

The Inverse of a Matrix

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Inverse Matrix

If there exists, for an $n \times n$ matrix \mathbf{A} , another matrix \mathbf{A}^{-1} of the same order such that

$$\mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^{-1} = \mathbf{I}_n$$

then \mathbf{A}^{-1} is called the **inverse** of matrix \mathbf{A} , and \mathbf{A} is called **invertible**.

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Vocabulary

- A square matrix that is not invertible is called **singular**.
- A square matrix that is invertible is called **nonsingular**.

Properties of Invertible Matrices

Invertible Matrix Properties

- If \mathbf{A} is invertible, then so is \mathbf{A}^{-1} and

$$(\mathbf{A}^{-1})^{-1} = \mathbf{A}$$

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- If \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} are invertible matrices of the same order, then their product \mathbf{AB} is invertible. In fact,

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

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$$(\mathbf{A}^{-1})^{-1} = \mathbf{A}$$

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

- if \mathbf{A} is invertible, then so is \mathbf{A}^T , and

$$(\mathbf{A}^T)^{-1} = (\mathbf{A}^{-1})^T$$

Inverses by Reduced Row Echelon Form

Inverses by Reduced Row Echelon Form

For an $n \times n$ matrix \mathbf{A} , the following process will calculate \mathbf{A}^{-1} , or show that \mathbf{A} is not invertible.

Step 1: Form the $n \times 2n$ augmented matrix $\mathbf{M} = [\mathbf{A} | \mathbf{I}_n]$.

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Step 1: Form the $n \times 2n$ augmented matrix $\mathbf{M} = [\mathbf{A} | \mathbf{I}_n]$.

Step 2: Transform \mathbf{M} into Reduced Row Echelon Form.

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For an $n \times n$ matrix \mathbf{A} , the following process will calculate \mathbf{A}^{-1} , or show that \mathbf{A} is not invertible.

Step 1: Form the $n \times 2n$ augmented matrix $\mathbf{M} = [\mathbf{A} | \mathbf{I}_n]$.

Step 2: Transform \mathbf{M} into Reduced Row Echelon Form.

Step 3:

- If the left hand side of \mathbf{M} is the identity matrix, then the right hand side is \mathbf{A}^{-1} .
- Otherwise, \mathbf{A} is a non-invertible matrix.

Inverses by Reduced Row Echelon Form

Example

Consider the matrix:

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

Find \mathbf{A}^{-1}

Inverses by Reduced Row Echelon Form

Example

Consider the matrix:

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

Find \mathbf{A}^{-1}

Start by building the augmented matrix

$$\mathbf{M}_A = \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right]$$

Then transform \mathbf{M}_A into Reduced Row Echelon Form.

Inverses by Reduced Row Echelon Form

Example

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right]$$

Inverses by Reduced Row Echelon Form

Example

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] R_3 = r_3 - r_1$$

Inverses by Reduced Row Echelon Form

Example

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & | & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 & | & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & | & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} R_3 = r_3 - r_1$$
$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & | & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 & | & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & | & -1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Inverses by Reduced Row Echelon Form

Example

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right]$$

Inverses by Reduced Row Echelon Form

Example

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \begin{array}{l} \\ R_2 = -r_3 \\ R_3 = r_2 \end{array}$$

Inverses by Reduced Row Echelon Form

Example

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \begin{array}{l} \\ R_2 = -r_3 \\ R_3 = r_2 \end{array} \\ \Rightarrow & \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right] \end{aligned}$$

Inverses by Reduced Row Echelon Form

Example

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

Inverses by Reduced Row Echelon Form

Example

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right] R_3 = r_3 - 2r_2$$

Inverses by Reduced Row Echelon Form

Example

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & | & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & | & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 & | & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad R_3 = r_3 - 2r_2$$
$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & | & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & | & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & | & -2 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Inverses by Reduced Row Echelon Form

Example

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 & 2 \end{array} \right]$$

Inverses by Reduced Row Echelon Form

Example

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 & 2 \end{array} \right] R_1 = r_1 - r_3$$

Inverses by Reduced Row Echelon Form

Example

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 & 2 \end{array} \right] R_1 = r_1 - r_3 \\ \Rightarrow & \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 0 & 3 & -1 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 & 2 \end{array} \right] \end{aligned}$$

Inverses by Reduced Row Echelon Form

Example

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 0 & 3 & -1 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 & 2 \end{array} \right]$$

