

Step-1

We have to explain $\|ABx\| \leq \|A\| \|B\| \|x\|$ and also deduce that $\|AB\| \leq \|A\| \|B\|$

We know that the norm of A is the number $\|A\|$ is $\|A\|^2 = \max_{x \neq 0} \frac{\|Ax\|^2}{\|x\|^2}$ (1)

From (1), we can write $\|A\|^2 \geq \frac{\|Ax\|^2}{\|x\|^2}, x \neq 0$

Since norm is a non negative quantity, we get $\|A\| \geq \frac{\|Ax\|}{\|x\|}, x \neq 0$

In other words, $\|Ax\| \leq \|A\| \|x\|$ (2)

Step-2

Let x be any nonzero column vector.

Now

$$\begin{aligned}\|ABx\| &= \|A(Bx)\| \\ &\leq \|A\| \|Bx\| \\ &\leq \|A\| \|B\| \|x\| \quad (\text{Since by (2)})\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $\|ABx\| \leq \|A\| \|B\| \|x\|$

Step-3

We have $\|ABx\| \leq \|A\| \|B\| \|x\|$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\|ABx\|}{\|x\|} \leq \|A\| \|B\| \quad \text{for every non zero column vector } x$$

$$\Rightarrow \max_{x \neq 0} \frac{\|(AB)x\|}{\|x\|} \leq \|A\| \|B\|$$

$$\Rightarrow \|AB\| \leq \|A\| \|B\| \quad (\text{Since by (1)})$$

Hence $\|AB\| \leq \|A\| \|B\|$