Introduction to Matrices

DEFINITION 1 A *matrix* is a rectangular array of numbers. A matrix with m rows and n columns is called an $m \times n$ matrix. The plural of matrix is *matrices*. A matrix with the same number of rows as columns is called *square*. Two matrices are *equal* if they have the same number of rows and the same number of columns and the corresponding entries in every position are equal.

EXAMPLE 1 The matrix $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$ is a 3×2 matrix. ◀

We now introduce some terminology about matrices. Boldface uppercase letters will be used to represent matrices.

Matrix Arithmetic

The basic operations of matrix arithmetic will now be discussed, beginning with a definition of matrix addition.

DEFINITION 3 Let $\mathbf{A} = [a_{ij}]$ and $\mathbf{B} = [b_{ij}]$ be $m \times n$ matrices. The *sum* of $\mathbf{A}$ and $\mathbf{B}$, denoted by $\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B}$, is the $m \times n$ matrix that has $a_{ij} + b_{ij}$ as its (i, j)th element. In other words, $\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B} = [a_{ij} + b_{ij}]$.

The sum of two matrices of the same size is obtained by adding elements in the corresponding positions. Matrices of different sizes cannot be added, because the sum of two matrices is defined only when both matrices have the same number of rows and the same number of columns.

EXAMPLE 2

We have $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 2 & 2 & -3 \\ 3 & 4 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 4 & -1 \\ 1 & -3 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 4 & -2 \\ 3 & -1 & -3 \\ 2 & 5 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$. ◀

We now discuss matrix products. A product of two matrices is defined only when the number of columns in the first matrix equals the number of rows of the second matrix.

DEFINITION 4 Let $\mathbf{A}$ be an $m \times k$ matrix and $\mathbf{B}$ be a $k \times n$ matrix. The *product* of $\mathbf{A}$ and $\mathbf{B}$, denoted by $\mathbf{AB}$, is the $m \times n$ matrix with its (i, j)th entry equal to the sum of the products of the corresponding elements from the ith row of $\mathbf{A}$ and the jth column of $\mathbf{B}$. In other words, if $\mathbf{AB} = [c_{ij}]$, then

$$c_{ij} = a_{i1}b_{1j} + a_{i2}b_{2j} + \cdots + a_{ik}b_{kj}.$$

In Figure 1 the colored row of $\mathbf{A}$ and the colored column of $\mathbf{B}$ are used to compute the element c_{ij} of $\mathbf{AB}$. The product of two matrices is not defined when the number of columns in the first matrix and the number of rows in the second matrix are not the same.

We now give some examples of matrix products.

EXAMPLE 3 Let

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 4 \\ 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 \\ 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Find $\mathbf{AB}$ if it is defined.

Extra Examples

Solution: Because $\mathbf{A}$ is a 4×3 matrix and $\mathbf{B}$ is a 3×2 matrix, the product $\mathbf{AB}$ is defined and is a 4×2 matrix. To find the elements of $\mathbf{AB}$, the corresponding elements of the rows of $\mathbf{A}$ and the columns of $\mathbf{B}$ are first multiplied and then these products are added. For instance, the element in the (3, 1)th position of $\mathbf{AB}$ is the sum of the products of the corresponding elements of the third row of $\mathbf{A}$ and the first column of $\mathbf{B}$; namely, $3 \cdot 2 + 1 \cdot 1 + 0 \cdot 3 = 7$. When all the elements of $\mathbf{AB}$ are computed, we see that

$$\mathbf{AB} = \begin{bmatrix} 14 & 4 \\ 8 & 9 \\ 7 & 13 \\ 8 & 2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Matrix multiplication is *not* commutative. That is, if $\mathbf{A}$ and $\mathbf{B}$ are two matrices, it is not necessarily true that $\mathbf{AB}$ and $\mathbf{BA}$ are the same. In fact, it may be that only one of these two products is defined. For instance, if $\mathbf{A}$ is 2×3 and $\mathbf{B}$ is 3×4, then $\mathbf{AB}$ is defined and is 2×4; however, $\mathbf{BA}$ is not defined, because it is impossible to multiply a 3×4 matrix and a 2×3 matrix.

In general, suppose that $\mathbf{A}$ is an $m \times n$ matrix and $\mathbf{B}$ is an $r \times s$ matrix. Then $\mathbf{AB}$ is defined only when $n = r$ and $\mathbf{BA}$ is defined only when $s = m$. Moreover, even when $\mathbf{AB}$ and $\mathbf{BA}$ are

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1k} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2k} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ a_{i1} & a_{i2} & \dots & a_{ik} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \dots & a_{mk} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} b_{11} & b_{12} & \dots & b_{1j} & \dots & b_{1n} \\ b_{21} & b_{22} & \dots & b_{2j} & \dots & b_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots & & \vdots \\ b_{k1} & b_{k2} & \dots & b_{kj} & \dots & b_{kn} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} c_{11} & c_{12} & \dots & c_{1n} \\ c_{21} & c_{22} & \dots & c_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & c_{ij} & \vdots \\ c_{m1} & c_{m2} & \dots & c_{mn} \end{bmatrix}$$

FIGURE 1 The Product of $\mathbf{A} = [a_{ij}]$ and $\mathbf{B} = [b_{ij}]$.

EXAMPLE 4 Let

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Does $\mathbf{AB} = \mathbf{BA}$?

Solution: We find that

$$\mathbf{AB} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 \\ 5 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{BA} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Hence, $\mathbf{AB} \neq \mathbf{BA}$.

