

2. Matrix Algebra: Multiplication

Let \mathbf{A} be a $(m \times n)$ matrix and \mathbf{B} be a $(n \times p)$ matrix, i.e., the number of columns of \mathbf{A} and the number of rows of \mathbf{B} must be the same. Then product \mathbf{AB} is defined as the $(m \times p)$ matrix whose $(i, j)^{th}$ element is defined by

$$[\mathbf{AB}]_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^n a_{ik}b_{kj}.$$

That is, the $(i, j)^{th}$ element of the product \mathbf{AB} is defined as the sum of the product of the elements of the i^{th} row of \mathbf{A} with the corresponding elements in the j^{th} column of \mathbf{B} . For example, the $(1,1)^{th}$ element of \mathbf{AB} is

$$[\mathbf{AB}]_{1,1} = \sum_{k=1}^n a_{1k}b_{k1} = a_{11}b_{11} + a_{12}b_{21} + a_{13}b_{31} + \dots + a_{1n}b_{n1}$$

The $(2,3)$ th element is

$$[\mathbf{AB}]_{2,3} = \sum_{k=1}^n a_{2k}b_{k3} = a_{21}b_{13} + a_{22}b_{23} + a_{23}b_{33} + \dots + a_{2n}b_{n3}$$

and so on. Visually, for a product of a (3×3) matrix into a (3×2) matrix, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} b_{11} & b_{12} \\ b_{21} & b_{22} \\ b_{31} & b_{32} \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} a_{11}b_{11} + a_{12}b_{21} + a_{13}b_{31} & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} b_{11} & b_{12} \\ b_{21} & b_{22} \\ b_{31} & b_{32} \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} a_{11}b_{11} + a_{12}b_{21} + a_{13}b_{31} & a_{11}b_{12} + a_{12}b_{22} + a_{13}b_{32} \\ \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} b_{11} & b_{12} \\ b_{21} & b_{22} \\ b_{31} & b_{32} \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} a_{11}b_{11} + a_{12}b_{21} + a_{13}b_{31} & a_{11}b_{12} + a_{12}b_{22} + a_{13}b_{32} \\ a_{21}b_{11} + a_{22}b_{21} + a_{23}b_{31} & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \end{bmatrix} \text{ and so on...} \end{aligned}$$

Example Let $\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 8 \\ 3 & 0 \\ 5 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 7 \\ 6 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$. Then

$$\mathbf{AB} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 8 \\ 3 & 0 \\ 5 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 7 \\ 6 & 9 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} (2)(4) + (8)(6) & (2)(7) + (8)(9) \\ (3)(4) + (0)(6) & (3)(7) + (0)(9) \\ (5)(4) + (1)(6) & (5)(7) + (1)(9) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 56 & 86 \\ 12 & 21 \\ 26 & 44 \end{bmatrix}$$

Example Let $\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 5 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -1 \\ 5 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$. Then

$$\mathbf{AB} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 5 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -1 \\ 5 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} (6)(4) + (5)(5) + (-1)(0) & (6)(-1) + (5)(2) + (-1)(1) \\ (1)(4) + (0)(5) + (4)(0) & (1)(-1) + (0)(2) + (4)(1) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 49 & 3 \\ 4 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Example The simultaneous equations

$$\begin{aligned} 2x_1 - x_2 &= 4 \\ x_1 + 2x_2 &= 2 \end{aligned}$$

can be written in matrix form as

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \text{ or } \mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b} \text{ where } \mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}, \text{ and } \mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Partitioned Matrices

We can extend the matrix multiplication (and addition, subtraction, etc) to partitioned matrices. Given an $(n \times n)$ matrix, we can break it up into blocks of ‘submatrices’. For instance, we can write

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 2 & 6 \\ 2 & 8 & 2 & 1 \\ 3 & 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 4 & 2 & 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 1 & 7 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} | & 3 & 2 & 6 \\ 2 & 8 & 2 & 1 \\ \hline 3 & 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 4 & 2 & 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 1 & 7 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}_{11} & \mathbf{A}_{12} \\ \mathbf{a}_{21} & \mathbf{A}_{22} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{where } \mathbf{a}_{11} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{A}_{12} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 & 6 \\ 8 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{a}_{21} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{A}_{22} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 & 7 \end{bmatrix}.$$

There are of course many ways of partitioning the same matrix.

