

**2.2 The Inverse of a Matrix**

**Recall:** The **Identity Matrix** is a square matrix with 1's along the main diagonal and zeros everywhere else.

**Example 2.2.1.**  $I_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $I_4 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

We call it the identity matrix because it behaves like 1 in multiplication.

**Example 2.2.2.**  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$      $\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$

**Example 2.2.3.**  $\begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \end{bmatrix}$      $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \end{bmatrix}$

**2.2.1 Matrix Inverses**

**Definition 2.3.** If  $M$  is a square matrix and if there exists  $M^{-1}$  such that

$$MM^{-1} = I \text{ and } M^{-1}M = I$$

then  $M^{-1}$  is the **Multiplicative Inverse** of  $M$ . We often simply call it "The Inverse" of  $M$ .

**Example 2.2.4.**  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $A^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -3 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ . Show that these are inverses of each other.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -3 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4-3 & -6+6 \\ 2-2 & -3+4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

NOT ALL SQUARE MATRICES HAVE INVERSES. For example  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 4 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$

Q. How do we know if an inverse exists for  $[A]$  and how do we find one if it does?

A. We perform Gauss Jordan Elimination on the augmented matrix  $[A | I]$  until it looks like

$$[I | A^{-1}]$$

If a matrix does NOT have an inverse we call it a **singular matrix**.

$AI = IA = A$

What is the inverse of 7?

$7 - 7 = 0$

additive identity

$7 \left(\frac{1}{7}\right) = 1$   
multiplicative identity

$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$      $\det A = 4 - 3 = 1$

$A^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det A} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -3 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$

**Example 2.2.5.**  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -3 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  Find  $A^{-1}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Row reduce this matrix:

$$[A|I] = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -3 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{3R_1 + R_2 \rightarrow R_2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Row Reduce to  $[I|A^{-1}]$

$$A^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

2 x 2 Matrix Inverse

**Theorem 2.3.** Let  $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$  and define the determinant of  $A$  as  $\det A = ad - bc$ . If  $\det A \neq 0$  then  $A$  is invertible and

$$A^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det A} \begin{bmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{bmatrix}$$

If  $\det A = 0$  the matrix is not invertible.

**Example 2.2.6.**  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 9 \\ 2 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$  Find  $A^{-1}$

$\det A = 18 - 18 = 0$  Done  $A^{-1}$  DNE

Start w/ 1 in 1st position

Example 2.2.7.  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 5 & 10 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 \\ 1 & 6 & 15 \end{bmatrix}$  Find  $A^{-1}$

Row reduce this matrix:

zeros here →  $\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 5 & 10 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 6 & 15 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{R_3 - R_1 \rightarrow R_3} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 5 & 10 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 5 & -1 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{\substack{R_1 - 5R_2 \rightarrow R_1 \\ R_3 - R_2 \rightarrow R_3}} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & -10 & 1 & -5 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & -1 & 1 \end{array} \right]$

$R_2 - 4R_3 \rightarrow R_2$   
 $R_1 + 10R_3 \rightarrow R_1$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & -9 & -15 & 10 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 4 & 5 & -4 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & -1 & 1 \end{array} \right] \checkmark$$

$A^{-1}$

Example 2.2.8.  $M = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  Find  $M^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$

**Solving a matrix equation**

Suppose we have a system of equations

$$\begin{aligned} a_1 x_1 + a_2 x_2 + a_3 x_3 &= a_4 \\ b_1 x_1 + b_2 x_2 + b_3 x_3 &= b_4 \\ c_1 x_1 + c_2 x_2 + c_3 x_3 &= c_4 \end{aligned}$$

where  $a_i, b_i,$  and  $c_i$  are real numbers and  $x_1, x_2, x_3$  are variables. Then we can write the coefficient matrix

→  $A = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \\ c_1 & c_2 & c_3 \end{bmatrix}$

and (IF it exists) we can find the inverse matrix  $A^{-1}$ .

The original system can be written in matrix form:

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \\ c_1 & c_2 & c_3 \end{bmatrix}}_A \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix}}_X = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} a_4 \\ b_4 \\ c_4 \end{bmatrix}}_b$$

$a_1 x_1 + a_2 x_2 + a_3 x_3 = a_4$

and we end up with an equation of the form  $AX = b$ . If this were an algebraic equation where  $A$  and  $b$  were numbers we could easily solve this by dividing on both sides by  $A$ . WE CAN'T divide matrices.

What we can do with matrices is to multiply by the inverse of  $A$ . Then we get something that looks like this

$A^{-1}A = I$

$AX = b$   
 $A^{-1}[AX] = A^{-1}b$   
 $I X = A^{-1}b$   
 $X = A^{-1}b$

$\frac{1}{7}(7x) = 42 \left(\frac{1}{7}\right)$   
 $x = 6$

The nice thing about solving an equation this way is that now we can easily solve many problems that have the same  $A$  but different  $b$  with one simple matrix multiplication.

**Example 2.2.9.** Solve

$$\begin{aligned} 3x_1 - x_2 + x_3 &= 1 && \circ x_3 \\ -x_1 + x_2 &= 1 && \circ \\ x_1 + x_3 &= 1 && \circ x_2 \end{aligned}$$

by writing the equation in matrix form as  $AX = b$  and multiplying by  $A^{-1}$ .

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$A^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$

$Ax = b$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$A^{-1}Ax = A^{-1}b$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad A^{-1}Ax = A^{-1}b$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1+1-1 \\ 1+2-1 \\ -1-1+2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = x$$

Example 2.2.10. Solve

$$\begin{aligned} 3x_1 - x_2 + x_3 &= 1 \\ -x_1 + x_2 &= 2 \\ x_1 + x_3 &= -3 \end{aligned}$$

$$x = A^{-1}b = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 8 \\ -9 \end{bmatrix} = x$$

Properties of Invertible Matrices

**Theorem 2.4.** Properties of Invertible Matrices

1. If  $A$  is an invertible matrix, then  $A^{-1}$  is invertible and

$$(A^{-1})^{-1} = A$$

2. If  $A$  and  $B$  are  $n \times n$  invertible matrices, then so is  $AB$ , and the inverse of  $AB$  is the product of the inverses of  $A$  and  $B$  in reverse order:

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

$$(AB)^T = B^T A^T$$

3. If  $A$  is an invertible matrix, then so is  $A^T$ , and the inverse of  $A^T$  is the transpose of  $A^{-1}$ :

$$(A^T)^{-1} = (A^{-1})^T$$

switch rows  
multiply row by number  
linear combination of rows,

2.2.2 Elementary Matrices

**Definition 2.4.** An elementary matrix is one that is obtained by performing a single elementary row operation on an identity matrix

**Example 2.2.11.** Find the product  $E_1A$  and  $E_2A$  and identify the corresponding row operation where

$$E_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad E_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{and} \quad A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{bmatrix}$$

$$E_1 A = \begin{bmatrix} c & i & a \\ d & e & b \\ g & h & f \end{bmatrix}$$

1 row operation  
switch two rows.

Invertible matrices are row equivalent to  $I_n$

**Theorem 2.5.** An  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$  is invertible if and only if  $A$  is row equivalent to  $I_n$ , and in this case, any sequence of elementary row operations that reduces  $A$  to  $I_n$  also transforms  $I_n$  into  $A^{-1}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ d+4g & e+4h & f+4i \\ g & h & i \end{bmatrix}$$

1 Row operation  
 $R_2 + 4R_3 \rightarrow R_2$