

Here is the theorem that we are proving.



Theorem. The following properties hold:

1. If B and C are inverses of A then $B=C$. Thus we can speak about **the** inverse of a matrix A , A^{-1} .
2. If A is invertible and k is a non-zero scalar then kA is invertible and $(kA)^{-1} = 1/k A^{-1}$.
3. If A and B are invertible then AB is invertible and

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

that is the inverse of the product is the product of inverses in the opposite order. In particular

$$(A^n)^{-1} = (A^{-1})^n.$$

4. $(A^T)^{-1} = (A^{-1})^T$, the inverse of the transpose is the transpose of the inverse.
5. If A is invertible then $(A^{-1})^{-1} = A$.



Proof. 1. Indeed if $AB=I$, $CA=I$ then

$$B = I*B = (CA)B = C(AB) = C*I = C.$$

3. We need to prove that if A and B are invertible square matrices then $B^{-1}A^{-1}$ is the inverse of AB . Let us denote $B^{-1}A^{-1}$ by C (we always have to denote the things we are working with). Then by definition of the inverse we need to show that $(AB)C = C(AB) = I$. Substituting $B^{-1}A^{-1}$ for C we get:

$$(AB)(B^{-1}A^{-1}) = ABB^{-1}A^{-1} = A(BB^{-1})A^{-1} = AIA^{-1} = AA^{-1} = I.$$

We used the [associativity](#) of the product of matrices, the definition of an [inverse](#) and the fact that $IA=AI=A$ for every matrix A .

Other properties were left as exercises.

