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# Question

Let  $\mathbf{X}$  and  $\mathbf{Y}$  be two arbitrary,  $3 \times 3$ , non-zero, skew-symmetric matrices and  $\mathbf{Z}$  be an arbitrary  $3 \times 3$ , non-zero, symmetric matrix. Then which of the following matrices is (are) skew symmetric?

- ①  $\mathbf{Y}^3\mathbf{Z}^4 - \mathbf{Z}^4\mathbf{Y}^3$     ②  $\mathbf{X}^{44} + \mathbf{Y}^{44}$     ③  $\mathbf{X}^4\mathbf{Z}^3 - \mathbf{Z}^3\mathbf{X}^4$     ④  $\mathbf{X}^{23} + \mathbf{Y}^{23}$

# finding Skew Symmetric Matrices:

Given,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{X}^T &= -\mathbf{X} \quad (\text{Skew-Symmetric}) \\ \mathbf{Y}^T &= -\mathbf{Y} \quad (\text{Skew-Symmetric}) \\ \mathbf{Z}^T &= \mathbf{Z} \quad (\text{Symmetric})\end{aligned}\tag{1}$$

Checking all options:

a)  $\mathbf{Y}^3\mathbf{Z}^4 - \mathbf{Z}^4\mathbf{Y}^3$

Let

$$A = \mathbf{Y}^3\mathbf{Z}^4 - \mathbf{Z}^4\mathbf{Y}^3 \quad (2)$$

$$A^\top = (\mathbf{Y}^3\mathbf{Z}^4 - \mathbf{Z}^4\mathbf{Y}^3)^\top \quad (3)$$

$$A^\top = (\mathbf{Y}^3\mathbf{Z}^4)^\top - (\mathbf{Z}^4\mathbf{Y}^3)^\top \quad (4)$$

$$A^\top = (\mathbf{Z}^\top)^4(\mathbf{Y}^\top)^3 - (\mathbf{Y}^\top)^3(\mathbf{Z}^\top)^4 \quad (5)$$

$$A^\top = (\mathbf{Z}^\top)^4(\mathbf{Y}^\top)^3 - (\mathbf{Y}^\top)^3(\mathbf{Z}^\top)^4 \quad (6)$$

Now, substitute the given properties ( $\mathbf{Z}^\top = \mathbf{Z}$  and  $\mathbf{Y}^\top = -\mathbf{Y}$ ):

$$\mathbf{A}^\top = (\mathbf{Z})^4(-\mathbf{Y})^3 - (-\mathbf{Y})^3(\mathbf{Z})^4 \quad (7)$$

$$\text{Since } (-\mathbf{Y})^3 = (-1)^3\mathbf{Y}^3 = -\mathbf{Y}^3, \text{ we get:} \quad (8)$$

$$\mathbf{A}^\top = \mathbf{Z}^4(-\mathbf{Y}^3) - (-\mathbf{Y}^3)\mathbf{Z}^4 \quad (9)$$

$$\mathbf{A}^\top = -\mathbf{Z}^4\mathbf{Y}^3 + \mathbf{Y}^3\mathbf{Z}^4 \quad (10)$$

$$\mathbf{A}^\top = \mathbf{Y}^3\mathbf{Z}^4 - \mathbf{Z}^4\mathbf{Y}^3 \quad (11)$$

$$= \mathbf{A} \quad (12)$$

Hence,  $\mathbf{A}$  is Symmetric Matrix.

b)  $\mathbf{X}^{44} + \mathbf{Y}^{44}$

Let

$$B = \mathbf{X}^{44} + \mathbf{Y}^{44} \quad (13)$$

$$B^\top = (\mathbf{X}^{44} + \mathbf{Y}^{44})^\top \quad (14)$$

$$B^\top = (\mathbf{X}^{44})^\top + (\mathbf{Y}^{44})^\top \quad (15)$$

$$B^\top = (\mathbf{X}^\top)^{44} + (\mathbf{Y}^\top)^{44} \quad (16)$$

Now, substitute the given properties ( $\mathbf{X}^\top = -\mathbf{X}$  and  $\mathbf{Y}^\top = -\mathbf{Y}$ ):

$$B^\top = (-\mathbf{X})^{44} + (-\mathbf{Y})^{44} \quad (17)$$

$$(-1)^{44} = 1 \quad (18)$$

$$\therefore (-\mathbf{X})^{44} = \mathbf{X}^{44} \text{ and } (-\mathbf{Y})^{44} = \mathbf{Y}^{44} \quad (19)$$

$$B^\top = \mathbf{X}^{44} + \mathbf{Y}^{44} \quad (20)$$

$$B^\top = B \quad (21)$$

Hence,  $B$  is Symmetric Matrix.