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Example

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 0 & 3 & -1 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 & 2 \end{array} \right] R_1 = r_1 - r_2$$

Inverses by Reduced Row Echelon Form

Example

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 0 & 3 & -1 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 & 2 \end{array} \right] R_1 = r_1 - r_2 \\ \Rightarrow & \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & 2 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 & 2 \end{array} \right] \end{aligned}$$

Inverses by Reduced Row Echelon Form

Example

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & 2 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 & 2 \end{array} \right]$$

Since the left hand side is I_3 , we know the right hand side is the inverse:

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

Inverses by Reduced Row Echelon Form

Example

Consider the matrix:

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

Find \mathbf{B}^{-1}

Inverses by Reduced Row Echelon Form

Example

Consider the matrix:

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

Find \mathbf{B}^{-1}

Start by building the augmented matrix

$$\mathbf{M}_B = \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 3 & 0 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right]$$

Then transform \mathbf{M}_B into Reduced Row Echelon Form.

Inverses by Reduced Row Echelon Form

Example

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 3 & 0 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right]$$

Inverses by Reduced Row Echelon Form

Example

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 3 & 0 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \begin{array}{l} R_1 = r_3 \\ \\ R_3 = r_1 \end{array}$$

Inverses by Reduced Row Echelon Form

Example

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 3 & 0 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \begin{array}{l} R_1 = r_3 \\ \\ R_3 = r_1 \end{array} \\ \Rightarrow & \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right] \end{aligned}$$

Inverses by Reduced Row Echelon Form

Example

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

Inverses by Reduced Row Echelon Form

Example

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right] \quad \begin{array}{l} R_2 = r_2 + r_1 \\ R_3 = r_2 - 3r_1 \end{array}$$

Inverses by Reduced Row Echelon Form

Example

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right] \begin{array}{l} R_2 = r_2 + r_1 \\ R_3 = r_2 - 3r_1 \end{array} \\ \Rightarrow & \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -3 & -3 & 1 & 0 & -1 \end{array} \right] \end{aligned}$$

Inverses by Reduced Row Echelon Form

Example

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -3 & -3 & 1 & 0 & -1 \end{array} \right]$$

Inverses by Reduced Row Echelon Form

Example

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -3 & -3 & 1 & 0 & -1 \end{array} \right] \quad \begin{array}{l} R_2 = \frac{1}{3}r_2 \\ R_3 = r_3 + r_2 \end{array}$$

Inverses by Reduced Row Echelon Form

Example

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -3 & -3 & 1 & 0 & -1 \end{array} \right] \quad \begin{array}{l} R_2 = \frac{1}{3}r_2 \\ R_3 = r_3 + r_2 \end{array} \\ \Rightarrow & \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{3} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right] \end{aligned}$$

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Example

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -3 & -3 & 1 & 0 & -1 \end{array} \right] \begin{array}{l} \\ R_2 = \frac{1}{3}r_2 \\ R_3 = r_3 + r_2 \end{array} \\ \Rightarrow & \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{3} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right] \end{aligned}$$

This means that ***B*** is a non-invertible matrix.

Invertibility and Solutions

Invertibility and Solutions

Consider the matrix equation $\mathbf{A}\vec{x} = \vec{b}$.

Where \mathbf{A} is an $n \times n$ matrix, and \vec{x} and \vec{b} are of length n .

- A unique solution exists if and only if \mathbf{A} is invertible.

Invertibility and Solutions

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Consider the matrix equation $\mathbf{A}\vec{x} = \vec{b}$.

Where \mathbf{A} is an $n \times n$ matrix, and \vec{x} and \vec{b} are of length n .

- A unique solution exists if and only if \mathbf{A} is invertible.
- Otherwise there are either:
 - No solutions.
 - Infinitely many solutions.

(Another method must be used to determine which.)

Invertibility and Solutions

Example

Consider the system

$$\begin{array}{rcccccccl} x & + & y & + & z & = & 2 \\ & & 2y & + & z & = & -1 \\ x & & & + & z & = & 3 \end{array}$$

Invertibility and Solutions

Example

Consider the system

$$\begin{array}{rcrcrcrcrcl} x & + & y & + & z & = & 2 \\ & & 2y & + & z & = & -1 \\ x & & & & + & z & = & 3 \end{array}$$

We can write this as the matrix equation:

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{A}} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}}_{\vec{x}} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}}_{\vec{b}}$$

Invertibility and Solutions

Example

So, if \mathbf{A} is invertible, then we can solve the matrix equation for \vec{x}

$$\mathbf{A}\vec{x} = \vec{b}$$

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Invertibility and Solutions

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$$\mathbf{I}_3\vec{x} = \mathbf{A}^{-1}\vec{b}$$

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So, if \mathbf{A} is invertible, then we can solve the matrix equation for \vec{x}

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$$\vec{x} = \mathbf{A}^{-1}\vec{b}$$

So, if we can compute $\mathbf{A}^{-1}\vec{b}$ we will have solved the system.

