Example. If $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 \\ -2 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$ and $B = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ then show that $AB = BA = I$ and therefore, $B = A^{-1}$

Solution:

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

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

Hence $AB = BA = I$

and therefore $B = A^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

Example. Find the inverse, if it exists, of the matrix.

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

Solution:

$$|A| = 0 + 2(-2 + 3) - 3(-2 + 3) = 2 - 3$$

$|A| = -1$, Hence solution exists.

Cofactor of A are:

$A_{11} = 0$,	$A_{12} = -1$,	$A_{13} = 1$
$A_{21} = 2$,	$A_{22} = -3$,	$A_{23} = 2$
$A_{31} = 3$,	$A_{32} = -3$,	$A_{33} = 2$

Matrix of transpose of the cofactors is

$$\text{adj } A = C' = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 & 3 \\ -1 & -3 & -3 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

So

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

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

Example. Show that matrix $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$ is row equivalent to the matrix

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

Solution : We have $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$

Applying $R_2 \to R_2 - 4\, R_1$, we have

$$A \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$$

Applying $R_3 \to R_3 - 7\, R_1$ to the matrix on R. H. S. we get

$$A \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 \\ 0 & -6 & -12 \end{bmatrix}$$

Now Applying $R_3 \to R_3 - 2\,R_2$, we have

$$A \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = B$$

Theorem . Every matrix can be reduced to a triangular matrix by elementary row operations.

Example . Reduce the matrix

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

to triangular form.

Solution .

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 3 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 5 & 3 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{(by applying } R_1 \leftrightarrow R_3\text{)}$$

$$\sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 8 & -9 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{(by applying } R_3 \to R_3 - 5R_1\text{)}$$

$$\sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & -25 & -8 \end{bmatrix}$$

which is triangular matrix.

Algorithm for Solving a Linear System.

To solve a system of equations, we reduce the augmented matrix to its row echelon form and then to its reduced row echelon form. It is done in several steps.

Example.

$$\begin{cases} x_1 + x_2 + 2x_3 = 0 \\ 2x_2 + x_3 = 4 \\ x_1 + 2x_3 = -3 \end{cases} \leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 & 4 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 & -3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The first column is a pivot column.

Step 1. Take the leftmost nonzero column. This will be your pivot column. Make sure the top entry (pivot) is not zero. Interchange rows if necessary.

Definition. A pivot position in a matrix is a location in this matrix that corresponds to a leading 1 in its reduced row echelon form. A pivot column is a column that contains a pivot position.

Step 2. Use the elementary row operations to create zeros in all positions below the pivot.

In our example,

$$\xrightarrow{r_3 \to r_3 - r_1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & -3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Step 3. Select a pivot column in the matrix with the first row ignored. Repeat the previous steps.

In our example,

$$\overset{r_3 \leftrightarrow 2r_3 + r_2}{\Longrightarrow} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

This matrix is in row echelon form.

Step 4. Starting with the rightmost pivot, create zeros above each pivot. Make pivots equal 1 by rescaling rows if necessary.
In our example,

$$\overset{r_2 \to r_2 - r_3}{\Longrightarrow} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \overset{r_1 \to r_1 - 2r_3}{\Longrightarrow} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \overset{r_2 \to r_2/2}{\Longrightarrow} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\overset{r_1 \to r_1 - r_2}{\Longrightarrow} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \leftrightarrow \begin{cases} x_1 = 1 \\ x_2 = 3 \\ x_3 = -2. \end{cases}$$

Example . Determine if the following homogeneous system has a nontrivial solution. Then describe the solution set.

