

## 1. The group $U_n$

### Proposition 1.1

Let  $E_n = \{E_{i,j}\}_{i < j}$  be the set of all  $n \times n$  matrices,  $(e_{l,k})$ , where  $a_{l,l} = 1, 1 \leq l \leq n$ , and  $a_{i,j} = 1, i < j$ , and all other elements are zero. That is,  $E_{i,j}$  has 1 only on the main diagonal, and in one element, anywhere above the main diagonal. Let  $A$  be any  $n \times n$  matrix. Then, Multiplying  $A$  by  $E_{i,j}$  (from the left),  $E_{i,j} \times A$ , is operating as performing the elementary operation  $R_i \leftarrow R_i + R_j$  on  $A$

*Proof.*  $A = (a_{l,k}), B = (b_{l,k}) = E_{i,j} \times A = (e_{l,k}) \times (a_{l,k})$

$$b_{l,k} = \sum_{r=1}^n e_{l,r} \cdot a_{r,k}$$

For all the rows, except for row  $i$ ,  $b_{l,k} = \sum_{r=1}^n e_{l,r} \cdot a_{r,k} = 0 + 0 + \cdots + e_{l,l} \cdot a_{l,k} + 0 + 0 + \cdots + 0 + 0 = 1 \cdot a_{l,k} = a_{l,k}$

For row  $i$ ,  $b_{i,k} = \sum_{r=1}^n e_{i,r} \cdot a_{r,k} = 0 + 0 + \cdots + e_{i,i} \cdot a_{i,k} + 0 + 0 + e_{i,j} \cdot a_{j,k} + 0 + 0 + \cdots + 0 + 0 = 1 \cdot a_{i,k} + 1 \cdot a_{j,k} = a_{i,k} + a_{j,k}$

This shows that the multiplication preserves the rows of  $A$ , except for row  $i$ , which becomes the sum of rows  $i, j$  □

### Corollary 1.2

Let  $E_{i,j} = (e_{l,k}), i < j \in E_n$ , Then,

$E_{i,j}^{-1} = (a_{l,k})$ , where  $a_{l,l} = 1, 1 \leq l \leq n$ , and  $a_{i,j} = -1, i < j$ , and all other elements are zero.

*Proof.*  $(b_{l,k}) = E_{i,j} \times (a_{l,k})$

Multiplying  $(a_{l,k})$  by  $E_{i,j}$  from the left is operating on  $(a_{l,k})$  as a row addition,  $R_i \leftarrow R_i + R_j$ , as seen above.

For all  $1 \leq k \leq n, b_{i,k} = a_{i,k} + a_{j,k}$

But, the only element in row  $j$  that is not zero is  $a_{j,j}=1$ , so,  $b_{i,j} = a_{i,j} + a_{j,j} = -1 + 1 = 0$ , and, for all the other columns,  $a_{j,k} = 0$ , so  $b_{i,i} = a_{i,i} + a_{j,i} = 1 + 0 = 1$ , and  $b_{i,k} = a_{i,k} + a_{j,k} = 0 + 0 = 0$ , which means that  $(b_{l,k}) = I_n$

Easy to verify that also  $(a_{l,k}) \times E_{i,j} = I_n$ , and that  $(a_{l,k})$  is a unique inverse of  $E_{i,j}$ , since, suppose we have another inverse matrix,  $M = E_{i,j}^{-1}$ , then  $(a_{l,k}) \times E_{i,j} = I_n = M \times E_{i,j} \Rightarrow ((a_{l,k}) \times E_{i,j}) \times M = (M \times E_{i,j}) \times M \Rightarrow (a_{l,k}) \times E_{i,j} \times M = M \times E_{i,j} \times M \Rightarrow (a_{l,k}) \times (E_{i,j} \times M) = M \times (E_{i,j} \times M) \Rightarrow (a_{l,k}) \times I_n = M \times I_n \Rightarrow (a_{l,k}) = M$

So,  $(a_{l,k}) = E_{i,j}^{-1}$  is the unique inverse of  $E_{i,j}$  □

### Proposition 1.3

Let  $E_{i,j} = (e_{l,k}), i < j \in E_n$ , Then,  
 $\forall m \in \mathbb{N}, E_{i,j}^m = (a_{l,k})$ , where  $a_{l,l} = 1, 1 \leq l \leq n$ , and  $a_{i,j} = m, i < j$ , and all other elements are zero.

*Proof.* By induction on  $m$ .

For  $m = 2$ , we observe that  $E_{i,j}^2 = E_{i,j} \times E_{i,j}$ , which means that the multiplication from the left of  $E_{i,j}$  by itself is operating on  $E_{i,j}$  as the row addition  $R_i \leftarrow R_i + R_j$ , so,  $a_{i,i} = a_{i,i} + a_{j,i}, i = 1+0 = 1$ , and,  $a_{i,j} = a_{i,j} + a_{j,j} = 1+1 = 2$ , and, all the other elements are zero (easy to verify).

So,  $(a_{l,k}) = E_{i,j}^2$ , where  $a_{l,l} = 1, 1 \leq l \leq n$ , and  $a_{i,j} = 2, i < j$ , and all other elements are zero.

Now, we prove for  $m + 1$

$(a_{l,k}) = E_{i,j}^{m+1} = E_{i,j} \times E_{i,j}^m$ . But, from the induction assumption,  $(b_{l,k}) = E_{i,j}^m$ ,  $b_{l,l} = 1, 1 \leq l \leq n$ , and  $b_{i,j} = m, i < j$ , and all other elements are zero.

Multiplying from the left  $(b_{l,k})$  by  $E_{i,j}$  is operating as the row addition  $R_i \leftarrow R_i + R_j$ , so,  $a_{i,i} = b_{i,i} + b_{j,i} = 1 + 0 = 1$ , and,  $a_{i,j} = b_{i,j} + b_{j,j} = m + 1$ , and easy to verify that all the other elements are zero, thus, we prove the induction step.

□