c)  $\mathbf{X}^4\mathbf{Z}^3 - \mathbf{Z}^3\mathbf{X}^4$

Let

$$\mathbf{C} = (\mathbf{X}^4\mathbf{Z}^3 - \mathbf{Z}^3\mathbf{X}^4) \quad (22)$$

$$\mathbf{C}^\top = (\mathbf{X}^4\mathbf{Z}^3 - \mathbf{Z}^3\mathbf{X}^4)^\top \quad (23)$$

$$\mathbf{C}^\top = (\mathbf{X}^4\mathbf{Z}^3)^\top - (\mathbf{Z}^3\mathbf{X}^4)^\top \quad (24)$$

$$\mathbf{C}^\top = (\mathbf{Z}^3)^\top (\mathbf{X}^4)^\top - (\mathbf{X}^4)^\top (\mathbf{Z}^3)^\top \quad (25)$$

$$\mathbf{C}^\top = (\mathbf{Z}^\top)^3 (\mathbf{X}^\top)^4 - (\mathbf{X}^\top)^4 (\mathbf{Z}^\top)^3 \quad (26)$$



Now, substitute the given properties ( $\mathbf{Z}^\top = \mathbf{Z}$  and  $\mathbf{X}^\top = -\mathbf{X}$ ):

$$\mathbf{C}^\top = (\mathbf{Z})^3(-\mathbf{X})^4 - (-\mathbf{X})^4(\mathbf{Z})^3 \quad (27)$$

$$(-\mathbf{X})^4 = \mathbf{X}^4 \quad (28)$$

$$\mathbf{C}^\top = \mathbf{Z}^3\mathbf{X}^4 - \mathbf{X}^4\mathbf{Z}^3 \quad (29)$$

$$\mathbf{C}^\top = -(\mathbf{X}^4\mathbf{Z}^3 - \mathbf{Z}^3\mathbf{X}^4) \quad (30)$$

$$= -\mathbf{C} \quad (31)$$

Hence,  $\mathbf{C}$  is Skew Symmetric Matrix.

d)  $\mathbf{X}^{23} + \mathbf{Y}^{23}$

Let

$$D = \mathbf{X}^{23} + \mathbf{Y}^{23} \quad (32)$$

$$D^\top = (\mathbf{X}^{23} + \mathbf{Y}^{23})^\top \quad (33)$$

$$D^\top = (\mathbf{X}^{23})^\top + (\mathbf{Y}^{23})^\top \quad (34)$$

$$D^\top = (\mathbf{X}^\top)^{23} + (\mathbf{Y}^\top)^{23} \quad (35)$$

Now, substitute the given properties ( $\mathbf{X}^\top = -\mathbf{X}$  and  $\mathbf{Y}^\top = -\mathbf{Y}$ ):

$$D^\top = (-\mathbf{X})^{23} + (-\mathbf{Y})^{23} \quad (36)$$

$$(-1)^{23} = -1 \quad (37)$$

$$(-\mathbf{X})^{23} = -\mathbf{X}^{23} \text{ and } (-\mathbf{Y})^{23} = -\mathbf{Y}^{23} \quad (38)$$

$$D^\top = -\mathbf{X}^{23} - \mathbf{Y}^{23} \quad (39)$$

$$D^\top = -(\mathbf{X}^{23} + \mathbf{Y}^{23}) \quad (40)$$

$$= -D \quad (41)$$

Hence,  $D$  is Skew Symmetric Matrix.