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 2 & 6 \\ 2 & 8 & 2 & 1 \\ 3 & 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 4 & 2 & 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 1 & 7 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} | & 3 & 2 & 6 \\ 2 & 8 & 2 & 1 \\ \hline 3 & 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 4 & 2 & 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 1 & 7 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & | & 2 & 6 \\ 2 & 8 & | & 2 & 1 \\ \hline 3 & 1 & | & 2 & 4 \\ 4 & 2 & | & 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & | & 1 & 7 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Addition of Partitioned Matrices Consider two $(n \times m)$ matrices \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B}

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} \underbrace{\mathbf{A}_{11}}_{n_1 \times m_1} & \underbrace{\mathbf{A}_{12}}_{n_1 \times m_2} \\ \underbrace{\mathbf{A}_{21}}_{n_2 \times m_1} & \underbrace{\mathbf{A}_{22}}_{n_2 \times m_2} \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} \underbrace{\mathbf{B}_{11}}_{n_1 \times m_1} & \underbrace{\mathbf{B}_{12}}_{n_1 \times m_2} \\ \underbrace{\mathbf{B}_{21}}_{n_2 \times m_1} & \underbrace{\mathbf{B}_{22}}_{n_2 \times m_2} \end{bmatrix}$$

where emphasize that \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} are of the same size and partitioned in a similar fashion. Then

$$\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} \underbrace{\mathbf{A}_{11} + \mathbf{B}_{11}}_{n_1 \times m_1} & \underbrace{\mathbf{A}_{12} + \mathbf{B}_{12}}_{n_1 \times m_2} \\ \underbrace{\mathbf{A}_{21} + \mathbf{B}_{21}}_{n_2 \times m_1} & \underbrace{\mathbf{A}_{22} + \mathbf{B}_{22}}_{n_2 \times m_2} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Multiplication of Partitioned Matrices Consider two matrices \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B}

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} \underbrace{\mathbf{A}_{11}}_{n_1 \times m_1} & \underbrace{\mathbf{A}_{12}}_{n_1 \times m_2} \\ \underbrace{\mathbf{A}_{21}}_{n_2 \times m_1} & \underbrace{\mathbf{A}_{22}}_{n_2 \times m_2} \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} \underbrace{\mathbf{B}_{11}}_{n_1 \times m_1} & \underbrace{\mathbf{B}_{12}}_{n_1 \times m_2} \\ \underbrace{\mathbf{B}_{21}}_{n_2 \times m_1} & \underbrace{\mathbf{B}_{22}}_{n_2 \times m_2} \end{bmatrix}$$

Exercises

1. Find \mathbf{AB} when

$$(a) \mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 4 \\ 2 & 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} 8 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 3 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \quad (b) \mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 5 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$2. \text{ Let } \mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 8 \\ 3 & 0 \\ 5 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 3 & 8 \end{bmatrix}, \text{ and } \mathbf{C} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 2 \\ 6 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

- (i) Compute \mathbf{BC} ; (ii) Compute \mathbf{CB} ; (iii) Can \mathbf{BA} be computed?

Remark: This exercise shows that for any two matrices \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} , $\mathbf{AB} \neq \mathbf{BA}$. We distinguish between pre-multiplication and post-multiplication. In the product \mathbf{AB} , we say that \mathbf{B} is pre-multiplied by \mathbf{A} , or \mathbf{A} is post-multiplied by \mathbf{B} .

$$3. \text{ Let } \mathbf{d} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \mathbf{f} = [4 \ 2 \ 1 \ 6]. \text{ Compute (i) } \mathbf{fd} \text{ (ii) } \mathbf{df} \text{ (iii) } \mathbf{d}^T \mathbf{d}.$$

$$4. \text{ Show that for any vector } \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}, \text{ the product } \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x} \geq 0. \text{ When will } \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x} = 0?$$

$$5. (i) \text{ Compute } \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 4 \\ 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(ii) \text{ Let } \mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & b \\ -\frac{1}{b} & -1 \end{bmatrix}. \text{ Compute } \mathbf{A}^2 = \mathbf{AA} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & b \\ -\frac{1}{b} & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & b \\ -\frac{1}{b} & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

*Remark A matrix with all elements equal zero is called the zero matrix $\mathbf{0}$. Obviously, $\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{0} = \mathbf{A}$ and $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{0} = \mathbf{0A} = \mathbf{0}$. Note however that $\mathbf{AB} = \mathbf{0}$ does **not** imply $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{0}$ or $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{0}$. In fact, the square of a non-zero matrix can be a zero matrix!*

Matrix multiplication therefore does not behave like the usual multiplication of numbers: the order of multiplication is important, and $\mathbf{AB} = \mathbf{0}$ does not imply that either $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{0}$ or $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{0}$. Matrix multiplication however does follow associative and distributive laws:

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbf{AB})\mathbf{C} &= \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{BC}) \\ \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{B} + \mathbf{C}) &= \mathbf{AB} + \mathbf{AC} \\ (\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B})\mathbf{C} &= \mathbf{AC} + \mathbf{BC} \end{aligned}$$

