

On functions that preserve M-matrices and inverse M-matrices

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In earlier works, authors such as Varga, Micchelli and Willoughby, Ando, and Fiedler and Schneider have studied and characterized functions which preserve the M-matrices or some subclasses of the M-matrices, such as the Stieltjes matrices. Here we characterize functions which either preserve the inverse M-matrices or map the inverse M-matrices to the M-matrices. In one of our results we employ the theory of Pick functions to show that if A and B are inverse M-matrices such that $B^{-1} \leq A^{-1}$, then $(B + tI)^{-1} \leq (A + tI)^{-1}$, for all $t \geq 0$.

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1. Introduction

Several papers examine the question of functions that preserve the entire class or a subclass of the M-matrices or map them into the nonnegative matrices. We mention four such papers. One paper is by Varga [12] who shows that completely monotonic functions map the M-matrices to the nonnegative matrices. A second paper is due to Micchelli and Willoughby [11] in which the authors characterize all functions that preserve the $n \times n$ Stieltjes matrices and all functions which preserve the $n \times n$ symmetric nonnegative matrices. A third paper is due to Ando [2] who shows that all Pick functions which are positive on $(0, \infty)$, preserve the entire class of the M-matrices. Ando also derives several results studying the monotonicity of the Pick functions on the class of M-matrices. A fourth paper is by Fiedler and Schneider [9] who characterize all functions which preserve the M-matrices. They show that a function has this property if and only if it is positive on $(0, \infty)$ and f' is completely monotonic.

Let \mathcal{N} , \mathcal{P} , \mathcal{M} , and \mathcal{M}^{-1} denote the classes of nonnegative matrices, positive matrices, nonsingular M-matrices, and inverse M-matrices, respectively.

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Recall that if a function $f(z)$ is defined and is analytic on a domain containing all eigenvalues of a matrix A , then the matrix $f(A)$ is defined by the Cauchy formula

$$f(A) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\Gamma} f(z)(zI - A)^{-1} dz, \quad (1.1)$$

where Γ is any rectifiable contour inside the domain surrounding all eigenvalues of A .

We now recall some other definitions that will be required. A function $f : (0, \infty) \rightarrow R$ is *completely monotonic* if $(-1)^k f^{(k)}(x) \geq 0$, for all $x \in (0, \infty)$ and for all $k \geq 0$. (Here $f^{(0)}$ is defined to be f .) We shall denote by $f[\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n]$ the divided difference of $f(x)$ at $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$.

In section 2, we shall prove the first result of this article which serves as a converse to Varga's result mentioned above, namely:

THEOREM 1.1 *Let f be defined and analytic on the domain, obtained by deleting all nonpositive reals from the complex plane. Then, f maps \mathcal{M} into \mathcal{N} only if the restriction of f to $(0, \infty)$ is completely monotonic.*

In section 2, we shall also prove a result concerning submatrix monotonicity properties satisfied by the completely monotonic functions on \mathcal{M} .

We shall use the results of Varga, Micchelli and Willoughby, Ando, Fiedler and Schneider, as well as Theorem 1.1 to develop the main theme of this article which concerns functions which map the class of inverse M -matrices to the inverse M -matrices, or which map the inverse M -matrices to the M -matrices. Our main results in this direction can be summarized as follows:

THEOREM 1.2 *Let f be defined and analytic on the domain, obtained by deleting all nonpositive reals from the complex plane. Then:*

- (i) *f maps \mathcal{M}^{-1} into \mathcal{N} if and only if $f(1/x)$, $x \in (0, \infty)$ is completely monotonic.*
- (ii) *f maps \mathcal{M}^{-1} into \mathcal{M}^{-1} if and only if $f(x) > 0$, for $x \in (0, \infty)$, and $(xf(1/x))^{-2} f'(1/x)$ is completely monotonic.*
- (iii) *f maps \mathcal{M}^{-1} into \mathcal{M} if and only if $f(x) > 0$, for $x \in (0, \infty)$, and $f'(1/x)$ is completely monotonic.*

