

The set of invertible non matrices

$$\text{is } GL_n(\mathbb{Q}) = \left\{ A \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{Q}) \mid \begin{array}{l} \text{there exists } A^{-1} \text{ in } M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{Q}) \text{ with} \\ AA^{-1} = I \text{ and } A^{-1}A = I \end{array} \right\}$$

Inverses of products

Suppose $A, B, C, D \in GL_n(\mathbb{Q})$ and

$$M = ABCD.$$

Then $M^{-1} = D^{-1}C^{-1}B^{-1}A^{-1}$ since

$$\begin{aligned} MD^{-1}C^{-1}B^{-1}A^{-1} &= ABCDD^{-1}C^{-1}B^{-1}A^{-1} \\ &= ABCC^{-1}B^{-1}A^{-1} \\ &= ABB^{-1}A^{-1} = AA^{-1} = I \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} D^{-1}C^{-1}B^{-1}A^{-1}M &= D^{-1}C^{-1}B^{-1}A^{-1}ABCD \\ &= D^{-1}C^{-1}B^{-1}B^{-1}CD \\ &= D^{-1}C^{-1}CD = D^{-1}D = I. \end{aligned}$$

So, if you know $A^{-1}, B^{-1}, C^{-1}, D^{-1}$ then finding M^{-1} is easy.

If

$$s_1(c) = \begin{pmatrix} c & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } s_2(c) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

then $s_1(c)^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & -c & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $s_2(c)^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -c \end{pmatrix}$

If $h_1(d) = \begin{pmatrix} d & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$, $h_2(d) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & d & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$, $h_3(d) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & d \end{pmatrix}$

then $h_1(d)^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} d^{-1} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$, $h_2(d)^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & d^{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$, $h_3(d)^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & d^{-1} \end{pmatrix}$

If $x_{12}(c) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & c & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$, $x_{13}(c) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & c \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$, $x_{23}(c) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & c \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

then $x_{12}(c)^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -c & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$, $x_{13}(c)^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -c \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$, $x_{23}(c)^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -c \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

Example

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 10 & 9 & 7 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 8 & 6 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 5 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = x_{45}(1) x_{35}(2) x_{25}(3) x_{15}(4) \cdot x_{34}(5) x_{24}(6) x_{14}(7) \cdot x_{23}(8) x_{13}(9) \cdot x_{12}(10).$$

$$= x_{45}(1) x_{35}(2) x_{25}(3) x_{15}(4) x_{34}(5) x_{24}(6) x_{14}(7) x_{23}(8) x_{13}(9) x_{12}(10).$$

The order is important!

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Example 148 Let $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$. Call the oracle to find out

$$A = s_1 \left(\frac{1}{3} \right) h_1 \left(\frac{1}{3} \right) h_2 \left(\frac{2}{3} \right) x_{12} \left(\frac{4}{3} \right), \quad \text{where } x_{12} \left(\frac{4}{3} \right) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{4}{3} \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$s_1 \left(\frac{1}{3} \right) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{3} & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad h_1 \left(\frac{1}{3} \right) = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad h_2 \left(\frac{2}{3} \right) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{2}{3} \end{pmatrix}.$$

If you don't trust the oracle, check:

$$\begin{aligned} & s_1 \left(\frac{1}{3} \right) h_1 \left(\frac{1}{3} \right) h_2 \left(\frac{2}{3} \right) x_{12} \left(\frac{4}{3} \right) \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{3} & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{2}{3} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{4}{3} \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{3} & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{2}{3} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{4}{3} \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{3} & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 4 \\ 0 & \frac{2}{3} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

OK:

$$\begin{aligned} A^{-1} &= x_{12} \left(\frac{4}{3} \right)^{-1} h_2 \left(\frac{2}{3} \right)^{-1} h_1 \left(\frac{1}{3} \right)^{-1} s_1 \left(\frac{1}{3} \right)^{-1} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -\frac{4}{3} \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{3}{2} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{3} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & -\frac{1}{3} \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ 0 & \frac{3}{2} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \frac{1}{3} \\ 1 & -\frac{1}{3} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ \frac{3}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Check:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ \frac{3}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -2+3 & 1-1 \\ -6+6 & 3-2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Example M6

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} = s_1 \left(\frac{1}{-1} \right) \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= s_1(-1) s_2(1) \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= s_1(-1) s_2(1) h_1(-1) h_3(-1) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= s_1(-1) s_2(1) h_1(-1) h_3(-1) x_{23}(3) x_{13}(-1) x_{12}(1)$$

Then

$$A^{-1} = x_{12}(1)^{-1} x_{13}(-1)^{-1} x_{23}(3)^{-1} h_3(-1)^{-1} h_1(-1)^{-1} s_2(1)^{-1} s_1(-1)^{-1}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 & -4 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -4 & -5 & 3 \\ 3 & 3 & -2 \\ -1 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Check:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -4 & -5 & 3 \\ 3 & 3 & -2 \\ -1 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -4+6-1 & -5+6-1 & 3-4+1 \\ 4-3-1 & 5-3-1 & -3+2+1 \\ 0+3-3 & 0+3-3 & 0-2+3 \end{pmatrix} \\ = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Example M10

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$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & -2 \\ 1 & -3 & 0 & 5 \end{pmatrix} = s_2(0) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & -3 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & -2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= s_2(0) s_1(1) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & 2 & 2 & -4 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & -2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= s_2(0) s_1(1) s_2(2) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= s_2(0) s_1(1) s_2(2) x_{12}(-3) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Since this last right hand factor has a row of 0s then A is not invertible

$$A = s_2(0) s_1(1) s_2(2) x_{12}(-3) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= s_2(0) s_1(1) s_2(2) x_{12}(-3) \cdot \frac{1}{2} x_{24}(-2) x_{14}(5)$$

The rank of A is 2 in this example.