# 2. Linear algebra for applied statistics

- Linear algebra is the math of vectors and matrices.
- In statistics, the main purpose of linear algebra is to organize data and write down the manipulations we want to do to them.
- ullet A **vector** of length n is also called an n-tuple or a **sequence** of length n.
- We can suppose that each data point is a **real number**. We write  $\mathcal{R}$  for the set of real numbers, and  $\mathcal{R}^n$  for the set of vectors of n real numbers.
- Write the US life expectancy at birth for 2011 to 2015 as  $\mathbf{y} = (y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4, y_5) = (79.0, 79.1, 79.0, 79.0, 78.9)$ . We see  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{R}^5$ .
- A numerical dataset with n datapoints is a vector in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .
- Qualitative data can be written as a vector in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  by assigning a number for each qualitative level.
- We use bold font for vectors, and italic font for **elements** of the vector.

# More perspectives on vectors

**Question 2.1**. You may or may not have seen vectors in other contexts. In physics, a vector is a quantity with magnitude and direction. How does that fit in with our definition?

This physics definition corresponds to a polar coordinate representation of our vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  and  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

**Question 2.2**. How can I write a boldface  $\mathbf x$  in handwriting? An underscore,  $\underline x$ , is conventional handwriting to represent bold font. In physics and mathematics, vectors are sometimes written as  $\overrightarrow x$ , but we will not do that here.

# Adding vectors and multiplying by a scalar

- ullet For a dataset, the **index** i of the component  $y_i$  of the vector y might correspond to a measurement on the ith member of a population, the outcome of the ith group in an experiment, or the ith observation out of a sequence of observations on a system. Recall i is called an **observational unit**, or just **unit**.
- We might want to add two quantities  $u_i$  and  $v_i$  for unit i.
- Using vector notation, if  $\mathbf{u}=(u_1,u_2,\ldots,u_n)$ ,  $\mathbf{v}=(v_1,v_2,\ldots,v_n)$  and  $\mathbf{y}=(y_1,y_2,\ldots,y_n)$  we define the **vector sum**  $\mathbf{y}=\mathbf{u}+\mathbf{v}$  to be the **elementwise sum**  $y_i=u_i+v_i$ , adding up the corresponding elements for each unit.
- We might also want to rescale each component by the same factor. To change a measurement  $y_i$  in inches to a new measurement  $z_i$  in mm, we rescale with the scalar  $\alpha = 25.4$ . We want  $z_i = \alpha y_i$  for each i. This is written in vector notation as multplication of a vector by a scalar,  $\mathbf{z} = \alpha \mathbf{y}$ .

## Adding vectors and multiplying by a scalar

**Worked example**. An ecologist measures the pH of ten Michigan lakes at two points in the summer. Set up vector notation to describe her data algebraically. Write a vector calculation, using summation notation, giving the average pH in each lake.

Let  $x_i$  be the first pH measurement in lake i, for  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, 10\}$ . Then,  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_{10})$  is the vector of the first pH measurement in each of the 10 lakes. Let  $\mathbf{y} = (y_1, \dots, y_{10})$  be the vector of second measurements. Let  $\boldsymbol{\mu} = (\mu_1, \dots, \mu_{10})$  be the average pH for each of the 10 lakes. For each lake i, the mean is  $\mu_i = \frac{1}{2}(x_i + y_i)$ . In vector notation, this is

$$\boldsymbol{\mu} = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y})$$

.

#### Vectors and scalars in R

- We have seen in Chapter 1 that R has vectors. An R vector of length 1 is a scalar, and we have seen that R follows the usual mathematical rules of vector addition and multiplication by a scalar.
- R also allows adding a scalar to a vector

• Mathematically, adding scalars to vectors is not allowed. Instead, we define the **vector of ones**,  $\mathbf{1} = (1, 1, \dots, 1)$ , and write  $\mathbf{x} + 2 \times \mathbf{1}$ .