By way of examples, we shall show that Pick functions f which satisfy that $f(x) > 0$, for $x \in (0, \infty)$, map \mathcal{M}^{-1} to \mathcal{M}^{-1} and they also satisfy a form of monotonicity on \mathcal{M}^{-1} . In a further result we shall prove that:

$$A, B \in \mathcal{M}^{-1} \quad \text{and} \quad B^{-1} \leq A^{-1} \implies (B + tI)^{-1} \leq (A + tI)^{-1}, \quad \forall t \geq 0. \quad (1.2)$$

2. Functions on the class of M -matrices

We recall the following identity for a matrix function. Suppose $A \in C^{n,n}$ has eigenvalues $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$. If f is analytic in a domain containing all eigenvalues of A , then

$$f(\lambda_1)I - f(A) = \sum_{m=2}^n (-1)^m f[\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m] \prod_{r=1}^{m-1} (\lambda_r I - A). \quad (2.1)$$

In the introduction we mentioned that Varga [12, Theorem 2] has shown that if f is completely monotonic, then $f : \mathcal{M}^{-1} \rightarrow \mathcal{N}$. In the first result of this article we shall show that the converse of this result is also true. The technique of proof is similar to that in [11], with some simplifications.

THEOREM 2.1 *Let f be defined and analytic on the domain obtained by deleting all non-positive reals from the complex plane. Then a necessary condition for f to map \mathcal{M} into \mathcal{N} is that f , restricted to $(0, \infty)$, be completely monotonic.*

Proof Suppose that $f(A) \in \mathcal{N}$ for any $A \in \mathcal{M}$. Then, by considering a 1×1 matrix, we conclude that $f(x) \geq 0$ for $x > 0$. Suppose now that f is not completely monotonic. Then $(-1)^{r-1} f^{(r-1)}(x_0) < 0$ for some integer $r \geq 2$ and $x_0 > 0$. Then there exist positive numbers $\lambda_1 > \dots > \lambda_r$ (in a neighborhood of x_0) such that $(-1)^r f[\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_r] > 0$.

Let T be the $r \times r$ tridiagonal matrix with 1's on the super- and sub-diagonals and zeros elsewhere. For $\epsilon > 0$, set $B = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_r) - \epsilon T$ and let $\mu_1 \geq \dots \geq \mu_r$ be the eigenvalues of B . By choosing ϵ to be sufficiently small we may assume that $\mu_1 > \mu_2 > \mu_r$ and $(-1)^r f[\mu_1, \dots, \mu_r] > 0$. In view of (2.1) we have

$$f(\mu_1)I - f(B) = \sum_{m=2}^r (-1)^m f[\mu_1, \dots, \mu_m] \prod_{k=1}^{m-1} (\mu_k I - B). \quad (2.2)$$

Since B is an M-matrix, by the hypothesis on f , $f(B) \in \mathcal{N}$. As B is tridiagonal, the $(1, r)$ -entry of $\prod_{k=1}^{m-1} (\mu_k I - B)$ is zero for $2 \leq m < r$. Let u be an eigenvector of B corresponding to μ_r . We may assume that $u > 0$ since B is an irreducible M-matrix. Observe that $\prod_{k=1}^{r-1} (\mu_k I - B) = \alpha u u^T$ for some $\alpha > 0$ and hence the $(1, r)$ -entry of $\prod_{k=1}^{r-1} (\mu_k I - B)$ is positive. In view of the preceding observations, if we compare the $(1, r)$ -entry of both sides in (2.2), we conclude that it is nonpositive in case of $f(\mu_1)I - f(B)$ but positive in case of the matrix on the right hand side. This is a contradiction and hence f must be completely monotonic. ■

