

Solution (#877) Let

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Suppose we had that

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ l_{21} & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u_{11} & u_{12} \\ 0 & u_{22} \end{pmatrix}.$$

As

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ l_{21} & 1 \end{pmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -l_{21} & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

then we'd have

$$\begin{pmatrix} u_{11} & u_{12} \\ 0 & u_{22} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -l_{21} & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & -l_{21} \end{pmatrix}.$$

But we then see that $u_{11} = 0$ and that would mean that U is singular and so $A = LU$ is singular, but this is clearly not the case and we have the desired contradiction.