

Matrices

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1 Definition

A matrix is a rectangular array of numbers or variables.

Each matrix has a particular size expressed as $n \times m$.

A generic matrix could look like

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{1,1} & a_{1,2} & \cdots & a_{1,m} \\ a_{2,1} & a_{2,2} & \cdots & a_{2,m} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n,1} & a_{n,2} & \cdots & a_{n,m} \end{bmatrix}$$

2 Matrix Multiplication

Matrix multiplication is not a commutative operation.

$$AB \neq BA$$

However it is an associative operation.

$$A(BC) = (AB)C$$

Matrix multiplication can be computed only if the number of columns of the first matrix is equal to the number of rows of the other matrix.

This means that we can compute the product of a $n \times m$ matrix with a $i \times j$ matrix, only if $m = i$.

The resulting product is a matrix with n rows and j columns.

$$(n \times m) \cdot (m \times j) = (n \times j)$$

If we multiply a $1 \times n$ matrix by a $n \times 1$ one, the result is a 1×1 matrix or a scalar.

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & \cdots & a_n \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_n \end{bmatrix} = \sum_{k=1}^n a_k b_k = a_1 b_1 + a_2 b_2 + \cdots + a_n b_n$$

This operation is pretty much the same as the dot product in vectors.

For bigger matrices, we apply the same ‘dot product’ between every row and every column.

Here is an example:

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & a_3 & a_4 \\ \mathbf{b}_1 & \mathbf{b}_2 & \mathbf{b}_3 & \mathbf{b}_4 \\ c_1 & c_2 & c_3 & c_4 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} d_1 & \mathbf{e}_1 \\ d_2 & \mathbf{e}_2 \\ d_3 & \mathbf{e}_3 \\ d_4 & \mathbf{e}_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a \cdot d & a \cdot \mathbf{e} \\ b \cdot d & \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{e} \\ c \cdot d & c \cdot \mathbf{e} \end{bmatrix}$$

Where $a \cdot b$ denotes the ‘dot product’ between a row and a column.

3 Linear transformation

Multiplying a vector by a matrix produces another vector. This is a linear transformation.

For instance, the standard rotation matrix in two dimensions has the following form:

$$R(\theta) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$$

Multiplying a vector $\vec{p} \in \mathbb{R}^2$ by $R(\theta)$ will rotate the point around the origin depending on θ .

$$\vec{p} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$$

We can multiply the rotational matrix by the column vector to obtain the new coordinates

$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x \cos \theta - y \sin \theta \\ x \sin \theta + y \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$$

Note: the matrix must be positioned on the right of the vector, otherwise the dimensions would no longer be compatible.

The rotation matrices for a three-dimensional point are

$$\begin{aligned} R_x(\theta) &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ 0 & \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \\ R_y(\theta) &= \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & 0 & \sin \theta \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -\sin \theta & 0 & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \\ R_z(\theta) &= \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & 0 \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

4 Matrix transpose

The transpose operator is analogous to that of vectors

$$(a_1 \quad a_2 \quad \cdots \quad a_n)^t = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ \vdots \\ a_n \end{pmatrix}$$

This is actually a special case, where we apply the transpose operator to a matrix column.

The transpose of a generic $n \times m$ matrix results in a $m \times n$ one.

$$(A_{ij})^t = A_{ji}$$

The transpose of a matrix is just a flipped version of the original matrix. We can transpose a matrix by switching its rows with its columns. The original rows become the new columns and the original columns become the new rows.

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{1,1} & a_{1,2} & \cdots & a_{1,m} \\ a_{2,1} & a_{2,2} & \cdots & a_{2,m} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n,1} & a_{n,2} & \cdots & a_{n,m} \end{bmatrix}^t = \begin{bmatrix} a_{1,1} & a_{2,1} & \cdots & a_{n,1} \\ a_{1,2} & a_{2,2} & \cdots & a_{n,2} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{1,m} & a_{2,m} & \cdots & a_{n,m} \end{bmatrix}$$

5 Identify matrix

The identify matrix is a square matrix with ones on the main diagonal and zeros elsewhere. This matrix is denoted as I_n where n is the length of the side.

$$I_n = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

When I_n is applied to a $n \times n$ matrix, the matrix remains the same.