The function $f(x) = e^{1/x}$ clearly maps \mathcal{M} into \mathcal{N} . We deduce from Theorem 2.1 that the function must be completely monotonic. We now consider a further example. If $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m)$ and $\beta = (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_m)$ are m -tuples of nonincreasing real numbers, then α is said to be majorized by β (see [10]) if $\sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i \leq \sum_{i=1}^k \beta_i$, $k = 1, 2, \dots, m-1$, and $\sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i = \sum_{i=1}^m \beta_i$. It is shown by Ball [3] that if α and β are m -tuples of nonnegative numbers such that α is majorized by β , then the rational function

$$f(x) = \frac{(x + \alpha_1) \cdots (x + \alpha_m)}{(x + \beta_1) \cdots (x + \beta_m)} \quad (2.3)$$

is completely monotonic. We now deduce this fact using Theorem 2.1. First, consider the case $m = 2$. If $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2)$ is majorized by $\beta = (\beta_1, \beta_2)$, then it is well-known that $\alpha_1 \alpha_2 \geq \beta_1 \beta_2$ and hence for any $n \times n$ real matrix A ,

$$(A + \alpha_1 I)(A + \alpha_2 I) \geq (A + \beta_1 I)(A + \beta_2 I). \quad (2.4)$$

If $A \in \mathcal{M}$, then $(A + \beta_1 I)^{-1} \in \mathcal{N}$, $(A + \beta_2 I)^{-1} \in \mathcal{N}$ and it follows from (2.4) that

$$(A + \alpha_1 I)(A + \alpha_2 I)(A + \beta_1 I)^{-1}(A + \beta_2 I)^{-1} \geq I \geq 0. \quad (2.5)$$

Thus, in view of Theorem 2.1, the function $f(x) = ((x + \alpha_1)(x + \alpha_2))/((x + \beta_1)(x + \beta_2))$ is completely monotonic. In general, if $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m)$ is majorized by $\beta = (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_m)$, then we may construct a sequence $\alpha = \gamma_0, \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_\ell = \beta$ such that γ_i is majorized by γ_{i+1} , and γ_i and γ_{i+1} differ at most in two coordinates, $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \ell - 1$. A repeated application of the preceding observation for $m = 2$ shows that (2.3) is completely monotonic.

We next consider some monotonicity properties related to submatrices of the matrix $f(A)$, where f is completely monotonic. In this connection we recall Bernstein's theorem, see, for example, [6, p. 148], that states that a function f is completely monotonic on $(0, \infty)$ if and only if there exists some positive measure μ such that

$$f(x) = \int_0^\infty e^{-tx} d\mu(t). \quad (2.6)$$

THEOREM 2.2 *Let $A \in \mathcal{M}$ and partition A into*

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} A_{1,1} & A_{1,2} \\ A_{2,1} & A_{2,2} \end{bmatrix}, \quad (2.7)$$

with $A_{1,1}$ and $A_{2,2}$ being square matrices and then suppose that f is completely monotonic on $(0, \infty)$. Then:

- (i) $(f(A))_{1,1} \geq f(A_{1,1}) \geq 0$.
- (ii) Let $A/A_{2,2} = A_{1,1} - A_{1,2}(A_{2,2})^{-1}A_{2,1}$ be the Schur complement of $A_{2,2}$ in A . Then $f(A/A_{2,2}) \geq f(A_{1,1}) \geq 0$.

Proof

- (i) Since A is an M-matrix, $A = sI - B$ for some nonnegative matrix B and a scalar $s > \rho(B)$. But then, on partitioning the matrix e^{-A} in conformity with (2.7), we have that

$$(e^{-A})_{1,1} = (e^{-(sI-B)})_{1,1} = (e^{-s}e^B)_{1,1} \geq e^{-(sI-B_{1,1})} = e^{-A_{1,1}}.$$

The result now follows via Bernstein's characterization given in (2.6).

- (ii) It is well-known from the results of Crabtree [7] that $A/A_{2,2}$ is an M-matrix which allows us to represent $A/A_{2,2} = rI - C_{1,1}$, with $r > \rho(C_{1,1})$. Now since $A/A_{2,2} \leq A_{1,1}$ we can write that

$$e^{-A/A_{2,2}} = e^{-(rI-C_{1,1})} = e^{-r}e^{C_{1,1}} \geq e^{-r}e^{B_{1,1}} = e^{-(rI-B_{1,1})} = e^{-A_{1,1}}.$$

The result follows again by Bernstein's theorem quoted above. ■

3. Functions of inverse M-matrices

In this section, we shall mainly consider functions which map the inverse M-matrices to the nonnegative matrices, that is functions from \mathcal{M}^{-1} to \mathcal{N} , and functions which

map the inverse M-matrices to the inverse M-matrices, that is functions from \mathcal{M}^{-1} to \mathcal{M}^{-1} .