∴ Option 3.  $\mathbf{X}^4\mathbf{Z}^3 - \mathbf{Z}^3\mathbf{X}^4$  and

Option 4.  $\mathbf{X}^{23} + \mathbf{Y}^{23}$  are Skew Symmetric

```
import numpy as np

# --- 1. Define Helper Functions ---
def is_skew_symmetric(matrix):
    """
    Checks if a matrix M is skew-symmetric by verifying if  $M^T = -M$ .
    Uses np.allclose for accurate floating-point comparisons.
    """
    return np.allclose(matrix.T, -matrix)
```

```
def is_symmetric(matrix):  
    """Checks if a matrix M is symmetric by verifying if  $M^T = M$ .  
    """  
    return np.allclose(matrix.T, matrix)  
  
# --- 2. Generate Arbitrary Non-Zero Matrices ---  
# To create a skew-symmetric matrix, we can use the formula  $A - A^T$   
# To create a symmetric matrix, we can use the formula  $A + A^T$   
  
# Create a random 3x3 matrix to generate X  
A = np.random.rand(3, 3)  
X = A - A.T # X is now skew-symmetric
```

```
# Create another random 3x3 matrix to generate Y
B = np.random.rand(3, 3)
Y = B - B.T # Y is now skew-symmetric

# Create a random 3x3 matrix to generate Z
C = np.random.rand(3, 3)
Z = C + C.T # Z is now symmetric
```

```
# --- 3. Verify Properties of Generated Matrices ---
print("--- Initial Matrix Properties ---")
print(f"Is X skew-symmetric? {is_skew_symmetric(X)}")
print(f"Is Y skew-symmetric? {is_skew_symmetric(Y)}")
print(f"Is Z symmetric? {is_symmetric(Z)}")
print("-" * 35)

# Note: @ is the operator for matrix multiplication in NumPy
M_a = np.linalg.matrix_power(Y, 3) @ np.linalg.matrix_power(Z, 4)
      - \
      np.linalg.matrix_power(Z, 4) @ np.linalg.matrix_power(Y, 3)
print(f"a) Is  $YZ - ZY$  skew-symmetric? {is_skew_symmetric(M_a)}")
```



```
# b)  $X^{44} + Y^{44}$ 
M_b = np.linalg.matrix_power(X, 44) + np.linalg.matrix_power(Y,
    44)
print(f"b) Is X + Y skew-symmetric? {is_skew_symmetric(M_b)}")

# c)  $X^4 * Z^3 - Z^3 * X^4$ 
M_c = np.linalg.matrix_power(X, 4) @ np.linalg.matrix_power(Z, 3)
    - \
    np.linalg.matrix_power(Z, 3) @ np.linalg.matrix_power(X, 4)
```

```
print(f"c) Is  $XZ - ZX$  skew-symmetric? {is_skew_symmetric(M_c)}")

# d)  $X^{23} + Y^{23}$ 
M_d = np.linalg.matrix_power(X, 23) + np.linalg.matrix_power(Y,
    23)
print(f"d) Is  $X + Y$  skew-symmetric? {is_skew_symmetric(M_d)}")
print("-" * 35)
```

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <math.h>
#include <string.h>
#define N 3
void print_matrix(const char* name, double mat[N][N]) {
    printf("Matrix %s:\n", name);
    for (int i = 0; i < N; i++) {
        for (int j = 0; j < N; j++) {
            printf("%9.2f ", mat[i][j]);
        }
        printf("\n");
    }
    printf("\n");
}
```

```
// Multiplies two 3x3 matrices: C = A * B
void multiply_matrices(double a[N][N], double b[N][N], double c[N][N]) {
    for (int i = 0; i < N; i++) {
        for (int j = 0; j < N; j++) {
            c[i][j] = 0;
            for (int k = 0; k < N; k++) {
                c[i][j] += a[i][k] * b[k][j];
            }
        }
    }
}
```

```
// Calculates matrix power: result = mat^p
void power_matrix(double mat[N][N], int p, double result[N][N]) {
    // Initialize result as identity matrix
    for (int i = 0; i < N; i++) {
        for (int j = 0; j < N; j++) {
            result[i][j] = (i == j) ? 1.0 : 0.0;
        }
    }
    double temp[N][N];
    for (int i = 0; i < p; i++) {
        multiply_matrices(result, mat, temp);
        memcpy(result, temp, sizeof(double) * N * N);
    }
}
```

```
// Adds two matrices: C = A + B
void add_matrices(double a[N][N], double b[N][N], double c[N][N])
{
    for (int i = 0; i < N; i++) {
        for (int j = 0; j < N; j++) {
            c[i][j] = a[i][j] + b[i][j];
        }
    }
}
```

