

Solution (#203) (i) From the definition

$$\begin{aligned}(b, a; d, c) &= \frac{(b-d)(a-c)}{(b-c)(a-d)} = (a, b; c, d); \\(c, d; a, b) &= \frac{(c-a)(d-b)}{(c-b)(d-a)} = (a, b; c, d),\end{aligned}$$

and using these two identities in turn

$$(a, b; c, d) = (b, a; d, c) = (d, c; b, a).$$

(ii) Further

$$(a, b; d, c) = \frac{(a-d)(b-c)}{(a-c)(b-d)} = \left(\frac{(a-c)(b-d)}{(a-d)(b-c)} \right)^{-1} = \frac{1}{(a, b; c, d)},$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}(a, c; b, d) &= \frac{(a-b)(c-d)}{(a-d)(c-b)} \\&= - \left[\frac{ac + bd - ad - bc}{(a-d)(b-c)} \right] \\&= \left[\frac{ab + dc - bd - ac}{(a-d)(b-c)} \right] - \left[\frac{ab + dc - ad - bc}{(a-d)(b-c)} \right] \\&= 1 - \frac{(a-c)(b-d)}{(a-d)(b-c)} \\&= 1 - (a, b; c, d).\end{aligned}$$