These are easy to prove. For instance, let the dimensions of \mathbf{A} , \mathbf{B} , and \mathbf{C} be $(m \times n)$, $(n \times p)$, and $(p \times q)$ respectively. Then \mathbf{AB} is $(m \times p)$. We have

$$[(\mathbf{AB})\mathbf{C}]_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^p [\mathbf{AB}]_{ik} [\mathbf{C}]_{kj} = \sum_{k=1}^p \left(\sum_{l=1}^n [\mathbf{A}]_{il} [\mathbf{B}]_{lk} \right) [\mathbf{C}]_{kj} = \sum_{l=1}^n [\mathbf{A}]_{il} \left(\sum_{k=1}^p [\mathbf{B}]_{lk} [\mathbf{C}]_{kj} \right) = \sum_{l=1}^n [\mathbf{A}]_{il} [\mathbf{BC}]_{lj} = [\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{BC})]_{ij}$$

6. Compute

$$(i) \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} \end{bmatrix} \quad (ii) \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Remark *The square matrix*

$$\mathbf{I} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

is called the identity matrix. It behaves like the number '1' in regular multiplication: for any matrix \mathbf{A} , $\mathbf{AI} = \mathbf{IA} = \mathbf{A}$. To emphasize the dimension of an identity matrix, we sometimes write \mathbf{I}_n if it is $(n \times n)$.

7. Compute

$$(i) \begin{bmatrix} b_{11} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & b_{22} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & b_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} \end{bmatrix} \quad (ii) \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} b_{11} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & b_{22} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & b_{33} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(iii) \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \\ a_{41} & a_{42} & a_{43} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{bmatrix} \quad (iv) \begin{bmatrix} b_1 & b_2 & b_3 & b_4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \\ a_{41} & a_{42} & a_{43} \end{bmatrix}$$

8. Show that

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \\ a_{41} & a_{42} & a_{43} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{bmatrix} = b_1 \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} \\ a_{21} \\ a_{31} \\ a_{41} \end{bmatrix} + b_2 \begin{bmatrix} a_{12} \\ a_{22} \\ a_{32} \\ a_{42} \end{bmatrix} + b_3 \begin{bmatrix} a_{13} \\ a_{23} \\ a_{33} \\ a_{43} \end{bmatrix}$$

In other words, \mathbf{Ab} is a “linear combination” of the columns of \mathbf{A} , with weights given in \mathbf{b} .

9. Show that

$$\begin{bmatrix} b_1 & b_2 & b_3 & b_4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \\ a_{41} & a_{42} & a_{43} \end{bmatrix} = b_1 [a_{11} \ a_{12} \ a_{13}] + b_2 [a_{21} \ a_{22} \ a_{23}] + b_3 [a_{31} \ a_{32} \ a_{33}] + b_4 [a_{41} \ a_{42} \ a_{43}]$$

10. Write the simultaneous equations

$$\begin{aligned} 4x &+ z = 4 \\ 19x + y - 3z &= 3 \\ 7x + y &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

in matrix notation.

11. For $\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ a_4 & a_5 & a_6 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \\ b_4 & b_5 & b_6 \\ b_7 & b_8 & b_9 \end{bmatrix}$, prove that $(\mathbf{AB})^T = \mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{A}^T$ by multiplying out the matrices.

Remark: This result holds generally. For any $(m \times n)$ matrix \mathbf{A} and any $(n \times p)$ matrix \mathbf{B} , we have $(\mathbf{AB})^T = \mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{A}^T$. The proof is a very good exercise in using the notation we developed earlier. We want to show that the (i, j) th element of $(\mathbf{AB})^T$ is equal to the (i, j) th element of $\mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{A}^T$. By the definition of the transpose, (i, j) th element of $(\mathbf{AB})^T$ is the (j, i) th element of \mathbf{AB} , therefore

$$\begin{aligned} [(\mathbf{AB})^T]_{ij} &= [\mathbf{AB}]_{ji} \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n a_{jk} b_{ki} \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n b_{ki} a_{jk} \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n [\mathbf{B}^T]_{ik} [\mathbf{A}^T]_{kj} \\ &= [\mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{A}^T]_{ij} . \end{aligned}$$

12. Prove that $(\mathbf{ABC})^T = \mathbf{C}^T \mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{A}^T$.
13. Let \mathbf{X} be a general $(n \times k)$ matrix. Explain why $\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X}$ is square. Explain why $\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X}$ is symmetric.
14. Define the trace of a $(n \times n)$ square matrix \mathbf{A} to be

$$\text{trace}(\mathbf{A}) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ii}$$

That is, the trace of a square matrix is simply the sum of its diagonal elements. Show that

- (i) $\text{trace}(\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B}) = \text{trace}(\mathbf{A}) + \text{trace}(\mathbf{B})$ (of course, both matrices must be the same size)
- (ii) $\text{trace}(\mathbf{A}) = \text{trace}(\mathbf{A}^T)$
- (iii) $\text{trace}(\mathbf{AB}) = \text{trace}(\mathbf{BA})$ (here \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} need not be of the same size).

Hint: for the last one, look at the proof given in question 11 and adapt it.