



**FIGURE 1** Matrix notation.

**EXAMPLE 1** Let

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

**EXAMPLE 2** If

$$2B =$$

$$A - 2B =$$

**THEOREM 1**

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

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

**DEFINITION**

If  $A$  is an  $m \times n$  matrix, and if  $B$  is an  $n \times p$  matrix with columns  $\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_p$ , then the product  $AB$  is the  $m \times p$  matrix whose columns are  $A\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, A\mathbf{b}_p$ . That is,

$$AB = A[\mathbf{b}_1 \quad \mathbf{b}_2 \quad \cdots \quad \mathbf{b}_p] = [A\mathbf{b}_1 \quad A\mathbf{b}_2 \quad \cdots \quad A\mathbf{b}_p]$$

**EXAMPLE 3** Compute  $AB$ , where  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 1 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $B = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 3 & 6 \\ 1 & -2 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$ .

Each column of  $AB$  is a linear combination of the columns of  $A$  using weights from the corresponding column of  $B$ .

**EXAMPLE 4** If  $A$  is a  $3 \times 5$  matrix and  $B$  is a  $5 \times 2$  matrix, what are the sizes of  $AB$  and  $BA$ , if they are defined?

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#### ROW-COLUMN RULE FOR COMPUTING $AB$

If the product  $AB$  is defined, then the entry in row  $i$  and column  $j$  of  $AB$  is the sum of the products of corresponding entries from row  $i$  of  $A$  and column  $j$  of  $B$ . If  $(AB)_{ij}$  denotes the  $(i, j)$ -entry in  $AB$ , and if  $A$  is an  $m \times n$  matrix, then

$$(AB)_{ij} = a_{i1}b_{1j} + a_{i2}b_{2j} + \cdots + a_{in}b_{nj}$$

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**EXAMPLE 5** Use the row-column rule to compute two of the entries in  $AB$  for the matrices in Example 3. An inspection of the numbers involved will make it clear how the two methods for calculating  $AB$  produce the same matrix.

**EXAMPLE 6** Find the entries in the second row of  $AB$ , where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -5 & 0 \\ -1 & 3 & -4 \\ 6 & -8 & -7 \\ -3 & 0 & 9 \end{bmatrix}, \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -6 \\ 7 & 1 \\ 3 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

## 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  $\mathbb{R}^m$ .

### THEOREM 2

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.  $I_m A = A = A I_n$  (identity for matrix multiplication)

**EXAMPLE 7** Let  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 1 \\ 3 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $B = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 4 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$ . Show that these matrices do not commute. That is, verify that  $AB \neq BA$ .

**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.)

## The Transpose of a Matrix

Given an  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$ , the **transpose** of  $A$  is the  $n \times m$  matrix, denoted by  $A^T$ , whose columns are formed from the corresponding rows of  $A$ .

**EXAMPLE 8** Let

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}, \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} -5 & 2 \\ 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix}, \quad C = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ -3 & 5 & -2 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$$



**THEOREM 3**

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.  $(AB)^T = B^T A^T$

The transpose of a product of matrices equals the product of their transposes in the *reverse* order.

**PRACTICE PROBLEMS**

1. Since vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  may be regarded as  $n \times 1$  matrices, the properties of transposes in Theorem 3 apply to vectors, too. Let

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 \\ -2 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Compute  $(A\mathbf{x})^T$ ,  $\mathbf{x}^T A^T$ ,  $\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}^T$ , and  $\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x}$ . Is  $A^T \mathbf{x}^T$  defined?

2. Let  $A$  be a  $4 \times 4$  matrix and let  $\mathbf{x}$  be a vector in  $\mathbb{R}^4$ . What is the fastest way to compute  $A^2 \mathbf{x}$ ? Count the multiplications.
3. Suppose  $A$  is an  $m \times n$  matrix, all of whose rows are identical. Suppose  $B$  is an  $n \times p$  matrix, all of whose columns are identical. What can be said about the entries in  $AB$ ?

- 15.** a. If  $A$  and  $B$  are  $2 \times 2$  with columns  $\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2$ , and  $\mathbf{b}_1, \mathbf{b}_2$ , respectively, then  $AB = [\mathbf{a}_1\mathbf{b}_1 \quad \mathbf{a}_2\mathbf{b}_2]$ .
- b. Each column of  $AB$  is a linear combination of the columns of  $B$  using weights from the corresponding column of  $A$ .
- c.  $AB + AC = A(B + C)$
- d.  $A^T + B^T = (A + B)^T$
- e. The transpose of a product of matrices equals the product of their transposes in the same order.
- 16.** a. If  $A$  and  $B$  are  $3 \times 3$  and  $B = [\mathbf{b}_1 \ \mathbf{b}_2 \ \mathbf{b}_3]$ , then  $AB = [A\mathbf{b}_1 + A\mathbf{b}_2 + A\mathbf{b}_3]$ .
- b. The second row of  $AB$  is the second row of  $A$  multiplied on the right by  $B$ .
- c.  $(AB)C = (AC)B$
- d.  $(AB)^T = A^T B^T$
- e. The transpose of a sum of matrices equals the sum of their transposes.