$$\begin{aligned} 3x_1 + 5x_2 - 4x_3 &= 0 \\ -3x_1 - 2x_2 + 4x_3 &= 0 \\ 6x_1 + x_2 - 8x_3 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Let A be the matrix of coefficients of the system and row reduce the augmented matrix $[\,A \quad \mathbf{0}\,]$ to echelon form:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 5 & -4 & 0 \\ -3 & -2 & 4 & 0 \\ 6 & 1 & -8 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 5 & -4 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -9 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 5 & -4 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Since x_3 is a free variable, $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ has nontrivial solutions (one for each choice of x_3). To describe the solution set, continue the row reduction of $[\, A \quad \mathbf{0}\,]$ to *reduced* echelon form:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -\frac{4}{3} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \qquad \begin{aligned} x_1 \qquad - \tfrac{4}{3}x_3 &= 0 \\ x_2 \qquad\quad &= 0 \\ 0 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Solve for the basic variables x_1 and x_2 and obtain $x_1 = \frac{4}{3}x_3$, $x_2 = 0$, with x_3 free. As a vector, the general solution of $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ has the form

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{4}{3}x_3 \\ 0 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = x_3 \begin{bmatrix} \frac{4}{3} \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = x_3\mathbf{v}, \quad \text{where } \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{4}{3} \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Here x_3 is factored out of the expression for the general solution vector. This shows that every solution of $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ in this case is a scalar multiple of $\mathbf{v}$. The trivial solution is obtained by choosing $x_3 = 0$.

Example . Let $\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$, $\mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}$, and $\mathbf{v}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$.

a. Determine if the set $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3\}$ is linearly independent.

b. If possible, find a linear dependence relation among $\mathbf{v}_1$, $\mathbf{v}_2$, and $\mathbf{v}_3$.

a. We must determine if there is a nontrivial solution of equation

$$x_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix} + x_3 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \tag{1}$$

Row operations on the associated augmented matrix show that

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & 2 & 0 \\ 2 & 5 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 6 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & -3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Clearly, x_1 and x_2 are basic variables, and x_3 is free. Each nonzero value of x_3 determines a nontrivial solution of (1). Hence $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3$ are linearly dependent (and not linearly independent).

b. To find a linear dependence relation among $\mathbf{v}_1$, $\mathbf{v}_2$, and $\mathbf{v}_3$, completely row reduce the augmented matrix and write the new system:

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

Thus $x_1 = 2x_3$, $x_2 = -x_3$, and x_3 is free. Choose any nonzero value for x_3—say, $x_3 = 5$. Then $x_1 = 10$ and $x_2 = -5$. Substitute these values into equation (1) and obtain

$$10\mathbf{v}_1 - 5\mathbf{v}_2 + 5\mathbf{v}_3 = \mathbf{0}$$

This is one (out of infinitely many) possible linear dependence relations among $\mathbf{v}_1$, $\mathbf{v}_2$, and $\mathbf{v}_3$.

The columns of a matrix A are linearly independent if and only if the equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ has *only* the trivial solution.

Example .

Find all minors and cofactors of the matrix

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

Solution:

$$M_{11} = \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 3 \\ 5 & -4 \end{vmatrix} = -15, \quad M_{12} = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 2 & -4 \end{vmatrix} = -10, \quad M_{13} = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2 & -5 \end{vmatrix} = 5$$

$$M_{21} = \begin{vmatrix} 4 & -1 \\ 5 & -4 \end{vmatrix} = -11, \quad M_{22} = \begin{vmatrix} 3 & -1 \\ 2 & -4 \end{vmatrix} = -10, \quad M_{23} = \begin{vmatrix} 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 5 \end{vmatrix} = 7$$

$$M_{31} = \begin{vmatrix} 4 & -1 \\ 0 & 3 \end{vmatrix} = 12, \quad M_{32} = \begin{vmatrix} 3 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = 10, \quad M_{33} = \begin{vmatrix} 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = -4$$

$$\boxed{\textbf{Cofactor of } a_{ij} = C_{ij} = (-1)^{i+j} M_{ij}}$$

$$C_{11} = -15, \quad C_{12} = 10, \quad C_{13} = 5$$
$$C_{21} = 11, \quad C_{22} = -10, \quad C_{23} = -7$$
$$C_{31} = 12, \quad C_{32} = -10, \quad C_{33} = -4$$

