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Question

Using elementary row transformations, find the inverse of the matrix $\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 5 & 7 \\ -2 & -4 & -5 \end{pmatrix}$

Solution:

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 5 & 7 \\ -2 & -4 & -5 \end{pmatrix} \tag{1}$$

The Augmented matrix is

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{A} \mid \mathbf{I} \end{pmatrix} \Longrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 5 & 7 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -2 & -4 & -5 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_2 \to R_2 - 2R_1} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -2 & -4 & -5 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\xrightarrow{R_3 \to R_3 + 2R_1} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\xrightarrow{R_1 \to R_1 - 3R_3} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & -5 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$(2)$$

$$\xrightarrow{R_3 \to R_3 + 2R_1} \left(\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right) \tag{3}$$

$$\xrightarrow{R_1 \to R_1 - 3R_3} \left(\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 0 & -5 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right) \tag{4}$$

$$\xrightarrow{R_2 \to R_2 - R_3} \left(\begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 2 & 0 & -5 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -4 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right)$$
 (5)

$$\xrightarrow{R_1 \to R_1 - 2R_2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 3 & -2 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -4 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$
 (6)

As the left block of the Augmented matrix is I the right block is A^{-1} .

$$\implies \mathbf{A}^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & -2 & -1 \\ -4 & 1 & -1 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{7}$$