We begin with the following result.

THEOREM 3.1 *Let f be defined and analytic on the domain obtained by deleting all nonpositive reals from the complex plane. Then f maps \mathcal{M}^{-1} to \mathcal{N} if and only if $f(1/x)$, $x \in (0, \infty)$ is completely monotonic.*

Proof Clearly, f maps the inverse M-matrices to the nonnegative matrices if and only if the function $g(x) = f(1/x)$ maps the M-matrices to the nonnegative matrices. By Theorem 2.1 a necessary and sufficient condition for this to occur is that $g(x)$ is completely monotonic. This completes the proof. ■

As examples of functions which satisfy the requirements of Theorem 3.1, we mention $f(x) = x^2$ and $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$. We see that if $A \in \mathcal{N}$ but $A \notin \mathcal{M}^{-1}$, then it is *not necessarily* true that $f(A) \in \mathcal{N}$ as the following example shows. Let

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 3.1 & 2.1 & 2.1 & 1.1 & 1.1 \\ 2.1 & 3.1 & 1.1 & 2.1 & 0.10 \\ 2.1 & 1.1 & 3.1 & 0.10 & 1.1 \\ 1.1 & 2.1 & 0.10 & 2.1 & 0.10 \\ 1.1 & 0.10 & 1.1 & 0.10 & 1.1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\approx \begin{bmatrix} 1.9167 & -1.9167 & 0.0000 & 1.0000 & -1.8333 \\ -1.9167 & 3.9167 & -1.0000 & -3.0000 & 2.8333 \\ 0.0000 & -1.0000 & 1.0000 & 1.0000 & -1.0000 \\ 1.0000 & -3.0000 & 1.0000 & 3.0000 & -2.0000 \\ -1.8333 & 2.8333 & -1.0000 & -2.0000 & 3.6667 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \notin \mathcal{M}^{-1}$$

and we see that

$$A^{1/2} \approx \begin{bmatrix} 1.4630 & 0.62072 & 0.59007 & 0.25016 & 0.40446 \\ 0.62072 & 1.4333 & 0.28372 & 0.75025 & -0.13072 \\ 0.59007 & 0.28372 & 1.5897 & -0.10146 & 0.36582 \\ 0.25016 & 0.75025 & -0.10146 & 1.2084 & 0.064046 \\ 0.40446 & -0.13072 & 0.36582 & 0.064046 & 0.88397 \end{bmatrix} \notin \mathcal{N}.$$

We next come to functions which preserve the inverse M-matrices.

THEOREM 3.2 *Let f be defined and analytic on the domain obtained by deleting all non-positive reals from the complex plane and suppose that $f : (0, \infty) \rightarrow (0, \infty)$. Then, f maps \mathcal{M}^{-1} to \mathcal{M}^{-1} if and only if the function:*

$$h(x) := \frac{1}{x^2(f(1/x))^2} f'(1/x) \quad (3.1)$$

is completely monotonic.

Proof Clearly, f preserves the inverse M-matrices if and only if $g(x) = (f(x^{-1}))^{-1}$ preserves the M-matrices. By the result of Fiedler and Schneider [9] mentioned in the introduction, a necessary and sufficient condition for this to happen is that $g'(x)$ is completely monotonic. But $g'(x) = h(x)$, where $h(x)$ is given in (3.1). This completes the proof. ■