**Question 2.3**. Why does R choose to break the usual rules of mathematics here?

Convenience. It is quite common to want to add a fixed amount to each data point, so R makes this easy.

#### **Matrices**

- Matrices provide a way to store and manipulate p quantitites for each of n units.
- ullet An n imes p matrix  ${\mathbb A}$  is a numerical array with n rows and p columns,

$$\mathbb{A} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1p} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2p} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & \dots & a_{np} \end{bmatrix}.$$

- Blackboard bold capital letters, A, B, X, Z, etc, denote matrices.
- We are keeping plain capital letters to use for random variables.
- ullet We say  $\mathbb{A}=[a_{ij}]_{n imes p}$  as an abbreviation for writing the full n imes p matrix.
- $\bullet$  We write  $\underset{n\times p}{\mathbb{A}}$  to emphasize the dimension. Keeping track of matrix dimensions can be helpful!

# Matrix times vector multiplication

ullet A linear system of n equations with p unknown variables,  $x_1,\ldots,x_p$  is

$$\begin{vmatrix}
a_{11}x_1 & + & a_{12}x_2 & + & \dots & + & a_{1p}x_p & = & b_1 \\
a_{21}x_1 & + & a_{22}x_2 & + & \dots & + & a_{2p}x_p & = & b_2 \\
\vdots & & & & & \vdots & & \vdots \\
a_{n1}x_1 & + & a_{n2}x_2 & + & \dots & + & a_{np}x_p & = & b_n
\end{vmatrix}$$
(L1)

We define matrix multiplication  $\mathbb{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  to match this linear system. So,

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1p} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2p} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & \dots & a_{np} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_p \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_n \end{bmatrix}$$

is exactly equivalent to the collection of p linear equations in (L1) above.

• Mechanically, the ith component of Ax is found by multiplying each term in the ith row of A with corresponding terms in the **column vector** x, and adding these contributions. See Homework 2 for practice!

#### Column vectors and row vectors

- In the matrix times vector multiplication on the previous slide, the vector  $\mathbf{x}$  is written in a column, as a  $p \times 1$  matrix.
- We say that that  $\mathbf{x}$  is a **column vector**. We interpret a vector  $\mathbf{x}$  as a column vectors unless we explicitly say it is a  $1 \times p$  **row vector**.
- Similarly, **b** in the previous slide is a length n column vector.
- R matches our notation: a vector in R is not a matrix, but is interpreted as a column vector for matrix times vector multiplication. R uses %\*% to denote matrix multiplication.

```
x \leftarrow c(1,2)
                  A<-matrix(
                                          xx<-matrix(x,nrow=2)
is(x,"matrix")
                  c(1,0,0,-1),nrow=2)
                                          A %*% xx
                  A %*% x
## [1] FALSE
                          [,1]
                                                  [,1]
                  ##
is(x,"vector")
                  ## [1,] 1
                                          ## [1,] 1
                  ## [2,] -2
                                          ## [2,] -2
## [1] TRUE
```

# Does a system of linear equations have no solution? One solution? Many solutions?

- One linear equation in one unknown, ax = u, has a unique solution unless a = 0.
- ullet One linear equation with two unknowns, ax+by=u, has a solution consisting of all points on a line in the x-y plane, as long as one of a and b is nonzero.
- Two linear equations with two unknowns,  $\begin{array}{ccc} ax & + & by & = & u \\ cx & + & dy & = & v \end{array}$ , have a unique solution where the lines ax + by = u and cx + dy = v intersect, so long as these lines are not parallel.
- Three linear equations in two unknowns will not usually have a solution—the three corresponding lines would all have to meet at a common point.
- Can you see the general pattern?