Matrix of cofactors , $C = \begin{bmatrix} -15 & 10 & 5 \\ 11 & -10 & -7 \\ 12 & -10 & -4 \end{bmatrix}$

Example .
Find the determinant of the matrix A by method of cofactors,

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

Solution:
Using the cofactors found in the last example.
Expanding from First row

$$\det(A) = a_{11}C_{11} + a_{12}C_{12} + a_{13}C_{13}$$
$$= 3(-15)+4(10)+(-1)(5)$$
$$=-45 + 40 - 5 = -10$$

Example . Compute det A, where $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -4 & 2 \\ -2 & 8 & -9 \\ -1 & 7 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$.

The strategy is to reduce A to echelon form and then to use the fact that the determinant of a triangular matrix is the product of the diagonal entries. The first two row replacements in column 1 do not change the determinant:

$$\det A = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -4 & 2 \\ -2 & 8 & -9 \\ -1 & 7 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -4 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & -5 \\ -1 & 7 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -4 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & -5 \\ 0 & 3 & 2 \end{vmatrix}$$

An interchange of rows 2 and 3 reverses the sign of the determinant, so

$$\det A = -\begin{vmatrix} 1 & -4 & 2 \\ 0 & 3 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & -5 \end{vmatrix} = -(1)(3)(-5) = 15$$

Example . Compute $\det A$, where $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -8 & 6 & 8 \\ 3 & -9 & 5 & 10 \\ -3 & 0 & 1 & -2 \\ 1 & -4 & 0 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$.

To simplify the arithmetic, we want a 1 in the upper-left corner. We could interchange rows 1 and 4. Instead, we factor out 2 from the top row, and then proceed with row replacements in the first column:

$$\det A = 2\begin{vmatrix} 1 & -4 & 3 & 4 \\ 3 & -9 & 5 & 10 \\ -3 & 0 & 1 & -2 \\ 1 & -4 & 0 & 6 \end{vmatrix} = 2\begin{vmatrix} 1 & -4 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 3 & -4 & -2 \\ 0 & -12 & 10 & 10 \\ 0 & 0 & -3 & 2 \end{vmatrix}$$

Next, we could factor out another 2 from row 3 or use the 3 in the second column as a pivot. We choose the latter operation, adding 4 times row 2 to row 3:

$$\det A = 2\begin{vmatrix} 1 & -4 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 3 & -4 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & -6 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & -3 & 2 \end{vmatrix}$$

Finally, adding $-1/2$ times row 3 to row 4, and computing the "triangular" determinant, we find that

$$\det A = 2\begin{vmatrix} 1 & -4 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 3 & -4 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & -6 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 2 \cdot (1)(3)(-6)(1) = -36$$

Example . Compute $\det A$, where $A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 & 2 & -5 \\ 0 & 5 & -3 & -6 \\ -6 & 7 & -7 & 4 \\ -5 & -8 & 0 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$.

Add 2 times row 1 to row 3 to obtain

$$\det A = \det \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 & 2 & -5 \\ 0 & 5 & -3 & -6 \\ 0 & 5 & -3 & -6 \\ -5 & -8 & 0 & 9 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

because the second and third rows of the second matrix are equal.

Example . Compute det A, where $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 2 & 5 & -7 & 3 \\ 0 & 3 & 6 & 2 \\ -2 & -5 & 4 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$.

A good way to begin is to use the 2 in column 1 as a pivot, eliminating the -2 below it. Then use a cofactor expansion to reduce the size of the determinant, followed by another row replacement operation. Thus

$$\det A = \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 2 & 5 & -7 & 3 \\ 0 & 3 & 6 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & -3 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = -2 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 3 & 6 & 2 \\ 0 & -3 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = -2 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & -3 & 1 \end{vmatrix}$$

An interchange of rows 2 and 3 would produce a "triangular determinant." Another approach is to make a cofactor expansion down the first column:

$$\det A = (-2)(1) \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 5 \\ -3 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = -2 \cdot (15) = -30$$

Example . Find A^{-1} of matrix A

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 3 & 2 \\ -2 & 0 & -4 \end{bmatrix}$$ by the method of cofactors.