Invertibility and Solutions

Example

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} 2 & -1 & -1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 & -1 \\ -2 & 1 & 2 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

Invertibility and Solutions

Example

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} & & & 2 \\ & & & -1 \\ & & & 0 \\ \hline 2 & -1 & -1 & \\ 1 & 0 & -1 & 5 \\ -2 & 1 & 2 & 2 \end{array} \right]$$

Invertibility and Solutions

Example

$$\begin{array}{c|c} & \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ \hline \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \\ -2 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix} \end{array}$$

Invertibility and Solutions

Example

$$\begin{array}{ccc|c} & & & \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ \hline \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \\ -2 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} & & & \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix} \end{array}$$

So, we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

Singular Matrix Properties

Invertible Matrix Characterization

Let \mathbf{A} be a $n \times n$ matrix. The following are equivalent:

- \mathbf{A} is an invertible matrix.

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- \mathbf{A} is an invertible matrix.
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- \mathbf{A} is row equivalent to \mathbf{I}_n .

(This means when you put \mathbf{A} in RREF, you get \mathbf{I}_n)

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- The rank of \mathbf{A} is n .

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- The equation $\mathbf{A}\vec{x} = \vec{0}$ has only the trivial solution $\vec{x} = \vec{0}$.

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Invertible Matrix Characterization

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- \mathbf{A} is row equivalent to \mathbf{I}_n .
(This means when you put \mathbf{A} in RREF, you get \mathbf{I}_n)
- The rank of \mathbf{A} is n .
- The equation $\mathbf{A}\vec{x} = \vec{0}$ has only the trivial solution $\vec{x} = \vec{0}$.
- The equation $\mathbf{A}\vec{x} = \vec{b}$ has a unique solution for every $\vec{b} \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

Third-Order Initial-Value Problem Example

Example

An engineering consultant finds that she must solve the following IVP:

$$y''' - 2y'' - y' + 2y = 0, \quad y(0) = b_1, \quad y'(0) = b_2, \quad y''(0) = b_3$$

She must solve this IVP for many different sets of initial conditions, and expects to do the same tomorrow.

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She must solve this IVP for many different sets of initial conditions, and expects to do the same tomorrow.

The general solution is:

$$y(t) = c_1 e^{2t} + c_2 e^t + c_3 e^{-t}$$

(We will talk about to solve this type of DE in Chapter 4.)

Third-Order Initial-Value Problem Example

Example

To determine c_1 , c_2 , and c_3 , we must plug in each initial condition, giving the system:

$$y(0) = c_1 + c_2 + c_3 = b_1$$

$$y'(0) = 2c_1 + c_2 - c_3 = b_2$$

$$y''(0) = 4c_1 + c_2 + c_3 = b_3$$

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$$y'(0) = 2c_1 + c_2 - c_3 = b_2$$

$$y''(0) = 4c_1 + c_2 + c_3 = b_3$$

We can write this as the matrix equation:

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & -1 \\ 4 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{A}} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ c_3 \end{bmatrix}}_{\vec{x}} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{bmatrix}}_{\vec{b}}$$

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Example

If we can find the inverse of \mathbf{A} , then we can compute the constants for any set of initial conditions $\vec{\mathbf{b}}$.

Third-Order Initial-Value Problem Example

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If we can find the inverse of \mathbf{A} , then we can compute the constants for any set of initial conditions $\vec{\mathbf{b}}$.

$$\mathbf{A}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{3} & 0 & \frac{1}{3} \\ 1 & \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{6} \end{bmatrix}$$

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If we can find the inverse of \mathbf{A} , then we can compute the constants for any set of initial conditions $\vec{\mathbf{b}}$.

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Thus, the solution for any $\vec{\mathbf{b}}$ is:

$$\begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ c_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{3} & 0 & \frac{1}{3} \\ 1 & \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{6} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{bmatrix}$$