

Matrix inverses

The inverse of a real number a is denoted by a^{-1} . For example, $7^{-1} = 1/7$ and

$$7 \cdot 7^{-1} = 7^{-1} \cdot 7 = 1$$

An $n \times n$ matrix A is said to be **invertible** if there is an $n \times n$ matrix C satisfying

$$CA = AC = I_n$$

where I_n is the $n \times n$ identity matrix. We call C the **inverse** of A .

example $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 5 \\ -3 & -7 \end{bmatrix}$; $C = \begin{bmatrix} -7 & -5 \\ 3 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ $AC =$ $CA =$

The inverse of A is usually denoted by A^{-1} .

We have

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

Not all $n \times n$ matrices are invertible. A matrix which is *not* invertible is sometimes called a **singular** matrix. An invertible matrix is called **nonsingular** matrix.

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Fact 1 If A is invertible, then the inverse is unique.

Proof: Assume B and C are both inverses of A . Then

$$B = BI = B(\text{---}) = (\text{---})\text{---} = I\text{---} = C.$$

So the inverse is unique since any two inverses coincide. ■

Fact 2 The inverse of A^{-1} is A itself.

Fact 3 Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$. If $ad - bc \neq 0$, then A is invertible and

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

If $ad - bc = 0$, then A is not invertible.

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Assume A is any invertible matrix and we wish to solve $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$.
Then

$$A^{-1}A\mathbf{x} = A^{-1}\mathbf{b} \quad \text{and so}$$

$$I\mathbf{x} = A^{-1}\mathbf{b} \quad \text{or } \mathbf{x} = A^{-1}\mathbf{b}.$$

Suppose \mathbf{w} is also a solution to $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$. Then $A\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{b}$ and

$$A^{-1}A\mathbf{w} = A^{-1}\mathbf{b} \quad \text{which means } \mathbf{w} = A^{-1}\mathbf{b}.$$

So, $\mathbf{w} = A^{-1}\mathbf{b}$, which is in fact the same solution.

We have proved the following result:

Fact 4 If A is an invertible $n \times n$ matrix, then for each \mathbf{b} in \mathbb{R}^n , the equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ has the unique solution $\mathbf{x} = A^{-1}\mathbf{b}$.

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EXAMPLE: Use the inverse of $A = \begin{bmatrix} -7 & 3 \\ 5 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$ to solve

$$\begin{cases} -7x_1 + 3x_2 = 2 \\ 5x_1 - 2x_2 = 1 \end{cases}$$

Solution: Matrix form of the linear system:

$$\begin{bmatrix} -7 & 3 \\ 5 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A^{-1} = \frac{1}{14-15} \begin{bmatrix} -2 & -3 \\ -5 & -7 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 5 & 7 \end{bmatrix}.$$

$$\mathbf{x} = A^{-1}\mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 5 & 7 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 14 \\ 19 \end{bmatrix}$$

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Properties of Inverses

Suppose A and B are invertible. Then the following results hold:

- a. A^{-1} is invertible and $(A^{-1})^{-1} = A$ (i.e. A is the inverse of A^{-1}).
- b. AB is invertible and $(AB)^{-1} = B^{-1}A^{-1}$
- c. A^T is invertible and $(A^T)^{-1} = (A^{-1})^T$

Partial proof of part b:

$$\begin{aligned} (AB)(B^{-1}A^{-1}) &= A(\text{_____})A^{-1} \\ &= A(\text{_____})A^{-1} = \text{_____} = \text{_____}. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, one can show that $(B^{-1}A^{-1})(AB) = I$.

Proof part c

$$\begin{aligned} A^T(A^{-1})^T &= (A^{-1}A)^T = I^T = I \\ (A^{-1})^T A^T &= (AA^{-1})^T = I^T = I \end{aligned}$$

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Matrix inversion algorithm

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

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 7 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a & c \\ b & d \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

→ Taken a column at a time, that equation determines the columns of A^{-1}

A times column j of A^{-1} = column j of I

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 7 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad ; \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 7 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c \\ d \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 7 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Carry out elimination on *all systems simultaneously*.

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$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 7 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$[A \ I]$$

↓

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

↓

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 7 & -3 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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

The Gauss-Jordan method

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Matrix inversion algorithm

Place A and I side-by-side to form an augmented matrix $[A \ I]$. Then perform row operations on this matrix (which will produce identical operations on A and I). So by Theorem 7:

$$[A \ I] \text{ will row reduce to } [I \ A^{-1}]$$

or A is not invertible.

EXAMPLE: Find the inverse of $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ -3 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$, if it exists.

Solution:

$$[A \ I] = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -3 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \sim \dots \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \frac{3}{2} & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{So } A^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ \frac{3}{2} & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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Find the inverse of the matrix $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 4 & -3 & 8 \end{bmatrix}$, if it exists

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Elementary Matrices

Definition

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

EXAMPLE: Let $E_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$, $E_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$,

$E_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ and $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{bmatrix}$.

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Observe the following products and describe how these products can be obtained by elementary row operations on A .

$$E_1A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ 2d & 2e & 2f \\ g & h & i \end{bmatrix}$$

$$E_2A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ g & h & i \\ d & e & f \end{bmatrix}$$

$$E_3A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ 3a+g & 3b+h & 3c+i \end{bmatrix}$$

If an elementary row operation is performed on an $m \times n$ matrix A , the resulting matrix can be written as EA , where the $m \times m$ matrix E is created by performing the same row operations on I_m .

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Elementary matrices are *invertible* because row operations are *reversible*. To determine the inverse of an elementary matrix E , determine the elementary row operation needed to transform E back into I and apply this operation to I to find the inverse.