# Does a system of linear equations have no solution? One solution? Many solutions? Continued...

- For three unknowns, an equation ax + by + cz = u corresponds to a plane in three-dimensional (x, y, z) space.
- Three planes will typically intersect at a single point, so three equations in three unknowns will typically have a unique solution.
- Two planes that are not parallel will meet along a line, and give a family of solutions.
- Four or more planes will typically not all meet at any point.
- In higher dimensions, we can't visualize but the pattern remains true.
- ullet The general linear system we wrote previously in (L1) has n equations with p unknowns. We expect a unique solution when p=n, no solution when p< n and a family of solutions when p>n.

# Using matrices to solve a system of linear equations

- We've seen how matrices can represent a system of linear equations as Ax = b.
- For a basic linear algebra equation ax = b we would divide through by a, or equivalently multiply through by  $a^{-1}$ , to find  $x = a^{-1}b$  when  $a \neq 0$ .
- Is there a **matrix inverse**  $\mathbb{A}^{-1}$  such that  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbb{A}^{-1}\mathbf{b}$  solves the system of linear equations  $\mathbb{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ ?
- We will see that there is an inverse  $\mathbb{A}^{-1}$  when the system of linear equations has a unique solution. Since software can compute this inverse, we can solve systems of linear equations easily. This is useful in statistics for fitting linear models to datasets. Understanding when this inverse exists, and what to do when it doesn't, will help us develop appropriate models for data analysis.
- From the previous slide, we can only expect  $\mathbb{A}^{-1}$  to exist when p=n, in which case  $\mathbb{A}$  is called a **square matrix**.

# Multiplying two matrices

- Let  $\mathbb{A} = [a_{ij}]_{n \times p}$  and  $\mathbb{X} = [x_{ij}]_{p \times q}$  be two matrices.
- The columns of X can be written as  $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \ldots, \mathbf{x}_q$ .
- $\mathbb{X}$  consists of these q columns glued together, so  $\mathbb{X} = [\mathbf{x}_1 \ \mathbf{x}_2 \ \mathbf{x}_3 \ \cdots \ \mathbf{x}_q].$
- Here,  $\mathbf{x}_i$  is a vector whose *i*th component is  $x_{ij}$ .
- We define the **matrix product**  $\mathbb{A}\mathbb{X}$  by gluing together the matrix times vector products for each column of  $\mathbb{X}$ , so  $\mathbb{A}\mathbb{X} = [\mathbb{A}\mathbf{x}_1 \ \mathbb{A}\mathbf{x}_2 \ \mathbb{A}\mathbf{x}_3 \ \cdots \ \mathbb{A}\mathbf{x}_q]$ .
- From this definition, we see:
  - **1** The (i, j) entry of  $\mathbb{A}\mathbb{X}$  is found by sliding the ith row of  $\mathbb{A}$  down the jth column of  $\mathbb{X}$ , multiplying the corresponding terms and adding them. See homework for practice!
  - ②Since each product  $\mathbb{A}\mathbf{x}_j$  is a vector of length n, the dimension of  $\mathbb{A}\mathbb{X}$  is  $n \times q$ . So, the rule for the dimension of a matrix product is

$$(n \times p) \times (p \times q) = (n \times q)$$

For the matrix product to exist, the number of columns of the first matrix must equal the number of rows of the second.

# A matrix product example

**Question 2.4**. Let 
$$\mathbb{U} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$
 and  $\mathbb{V} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ . Calculate  $\mathbb{U}\mathbb{V}$ .

We can check our working in R.

## Matrix multiplication is not commutative

- ullet Scalar multiplication (i.e., the usual multiplication of two numbers) has the **commutative** property, uv=vu.
- Matrix multiplication does not usually have this property, e.g.,

 We are all very used to multiplication being commutative. It takes practice to get used to the fact that matrix multiplication doesn't commute.

