

Precalculus Practice Problems: Final

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The focus of these review problems is on the material covered in Weeks 25 through 35, but keep in mind that prior material can still appear on the exam.

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1 Matrices in 2D

1.1 Review Problems

Review problems are meant to cover “standard” definitions and calculations as well as the use of some important results.

Throughout, $\hat{\mathbf{i}} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\hat{\mathbf{j}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ are the standard unit vectors while $\mathbf{0} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ is the zero vector.

We also let $\mathbf{I} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ be the (2×2) identity matrix and $\mathbf{0} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ be the zero matrix.

1. *Vector calculations.* Let $\mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{v} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$. Compute each of the following.
 - (a) $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}$
 - (b) $2\mathbf{v}$
 - (c) $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}$ and $\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{u}$
 - (d) $\|\mathbf{u}\|$, $\|\mathbf{v}\|$, and $\|\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}\|$
 - (e) The angle between \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} (in terms of an inverse trig function)
 - (f) $\text{proj}_{\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{u})$ and $\text{proj}_{\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{v})$
2. *Applying matrices to vectors.* Let $\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{v} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$.
 - (a) Compute $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}$
 - (b) Find a vector \mathbf{u} for which $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{v}$, or show that none exists.
3. *Matrix operations.* Let $\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} -3 & 4 \\ 5 & -7 \end{pmatrix}$. Compute each of the following.
 - (a) $\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B}$
 - (b) $-3\mathbf{A}$
 - (c) \mathbf{AB}
 - (d) \mathbf{BA}
 - (e) \mathbf{B}^T (the transpose of \mathbf{B})
4. *Geometric transformations.* Write down matrices for each of the following.
 - (a) Dilation about the origin by a factor of 4
 - (b) Horizontal dilation by a factor of 3 and vertical dilation by a factor of 2
 - (c) Rotation about the origin by $\pi/4$ counterclockwise
 - (d) Projection onto the line $y = (3/2)x$
 - (e) Reflection across the line $y = (3/2)x$

5. *Matrix determinants.* Let $A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $B = \begin{pmatrix} -3 & 4 \\ 5 & -7 \end{pmatrix}$. Compute each of the following.

- (a) $\det A$ and $\det B$
- (b) $\det(AB)$
- (c) $\det(A^T)$
- (d) $\det(A + B)$
- (e) The area of the ellipse formed by applying A to the unit circle

6. *Matrix inverses.* Let $A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $B = \begin{pmatrix} -3 & 4 \\ 5 & -7 \end{pmatrix}$. Compute each of the following.

- (a) A^{-1} and B^{-1}
- (b) $A^{-1}B^{-1}$ and $B^{-1}A^{-1}$
- (c) $(AB)^{-1}$
- (d) $(A^T)^{-1}$
- (e) $(A + B)^{-1}$
- (f) $\det(A^{-1})$

7. *Shear transformations.* A **horizontal shear** is given by a matrix of the form $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & k \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$.

- (a) Describe the image of the unit square with vertices $(0, 0)$, $(1, 0)$, $(1, 1)$, and $(0, 1)$ when the horizontal shear $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ is applied.
- (b) By what factor does a horizontal shear multiply areas?
- (c) Find real constants a, b, k, θ for which

$$\begin{pmatrix} 4 & 1 \\ 3 & 7 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & b \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & k \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

(The constant θ can be expressed in terms of an inverse trig function.)

1.2 Challenge Problems

Challenge problems are meant to provide optional extensions of the ideas from class.

