3.8 Invertible Matrices

Definition 6 If A is a square matrix of order m, and if there exists another square matrix B of the same order m, such that AB = BA = I, then B is called the *inverse* matrix of A and it is denoted by A^{-1}. In that case A is said to be invertible.

For example, let $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ and $B = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -3 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ be two matrices.

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

Also $BA = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = I$. Thus B is the inverse of A, in other words $B = A^{-1}$ and A is inverse of B, i.e., $A = B^{-1}$

Note

1. A rectangular matrix does not possess inverse matrix, since for products BA and AB to be defined and to be equal, it is necessary that matrices A and B should be square matrices of the same order.
2. If B is the inverse of A, then A is also the inverse of B.

Theorem 3 (Uniqueness of inverse) Inverse of a square matrix, if it exists, is unique.

Proof Let $A = [a_{ij}]$ be a square matrix of order m. If possible, let B and C be two inverses of A. We shall show that B = C.

Since B is the inverse of A

$$AB = BA = I \quad \text{... (1)}$$

Since C is also the inverse of A

$$AC = CA = I \quad \text{... (2)}$$

Thus
$$B = BI = B(AC) = (BA)C = IC = C$$

Theorem 4 If A and B are invertible matrices of the same order, then $(AB)^{-1} = B^{-1}A^{-1}$.

Proof From the definition of inverse of a matrix, we have

$$(AB)(AB)^{-1} = I$$

or $\quad A^{-1}(AB)(AB)^{-1} = A^{-1}I \quad$ (Pre multiplying both sides by A^{-1})

or $\quad (A^{-1}A)B(AB)^{-1} = A^{-1} \quad$ (Since $A^{-1}I = A^{-1}$)

or $\quad IB(AB)^{-1} = A^{-1}$

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

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

or $\quad I(AB)^{-1} = B^{-1}A^{-1}$

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

3.8.1 *Inverse of a matrix by elementary operations*

Let X, A and B be matrices of, the same order such that X = AB. In order to apply a sequence of elementary row operations on the matrix equation X = AB, we will apply these row operations simultaneously on X and on the first matrix A of the product AB on RHS.

Similarly, in order to apply a sequence of elementary column operations on the matrix equation X = AB, we will apply, these operations simultaneously on X and on the second matrix B of the product AB on RHS.

In view of the above discussion, we conclude that if A is a matrix such that A^{-1} exists, then to find A^{-1} using elementary row operations, write A = IA and apply a sequence of row operation on A = IA till we get, I = BA. The matrix B will be the inverse of A. Similarly, if we wish to find A^{-1} using column operations, then, write A = AI and apply a sequence of column operations on A = AI till we get, I = AB.

Remark In case, after applying one or more elementary row (column) operations on A = IA (A = AI), if we obtain all zeros in one or more rows of the matrix A on L.H.S., then A^{-1} does not exist.

Example 23 By using elementary operations, find the inverse of the matrix $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$.

Solution In order to use elementary row operations we may write A = IA.

or $\quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} A$, then $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & -5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} A$ (applying $R_2 \to R_2 - 2R_1$)

or $$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ \frac{2}{5} & \frac{-1}{5} \end{bmatrix} A \text{ (applying } R_2 \to -\frac{1}{5} R_2\text{)}$$

or $$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{5} & \frac{2}{5} \\ \frac{2}{5} & \frac{-1}{5} \end{bmatrix} A \text{ (applying } R_1 \to R_1 - 2R_2\text{)}$$

Thus $$A^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{5} & \frac{2}{5} \\ \frac{2}{5} & \frac{-1}{5} \end{bmatrix}$$

Alternatively, in order to use elementary column operations, we write A = AI, i.e.,

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

Applying $C_2 \to C_2 - 2C_1$, we get

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2 & -5 \end{bmatrix} = A \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Now applying $C_2 \to -\frac{1}{5} C_2$, we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = A \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \frac{2}{5} \\ 0 & \frac{-1}{5} \end{bmatrix}$$

Finally, applying $C_1 \to C_1 - 2C_2$, we obtain

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = A \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{5} & \frac{2}{5} \\ \frac{2}{5} & \frac{-1}{5} \end{bmatrix}$$

Hence $$A^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{5} & \frac{2}{5} \\ \frac{2}{5} & \frac{-1}{5} \end{bmatrix}$$

or $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ \frac{2}{5} & \frac{-1}{5} \end{bmatrix} A$ (applying $R_2 \to -\frac{1}{5} R_2$)

or $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{5} & \frac{2}{5} \\ \frac{2}{5} & \frac{-1}{5} \end{bmatrix} A$ (applying $R_1 \to R_1 - 2R_2$)

Thus $A^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{5} & \frac{2}{5} \\ \frac{2}{5} & \frac{-1}{5} \end{bmatrix}$

Alternatively, in order to use elementary column operations, we write A = AI, i.e.,

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

Applying $C_2 \to C_2 - 2C_1$, we get

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Finally, applying $C_1 \to C_1 - 2C_2$, we obtain

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = A \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{5} & \frac{2}{5} \\ \frac{2}{5} & \frac{-1}{5} \end{bmatrix}$$

Hence $A^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{5} & \frac{2}{5} \\ \frac{2}{5} & \frac{-1}{5} \end{bmatrix}$

Example 2 4 Obtain the inverse of the following matrix using elementary operatio

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

Solution Write A = I A, i.e., $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} A$

or $$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} A \text{ (applying } R_1 \leftrightarrow R_2\text{)}$$

or $$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & -5 & -8 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} A \text{ (applying } R_3 \rightarrow R_3 - 3R_1\text{)}$$

or $$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & -5 & -8 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} A \text{ (applying } R_1 \rightarrow R_1 - 2R_2\text{)}$$

or $$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 5 & -3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} A \text{ (applying } R_3 \rightarrow R_3 + 5R_2\text{)}$$

or $$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{5}{2} & \frac{-3}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} A \text{ (applying } R_3 \rightarrow \frac{1}{2} R_3\text{)}$$

or $$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{-1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{5}{2} & \frac{-3}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} A \text{ (applying } R_1 \rightarrow R_1 + R_3\text{)}$$

Example 24

or
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{-1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ -4 & 3 & -1 \\ \frac{5}{2} & \frac{-3}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} A \text{ (applying } R_2 \to R_2 - 2R_3)$$

Solution

Hence
$$A^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{-1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ -4 & 3 & -1 \\ \frac{5}{2} & \frac{-3}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

Alternatively, write A = AI, i.e.,

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

or
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = A \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (C_1 \leftrightarrow C_2)$$

or
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 3 & -1 \end{bmatrix} = A \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (C_3 \to C_3 - 2C_1)$$

or
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 3 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = A \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (C_3 \to C_3 + C_2)$$

or
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = A \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & \frac{1}{2} \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} \quad (C_3 \to \frac{1}{2} C_3)$$

or $$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -5 & 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = A \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 & \frac{1}{2} \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} \quad (C_1 \to C_1 - 2C_2)$$

or $$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = A \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & 1 & \frac{1}{2} \\ -4 & 0 & -1 \\ \frac{5}{2} & 0 & \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} \quad (C_1 \to C_1 + 5C_3)$$

or $$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = A \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{-1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ -4 & 3 & -1 \\ \frac{5}{2} & \frac{-3}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} \quad (C_2 \to C_2 - 3C_3)$$

Hence $$A^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{-1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ -4 & 3 & -1 \\ \frac{5}{2} & \frac{-3}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}$$