Basic algebra properties

Let A, B, and C be matrices of the same size, and let r and s be scalars.

a. $A + B = B + A$
b. $(A + B) + C = A + (B + C)$
c. $A + 0 = A$
d. $r(A + B) = rA + rB$
e. $(r + s)A = rA + sA$
f. $r(sA) = (rs)A$

Properties of matrix multiplication

Properties of Matrix Multiplication

The following theorem lists the standard properties of matrix multiplication. Recall that I_m represents the $m \times m$ identity matrix and $I_m\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}$ for all $\mathbf{x}$ in $\mathbb{R}^m$.

Let A be an $m \times n$ matrix, and let B and C have sizes for which the indicated sums and products are defined.

a. $A(BC) = (AB)C$ (associative law of multiplication)
b. $A(B + C) = AB + AC$ (left distributive law)
c. $(B + C)A = BA + CA$ (right distributive law)
d. $r(AB) = (rA)B = A(rB)$ for any scalar r
e. $I_mA = A = AI_n$ (identity for matrix multiplication)

Warnings about matrix multiplication

WARNINGS:

1. In general, $AB \neq BA$.
2. The cancellation laws do *not* hold for matrix multiplication. That is, if $AB = AC$, then it is *not* true in general that $B = C$. (See Exercise 10.)
3. If a product AB is the zero matrix, you *cannot* conclude in general that either $A = 0$ or $B = 0$. (See Exercise 12.)

Multiplicative powers of matrices

Note: $A^0 = I_n$

Powers of a Matrix

If A is an $n \times n$ matrix and if k is a positive integer, then A^k denotes the product of k copies of A:

$$A^k = \underbrace{A \cdots A}_{k}$$

If A is nonzero and if $\mathbf{x}$ is in $\mathbb{R}^n$, then $A^k\mathbf{x}$ is the result of left-multiplying $\mathbf{x}$ by A repeatedly k times. If $k = 0$, then $A^0\mathbf{x}$ should be $\mathbf{x}$ itself. Thus A^0 is interpreted as the identity matrix. Matrix powers are useful in both theory and applications (Sections 2.6, 4.9, and later in the text).

Algebra and the transpose: basic facts.

Let A and B denote matrices whose sizes are appropriate for the following sums and products.

a. $(A^T)^T = A$
b. $(A + B)^T = A^T + B^T$
c. For any scalar r, $(rA)^T = rA^T$
d. $(AB)^T = B^TA^T$