



Why

We generalize the notion of real matrices, to matrices with elements in any set.

Definition

Consider two sets: the natural numbers from 1 to n and those from 1 to m . Consider a third non-empty set. A *matrix* of elements of the third set is a function from the cartesian product of the first two sets of natural numbers to the third set. We call such a function a *matrix*. We call the function's values the *entries* of the matrix.

We think of the objects in the third set as arrayed in a grid or arrayed in a table. We call n and m the *dimensions* of the matrix. We call n the *height* and m the *width*. If the height of the matrix is the same as the width of the matrix then we call the matrix *square*. If the height is larger than the width, we call the matrix *tall*. If the width is larger than the height, we call the matrix *wide*.

Notation

Let S be nonempty set. We denote the set of $n \times m$ S -valued matrices by $S^{n \times m}$. Let $a \in S^{n \times m}$. This means the same as $a : \{1, 2, \dots, n\} \times \{1, 2, \dots, m\} \rightarrow S$. We denote $a(i, j)$ by a_{ij} .

