to find the solution to a system of equations  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ . This consists of a series of row operations, each of which is equivalent to multiplying on the left by an elementary matrix  $E_i$ .

$$A \xrightarrow{\text{Ele. row ops.}} B,$$

Where  $B$  is the RREF of  $A$ .

So  $E_k E_{k-1} \dots E_2 E_1 A = B$  for some appropriately defined elementary matrices  $E_1 \dots E_k$ .

Thus  $A = E_1^{-1} E_2^{-1} \dots E_{k-1}^{-1} E_k^{-1} B$

Now if  $B = I$  (so the RREF of  $A$  is  $I$ ), then

$$A = E_1^{-1} E_2^{-1} \dots E_{k-1}^{-1} E_k^{-1}$$

and  $A^{-1} = E_k E_{k-1} \dots E_2 E_1$

**Theorem 18** *A is invertible if and only if it is the product of elementary matrices.*

## 7 Summing Up Theorem

**Theorem 19 (Summing up Theorem Version 1)** *For any square  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$ , the following are equivalent statements:*

1. *A is invertible.*
2. *The RREF of A is the identity,  $I_n$ .*
3. *The equation  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  has unique solution (namely  $\mathbf{x} = A^{-1}\mathbf{b}$ ).*
4. *The homogeneous system  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$  has only the trivial solution ( $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ )*
5. *The REF of A has exactly n pivots.*
6. *A is the product of elementary matrices.*