

**op\_transpose** — Conjugate transpose operator

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## Description

$A'$  returns the [transpose](#) of  $A$  or, if  $A$  is complex, the conjugate transpose.

## Syntax

$A'$

## Remarks and examples

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The  $'$  postfix operator may be used on any type of matrix or vector: real, complex, string, or pointer:

: a

	1	2	3
1	1	2	3
2	4	5	6

: a'

	1	2
1	1	4
2	2	5
3	3	6

: s

	1	2
1	alpha	beta

: s'

	1
1	alpha
2	beta

: p

	1
1	0x71b70f8
2	0x8700cb8

: p'

	1	2
1	0x71b70f8	0x8700cb8

```

: z
      1      2
1  1 + 2i  3 + 4i
2  5 + 6i  7 + 8i

: z'
      1      2
1  1 - 2i  5 - 6i
2  3 - 4i  7 - 8i

```

When `'` is applied to a complex, returned is the conjugate transpose. If you do not want this, code `conj(z')` or `conj(z)'`—it makes no difference; see [M-5] `conj()`,

```

: conj(z')
      1      2
1  1 + 2i  5 + 6i
2  3 + 4i  7 + 8i

```

Or use the `transposeonly()` function; see [M-5] `transposeonly()`:

```

: transposeonly(z)
      1      2
1  1 + 2i  5 + 6i
2  3 + 4i  7 + 8i

```

`transposeonly()` executes slightly faster than `conj(z')`.

For real and complex `A`, also see [M-5] `_transpose()`, which provides a way to transpose a matrix in place and so saves memory.

## Conformability

```

A':
  A:   r × c
result: c × r

```

## Diagnostics

The transpose operator cannot fail, but it is easy to use it incorrectly when working with complex quantities.

A user wanted to form `A*x` but when he tried, got a conformability error. He thought `x` was a column vector, but it turned out to be a row vector, or perhaps it was the other way around. Anyway, he then coded `A*x'`, and the program worked and, even better, produced the correct answers. In his test, `x` was real.

Later, the user ran the program with complex `x`, and the program generated incorrect results, although it took him a while to notice. Study and study his code he did, before he thought about the innocuous `A*x'`. The transpose operator had not only changed `x` from being a row into being a column but had taken the conjugate of each element of `x`! He changed the code to read `A*transposeonly(x)`.

The user no doubt wondered why the `'` transpose operator was not defined at the outset to be equivalent to `transposeonly()`. If it had been, then rather than telling the story of the man who was bitten by conjugate transpose when he only wanted the transpose, we would have told the story of the woman who was bitten by the transpose when she needed the conjugate transpose. There are, in fact, more of the latter stories than there are of the former.

## Also see

[M-5] [conj\(\)](#) — Complex conjugate

[M-5] [\\_transpose\(\)](#) — Transposition in place

[M-5] [transposeonly\(\)](#) — Transposition without conjugation

[M-2] [exp](#) — Expressions

[M-2] [intro](#) — Language definition