Solution: Cofactors of the matrix A are

$$C_{11} = \begin{vmatrix} 3 & 2 \\ 0 & -4 \end{vmatrix} = -12, C_{12} = -\begin{vmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ -2 & -4 \end{vmatrix} = -4, C_{13} = \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 3 \\ -2 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = 6$$

$$C_{21} = -\begin{vmatrix} 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 4 \end{vmatrix} = 0, \quad C_{22} = \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ -2 & -4 \end{vmatrix} = -2, \ C_{23} = -\begin{vmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ -2 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = 0,$$

$$C_{31} = \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 \end{vmatrix} = -9, \quad C_{32} = -\begin{vmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 2 \end{vmatrix} = -4, \quad C_{33} = \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{vmatrix} = 6$$

Matrix of cofactors, $C = \begin{bmatrix} -12 & -4 & 6 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 \\ -9 & -4 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$

Adjoint of matrix A, $\operatorname{adj}(A) = \begin{bmatrix} -12 & 0 & -9 \\ -4 & -2 & -4 \\ 6 & 0 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\begin{aligned} \det(A) &= a_{11}C_{11} + a_{12}C_{12} + a_{13}C_{13} \\ &= 2(-12)+0(-4)+3(6) \\ &= -24 + 18 = -6 \neq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Inverse of the matrix A is

$$A^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det A}[adj(A)] = \frac{1}{-6}\begin{bmatrix} -12 & 0 & -9 \\ -4 & -2 & -4 \\ 6 & 0 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

Example . Find the inverse of the matrix $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 3 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 4 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$.

The nine cofactors are

$$C_{11} = +\begin{vmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 4 & -2 \end{vmatrix} = -2, \quad C_{12} = -\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -2 \end{vmatrix} = 3, \quad C_{13} = +\begin{vmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 4 \end{vmatrix} = 5$$

$$C_{21} = -\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 4 & -2 \end{vmatrix} = 14, \quad C_{22} = +\begin{vmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 1 & -2 \end{vmatrix} = -7, \quad C_{23} = -\begin{vmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 4 \end{vmatrix} = -7$$

$$C_{31} = +\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ -1 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 4, \quad C_{32} = -\begin{vmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 1, \quad C_{33} = +\begin{vmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{vmatrix} = -3$$

The adjugate matrix is the *transpose* of the matrix of cofactors. [For instance, C_{12} goes in the $(2, 1)$ position.] Thus

$$\text{adj } A = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 14 & 4 \\ 3 & -7 & 1 \\ 5 & -7 & -3 \end{bmatrix}$$

We could compute $\det A$ directly, but the following computation provides a check on the calculations

$$(\text{adj } A) \cdot A = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 14 & 4 \\ 3 & -7 & 1 \\ 5 & -7 & -3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 3 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 4 & -2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 14 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 14 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 14 \end{bmatrix} = 14I$$

Since $(\text{adj } A)A = 14I$, $\det A = 14$ and

$$A^{-1} = \frac{1}{14} \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 14 & 4 \\ 3 & -7 & 1 \\ 5 & -7 & -3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1/7 & 1 & 2/7 \\ 3/14 & -1/2 & 1/14 \\ 5/14 & -1/2 & -3/14 \end{bmatrix}$$

Example . Let A be the matrix $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 & -2 \\ -5 & 9 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$, and let $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}$. Determine if $\mathbf{u}$ belongs to the null space of A.

To test if $\mathbf{u}$ satisfies $A\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}$, simply compute

$$A\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 & -2 \\ -5 & 9 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 - 9 + 4 \\ -25 + 27 - 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Thus $\mathbf{u}$ is in $\text{Nul } A$.