# Addition of matrices and multiplication by a scalar

• If  $\mathbb{A} = [a_{ij}]_{p \times q}$  and  $\mathbb{B} = [b_{ij}]_{p \times q}$  then the **matrix sum**  $\mathbb{A} + \mathbb{B}$  is computed componentwise, just like for vectors:

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & \dots & a_{1q} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{p1} & \dots & a_{pq} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} b_{11} & \dots & b_{1q} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ b_{p1} & \dots & b_{pq} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} + b_{11} & \dots & a_{1q} + b_{1q} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{p1} + b_{p1} & \dots & a_{pq} + b_{pq} \end{bmatrix}$$

• Scalar times matrix multiplication is also computed componentwise:

$$s\mathbb{A} = s \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} a_{11} & \dots & a_{1q} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{p1} & \dots & a_{pq} \end{array} \right] = \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} s \, a_{11} & \dots & s \, a_{1q} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ s \, a_{p1} & \dots & s \, a_{pq} \end{array} \right]$$

- Scalar times matrix multiplication does commute:  $s\mathbb{A} = \mathbb{A}s$ .
- Matrix and scalar multiplication both have a **distributive** property:  $\mathbb{U}(\mathbb{V} + \mathbb{W}) = \mathbb{U}\mathbb{V} + \mathbb{U}\mathbb{W}$ , and  $s(\mathbb{V} + \mathbb{W}) = s\mathbb{V} + s\mathbb{W}$ ,

# The identity matrix

• The  $p \times p$  identity matrix,  $\mathbb{I}_p$ , is a square matrix with 1's on the diagonal and 0's everywhere else:

$$\mathbb{I}_p = \left[ \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \end{array} \right]$$

- Check that for any  $p \times p$  matrix  $\mathbb{A}$ , we have  $\mathbb{I}_p \mathbb{A} = \mathbb{A} \mathbb{I}_p = \mathbb{A}$ . Also, for any vector  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{R}^p$  we have  $\mathbb{I}_p \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}$ .
- ullet We can often write  $\mathbb I$  in place of  $\mathbb I_p$  since the dimension of  $\mathbb I$  is always evident from the context.
- **Question 2.5**. Suppose  $\mathbb B$  is a  $n \times q$  matrix and  $\mathbb I$  is an identity matrix. (i) If we write  $\mathbb B \mathbb I$ , what must be the dimension of  $\mathbb I$ ? Find a simplification of  $\mathbb B \mathbb I$ .
- (ii) How about if we write IB?

# Inverting a $2 \times 2$ matrix

- ullet Let  $\mathbb{A}=\left[egin{array}{cc} a & b \\ c & d \end{array}
  ight]$  be a general  $2\times 2$  matrix.
- Then,  $\mathbb{A} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix}$  corresponds to a system of linear equations,

$$\begin{cases}
ax + by = u \\
cx + dy = v
\end{cases}$$
(L2)

ullet Recall that the inverse  $\mathbb{A}^{-1}$  should solve this linear system, i.e.,

$$\left[\begin{array}{c} x \\ y \end{array}\right] = \mathbb{A}^{-1} \left[\begin{array}{c} u \\ v \end{array}\right]$$

 $\stackrel{\cdot}{\bullet}$  We can solve a pair of linear equations by hand. First, we solve for x by eliminating y. We can rewrite (L2) as

$$adx + bdy = du$$

$$bcx + bdy = bv$$
(L3.1)
(L3.2)

• Subtracting (L3.2) from (L3.1) gives (ad - bc)x = du - bv and so  $x = \frac{1}{ad - bc}(du - bv)$ .

# Inverting a $2 \times 2$ matrix, Continued...

• Next, we can find y by eliminating x. We rewrite (L2) as

$$\begin{array}{rcl} acx & + & bcy & = & cu \\ acx & + & ady & = & av \end{array}$$

Then subtraction gives (ad - bc)y = av - cu.