We now turn to examples of functions which preserve the inverse M-matrices. Let us begin with the following function: $f(x) = x^r$, where $0 < r < 1$. Then $h(x)$ of (3.1) is given by $h(x) = rx^{r-1}$ which is easily checked to be completely monotonic. Actually $f(x) = x^r$ is known to be an example of a Pick function. An analytic function defined on $H_+ = \{z \mid \text{Im}(z) > 0\}$ with range in the closed half plane $\{z \mid \text{Im}(z) \geq 0\}$ is called a *Pick function*. It is known that a Pick function f admits the representation

$$f(z) = \alpha + \beta z + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left[\frac{1}{\lambda - z} - \frac{\lambda}{\lambda^2 + 1} \right] d\nu(\lambda), \quad (3.2)$$

with $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\beta \geq 0$ and ν a positive measure on the real line. For further general references on Pick functions and completely monotonic functions, see Alzer and Berg [1], Bapat and Raghavan [4], Bhatia [6], Berman and Plemmons [5], Donoghue [8] and Varga [12].

In Ando [2, Thm 3.1], the author shows that if f is a Pick function such that $f(t) > 0$ for all $t > 0$, then f preserves the M-matrices. Now suppose that f is such a Pick function. Then as is known, see Ando [2, p. 304], $g(t) = (f(1/t))^{-1}$ is also a Pick function which is positive on $(0, \infty)$. Hence $g(t)$ preserves the M-matrices and so, in addition to $g(t) > 0$ on $(0, \infty)$, $g'(t)$ is completely monotonic. But $g'(t) = f'(1/t)/[t^2(f(1/t))^2]$ and so, on setting $h(t) = g'(t)$, it follows from Theorem 3.2 that if f is a Pick function such that $f(t) > 0$ for all $t \in (0, \infty)$, then f preserves the inverse M-matrices.

Continuing, Ando shows that if f is a Pick function, such that $f(t) > 0$ for $t \in (0, \infty)$, then not only is $f : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$, but f is also monotonic on \mathcal{M} , namely if $C, D \in \mathcal{M}$ with $C \leq D$, then $f(C) \leq f(D)$. We now define an order relation on \mathcal{M}^{-1} as follows. For two matrices $A, B \in \mathcal{M}^{-1}$ we shall write that $A \preceq_f B$ if $B^{-1} \leq A^{-1}$. Note that if $A \preceq_f B$, then $A \leq B$, but the converse is not necessarily true.

Now, suppose that $A, B \in \mathcal{M}^{-1}$ with $A \preceq_f B$ and that f is a Pick function, such that $f(x) > 0$ for $x \in (0, \infty)$ so that, as mentioned above, $g(x) = (f(1/x))^{-1}$ is also a Pick function. But then $(f(B))^{-1} = g(B^{-1}) \leq g(A^{-1}) = (f(A))^{-1}$ showing that on \mathcal{M} , f preserves the precedence order, namely:

$$A \preceq_f B, f \text{ a Pick function with } f(x) > 0, x \in (0, \infty) \Rightarrow f(A) \preceq_f f(B). \quad (3.3)$$

We now have the following interesting inequality for inverse M-matrices.

THEOREM 3.3 *Let A and B be inverse M -matrices, such that $B^{-1} \leq A^{-1}$. Then*

$$(B + tI)^{-1} \leq (A + tI)^{-1}, \quad \forall t \geq 0. \quad (3.4)$$

Proof For an arbitrary, but fixed, $t \geq 0$, consider the function $f_t(x) = t + x$ which is a Pick function satisfying that $f_t(x) > 0$, for all $x \in (0, \infty)$. Then the function

$$g_t(x) := \frac{1}{f(t + 1/x)}$$

is a Pick function which satisfies that $g_t(x) > 0$ for all $x \in (0, \infty)$. Hence by Ando's result mentioned earlier, if $B^{-1} \leq A^{-1}$, then

$$(B + tI)^{-1} = g_t(B^{-1}) \leq g_t(A^{-1}) = (A + tI)^{-1},$$

and our proof is done. ■

We comment that $A, B \in \mathcal{M}^{-1}$ with $A \leq B$ does not imply that $B^{-1} \leq A^{-1}$, i.e. it does not imply that $A \preceq_f B$. However, we can expect there to be examples for which $A, B \in \mathcal{M}^{-1}$, $A \not\preceq_f B$, but that there exists $t > 0$, such that $A + tI \preceq_f B + tI$. Indeed, on taking

