

Assignment 2

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January 14, 2021

Question

If A and B are square matrices of the same order such that $AB=BA$, then prove by induction that $AB^n=B^nA$.
Further, prove that $(AB)^n=A^nB^n$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Solution

A and B are square matrices of the same order such that $AB=BA$

To prove: $P(n): AB^n=B^nA, n \in \mathbb{N}$

For $n=1$, we have:

$P(1): AB=BA$ [Given]

$$AB^1=B^1A$$

i.e the result is true for $n=1$.

Let the result be true for $n=k$.

$$P(k): AB^k=B^kA \quad (1)$$

Now, we prove that the result is true for $n=k+1$.

$$AB^{k+1}=AB^k.B=(B^kA)B \text{ (By (1))}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&=B^k(AB) && \text{(By Associative law)} \\
&=B^k(BA) && \text{(AB=BA (given))} \\
&=(B^k B)A && \text{(By Associative law)} \\
&=B^{k+1}A
\end{aligned}$$

i.e the result is true for $n=k+1$.

Thus, by the principle of mathematical induction , we have $AB^n=B^nA, n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Now, we prove that $(AB^n)=A^nB^n$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$

For $n=1$, we have:

$$(AB)^1=A^1B^1=AB$$

i.e the result is true for $n=1$.

Let it be true for $n=k$.

$$(AB)^k=A^k B^k \quad (2)$$

Now we prove that the result is true for $n=k+1$.

$$\begin{aligned}
(AB)^{k+1} &= (AB)^k \cdot (AB) = (A^k B^k)(AB). && \text{(By (2))} \\
&= A^k (B^k A)B && \text{(By Associative law)} \\
&= A^k (AB^k)B && \text{(AB^n=B^nA, } n \in \mathbb{N}) \\
&= (A^k A) \cdot (B^k B) && \text{(By Associative law)} \\
&= A^{k+1} B^{k+1}
\end{aligned}$$

i.e the result is true for $n=k+1$.

Therefore, by the principle of mathematical induction , we have $(AB)^n=A^nB^n$,

for all natural numbers.

Question

Let $A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$, show that $(aI + bA)^n = a^n I + na^{n-1}bA$, where I is the identity matrix of order 2 and $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Solution

Using principle of mathematical induction

For $n=1$, we have

$$P(1): (aI + bA) = aI + a^0 bA = aI + bA$$

i.e. result is true for $n=1$

Let it be true for $n=k$

$$\text{i.e. } P(k): (aI + bA)^k = a^k I + ka^{k-1}bA$$

Now, we have to prove the result is true for $n=k+1$.

$$\begin{aligned} (aI + bA)^{k+1} &= (aI + bA)^k (aI + bA) \\ &= (a^k I + ka^{k-1}bA)(aI + bA) \\ &= a^{k+1}I + ka^k bAI + a^k bIA + ka^{k-1}b^2 A^2 \\ &= a^{k+1}I + (k+1)a^k bA + ka^{k-1}b^2 A^2 \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

$$\text{Now, } A^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

Therefore, eqn(1) becomes

$$(aI + bA)^{k+1} = a^{k+1}I + (k+1)a^k bA$$

Hence proved result is true for $n=k+1$

Therefore, by principle of mathematical induction we have

$$(aI + bA)^n = a^n I + na^{n-1}bA$$