• Collecting these results, we find

$$\left[\begin{array}{c} x \\ y \end{array}\right] = \frac{1}{ad-bc} \left[\begin{array}{cc} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{array}\right] \left[\begin{array}{c} u \\ v \end{array}\right].$$

• This gives us the formula for  $\mathbb{A}^{-1}$ ,

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \frac{1}{ad - bc} \begin{bmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{bmatrix}$$

# The identity $\mathbb{A}^{-1}\mathbb{A} = \mathbb{I}$

- We constructed  $\mathbb{A}^{-1}$  so that  $\mathbb{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  has solution  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbb{A}^{-1}\mathbf{b}$ .
- Formally, this amounts to multiplying both sides of the equation  $\mathbb{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  by  $\mathbb{A}^{-1}$ .
- This gives us

$$\mathbb{A}^{-1}\mathbb{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbb{A}^{-1}\mathbf{b}.$$

Mathematically, it must be true that

$$\mathbb{A}^{-1}\mathbb{A}=\mathbb{I}$$

so that

$$\mathbb{A}^{-1}\mathbb{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbb{I}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}.$$

• This matches usual arithmetic, where we have the identity  $a^{-1}a = 1$ .

### The determinant of a $2 \times 2$ matrix

- $\bullet \text{ Recall that } \mathbb{A}^{-1} = \left[ \begin{array}{cc} a & b \\ c & d \end{array} \right]^{-1} = \frac{1}{ad-bc} \left[ \begin{array}{cc} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{array} \right]$
- We call ad bc the **determinant** of A, and we write

$$\det(A) = ad - bc.$$

• We can see from the formula for  $\mathbb{A}^{-1}$  that the inverse of  $\mathbb{A}$  exists if and only if  $ad-bc\neq 0$ .

**Question 2.6**. What does it mean geometrically for ad - bc = 0?

Hint: the slope of the line ax+by=u is -a/b, and the slope of cx+dy=v is -c/d.

## Finding the matrix inverse and determinant in R

• The R function det() finds the determinant of a square matrix, and solve() finds the inverse if it exists.

```
A <- matrix(runif(9),3,3)
round(A,2)

## [,1] [,2] [,3]
## [1,] 0.27 0.91 0.94
## [2,] 0.37 0.20 0.66
## [2,] 0.57 0.90 0.63

## [3,] 1.02 1.32 -1.33
```

Question 2.7. Why is A%\*%A\_inv not exactly equal to the identity

# Using R to solve a set of linear equations

Worked example. Suppose we want to solve

How do we do this using R?

1. Write the system as a matrix equation Ax = b,

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & -3 & 4 \\ 2 & -2 & 1 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 & 4 & -1 \\ 3 & -1 & -8 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} w \\ x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Using R to solve a set of linear equations, continued...

2. Enter the matrix A and vector b into R.

```
A <- rbind( c( 1, 2,-3, 4),
c( 2,-2, 1, 1),
c(-1,-1, 4,-1),
c( 3,-1,-8, 2))
b <- c(0,1,2,3)
```

3. Compute the matrix solution to the linear system,  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbb{A}^{-1}\mathbf{b}$ .

Question 2.8. Which of these correctly computes x and why?

```
round(solve(A) %*% b,2)

## [,1] ## [,1] [,2] [,3] [,4]

## [1,] -3.75 ## [1,] 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00

## [2,] -3.58 ## [2,] -0.09 0.24 -1.15 -0.51

## [3,] -0.80 ## [3,] 0.00 0.40 -0.40 -0.40

## [4,] 2.13 ## [4,] 1.09 -0.44 2.35 0.71
```

## The transpose of a matrix

- Sometimes we want to switch the rows and columns of a matrix.
- For example, we usually suppose that each column of a data matrix is a measurement variable (say, height and weight) and each row of a data matrix is an object being measured (say, a row for each person). However, what if the data were stored in a matrix where columns corresponded to objects?
- Switching rows and columns is called transposing the matrix.
- The **transpose** of  $\mathbb{A}$  is denoted mathematically by  $\mathbb{A}^{T}$  and in R by  $\mathsf{t}(\mathbb{A})$ .

$$\mathbb{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & -3 \\ 2 & -2 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 & 4 \\ 3 & -1 & -8 \end{bmatrix}, \qquad \mathbb{A}^{\mathsf{T}} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & -1 & 3 \\ 2 & -2 & -1 & -1 \\ -3 & 1 & 4 & -8 \end{bmatrix}$$

• If  $\mathbb{A}$  has dimension  $n \times p$ , then  $\mathbb{A}^{\mathrm{T}}$  is  $p \times n$ .

