

## SECTION 4.5 - INVERSE OF A SQUARE MATRIX

**The Identity Matrix.****Example 1.** Find the products

$$(a) \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(b) \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 6 \\ 3 & 6 & 9 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 6 \\ 3 & 6 & 9 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

**Solution.**

(a)

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

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

(b)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 6 \\ 3 & 6 & 9 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2+0 & 4+0 & 6+0 \\ 0+3 & 0+6 & 0+9 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 6 \\ 3 & 6 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 6 \\ 3 & 6 & 9 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2+0+0 & 0+4+0 & 0+0+6 \\ 3+0+0 & 0+6+0 & 0+0+9 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 6 \\ 3 & 6 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$$

**Definition 1** (Identity Matrix). The  $n \times n$  identity matrix is a matrix, denoted by  $I$  or  $I_n$ , which is an  $n \times n$  matrix with 1's on the principal diagonal and 0's everywhere else. For an  $m \times n$  matrix  $M$ , we have

$$I_m M = M = M I_n.$$

From the above example, we have the two forms of the identity matrix

$$I_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad I_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

**Inverse of a Square Matrix.** It is only possible to find a multiplicative inverse of a matrix if it is a square matrix. So, we now restrict ourselves to square matrices.

**Definition 2** (Inverse Matrix). *If  $M$  is a square matrix of size  $n$ , and if there is a matrix, denoted  $M^{-1}$ , such that*

$$MM^{-1} = M^{-1}M = I_n$$

*we call  $M^{-1}$  the inverse of  $M$ . If  $M$  does not have an inverse, then  $M$  is called a singular matrix.*

**Example 2.** *Find the inverse of the matrix*

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

**Solution.** *Since we're looking for a matrix which satisfies  $MX = I_n$ , we can use the trick from the previous section and just row reduce  $[M|A]$  to the form  $[I_n|X]$ , then check that  $XM = I_n$  as well.*

$$\begin{aligned} \left[ \begin{array}{cc|cc} 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] & \xrightarrow{R_1 \leftrightarrow R_2} \left[ \begin{array}{cc|cc} 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right] & \xrightarrow{R_2 - 2R_1 \rightarrow R_2} \left[ \begin{array}{cc|cc} 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & -2 \end{array} \right] & \xrightarrow{-R_2 \rightarrow R_2} \\ & \left[ \begin{array}{cc|cc} 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 2 \end{array} \right] & \xrightarrow{R_1 - 2R_2 \rightarrow R_1} \left[ \begin{array}{cc|cc} 1 & 0 & 2 & -3 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 2 \end{array} \right] \end{aligned}$$

*So we should have that  $M^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -3 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ . We need to check that  $M^{-1}M = I_2$ .*

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & -3 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 - 3 & 6 - 6 \\ -2 + 2 & -3 + 4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = I_2.$$

*Thus we have that*

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

**Example 3.** *Find the inverse of the matrix*

$$N = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}.$$

**Solution.**

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cc|cc} 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 4 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{R_2 - 2R_1 \rightarrow R_2} \left[ \begin{array}{cc|cc} 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 & 1 \end{array} \right]$$

*Since there is only zeros in the bottom line of the left side, the matrix  $N$  does not have an inverse.*

**Example 4.** Find the inverse of the matrix

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

**Solution.**

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 2 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & -3 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -2 & -3 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{R_1 \leftrightarrow R_2} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 2 & -3 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & -3 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{R_3 + R_2 \leftrightarrow R_3} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 2 & -3 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\xrightarrow{R_2 - 3R_3 \leftrightarrow R_2} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 2 & -3 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 9 & -2 & -2 & -3 \\ 0 & -1 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{R_3 + R_2 \leftrightarrow R_3} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 2 & -3 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 9 & -2 & -2 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 8 & -1 & -2 & -2 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\xrightarrow{R_1 - 2R_2 \leftrightarrow R_1} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & -21 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 0 & 1 & 9 & -2 & -2 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 8 & -1 & -2 & -2 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{\frac{1}{8}R_3 \leftrightarrow R_3} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & -21 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 0 & 1 & 9 & -2 & -2 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -\frac{1}{8} & -\frac{1}{4} & -\frac{1}{4} \end{array} \right]$$

$$\xrightarrow{R_1 + 21R_3 \leftrightarrow R_1} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & \frac{11}{8} & -\frac{1}{4} & \frac{3}{4} \\ 0 & 1 & 9 & -2 & -2 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -\frac{1}{8} & -\frac{1}{4} & -\frac{1}{4} \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{R_1 + 21R_3 \leftrightarrow R_1} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & \frac{11}{8} & -\frac{1}{4} & \frac{3}{4} \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & -\frac{7}{8} & \frac{1}{4} & -\frac{3}{4} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -\frac{1}{8} & -\frac{1}{4} & -\frac{1}{4} \end{array} \right]$$

**Theorem 1.** To find the inverse of an  $n \times n$  matrix  $M$ , one begins with the augmented matrix  $[M | I_n]$  and uses row operations to transform it into  $[I_n | M^{-1}]$ . However, if one or more rows of all 0's appear on the left side of the augmented matrix,  $M$  is not invertible, i.e.,  $M^{-1}$  does not exist.

