

Chapter 2 Section 4

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Theorem 1. *An $n \times n$ matrix A is invertible if and only if*

$$\text{rref}(A) = I_n$$

or, equivalently, if

$$\text{rank}(A) = n$$

Theorem 2. *To find the inverse of an $n \times n$ matrix A , form the $n \times (2n)$ matrix $[A \mid I_n]$ and compute $\text{rref}[A \mid I_n]$.*

- *If $\text{rref}[A \mid I_n]$ is of the form $[I_n \mid B]$ then A is invertible and $A^{-1} = B$.*
- *If $\text{rref}[A \mid I_n]$ is of another form (i.e., its left half fails to be I_n) then A is not invertible.*

Problem 1. *Is the matrix*

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 2 \\ 3 & 8 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

invertible? If so, find the inverse of A .

Solution.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 2 \\ 3 & 8 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

We see that

$$\text{rref}(A) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Thus A is invertible.

Note that $\text{rref}(A)$ is an acronym that refers to the reduced row echelon form of matrix A . The computation $\text{rref}(A)$ tells us whether A is invertible.

To invert the matrix, let's calculate $\text{rref}[A \mid I_n]$.

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 3 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 8 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \\
& \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 & -1 & -3 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \\
& \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 7 & -5 & 1 \end{array} \right] \\
& \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -7 & 5 & -1 \end{array} \right] \\
& \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 0 & 8 & -5 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -7 & 5 & -1 \end{array} \right] \\
& \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & 10 & -6 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -7 & 5 & -1 \end{array} \right]
\end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$rref[A \mid I_n] = \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & 10 & -6 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -7 & 5 & -1 \end{array} \right]$$

and

$$A^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 10 & -6 & 1 \\ -2 & 1 & 0 \\ -7 & 5 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$