# More properties of matrices

• The following material is not essential for this course. However, it may help reinforce understanding to see more ways in which matrix addition and multiplication behave similarly, or differently, from usual arithmetic.

**Associative property**. We are used to the associative property of addition and multiplication for numbers: a+(b+c)=(a+b)+c and  $a\times(b\times c)=(a\times b)\times c$ . You can check that matrix addition and multiplication also have the associative property: for matrices of appropriate size,  $\mathbb{A}+(\mathbb{B}+\mathbb{C})=(\mathbb{A}+\mathbb{B})+\mathbb{C}$  and  $\mathbb{A}(\mathbb{B}\,\mathbb{C})=(\mathbb{A}\,\mathbb{B})\mathbb{C}$ . **Inverse of a product**. For square invertible matrices  $\mathbb{A}$  and  $\mathbb{B}$ , we can check that  $(\mathbb{A}\mathbb{B})^{-1}=\mathbb{B}^{-1}\mathbb{A}^{-1}$ . The change of order may seem weird. To demonstrate that this inverse works correctly,

$$(\mathbb{A}\,\mathbb{B})^{-1}(\mathbb{A}\,\mathbb{B}) = \mathbb{B}^{-1}\mathbb{A}^{-1}\mathbb{A}\,\mathbb{B} = \mathbb{B}^{-1}\mathbb{I}\,\mathbb{B} = \mathbb{B}^{-1}\mathbb{B} = \mathbb{I}.$$

Note that we have repeatedly used the associative property of matrix multiplication, and we have been careful not to accidentally commute (recall that, in general,  $\mathbb{C} \mathbb{D} \neq \mathbb{D} \mathbb{C}$ ).

# More properties of matrices, continued

**Transpose of a sum**. Convince yourself that  $(\mathbb{A} + \mathbb{B})^T = \mathbb{A}^T + \mathbb{B}^T$ . If you like, calculate an example in R to check.

**Transpose of a product**. The rule is  $(\mathbb{A} \mathbb{B})^T = \mathbb{B}^T \mathbb{A}^T$ .

**Question 2.9**. Suppose that  $\mathbb{A}$  has dimension  $n \times p$  and  $\mathbb{B}$  is  $p \times q$ . Check that this formula for  $(\mathbb{A}\mathbb{B})^T$  has the right dimension.

#### Example:

```
A \leftarrow matrix(1:3,4,3); B \leftarrow matrix(1:6,3,2)
```

```
t(A %*% B)

t(B) %*% t(A)

## [,1] [,2] [,3] [,4] ## [,1] [,2] [,3] [,4] ## [1,] 14 11 11 14 ## [2,] 32 29 29 32 ## [2,] 32 29 29 32
```

# More properties of matrices, continued

### A matrix commutes with its inverse: $\mathbb{A}^{-1}\mathbb{A} = \mathbb{A}\mathbb{A}^{-1} = \mathbb{I}$ .

- Recall that, in general, matrix multiplication does not commute  $(\mathbb{AB} \neq \mathbb{BA})$ .
- We can check, using R, that a matrix does commute with its inverse.

```
A <- matrix(runif(9),3,3)

round( A %*% A_inv, 3)

## [,1] [,2] [,3]

## [1,] 1 0 0

## [2,] 0 1 0

## [3,] 0 0 1
```

```
A_inv <- solve(A)
```

```
round( A_inv %*% A, 3)

## [,1] [,2] [,3]

## [1,] 1 0 0

## [2,] 0 1 0

## [3,] 0 0 1
```