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1/2 & 1/3 & 1/4 & 1/5 \\ 1/2 & 4/3 & 1/4 & 1/5 & 1/6 \\ 1/3 & 1/4 & 6/5 & 1/6 & 1/7 \\ 1/4 & 1/5 & 1/6 & 8/7 & 1/8 \\ 1/5 & 1/6 & 1/7 & 1/8 & 10/9 \end{bmatrix} \quad (3.5)$$

and

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} 2.5 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix},$$

it is easily checked that $A, B \in \mathcal{M}^{-1}$, $A \leq B$, and $B^{-1} \not\leq A^{-1}$. However, on taking $t = 5$, we find that

$$(A + 5I)^{-1} - (B + 5I)^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.003429 & 0.003249 & 0.007001 & 0.008842 & 0.009931 \\ 0.003249 & 0.007806 & 0.009629 & 0.01074 & 0.01149 \\ 0.007001 & 0.009629 & 0.01067 & 0.01140 & 0.01193 \\ 0.008842 & 0.01074 & 0.01140 & 0.01191 & 0.01230 \\ 0.009931 & 0.01149 & 0.01193 & 0.01230 & 0.01260 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Our next result is a characterization of functions which map \mathcal{M}^{-1} to \mathcal{M} .

THEOREM 3.4 *Let f be defined and analytic on the domain obtained by deleting all non-positive reals from the complex plane and suppose that $f : (0, \infty) \rightarrow (0, \infty)$. Then, f maps \mathcal{M}^{-1} to \mathcal{M} if and only if $f'(1/x)$ is completely monotonic.*

Proof Clearly, f maps \mathcal{M}^{-1} to \mathcal{M} if and only if $f(1/x)$ maps \mathcal{M} to \mathcal{M} . Therefore the result follows from the theorem of Fiedler and Schneider [9] mentioned in the introduction. ■

We finally mention that the sets of all functions f which map the interval $(0, \infty)$ into itself and which satisfy that (i) f is completely monotonic on $(0, \infty)$, or (ii) $f(1/x)$ is completely monotonic on $(0, \infty)$, or (iii) $f'(1/x)/(xf(1/x))^2$ is completely monotonic on $(0, \infty)$, or (iv) $f'(1/x)$ is completely monotonic on $(0, \infty)$ all form a convex cone, namely, if $\alpha, \beta \geq 0$ and if f, g are functions which belong to one of the classes, (i)–(iv), then $\alpha f + \beta g$ also belongs to the same class. As an example, consider the functions $f(x) = \log(1+x)$ and $g(x) = x$. Both functions satisfy the requirements of class (iii). Thus, if $A \in \mathcal{M}^{-1}$ and $h(x) = \log(1+x) + x$, then $h(A) = \log(I+A) + A \in \mathcal{M}^{-1}$. For instance, take A to be the inverse M-matrix in (3.5). Then

$$h(A) = \begin{bmatrix} 3.070 & 0.6807 & 0.4507 & 0.3365 & 0.2683 \\ 0.6807 & 2.152 & 0.3450 & 0.2762 & 0.2302 \\ 0.4507 & 0.3450 & 1.971 & 0.2323 & 0.1995 \\ 0.3365 & 0.2762 & 0.2323 & 1.893 & 0.1756 \\ 0.2683 & 0.2302 & 0.1995 & 0.1756 & 1.850 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 0.3628 & -0.09700 & -0.05814 & -0.04037 & -0.03044 \\ -0.09700 & 0.5150 & -0.05844 & -0.04708 & -0.03925 \\ -0.05814 & -0.05844 & 0.5399 & -0.04384 & -0.03837 \\ -0.04037 & -0.04708 & -0.04384 & 0.5509 & -0.03586 \\ -0.03044 & -0.03925 & -0.03837 & -0.03586 & 0.5574 \end{bmatrix}^{-1}.$$

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