Example . Find a spanning set for the null space of the matrix

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

The first step is to find the general solution of $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ in terms of free variables. Row reduce the augmented matrix $[\,A \quad \mathbf{0}\,]$ to *reduced* echelon form in order to write the basic variables in terms of the free variables:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 0 & -1 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \qquad \begin{aligned} x_1 - 2x_2 \quad - \; x_4 + 3x_5 &= 0 \\ x_3 + 2x_4 - 2x_5 &= 0 \\ 0 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

The general solution is $x_1 = 2x_2 + x_4 - 3x_5$, $x_3 = -2x_4 + 2x_5$, with x_2, x_4, and x_5 free. Next, decompose the vector giving the general solution into a linear combination of vectors where *the weights are the free variables*. That is,

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \\ x_5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2x_2 + x_4 - 3x_5 \\ x_2 \\ -2x_4 + 2x_5 \\ x_4 \\ x_5 \end{bmatrix} = x_2 \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{u}} + x_4 \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{v}} + x_5 \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 0 \\ 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{w}}$$

$$= x_2\mathbf{u} + x_4\mathbf{v} + x_5\mathbf{w}$$

Every linear combination of $\mathbf{u}$, $\mathbf{v}$, and $\mathbf{w}$ is an element of Nul A and vice versa. Thus $\{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}\}$ is a spanning set for Nul A.

Example .

Find the adjoint of

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

The cofactor C_{11} is given by

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 3 & 2 \\ 0 & -2 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow \quad C_{11} = (-1)^2 \begin{vmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ 0 & -2 \end{vmatrix} = 4.$$

Continuing this process produces the following matrix of cofactors of A.

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

The transpose of this matrix is the adjoint of A. That is,

$$\operatorname{adj}(A) = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 6 & 7 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Example. Find the inverse, if it exists, for

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

We have:

$$A_{11} = \begin{vmatrix} 3 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 3, \quad A_{12} = -\begin{vmatrix} -2 & -1 \\ 4 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = -2, \quad A_{13} = \begin{vmatrix} -2 & 3 \\ 4 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = -12.$$

Find the determinant by the expansion along the first row:

$$\det(A) = a_{11}A_{11} + a_{12}A_{12} + a_{13}A_{13} = 0 \cdot 3 + 1 \cdot (-2) + 2 \cdot (-12) = -26.$$

Since $\det(A) \neq 0$, we conclude that A is invertible, and we can continue computing cofactors :

$$A_{21} = -\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = -1, \quad A_{22} = \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 4 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = -8, \quad A_{23} = -\begin{vmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 4 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = 4,$$

$$A_{31} = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & -1 \end{vmatrix} = -7, \quad A_{32} = -\begin{vmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ -2 & -1 \end{vmatrix} = -4, \quad A_{33} = \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -2 & 3 \end{vmatrix} = 2.$$

$$A^{-1} = -\frac{1}{26}\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 & -7 \\ -2 & -8 & -4 \\ -12 & 4 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{3}{26} & \frac{1}{26} & \frac{7}{26} \\ \frac{1}{13} & \frac{4}{13} & \frac{2}{13} \\ \frac{6}{13} & -\frac{2}{13} & -\frac{1}{13} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Example .

Use the adjoint of

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

to find A^{-1}.

The determinant of this matrix is 3. Using the adjoint of A, you can find the inverse of A to be

$$A^{-1} = \frac{1}{|A|}\operatorname{adj}(A) = \tfrac{1}{3}\begin{bmatrix} 4 & 6 & 7 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{4}{3} & 2 & \frac{7}{3} \\ \frac{1}{3} & 0 & \frac{1}{3} \\ \frac{2}{3} & 1 & \frac{2}{3} \end{bmatrix}.$$

You can check to see that this matrix is the inverse of A by multiplying to obtain

$$AA^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 3 & 2 \\ 0 & -2 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix}\begin{bmatrix} \frac{4}{3} & 2 & \frac{7}{3} \\ \frac{1}{3} & 0 & \frac{1}{3} \\ \frac{2}{3} & 1 & \frac{2}{3} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$