#linear_algebra

THEOREM 1

Let A, B, and C be matrices of the same size, and let r and s be scalars.

a. $A + B = B + A$
b. $(A + B) + C = A + (B + C)$
c. $A + 0 = A$
d. $r(A + B) = rA + rB$
e. $(r + s)A = rA + sA$
f. $r(sA) = (rs)A$

Matrix Multiplication

When a matrix B multiplies a vector $\mathbf{x}$, it transforms $\mathbf{x}$ into the vector $B\mathbf{x}$. If this vector is then multiplied in turn by a matrix A, the resulting vector is $A(B\mathbf{x})$. See Fig. 2.

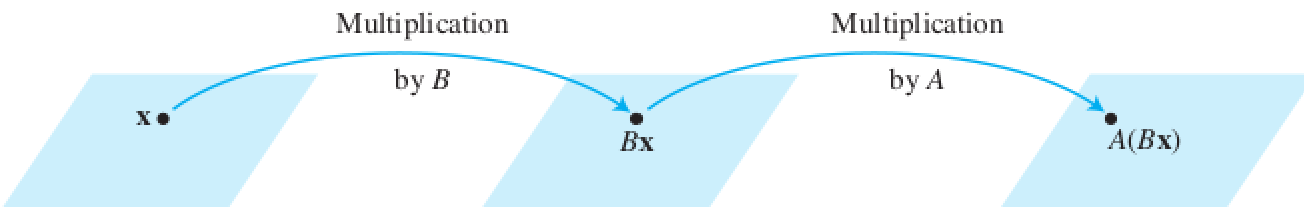
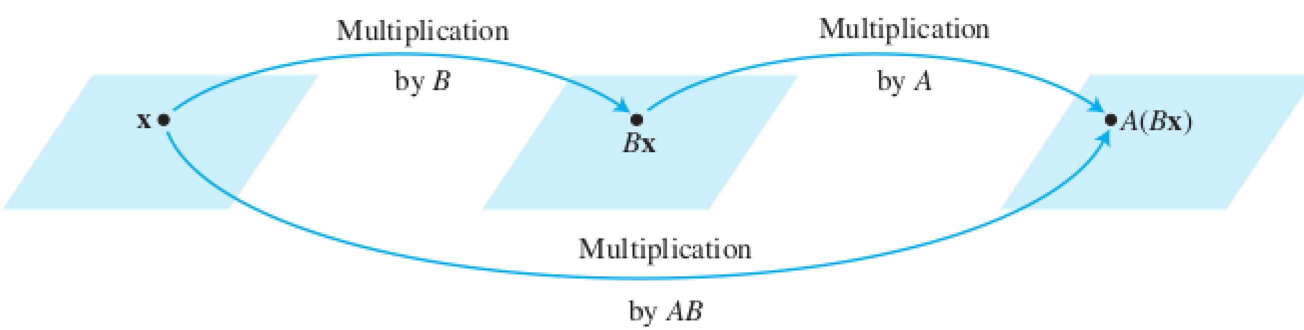


FIGURE 2 Multiplication by B and then A.

Thus $A(B\mathbf{x})$ is produced from $\mathbf{x}$ by a *composition* of mappings—the linear transformations studied in Section 1.8. Our goal is to represent this composite mapping as multiplication by a single matrix, denoted by AB, so that

$$A(B\mathbf{x}) = (AB)\mathbf{x} \tag{1}$$

See Fig. 3.



If A is an $m \times n$ matrix, and if B is an $n \times p$ matrix with columns $\mathbf{b}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{b}_p$, then the product AB is the $m \times p$ matrix whose columns are $A\mathbf{b}_1, \ldots, A\mathbf{b}_p$. That is,

$$AB = A\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{b}_1 & \mathbf{b}_2 & \cdots & \mathbf{b}_p \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A\mathbf{b}_1 & A\mathbf{b}_2 & \cdots & A\mathbf{b}_p \end{bmatrix}$$

multiplication of matrices corresponds to composition of linear transformations

each column of AB is a linear combination of the columns of A using weights from the corresponding column of B.

Properties of Matrix Multiplication

The following theorem lists the standard properties of matrix multiplication. Recall that I_m represents the $m \times m$ identity matrix and $I_m\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}$ for all $\mathbf{x}$ in $\mathbb{R}^m$.

THEOREM 2

Let A be an $m \times n$ matrix, and let B and C have sizes for which the indicated sums and products are defined.

a. $A(BC) = (AB)C$ (associative law of multiplication)

b. $A(B + C) = AB + AC$ (left distributive law)

c. $(B + C)A = BA + CA$ (right distributive law)

d. $r(AB) = (rA)B = A(rB)$ for any scalar r

e. $I_mA = A = AI_n$ (identity for matrix multiplication)

WARNINGS:

1. In general, $AB \neq BA$.

2. The cancellation laws do *not* hold for matrix multiplication. That is, if $AB = AC$, then it is *not* true in general that $B = C$. (See Exercise 10.)

3. If a product AB is the zero matrix, you *cannot* conclude in general that either $A = 0$ or $B = 0$. (See Exercise 12.)

THEOREM 3

Let A and B denote matrices whose sizes are appropriate for the following sums and products.

a. $(A^T)^T = A$

b. $(A + B)^T = A^T + B^T$

c. For any scalar r, $(rA)^T = rA^T$

d. $(AB)^T = B^T A^T$