**Example 5.** Find the inverse of the following matrices (if possible):

(a)

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -6 \\ 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$$

(b)

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

(c)

$$N = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 6 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

**Remark 1.** *There is a trick to invert a  $2 \times 2$  matrix. If  $M = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$ , then*

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

**Cryptography.** Suppose we represent letters by numbers as follows

Blank	0	I	9	R	18
A	1	J	10	S	19
B	2	K	11	T	20
C	3	L	12	U	21
D	4	M	13	V	22
E	5	N	14	W	23
F	6	O	15	X	24
G	7	P	16	Y	25
H	8	Q	17	Z	26

Then, for example, the message “SECRET CODE” would correspond to the sequence

$$19 \ 5 \ 3 \ 18 \ 5 \ 20 \ 0 \ 3 \ 15 \ 4 \ 5$$

The goal of Cryptography is to encode messages in a different sequence which can only be translated back to the message using a decoder.

**Definition 3** (Encoding matrix/Decoding matrix). *Any matrix with positive integer elements whose inverse exists can be used as an encoding matrix. The inverse of an encoding matrix is a decoding matrix.*

To encode a message, we must first decide on a encoding matrix  $A$ . If  $A$  is a  $n \times n$  matrix, then we create another matrix  $n \times p$  matrix  $B$  by entering the message going down columns and taking as many columns as necessary to fit the whole message. Note that the number of rows of  $B$  MUST MATCH the size of  $A$ . If there are extra entries in  $B$  after fitting the whole message, just fill them with 0’s.

**Example 6.** *Encode the message “SECRET CODE” using the encoding matrix*

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

**Solution.** *We first make the matrix  $B$*

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} 19 & 3 & 5 & 0 & 15 & 5 \\ 5 & 18 & 20 & 3 & 4 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Then to encode the message we find the product

$$\begin{aligned}
 AB &= \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 19 & 3 & 5 & 0 & 15 & 5 \\ 5 & 18 & 20 & 3 & 4 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \\
 &= \begin{bmatrix} 38+15 & 6+54 & 10+60 & 0+9 & 30+12 & 10+0 \\ 19+5 & 3+18 & 5+20 & 0+3 & 15+4 & 5+0 \end{bmatrix} \\
 &= \begin{bmatrix} 53 & 60 & 70 & 9 & 42 & 10 \\ 24 & 21 & 25 & 3 & 19 & 5 \end{bmatrix}
 \end{aligned}$$

So the coded message is

$$53 \ 24 \ 60 \ 21 \ 70 \ 25 \ 9 \ 3 \ 42 \ 19 \ 10 \ 5$$

**Example 7.** A message was encoded with  $A$  from the previous example. Decode the sequence

$$29 \ 12 \ 69 \ 28 \ 70 \ 25 \ 111 \ 43$$

**Solution.** First we have to invert the encoding matrix to get the decoding matrix

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

Make a matrix out of the coded message in the same way as above

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} 29 & 69 & 70 & 111 \\ 12 & 28 & 25 & 43 \end{bmatrix}$$

and find the product

$$\begin{aligned}
 A^{-1}C &= \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 3 \\ 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 29 & 69 & 70 & 111 \\ 12 & 28 & 25 & 43 \end{bmatrix} \\
 &= \begin{bmatrix} -29+36 & -69+84 & -70+75 & -111+129 \\ 29-24 & 69-56 & 70-50 & 111-86 \end{bmatrix} \\
 &= \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 15 & 5 & 18 \\ 5 & 13 & 20 & 25 \end{bmatrix}
 \end{aligned}$$

**Example 8.** Use the encoding matrix

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

- Encode the message "MATH IS FUN" using  $E$ .
- Decode the sequence

$$39 \ 60 \ 91 \ 65 \ 110 \ 125 \ 6 \ 7 \ 16 \ 44 \ 63 \ 113 \ 37 \ 53 \ 87$$