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If  $A$  and  $B$  commute so do  $A$  and  $B^{-1}$

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**Theorem 1.** *Let  $A$  and  $B$  be commuting matrices. If  $B$  is invertible, then  $A$  and  $B^{-1}$  commute, and if  $A$  and  $B$  are invertible, then  $A^{-1}$  and  $B^{-1}$  commute.*

*Proof.* By assumption

$$AB = BA,$$

multiplying from the left and from the right by  $B^{-1}$  yields

$$B^{-1}A = AB^{-1}.$$

The second claim follows similarly. □

The statement and proof of this result can obviously be extended to elements of any monoid. In particular, in the case of a group, we see that two elements commute if and only if their inverses do.