

Matrices

1 Why

2 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.

2.1 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 $a : \{1, 2, ..., n\} \times m$

