



A matrix is an array of numbers, written within a set of [ ] brackets, and arranged into a pattern of rows and columns. For example:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad [ 21 \quad 7 \quad -4 \quad 9 ]$$

The **order** (or **size**, or **dimension**) of a matrix is written as “ $m \times n$ ” where  $m$  = the number of rows, and  $n$  = the number of columns. For example, the matrices above have dimensions

$$2 \times 3, \quad 3 \times 3 \quad \text{and} \quad 1 \times 4.$$

### Basic Matrix Operations

Addition (or subtraction) of matrices is performed by adding (or subtracting) elements in corresponding positions. Addition is only valid if the two matrices have the same order.

#### Examples:

$$(i) \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -4 & 0 \\ -1 & 3 & 5 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 4 & -1 \\ 7 & 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2+3 & -4+4 & 0+(-1) \\ -1+7 & 3+0 & 5+(-2) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 0 & -1 \\ 6 & 3 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(ii) \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 4 \\ -2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 7 \\ -8 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3-1 & 4-7 \\ -2-(-8) & 0-1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -3 \\ 6 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(iii) \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -4 & 0 \\ -1 & 3 & 5 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 4 \\ -2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ cannot be done as the orders are different.}$$

When a matrix is multiplied by a real number (called a *scalar*), each element is multiplied by the scalar. The result is another matrix of the same order.

#### Examples:

$$(i) 4 \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ -3 & 9 \\ 0 & -5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \times 2 & 4 \times 1 \\ 4 \times -3 & 4 \times 9 \\ 4 \times 0 & 4 \times -5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 8 & 4 \\ -12 & 36 \\ 0 & -20 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(ii) \frac{1}{2} [ 7 \quad 8 \quad -10 \quad 6 \quad 0.4 ] = [ 3.5 \quad 4 \quad -5 \quad 3 \quad 0.2 ]$$

$$(iii) 2 \begin{bmatrix} 5 & -3 \\ 0 & -6 \end{bmatrix} - 3 \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 4 \\ -1 & 7 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 10 & -6 \\ 0 & -12 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 9 & 12 \\ -3 & 21 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -18 \\ 3 & -33 \end{bmatrix}$$

When giving matrices a name, use capital letters such as  $A$ ,  $B$ , etc to distinguish them from algebraic scalars such as  $a$ ,  $b$ , etc.

**Exercises**

(1) Given that

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 2 & 0 \\ 4 & 5 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 1 & -3 \\ 2 & 0 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \quad C = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ -4 & 9 \end{bmatrix} \quad D = \begin{bmatrix} 11 & 5 \\ 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \quad E = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

find the following (if possible):

- (a)  $A + B$     (b)  $B + A$     (c)  $C + D$     (d)  $C - D$     (e)  $D - C$   
 (f)  $A + E$     (g)  $B - D$     (h)  $3A$     (i)  $2C + D$     (j)  $5B - 4E$

**Matrix Multiplication**

The rule for multiplying matrices can be represented as follows:

$$AB = \begin{bmatrix} \text{row 1 of } A \times \text{col 1 of } B & \text{row 1 of } A \times \text{col 2 of } B & \text{row 1 of } A \times \text{col 3 of } B & \dots \\ \text{row 2 of } A \times \text{col 1 of } B & \text{row 2 of } A \times \text{col 2 of } B & \text{row 2 of } A \times \text{col 3 of } B & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \end{bmatrix}$$

where “row  $i$  of  $A \times$  col  $j$  of  $B$ ” is a single number and stands for “each entry in row  $i$  of  $A$  is multiplied by the corresponding entry in column  $j$  of  $B$  and the results are added together”.

**Examples:**

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 3 \\ 1 & 4 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -5 \\ -1 & -2 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \quad C = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \quad D = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 5 \\ 6 & 7 \end{bmatrix} \quad I = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- (i)  $CA = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 3 \\ 1 & 4 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$   
 $= \begin{bmatrix} 1 \times 2 + 2 \times 1 & 1 \times (-1) + 2 \times 4 & 1 \times 3 + 2 \times 5 \\ 3 \times 2 + 4 \times 1 & 3 \times (-1) + 4 \times 4 & 3 \times 3 + 4 \times 5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 7 & 13 \\ 10 & 13 & 29 \end{bmatrix}$
- (ii)  $AB = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 3 \\ 1 & 4 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -5 \\ -1 & -2 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$   
 $= \begin{bmatrix} 2 \times 4 + (-1) \times (-1) + 3 \times 0 & 2 \times (-5) + (-1) \times (-2) + 3 \times 3 \\ 1 \times 4 + 4 \times (-1) + 5 \times 0 & 1 \times (-5) + 4 \times (-2) + 5 \times 3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 9 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$
- (iii)  $CB = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -5 \\ -1 & -2 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$

This is not possible because there are fewer entries in the rows of  $C$  (two) than in the columns of  $B$  (three).

*Matrix multiplication is only defined when the number of columns in the first matrix equals the number of rows in the second.*

$$(iv) \quad CD = \begin{bmatrix} 13 & 19 \\ 27 & 43 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{but} \quad DC = \begin{bmatrix} 16 & 22 \\ 27 & 40 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{so} \quad CD \neq DC.$$

*In general  $AB \neq BA$  for matrices.*

$$(v) \quad CI = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \times 1 + 2 \times 0 & 1 \times 0 + 2 \times 1 \\ 3 \times 1 + 4 \times 0 & 3 \times 0 + 4 \times 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} = C \text{ (unchanged)}$$

$$(vi) \quad IC = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} = C \text{ (unchanged)}$$

*The matrix  $I$  is an identity matrix and is the matrix equivalent of the number 1 in scalar multiplication.*

- Notes:**
1. The identity is an exception to the general rule for matrix multiplication since  $CI = IC = C$ .
  2. Identity matrices only exist for square matrices. The matrix  $I$  used in Examples (v) and (vi) is called “the identity matrix for a  $2 \times 2$  matrix”. The

identity matrix for a  $3 \times 3$  matrix is  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ .

### Exercises

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -1 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 & 1 \\ 3 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad C = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad D = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ -1 & 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \quad E = \begin{bmatrix} -3 & 2 \\ 1 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$$

(2) Using the above matrices, calculate the following (if possible):

- |          |          |          |           |           |
|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| (a) $AB$ | (b) $BA$ | (c) $DI$ | (d) $ID$  | (e) $CD$  |
| (f) $DC$ | (g) $BC$ | (h) $CB$ | (i) $E^2$ | (j) $B^2$ |

**Answers to Exercises**

- (1) (a)  $\begin{bmatrix} 6 & 3 & -3 \\ 6 & 5 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$  (b) same as (a) (c)  $\begin{bmatrix} 12 & 7 \\ -4 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$  (d)  $\begin{bmatrix} -10 & -3 \\ -4 & 11 \end{bmatrix}$
- (e)  $\begin{bmatrix} 10 & 3 \\ 4 & -11 \end{bmatrix}$  (f) not possible (g) not possible (h)  $\begin{bmatrix} -3 & 6 & 0 \\ 12 & 15 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$
- (i)  $\begin{bmatrix} 13 & 9 \\ -8 & 16 \end{bmatrix}$  (j) not possible
- (2) (a)  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 & 1 \\ -8 & -5 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$  (b) not possible (c)  $D$  (d)  $D$
- (e) not possible (f)  $\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \\ 15 \end{bmatrix}$  (g)  $\begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$  (h) not possible
- (i)  $E^2 = EE = \begin{bmatrix} 11 & 8 \\ 4 & 51 \end{bmatrix}$  (j) not possible