8. The **trace** of a square matrix is the sum of its main diagonal entries,

$$\operatorname{tr} \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} = a + d.$$

- (a) For the matrices A, B in problems 3, 5, 6, compute $\operatorname{tr} A$, $\operatorname{tr} B$, $\operatorname{tr}(A + B)$, and $\operatorname{tr}(AB)$.
 - (b) Show that for any 2×2 matrices P and Q , we have $\operatorname{tr}(PQ) = \operatorname{tr}(QP)$.
 - (c) In general, must it be true that $\operatorname{tr}(ABC) = \operatorname{tr}(ACB)$?
9. Two matrices A, B are **similar**, written $A \sim B$, if there is an invertible P with $B = P^{-1}AP$.
- (a) Show that the only matrix similar to I is I .
 - (b) Show that if $A \sim B$, then $\det A = \det B$ and $\operatorname{tr} A = \operatorname{tr} B$.
 - (c) Let $A = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$. There is exactly one diagonal matrix $D = \begin{pmatrix} d_1 & 0 \\ 0 & d_2 \end{pmatrix}$ with $d_1 \geq d_2$ for which $D \sim A$. Find D .
10. If A is a square matrix, the **characteristic polynomial** of A is defined by

$$f_A(X) = \det(A - XI).$$

- (a) Compute the characteristic polynomial $f_A(X)$ of the matrix $A = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$.
- (b) Find the two roots $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2$ of $f_A(X)$.
- (c) Find non-zero vectors $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2$ for which $A\mathbf{v}_j = \lambda_j\mathbf{v}_j$ for $j = 1, 2$. (In general, if $A\mathbf{v} = \lambda\mathbf{v}$ and $\mathbf{v} \neq \mathbf{0}$, we call \mathbf{v} an **eigenvector** of A corresponding to the **eigenvalue** λ .)
- (d) Let P be the matrix whose columns are \mathbf{v}_1 and \mathbf{v}_2 . Compute $P^{-1}AP$.
- (e) Find A^{100} .
- (f) *Cayley-Hamilton theorem.* Suppose $f_A(X) = a_0 + a_1X + a_2X^2$. (The values of a_0, a_1, a_2 are known from part (a).) Compute

$$a_0I + a_1A + a_2A^2.$$

1.3 Answers

1. (a) $\begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$
(b) $\begin{pmatrix} 8 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$
(c) Both are 5. In general, $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{a}$.
(d) $\|\mathbf{u}\| = \sqrt{13}$
 $\|\mathbf{v}\| = \sqrt{17}$
 $\|\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}\| = \sqrt{40} = 2\sqrt{10}$
(e) $\arccos\left(\frac{5}{\sqrt{221}}\right)$
(f) $\text{proj}_{\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{u}) = \begin{pmatrix} 20/17 \\ -5/17 \end{pmatrix}$
 $\text{proj}_{\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{v}) = \begin{pmatrix} 10/13 \\ 15/13 \end{pmatrix}$
2. (a) $\begin{pmatrix} 18 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix}$
(b) Let $\mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix}$. Then

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2a + 4b \\ a + b \end{pmatrix},$$

so we require $2a + 4b = 5$ and $a + b = 2$. The solution to this system is that $a = 3/2$ and $b = 1/2$, so then $\mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} 3/2 \\ 1/2 \end{pmatrix}$.

Remark: We can also compute $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{v}$ once we have \mathbf{A}^{-1} (see Problem 6).

3. (a) $\begin{pmatrix} -1 & 8 \\ 6 & -6 \end{pmatrix}$
(b) $\begin{pmatrix} -6 & -12 \\ -3 & -3 \end{pmatrix}$
(c) $\begin{pmatrix} 14 & -20 \\ 2 & -3 \end{pmatrix}$
(d) $\begin{pmatrix} -2 & -8 \\ 3 & 13 \end{pmatrix}$
(e) $\begin{pmatrix} -3 & 5 \\ 4 & -7 \end{pmatrix}$
4. (a) $4\mathbf{I} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$
(b) $\begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$

