

## § THE INVERSE OF A $3 \times 3$ Matrix (if it exists)

Problem: Given a  $3 \times 3$  matrix  $A = (a_{ij})$

Find a  $3 \times 3$  matrix denoted by  $A^{-1}$  (if possible) s.t.  $AA^{-1} = A^{-1}A = I$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{pmatrix}$$

where  $I := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ . As in the  $2 \times 2$  case we will define the determinant  $|A|$  of  $A$  &  $A^{-1}$  will exist  $\Leftrightarrow |A| \neq 0$ . To define  $|A|$  we first define

Defn: Let  $A$  be a  $3 \times 3$  matrix  $A = (a_{ij})$

$d_{ij} :=$  the determinant of the  $2 \times 2$  matrix obtained from  $A$  by deleting the  $i$ -th row &  $j$ -th col of  $A$ .

Ex:  $d_{23} = \begin{vmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} \end{vmatrix} = a_{11}a_{32} - a_{31}a_{12}$

Defn:  $|A| := a_{11}d_{11} - a_{12}d_{12} + a_{13}d_{13}$  (&

as in  $2 \times 2$  case it equals  $\pm$  Volume of the Box with Sided the columns of  $A$ .)

Thm: If  $|A| \neq 0$ ;  $A^{-1} = \frac{1}{|A|} \left( (-1)^{i+j} d_{ij} \right)^T$

where for a  $3 \times 3$  matrix  $M$

$M^T$  is the transpose of  $M$ , i.e. its columns are the rows of  $M$  (Maintaining order)

Ex: Q.2 (b) in EXAM: Find  $A^{-1}$  where

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 6 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 & 6 \\ 6 & 2 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$d_{11} = \begin{vmatrix} 4 & 6 \\ 2 & 4 \end{vmatrix} = 4 \quad d_{12} = \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 6 \\ 6 & 4 \end{vmatrix} = -28 \quad d_{13} = \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 4 \\ 6 & 2 \end{vmatrix} = -$$

$$d_{21} = \begin{vmatrix} 6 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 \end{vmatrix} = +20 \quad d_{22} = \begin{vmatrix} 4 & 2 \\ 6 & 4 \end{vmatrix} = 4 \quad d_{23} = \begin{vmatrix} 4 & 6 \\ 6 & 2 \end{vmatrix} = -2$$

$$d_{31} = \begin{vmatrix} 6 & 2 \\ 4 & 6 \end{vmatrix} = 28 \quad d_{32} = \begin{vmatrix} 4 & 2 \\ 2 & 6 \end{vmatrix} = 20 \quad d_{33} = \begin{vmatrix} 4 & 6 \\ 2 & 4 \end{vmatrix} = 4$$

$$\therefore |A| = a_{11}d_{11} - a_{12}d_{12} + a_{13}d_{13} = 4(4) - 6(-28) + 2(-20) = 144$$

$$\text{so } A^{-1} = \frac{1}{144} \begin{pmatrix} 4 & -(-28) & 20 \\ -(+20) & 4 & -(-28) \\ 28 & -(20) & 4 \end{pmatrix}^T =$$

$$= \frac{1}{144} \begin{pmatrix} 4 & -20 & 28 \\ 28 & 4 & -20 \\ -20 & 28 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

so the entry in 3rd row & 3rd col  $\underset{\wedge}{\text{of } A^{-1}} =$

$$\frac{4}{144} = \frac{1}{36}$$

$$\text{CHECK THAT } AA^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = I$$