

## Invertible matrices

### Definition:

Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix over the field  $F$ . An  $n \times n$  matrix  $B$  such that  $BA = I$  is called a left inverse of  $A$ .

$$A^{-1} = \frac{\text{adj } A}{|A| \neq 0}$$

### Definition:

Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix over the field  $F$ . An  $n \times n$  matrix  $B$  such that  $AB = I$  is called a right inverse of  $A$  and  $A$  is said to be invertible.

### Lemma:

If  $A$  has a left inverse  $B$  and a right inverse  $C$  then  $B = C$ .

### Proof:

Suppose  $BA = I$  and  $AC = I$  then  
 $B = BI = B(AC) = (BA)C = IC = C$ .

### Remark:

By the above lemma if  $A$  has left and right inverse  $A$  is invertible and has a unique two sided inverse which we denote by  $A^{-1}$  and call the inverse of  $A$ .

Theorem: 10

Let  $A$  and  $B$  be  $n \times n$  matrices over  $F$

- (i) If  $A$  is invertible, so is  $A^{-1}$  and  $(A^{-1})^{-1} = A$ .
- (ii) If both  $A$  and  $B$  are invertible, so is  $AB$  and  $(AB)^{-1} = B^{-1}A^{-1}$ .

Proof:

(i) If  $A$  is invertible,  $AA^{-1} = A^{-1}A = I$

Now by symmetry of this eqn  $A^{-1} = A^{-1}$

$$\therefore A^{-1}A = I$$

(ii)  $A^{-1}$  is invertible  $(A^{-1})^{-1} = A$

(iii) we both  $A$  and  $B$  are invertible

$$AA^{-1} = A^{-1}A = I = BB^{-1} = B^{-1}B = I$$

$$\text{Now } (AB)(B^{-1}A^{-1}) = A(BB^{-1})A^{-1}$$

$$= AI A^{-1} = AA^{-1} = I$$

$$(iii) \Rightarrow I(BB^{-1})(AB) = B^{-1}(A^{-1}A)B = B^{-1}IB = B^{-1}B = I$$

$AB$  is invertible and  $(AB)^{-1} = B^{-1}A^{-1}$ .