- (c) $\begin{pmatrix} \cos(\pi/4) & -\sin(\pi/4) \\ \sin(\pi/4) & \cos(\pi/4) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} & -1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix}$
- (d) $P = \begin{pmatrix} 4/13 & 6/13 \\ 6/13 & 9/13 \end{pmatrix}$
- (e) $2P - I = \begin{pmatrix} -5/13 & 12/13 \\ 12/13 & 5/13 \end{pmatrix}$
5. (a) $\det A = -2$
 $\det B = 1$
- (b) $\det(AB) = \det(A) \cdot \det(B) = -2$
- (c) $\det(A^T) = \det A = -2$
- (d) $\det(A + B) = \det \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 8 \\ 6 & -6 \end{pmatrix} = -42$
- (e) $|\det A| \cdot (\text{unit circle area}) = 2\pi$
6. (a) $A^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det A} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -4 \\ -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1/2 & 2 \\ 1/2 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$
 $B^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det B} \begin{pmatrix} -7 & -4 \\ -5 & -3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -7 & -4 \\ -5 & -3 \end{pmatrix}$
- (b) $A^{-1}B^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} -13/2 & -4 \\ 3/2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$
 $B^{-1}A^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 3/2 & -10 \\ 1 & -7 \end{pmatrix}$
- (c) $(AB)^{-1} = B^{-1}A^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 3/2 & -10 \\ 1 & -7 \end{pmatrix}$
- (d) $(A^T)^{-1} = (A^{-1})^T = \begin{pmatrix} -1/2 & 1/2 \\ 2 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$
- (e) $(A + B)^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det(A + B)} \begin{pmatrix} -6 & -8 \\ -6 & -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1/7 & 4/21 \\ 1/7 & 1/42 \end{pmatrix}$
- (f) $\det(A^{-1}) = 1/\det A = -1/2$
7. (a) A parallelogram with vertices $(0, 0), (1, 0), (3, 1), (2, 1)$
- (b) $\det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & k \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = 1$
- (c) Multiplying the right two matrices, $\begin{pmatrix} 4 & 1 \\ 3 & 7 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a & ak \\ 0 & b \end{pmatrix}$. Looking at the image of vector $\hat{\mathbf{i}}$, we need $\begin{pmatrix} a \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ to rotate to $\begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$. This can be achieved with a rotation by $\theta = \arccos(4/5)$ and $a = 5$. To find b , taking the determinant on both sides and noting that rotations have determinant 1, we require $ab = 25$, so $b = 5$. Finally, to get k , we need $\begin{pmatrix} 5k \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$ to rotate to $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix}$. Comparing lengths and noting that $\begin{pmatrix} 5k \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$ must be in the first quadrant, $k = 1$.

8. (a) $\text{tr } \mathbf{A} = 3$
 $\text{tr } \mathbf{B} = -10$
 $\text{tr}(\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B}) = \text{tr } \mathbf{A} + \text{tr } \mathbf{B} = -7$
 $\text{tr}(\mathbf{AB}) = 11$

- (b) Let $\mathbf{P} = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{Q} = \begin{pmatrix} e & f \\ g & h \end{pmatrix}$. Then

$$\mathbf{PQ} = \begin{pmatrix} ae + bg & af + bh \\ ce + dg & cf + dh \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{QP} = \begin{pmatrix} ae + cf & be + df \\ ag + ch & bg + dh \end{pmatrix},$$

so $\text{tr}(\mathbf{PQ}) = \text{tr}(\mathbf{QP}) = ae + bg + cf + dh$.

- (c) In general, the answer is **no**. For example, let

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then

$$\mathbf{ABC} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 6 \\ 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\mathbf{ACB} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 8 \\ 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix},$$

so $\text{tr}(\mathbf{ABC}) = 6$ while $\text{tr}(\mathbf{ACB}) = 7$.

9. (a) Suppose $\mathbf{I} \sim \mathbf{B}$. Then there is an invertible matrix \mathbf{P} such that $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{I}\mathbf{P}$, but the right hand side simplifies to $\mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{I}$.
(b) If $\mathbf{A} \sim \mathbf{B}$ with $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{P}$, then

$$\det \mathbf{B} = \det(\mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{P}) = \det(\mathbf{P})^{-1} \cdot \det \mathbf{A} \cdot \det \mathbf{P} = \det \mathbf{A}.$$

For the trace, Problem 8b gives us

$$\text{tr } \mathbf{B} = \text{tr}(\mathbf{P}^{-1}(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{P})) = \text{tr}((\mathbf{A}\mathbf{P})\mathbf{P}^{-1}) = \text{tr } \mathbf{A}.$$

- (c) We have $\det \mathbf{A} = 4$ and $\text{tr } \mathbf{A} = 5$, so

$$\det \mathbf{D} = d_1 d_2 = 4 \quad \text{and} \quad \text{tr } \mathbf{D} = d_1 + d_2 = 5.$$

This is satisfied by $d_1 = 4$ and $d_2 = 1$, so $\mathbf{D} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$.

