Chapter 1

1.1 a

1.2 a

1.3 b

1.4 c

1.5 d

1.6 e

1.7 Find a formula for $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ & 1 & 1 \\ & & 1 \end{bmatrix}^n$, and prove it by induction.

Discussion. Call this matrix A. The action of multiplying any matrix B by A on the right will yield a product whose first column is the first column of B, second column is the sum of the first two columns, and whose third column is the sum of all three columns:

$$BA = \begin{bmatrix} | & | & | \\ \mathbf{b}_1 & \mathbf{b}_1 + \mathbf{b}_2 & \mathbf{b}_1 + \mathbf{b}_2 + \mathbf{b}_3 \\ | & | & | \end{bmatrix}$$

We can guess that repeated application of A on the right of A will have the effect of leaving column 1 unchanged. Since column 1 will always be $(1, 0, 0)$, each right-multiplication of A adds $(1, 0, 0)$ to column 2 so we can guess that column 2 of $A^n = (n, 1, 0)$. Column 3 of A^n we can guess is the sum of the first n numbers, n, then 1: $(\sum_{k=1}^n k, n, 1)$. The sum of the first k natural numbers has a well-known closed form, $n(n+1)/2$, so we can now claim:

$$A^n = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & n & \frac{n(n+1)}{2} \\ & 1 & n \\ & & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Proof by induction.

For the base case we may use $n = 1$. Then $\frac{n(n+1)}{2} = 1(2)/2 = 1$ and the base case holds. Assuming this holds for some n, for the inductive step we would have:

$$\begin{aligned} A^{n+1} &= A^n A && \text{associativity} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & n & \frac{n(n+1)}{2} \\ & 1 & n \\ & & 1 \end{bmatrix} A \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & n+1 & \frac{n(n+1)}{2} + n + 1 \\ & 1 & n+1 \\ & & 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

The diagonal and superdiagonal are as we claimed. The top-right entry can be rewritten as:

$$\frac{n(n+1)}{2} + n + 1 = \frac{n(n+1) + 2n + 2}{2} = \frac{n^2 + 3n + 2}{2} = \frac{(n+1)(n+2)}{2}$$

which is also as claimed. Thus the proof is complete.