

Assignment 1

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Question 1: If A,B are symmetric matrices of same order, then AB-BA is a

- (A) Skew symmetric matrix
- (B) Symmetric matrix
- (C) Zero matrix
- (D) Identity matrix

Solution:

Given, A and B are symmetric matrices, therefore, we have:

$$A' = A \quad \text{and} \quad B' = B \quad (1)$$

consider

$$\Rightarrow (AB - BA)' = (AB)' - (BA)' \quad [(A - B)' = A' - B']$$

$$\Rightarrow (AB - BA)' = B'A' - A'B' \quad [(AB)' = B'A']$$

$$\Rightarrow (AB - BA)' = BA - AB$$

$$\Rightarrow (AB - BA)' = -(AB - BA)$$

Thus, $(AB - BA)$ is a skew symmetric matrix.