10. (a) We compute

$$f_{\mathbf{A}}(X) = \det(\mathbf{A} - X\mathbf{I}) = \det \begin{pmatrix} 3-X & 1 \\ 2 & 2-X \end{pmatrix} = (3-X)(2-X) - 2 = X^2 - 5X + 4.$$

- (b) The roots are $\lambda_1 = 4$ and $\lambda_2 = 1$.

- (c) Note that the equation $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v} = \lambda\mathbf{v}$ is equivalent to $(\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I})\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$, which has a non-zero solution if and only if $\det(\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I}) = 0$. Moreover, we can use this version of the equation to find solutions more easily.

For $\lambda_1 = 4$, we have $\mathbf{A} - \lambda_1\mathbf{I} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 2 & -2 \end{pmatrix}$, so we can take $\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ (or any non-zero scalar multiple) as a solution to $(\mathbf{A} - \lambda_1\mathbf{I})\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$.

For $\lambda_2 = 1$, we have $\mathbf{A} - \lambda_2\mathbf{I} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$, so we can take $\mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$ (or any non-zero scalar multiple) as a solution to $(\mathbf{A} - \lambda_2\mathbf{I})\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$.

- (d) Here $\mathbf{P} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -2 \end{pmatrix}$, so then $\mathbf{P}^{-1} = -\frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} -2 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$. We compute

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{P} &= \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 1 \\ 4 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 12 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

Remark 1: If we produced different valid choices of \mathbf{v}_1 and \mathbf{v}_2 from part (c), \mathbf{P} and \mathbf{P}^{-1} would change, but the end result would be the same. If we swapped the order of the columns of \mathbf{P} , then we would swap the order of the diagonal entries correspondingly.

Remark 2: The fact that we got a diagonal matrix with entries λ_1, λ_2 , the same one as in Problem 9c, is not a coincidence. The process we went through in this problem is called **diagonalisation**. (Not all $n \times n$ matrices are diagonalisable, but one sufficient condition for diagonalisability is that the characteristic polynomial has n distinct roots.)

- (e) Let $\mathbf{D} = \mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{P} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$, so then $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{P}\mathbf{D}\mathbf{P}^{-1}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{A}^{100} &= \mathbf{P}\mathbf{D}\mathbf{P}^{-1} \cdot \mathbf{P}\mathbf{D}\mathbf{P}^{-1} \cdot \mathbf{P}\mathbf{D}\mathbf{P}^{-1} \cdot \dots \cdot \mathbf{P}\mathbf{D}\mathbf{P}^{-1} \cdot \mathbf{P}\mathbf{D}\mathbf{P}^{-1} \\ &= \mathbf{P}\mathbf{D} \cdot \mathbf{D} \cdot \mathbf{D} \cdot \dots \cdot \mathbf{D} \cdot \mathbf{D}\mathbf{P}^{-1} = \mathbf{P}\mathbf{D}^{100}\mathbf{P}^{-1} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 4^{100} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \frac{-1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} -2 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 4^{100} & 1 \\ 4^{100} & -2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \cdot 4^{100} + 1 & 4^{100} - 1 \\ 2 \cdot 4^{100} - 2 & 4^{100} + 2 \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

- (f) Here $(a_0, a_1, a_2) = (4, -5, 1)$, so

$$\begin{aligned} a_0\mathbf{I} + a_1\mathbf{A} + a_2\mathbf{A}^2 &= \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} -15 & -5 \\ -10 & -10 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} -11 & -5 \\ -10 & -6 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 11 & 5 \\ 10 & 6 \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{0}. \end{aligned}$$