For example,

$$E_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad E_3^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} & & \\ & & \\ & & \end{bmatrix}$$

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Example: Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -\frac{3}{2} & 0 & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$. Then

$$E_1 A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -\frac{3}{2} & 0 & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -3 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$E_2(E_1 A) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -3 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -3 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$E_3(E_2 E_1 A) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -3 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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So

$$\boxed{E_3 E_2 E_1 A = I_3}.$$

Then multiplying on the right by A^{-1} , we get

$$E_3 E_2 E_1 A \underline{\hspace{1cm}} = I_3 \underline{\hspace{1cm}}.$$

So

$$\boxed{E_3 E_2 E_1 I_3 = A^{-1}}$$

The elementary row operations that row reduce A to I_n are the same elementary row operations that transform I_n into A^{-1} .

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Matrix Factorisations

A **factorisation** of a matrix A is an equations that expresses A as a product of 2 or more matrices.

Gauss elimination can be used to find such factorisations.

$$Ax=b \quad \Rightarrow \quad Ux=c \quad Ax = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 4 & -6 & 0 \\ -2 & 7 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -2 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix}$$

How to relate A to U ?

E.g.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 4 & -6 & 0 \\ -2 & 7 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \Rightarrow \quad U = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -8 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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3 elimination steps

- i) Subtract 2 times the first equation from the second;
- ii) Subtract -1 times the first equation from the third;
- iii) Subtract -1 times the second equation from the third

Each step corresponds to an elementary matrix.
Let matrix E for step i), F for step ii) and G for step iii)

$$E = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad ; \quad F = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad ; \quad G = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$GFE = U$$

The single matrix that take A to U is GFE

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$$GFE = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$GFEA = U$$

$$A = (GFE)^{-1}U = E^{-1}F^{-1}G^{-1}U$$

$$E^{-1}F^{-1}G^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = L \quad L = \text{lower triangular}$$

$$A = LU \rightarrow \text{Triangular (LU) factorisation}$$

The entries below the diagonal are exactly the multipliers $l_{21}=2, l_{31}=-1$ and $l_{32}=-1$.

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If no row exchanges are required, the original matrix A can be written as a product $A=LU$. The matrix L is lower triangular, with 1's on the diagonal and the multipliers l_{ij} (taken from elimination) below the diagonal. U is the upper triangular matrix which appears after forward elimination and before back substitution; its diagonal entries are pivots.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow U = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \text{ with } L = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \text{Needs a row exchange} \\ \text{cannot be factored into } A=LU$$

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Remark You have to be careful with L . Suppose elimination subtracts row 1 from row 2, creating l_{21} . Then suppose it exchanges rows 2 and 3. If that exchange is done in advance, the multiplier will change to l_{31} in $PA=LU$

E.g.
$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 5 & 8 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 3 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = U$$

With rows exchanged, we recover LU –but now $l_{31}=1$ and $l_{21}=2$:

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad L = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$A_{m \times n} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & 1 & 0 \\ * & * & * & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \bullet & * & * & * & * \\ 0 & \bullet & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \bullet & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$L_{m \times n} \qquad U_{m \times n}$

EXAMPLE 1 It can be verified that

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -7 & -2 & 2 \\ -3 & 5 & 1 & 0 \\ 6 & -4 & 0 & -5 \\ -9 & 5 & -5 & 12 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & -5 & 1 & 0 \\ -3 & 8 & 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -7 & -2 & 2 \\ 0 & -2 & -1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} = LU$$

Use this LU factorization of A to solve $Ax = b$, where $b = \begin{bmatrix} -9 \\ 5 \\ 7 \\ 11 \end{bmatrix}$.

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$$[L \quad \mathbf{b}] = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -9 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 5 \\ 2 & -5 & 1 & 0 & 7 \\ -3 & 8 & 3 & 1 & 11 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -9 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -4 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = [I \quad \mathbf{y}]$$

$$[U \quad \mathbf{y}] = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -7 & -2 & 2 & -9 \\ 0 & -2 & -1 & 2 & -4 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \\ -6 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Algorithm for an LU factorization

1. Reduce **A** to an echelon form **U** by a sequence of row replacement operations, if possible.
2. Place entries in **L** such that the same sequence of row operations reduces **L** to **I**

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EXAMPLE 2 Find an LU factorization of

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & -1 & 5 & -2 \\ -4 & -5 & 3 & -8 & 1 \\ 2 & -5 & -4 & 1 & 8 \\ -6 & 0 & 7 & -3 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & -1 & 5 & -2 \\ -4 & -5 & 3 & -8 & 1 \\ 2 & -5 & -4 & 1 & 8 \\ -6 & 0 & 7 & -3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & -1 & 5 & -2 \\ 0 & 3 & 1 & 2 & -3 \\ 0 & -9 & -3 & -4 & 10 \\ 0 & 12 & 4 & 12 & -5 \end{bmatrix} = A_1$$

$$\sim A_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & -1 & 5 & -2 \\ 0 & 3 & 1 & 2 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 4 & 7 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & -1 & 5 & -2 \\ 0 & 3 & 1 & 2 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix} = U$$

$$L = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & & 1 & 0 \\ -3 & & & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$\begin{array}{cccc}
 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -4 \\ 2 \\ -6 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -9 \\ 12 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 5 \end{bmatrix} \\
 \div 2 & \div 3 & \div 2 & \div 5 \\
 \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow \\
 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ -2 & 1 & & \\ 1 & -3 & 1 & \\ -3 & 4 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} & , & \text{and } L = & \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -3 & 1 & 0 \\ -3 & 4 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}
 \end{array}$$

An easy calculation verifies that this L and U satisfy $LU = A$.