

# SOLVING SQUARE $Ax = b$ : INVERSE OF A SQUARE MATRIX [LARSON 2.3]

- **INVERSE OF A SQUARE MATRIX:** Let  $A$  be a  $n \times n$  square matrix and  $I$  be the  $n \times n$  identity matrix.

Then  $A$  is **invertible** if there exists a  $n \times n$  matrix  $A^{-1}$  such that  $A^{-1}A = AA^{-1} = I$

If  $A$  does not have an inverse,  $A$  is called **singular** (AKA **noninvertible**).

Non-square matrices do not have inverses (since  $AB \neq BA$  if  $m \neq n$ .)

- **UNIQUENESS OF AN INVERSE:** If  $n \times n$  square matrix  $A$  is invertible, then its inverse  $A^{-1}$  is **unique**.
- **FINDING AN INVERSE MATRIX VIA GAUSS-JORDAN ELIMINATION:**

**GIVEN:** Square  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$ .

**TASK:** Find  $A^{-1}$  if it exists, otherwise conclude  $A$  is singular.

(1) Form **augmented** matrix  $[A|I]$ , where  $I$  is  $n \times n$  **identity** matrix.

(2) Apply **Gauss-Jordan Elimination** to  $[A|I]$ :

If  $\text{RREF}(A) \neq I$ , then  $A$  is **singular**.

If  $\text{RREF}(A) = I$ , then  $[A|I] \xrightarrow{\text{Gauss-Jordan}} [I|A^{-1}]$

**WARNING:** There will **never** be a **pivot** to the **right of vertical divider**.

**SANITY CHECK:** Check that  $A^{-1}A = I$  and  $AA^{-1} = I$ .

- **INVERSE OF A  $2 \times 2$  MATRIX:**

Let  $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$  be a  $2 \times 2$  matrix s.t.  $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R}$ . Then:

$$\text{If } ad - bc \neq 0, \text{ then } A^{-1} = \frac{1}{ad - bc} \begin{bmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{bmatrix}$$

If  $ad - bc = 0$ , then  $A$  is **singular**.

- **PROPERTIES OF INVERSES:**

Let  $A, B$  be  $n \times n$  **invertible** matrices,  $k$  be **positive integer**, and  $\alpha \neq 0$ .

Then  $A^{-1}, A^k, \alpha A, A^T, AB$  are all invertible and the following are true:

- |      |                                             |                           |
|------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| (I1) | $(A^{-1})^{-1} = A$                         | Inverse of an Inverse     |
| (I2) | $(A^k)^{-1} = (A^{-1})^k$                   | Inverse of a Power        |
| (I3) | $(\alpha A)^{-1} = \frac{1}{\alpha} A^{-1}$ | Inverse of a Scalar Mult. |
| (I4) | $(A^T)^{-1} = (A^{-1})^T$                   | Inverse of a Transpose    |
| (I5) | $(AB)^{-1} = B^{-1}A^{-1}$                  | Inverse of a Product      |

- **INVERSE OF AN EXTENDED PRODUCT:**

Let  $A, B, C$  be  $n \times n$  **invertible** matrices. Then:  $(ABC)^{-1} = C^{-1}B^{-1}A^{-1}$

Let  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_{k-1}, A_k$  be  $n \times n$  **invertible** matrices. Then:  $(A_1A_2 \cdots A_{k-1}A_k)^{-1} = A_k^{-1}A_{k-1}^{-1} \cdots A_2^{-1}A_1^{-1}$

- **CANCELLATION PROPERTIES OF MATRIX PRODUCTS:**

Let  $C$  be an **invertible** matrix and  $A, B$  have compatible shapes. Then:

- |      |                             |                    |
|------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| (C1) | If $AC = BC$ , then $A = B$ | Right-cancellation |
| (C2) | If $CA = CB$ , then $A = B$ | Left-cancellation  |

- **SOLVING SQUARE LINEAR SYSTEM  $Ax = b$  VIA  $A^{-1}$ :**  $x = A^{-1}b$

- **SOLVING SQUARE LINEAR SYSTEM  $AX = B$  VIA  $A^{-1}$ :**  $X = A^{-1}B$

- **SOLVING SQUARE LINEAR SYSTEM  $XA = B$  VIA  $A^{-1}$ :**  $X = BA^{-1}$

**EX 2.3.1:** Let  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$ .

(a) Find  $A^{-1}$ .

(b) Use  $A^{-1}$  to solve  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ , where  $\mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$ .

(c) Use  $A^{-1}$  to solve  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ , where  $\mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$ .

(d) Use  $A^{-1}$  to solve  $AX = B$ , where  $B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ .

**EX 2.3.2:** Let  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 3 & 5 & 4 \\ 3 & 6 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$ . Find  $A^{-1}$  if it exists.

**EX 2.3.3:** Let  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 3 & 6 \\ 2 & 4 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$ . Find  $A^{-1}$  if it exists.

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**EX 2.3.4:** Let  $A^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 3 \\ -1 & 2 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $B^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 4 & 4 \\ 0 & -1 & -2 \\ 3 & -2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$ .

(a) Compute  $\left(-\frac{1}{3}A\right)^{-1}$ .

(b) Compute  $(B^2)^{-1}$ .

(c) Compute  $(AB)^{-1}$ .