

**10.1 Pre or Post Multiply ?**

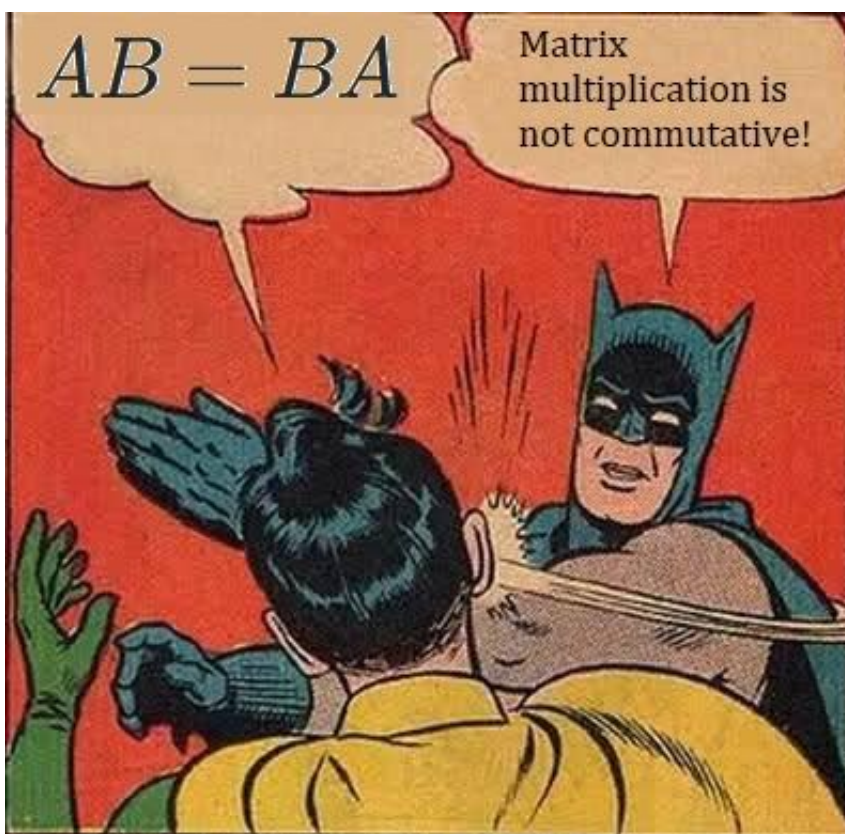
The non-commutative nature of matrix algebra demands care when multiplying both sides of a matrix equation. Suppose that **A**, **B**, and **C** are known matrices, with **X** being the unknown matrix to be found in term of **A**, **B** and **C** and that,

$$\mathbf{AXB} = \mathbf{C}$$

There is no concept of “Matrix Division”, so any idea of dividing both sides by **AB** is not going to end well. However, use can be made of the inverse matrices of the known matrices and the “Do Nothing” Identity matrix **I**.

$$\begin{array}{ll} \mathbf{AXB} = \mathbf{C} & \\ \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{AXB} = \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{C} & \text{Pre-multiply both sides by } \mathbf{A}^{-1} \\ \mathbf{XB} = \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{C} & \text{As } \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{I} \\ \mathbf{XBB}^{-1} = \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{CB}^{-1} & \text{Post-multiply both sides by } \mathbf{B}^{-1} \\ \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{CB}^{-1} & \text{As } \mathbf{BB}^{-1} = \mathbf{I} \end{array}$$

Sometimes “Pre-multiply” is called “Left-multiply” or “Front-multiply”  
Similarly “Post-multiply” is also called “Right-multiply” or “Back-multiply”



## 10.2 A Pre-Multiply, Post-Multiply Example

(i) Given that  $\mathbf{ABC} = \mathbf{I}$ , prove that  $\mathbf{B}^{-1} = \mathbf{CA}$

(ii) Given that  $\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & -6 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $\mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ -3 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$ , find  $\mathbf{B}$

Teaching Video : <http://www.NumberWonder.co.uk/v9090/10a.mp4> (Part 1)

<http://www.NumberWonder.co.uk/v9090/10b.mp4> (Part 2)



<= Part 1

Part 2 =>



### 10.3 Exercise

#### Question 1

*Further A-Level Examination Question from May 2017, IAL, FP1, Q2*

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 4 & 3 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{P} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 6 \\ 11 & -8 \end{pmatrix}$$

(a) Find  $\mathbf{A}^{-1}$

[ 2 marks ]

The transformation represented by the matrix  $\mathbf{B}$  followed by the transformation represented by the matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  is equivalent to the transformation represented by the matrix  $\mathbf{P}$ .

(b) Find  $\mathbf{B}$ , giving your answer in its simplest form.

[ 3 marks ]

**Question 2**

*Further A-Level Examination Question from January 2012, IAL, FP1, Q8*

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

(a) Show that  $\mathbf{A}$  is non-singular

[ 2 marks ]

(b) Find  $\mathbf{B}$  such that  $\mathbf{BA}^2 = \mathbf{A}$

[ 4 marks ]

### Question 3

(i) Given that  $\mathbf{AXBA} = \mathbf{I}$ , prove that  $\mathbf{X}^{-1} = \mathbf{BAA}$



(ii) Given that  $\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $\mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ -3 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$ , find  $\mathbf{X}$

**Question 4**

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 \\ 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \mathbf{Q}^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

(a) Work out,

(i)  $\mathbf{P}^{-1}$

(ii)  $\mathbf{Q}$

(iii)  $\mathbf{QP}$

(iv)  $(\mathbf{QP})^{-1}$

(b) Verify the quotable result that if  $\mathbf{Q}$  and  $\mathbf{P}$  are non-singular matrices then the LHS of  $\mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{Q}^{-1} = (\mathbf{QP})^{-1}$  is equal to its RHS.

(c) If  $\mathbf{A}$  represents “putting on socks” and  $\mathbf{B}$  represents “putting on shoes” interpret what the result  $(\mathbf{BA})^{-1} = \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{B}^{-1}$  represents.

**Question 5**

*Further A-Level Examination Question from May 2018, IAL, F1, Q4*

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 2p & 3q \\ 3p & 5q \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{where } p \text{ and } q \text{ are non-zero real constants}$$

(a) Find  $\mathbf{A}^{-1}$  in terms of  $p$  and  $q$

[ 3 marks ]

$$\text{Given } \mathbf{XA} = \mathbf{B}, \text{ where } \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} p & q \\ 6p & 11q \\ 5p & 8q \end{pmatrix}$$

(b) find the matrix  $\mathbf{X}$ , giving your answer in its simplest form.

[ 4 marks ]