```
// Subtracts two matrices: C = A - B
void subtract_matrices(double a[N][N], double b[N][N], double c[N][N]) {
    for (int i = 0; i < N; i++) {
        for (int j = 0; j < N; j++) {
            c[i][j] = a[i][j] - b[i][j];
        }
    }
}
```

```
// Checks if a matrix is skew-symmetric ( $M^T = -M$ )
int is_skew_symmetric(double mat[N][N]) {
    const double epsilon = 1e-9; // Tolerance for float
    comparison
    for (int i = 0; i < N; i++) {
        for (int j = 0; j < N; j++) {
            // Check if M[i][j] is approximately -M[j][i]
            if (fabs(mat[i][j] + mat[j][i]) > epsilon) {
                return 0; // Not skew-symmetric
            }
        }
    }
}
```



```
// Check if diagonal elements are zero
for (int i = 0; i < N; i++) {
    if (fabs(mat[i][i]) > epsilon) {
        return 0; // Not skew-symmetric
    }
}
return 1; // It is skew-symmetric
}
```

```
int main() {  
    // Define arbitrary non-zero matrices as per the problem  
    // statement  
    // X and Y are skew-symmetric ( $M[i][j] = -M[j][i]$ )  
    double X[N][N] = {  
        {0.0, 1.0, 2.0},  
        {-1.0, 0.0, 3.0},  
        {-2.0, -3.0, 0.0}  
    };  
    double Y[N][N] = {  
        {0.0, -2.0, 4.0},  
        {2.0, 0.0, -5.0},  
        {-4.0, 5.0, 0.0}  
    };  
}
```

```
// Z is symmetric (M[i][j] = M[j][i])
double Z[N][N] = {
    {1.0, 2.0, 3.0},
    {2.0, 4.0, 5.0},
    {3.0, 5.0, 6.0}
};
// Temporary matrices for calculations
double term1[N][N], term2[N][N], result[N][N];
// --- Option (a): Y^3 * Z^4 - Z^4 * Y^3 ---
power_matrix(Y, 3, term1);
power_matrix(Z, 4, term2);
double Y3Z4[N][N];
multiply_matrices(term1, term2, Y3Z4);
```

```
power_matrix(Z, 4, term1);
power_matrix(Y, 3, term2);
double Z4Y3[N][N];
multiply_matrices(term1, term2, Z4Y3);

subtract_matrices(Y3Z4, Z4Y3, result);
printf("a)  $Y^3 * Z^4 - Z^4 * Y^3$  is skew-symmetric? --> %s\n",
       is_skew_symmetric(result) ? "Yes" : "No");
```

```
// --- Option (b):  $X^{44} + Y^{44}$  ---
power_matrix(X, 44, term1);
power_matrix(Y, 44, term2);
add_matrices(term1, term2, result);
printf("b)  $X^{44} + Y^{44}$  is skew-symmetric? --> %s\n",
       is_skew_symmetric(result) ? "Yes" : "No");

// --- Option (c):  $X^4 * Z^3 - Z^3 * X^4$  ---
power_matrix(X, 4, term1);
power_matrix(Z, 3, term2);
double X4Z3[N][N];
multiply_matrices(term1, term2, X4Z3);
```

```
power_matrix(Z, 3, term1);
power_matrix(X, 4, term2);
double Z3X4[N][N];
multiply_matrices(term1, term2, Z3X4);

subtract_matrices(X4Z3, Z3X4, result);
printf("c)  $X^4 * Z^3 - Z^3 * X^4$  is skew-symmetric? --> %s\n",
       is_skew_symmetric(result) ? "Yes" : "No");
```

```
// --- Option (d): X^23 + Y^23 ---
power_matrix(X, 23, term1);
power_matrix(Y, 23, term2);
add_matrices(term1, term2, result);
printf("d) X^23 + Y^23 is skew-symmetric? --> %s\n",
       is_skew_symmetric(result) ? "Yes" : "No");
printf("\n
-----\n"
)
printf("Conclusion: The correct options are (c) and (d).\n");

return 0;
}
```

```
from ctypes import c_double
# Create a 3x3 matrix using ctypes
def create_matrix():
    return [[c_double(0.0) for _ in range(3)] for _ in range(3)]

# Example usage
mat = create_matrix()
mat[0][0] = c_double(1.0)
print(mat[0][0].value)
```