



SYMMETRIC REAL MATRICES

Definition

A square real matrix is *symmetric* (we call it a *symmetric matrix*) if its values do not depend on the order of the indices. In other words, a matrix is symmetric if the values above and below the diagonal are a mirror image.

Examples

The matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

is symmetric. The matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

is not.

Notation

$A \in \mathbf{R}^{n \times n}$ is symmetric means $A^\top = A$.

