

**Most important ideas:**

- **Block matrices (also called partitioned matrices)**
- **LU decomposition of a matrix**
- **Divide and conquer is often a good idea—see Numerical Note on page 120.**  
**Also see Numerical Note on page 127.**

Example 1: A diagonal matrix  $\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -4 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.5 \end{bmatrix}$  has inverse  $\begin{bmatrix} 1/3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1/4 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ .

In general, the inverse of a block diagonal matrix  $\begin{bmatrix} A & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & B & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & C \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A^{-1} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & B^{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & C^{-1} \end{bmatrix}$ .

Example 2: The inverse of  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 4 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  is  $\begin{bmatrix} -2 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 3/2 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1/5 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ .

Many real-life matrices are block diagonal, with each block being the same size. (And we can partition the matrix into its blocks to make it easier to work with.)

Problem 1: Given the blocks of a matrix  $A, B, C$ , find  $X, Y, Z$  so that  $\begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ C & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I & 0 \\ X & Y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & I \\ Z & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ .

What we need to have happen and the result of each ( $A, B, C, I, X, Y, Z$  and  $0$  are all matrices):

$$AI + BX = 0 \Rightarrow BX = -A \Rightarrow X = -B^{-1}A$$

$$A0 + BY = I \Rightarrow Y = B^{-1}$$

$$CI + 0X = Z \Rightarrow Z = C$$

$$C0 + 0Y = 0 \text{ (which tells us nothing)}$$

Example of Problem 1:  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 7 & 2 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 & 3 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ ? & ? & ? & ? & ? \\ ? & ? & ? & ? & ? \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ ? & ? & ? & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

So for this problem  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $B = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 2 \\ 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $C = [2 \ 0 \ 3]$ .

Then we find that the bottom left part of the second matrix is

$$X = -\begin{bmatrix} 7 & 2 \\ 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 8 & 9 \\ -25 & -29 & -33 \end{bmatrix},$$

the bottom right part of the second matrix is  $Y = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 2 \\ 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ -3 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$ ,

the bottom left part of the third matrix is  $Z = C = [2 \ 0 \ 3]$ .

You can check that  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 7 & 2 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 & 3 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 & 1 & -2 \\ -25 & -29 & -33 & -3 & 7 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

Unlike this example, the blocks in many (most?) real-life matrices are square and of the same size.

Question: For which of the following systems of equations is it easier to find a solution? Why?

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 2x_1 + 2x_2 + 3x_3 & = & 7 \\ 5x_1 - 2x_2 + 4x_3 & = & 0 \\ 3x_1 + x_2 + 5x_3 & = & 10 \end{array} \quad \text{or} \quad \begin{array}{rcl} 2x_1 + 2x_2 + 3x_3 & = & 7 \\ -2x_2 + 4x_3 & = & 10 \\ 5x_3 & = & 15 \end{array} \quad \text{or} \quad \begin{array}{rcl} 2x_1 & = & -4 \\ 5x_1 - 2x_2 & = & -12 \\ 3x_1 + x_2 + 5x_3 & = & 10 \end{array}$$

**Observation: upper triangular and lower triangular systems are easier to solve.**

What if we could transform  $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$  into an upper or lower triangular system (or, as it turns out, a combination of both)? Suppose we could somehow factor  $A$  into a lower triangular (with zeros above the diagonal) matrix  $L$  and an upper triangular (with zeros below the diagonal) matrix  $U$ :  $A = LU$ . If we had  $LU\vec{x} = \vec{b}$ , where  $L$  is lower triangular and  $U$  is upper triangular, then we could do the following:

**Let  $\vec{y} = U\vec{x}$ . Then  $LU\vec{x} = \vec{b}$  is the same as  $L\vec{y} = \vec{b}$ . So solve for  $\vec{y}$  in  $L\vec{y} = \vec{b}$ , then solve for  $\vec{x}$  in  $U\vec{x} = \vec{y}$ .**

Problem 2: Suppose  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 1 \\ 4 & 1 & 2 \\ -2 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = LU$  and where  $\vec{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 15 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}$ ,

we want to solve for  $\vec{x}$  in  $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$ . We first solve for  $\vec{y}$  in  $L\vec{y} = \vec{b}$  using forward substitution, working from the top equation  $y_1 = 6$  down to the bottom equation:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ y_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 15 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}, \text{ that is, } \begin{array}{rcl} y_1 & = & 6 \\ 2y_1 + y_2 & = & 15 \Rightarrow y_2 = 15 - 2(6) = 3 \\ -y_1 + y_3 & = & -3 \Rightarrow y_3 = -3 + 6 = 3 \end{array}$$

We then solve for  $\vec{x}$  in  $U\vec{x} = \vec{y}$  using backward substitution, working from the bottom equation  $x_3 = 3$  up to the top equation:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 3 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \text{ that is, } \begin{array}{rcl} 2x_1 - x_2 + x_3 & = & 6 \Rightarrow x_1 = \frac{1}{2}(6 + 1 - 3) = 2 \\ 3x_2 & = & 3 \Rightarrow x_2 = 1 \\ x_3 & = & 3 \end{array}$$

So how do we find  $L$  and  $U$  for a given matrix  $A$ ? We can transform via elementary row operations (which will do using elementary matrices—woo hoo!)  $A$  into an upper triangular matrix  $E_n \cdots E_3 E_2 E_1 A = U$ , where  $U$  is simply the echelon form of  $A$ , and where

$$L = (E_n \cdots E_3 E_2 E_1)^{-1} = E_1^{-1} E_2^{-1} E_3^{-1} \cdots E_n^{-1}.$$

Then we have  $A = LU$ , where  $L$  is lower triangular.

Problem 3: Transform  $A$  from Problem 2 into an upper triangular matrix (its echelon form), and in the process find the  $LU$  factorization of  $A$ .

**First we add  $-2$  times row 1 to row 2:**  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 1 \\ 4 & 1 & 2 \\ -2 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ -2 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

**Next we add 1 times row 1 to row 3:**  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ -2 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

**So in all we have**  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 1 \\ 4 & 1 & 2 \\ -2 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ , that is,  $E_2 E_1 A = U$ .

**So  $A = (E_2 E_1)^{-1} U = LU$  where  $L = (E_2 E_1)^{-1} = E_1^{-1} E_2^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ .**

Note: the product of lower triangular matrices is lower triangular (and similarly for upper triangular). It turns out mathematicians use the  $LU$  factorization of  $A$  to do/find many of the things to/about  $A$  that we might want to do/find.