DEFINITION 6 Let $\mathbf{A} = [a_{ij}]$ be an $m \times n$ matrix. The *transpose* of $\mathbf{A}$, denoted by $\mathbf{A}^t$, is the $n \times m$ matrix obtained by interchanging the rows and columns of $\mathbf{A}$. In other words, if $\mathbf{A}^t = [b_{ij}]$, then $b_{ij} = a_{ji}$ for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, n$ and $j = 1, 2, \ldots, m$.

EXAMPLE 5 The transpose of the matrix $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$ is the matrix $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 \\ 2 & 5 \\ 3 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$.

Matrices that do not change when their rows and columns are interchanged are often important.

DEFINITION 7 A square matrix $\mathbf{A}$ is called *symmetric* if $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A}^t$. Thus $\mathbf{A} = [a_{ij}]$ is symmetric if $a_{ij} = a_{ji}$ for all i and j with $1 \le i \le n$ and $1 \le j \le n$.

Note that a matrix is symmetric if and only if it is square and it is symmetric with respect to its main diagonal (which consists of entries that are in the ith row and ith column for some i). This symmetry is displayed in Figure 2.

EXAMPLE 6 The matrix $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ is symmetric.

EXAMPLE 7 Find the join and meet of the zero–one matrices

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \qquad \mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Solution: We find that the join of **A** and **B** is

$$\mathbf{A} \vee \mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \vee 0 & 0 \vee 1 & 1 \vee 0 \\ 0 \vee 1 & 1 \vee 1 & 0 \vee 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The meet of **A** and **B** is

$$\mathbf{A} \wedge \mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \wedge 0 & 0 \wedge 1 & 1 \wedge 0 \\ 0 \wedge 1 & 1 \wedge 1 & 0 \wedge 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

We now define the **Boolean product** of two matrices.

DEFINITION 9 Let $\mathbf{A} = [a_{ij}]$ be an $m \times k$ zero–one matrix and $\mathbf{B} = [b_{ij}]$ be a $k \times n$ zero–one matrix. Then the *Boolean product* of **A** and **B**, denoted by $\mathbf{A} \odot \mathbf{B}$, is the $m \times n$ matrix with (i, j)th entry c_{ij} where

$$c_{ij} = (a_{i1} \wedge b_{1j}) \vee (a_{i2} \wedge b_{2j}) \vee \cdots \vee (a_{ik} \wedge b_{kj}).$$

Note that the Boolean product of **A** and **B** is obtained in an analogous way to the ordinary product of these matrices, but with addition replaced with the operation $\vee$ and with multiplication replaced with the operation $\wedge$. We give an example of the Boolean products of matrices.

EXAMPLE 8 Find the Boolean product of **A** and **B**, where

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \qquad \mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Solution: The Boolean product $\mathbf{A} \odot \mathbf{B}$ is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{A} \odot \mathbf{B} &= \begin{bmatrix} (1 \wedge 1) \vee (0 \wedge 0) & (1 \wedge 1) \vee (0 \wedge 1) & (1 \wedge 0) \vee (0 \wedge 1) \\ (0 \wedge 1) \vee (1 \wedge 0) & (0 \wedge 1) \vee (1 \wedge 1) & (0 \wedge 0) \vee (1 \wedge 1) \\ (1 \wedge 1) \vee (0 \wedge 0) & (1 \wedge 1) \vee (0 \wedge 1) & (1 \wedge 0) \vee (0 \wedge 1) \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 \vee 0 & 1 \vee 0 & 0 \vee 0 \\ 0 \vee 0 & 0 \vee 1 & 0 \vee 1 \\ 1 \vee 0 & 1 \vee 0 & 0 \vee 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

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We can also define the Boolean powers of a square zero–one matrix. These powers will be used in our subsequent studies of paths in graphs, which are used to model such things as communications paths in computer networks.

EXAMPLE 9 Let $\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$. Find $\mathbf{A}^{[n]}$ for all positive integers n.

Solution: We find that

$$\mathbf{A}^{[2]} = \mathbf{A} \odot \mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

We also find that

$$\mathbf{A}^{[3]} = \mathbf{A}^{[2]} \odot \mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \qquad \mathbf{A}^{[4]} = \mathbf{A}^{[3]} \odot \mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Additional computation shows that

$$\mathbf{A}^{[5]} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The reader can now see that $\mathbf{A}^{[n]} = \mathbf{A}^{[5]}$ for all positive integers n with $n \geq 5$.

Exercise Questions

Find the product $\mathbf{AB}$, where

a) $\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$, $\mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$.

b) $\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$, $\mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 2 & 3 \\ -1 & 0 & 3 & -1 \\ -3 & -2 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$.

c) $\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 7 & 2 \\ -4 & -3 \end{bmatrix}$, $\mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -1 & 2 & 3 & 0 \\ -2 & 0 & 3 & 4 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$.

Find a matrix $\mathbf{A}$ such that

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

[*Hint:* Finding $\mathbf{A}$ requires that you solve systems of linear equations.]

Find a matrix $\mathbf{A}$ such that

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 4 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 1 & 3 \\ 1 & 0 & 3 \\ -1 & -3 & 7 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Let

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

Find

a) $\mathbf{A}^{[2]}$. **b)** $\mathbf{A}^{[3]}$.

c) $\mathbf{A} \vee \mathbf{A}^{[2]} \vee \mathbf{A}^{[3]}$.

Let

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Find

a) $\mathbf{A} \vee \mathbf{B}$. **b)** $\mathbf{A} \wedge \mathbf{B}$. **c)** $\mathbf{A} \odot \mathbf{B}$.

Let

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Find

a) $\mathbf{A} \vee \mathbf{B}$. **b)** $\mathbf{A} \wedge \mathbf{B}$. **c)** $\mathbf{A} \odot \mathbf{B}$.