

Matrix Powers

1. Consider the matrix $M = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$

a. Calculate M^n for $n = 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 20, 50$.

$$M^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$M^3 = \begin{bmatrix} 8 & 0 \\ 0 & 8 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$M^4 = \begin{bmatrix} 16 & 0 \\ 0 & 16 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$M^5 = \begin{bmatrix} 32 & 0 \\ 0 & 32 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$M^{10} = \begin{bmatrix} 1024 & 0 \\ 0 & 1024 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$M^{20} = \begin{bmatrix} 1048576 & 0 \\ 0 & 1048576 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$M^{50} = \begin{bmatrix} 1.12589907 \times 10^{15} & 0 \\ 0 & 1.12589907 \times 10^{15} \end{bmatrix}$$

b. Describe in words any pattern you observe.

Using a TI-83 Plus to calculate each of these power matrices, we are able to find the n th matrix. The matrix provided is an identity matrix, which is uniquely defined by the property $M^2 = M$ thus the value of M^n is equated to two to the power of n as well; the value zero stays constant for other values of n . The matrix M^n can also be calculated using geometric sequence: $U_n = U_1 r^{n-1}$; as the common ratio between each matrix is a factor of two.

c. Use this pattern to find a general expression for the matrix M^n in terms of n .

$$\therefore M^n = I \times 2^n$$

2. Consider the matrices $P = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$ and $S = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$

$$P^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 10 & 6 \\ 6 & 10 \end{bmatrix} = 2 \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 3 \\ 3 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \quad S^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 20 & 16 \\ 16 & 20 \end{bmatrix} = 2 \begin{bmatrix} 10 & 8 \\ 8 & 10 \end{bmatrix}$$

a. Calculate P^n and S^n for other values of n and describe any pattern(s) you observe.

$$P^3 = \begin{bmatrix} 36 & 28 \\ 28 & 36 \end{bmatrix} = 4 \begin{bmatrix} 9 & 7 \\ 7 & 9 \end{bmatrix} \quad S^3 = \begin{bmatrix} 112 & 112 \\ 104 & 104 \end{bmatrix} = 4 \begin{bmatrix} 28 & 26 \\ 26 & 28 \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}
 \rightarrow &= \begin{bmatrix} 136 & 120 \\ 120 & 136 \end{bmatrix} = 8 \begin{bmatrix} 17 & 15 \\ 15 & 17 \end{bmatrix} & S^4 &= \begin{bmatrix} 656 & 640 \\ 640 & 656 \end{bmatrix} = 8 \begin{bmatrix} 82 & 80 \\ 80 & 82 \end{bmatrix} \\
 \rightarrow &= \begin{bmatrix} 528 & 496 \\ 496 & 528 \end{bmatrix} = 16 \begin{bmatrix} 33 & 31 \\ 31 & 33 \end{bmatrix} & S^5 &= \begin{bmatrix} 3904 & 3872 \\ 3872 & 3904 \end{bmatrix} = 16 \begin{bmatrix} 244 & 242 \\ 242 & 244 \end{bmatrix} \\
 \rightarrow &= \begin{bmatrix} 8256 & 8128 \\ 8128 & 8256 \end{bmatrix} = 64 \begin{bmatrix} 129 & 127 \\ 127 & 129 \end{bmatrix} & S^7 &= \begin{bmatrix} 140032 & 139904 \\ 139904 & 140032 \end{bmatrix} = 64 \begin{bmatrix} 2188 & 2186 \\ 2186 & 2188 \end{bmatrix} \\
 \rightarrow &= \begin{bmatrix} 524800 & 523776 \\ 523776 & 524800 \end{bmatrix} = 512 \begin{bmatrix} 1025 & 1023 \\ 1023 & 1025 \end{bmatrix} \\
 S^8 &= \begin{bmatrix} 30233600 & 30232576 \\ 30232576 & 30233600 \end{bmatrix} = 512 \begin{bmatrix} 59050 & 59048 \\ 59048 & 59050 \end{bmatrix}
 \end{aligned}$$

From a standard matrix $\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$, we can see that the difference between a and b , c and d is two. Therefore we could infer that it follows the pattern $\begin{bmatrix} k+1 & k-1 \\ k-1 & k+1 \end{bmatrix}$, and that k in matrix P is two whereas k in matrix S is three. However, a coefficient had to be factorised in order to have that difference of two. A pattern for the coefficient was found as 2^{n-1} .

3. Now consider matrices of the form $\begin{bmatrix} k+1 & k-1 \\ k-1 & k+1 \end{bmatrix}$.

Steps 1 and 2 contain examples of these matrices for $k=1, 2$ and 3 .

Consider other values of k , and describe any pattern(s) you observe.

Generalize these results in terms of k and n .

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{If } k=6; M &= \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 5 \\ 5 & 7 \end{bmatrix}; & M^2 &= 2 \begin{bmatrix} 37 & 35 \\ 35 & 37 \end{bmatrix}; & M^3 &= 4 \begin{bmatrix} 217 & 215 \\ 215 & 217 \end{bmatrix} \\
 \text{If } k=10; M &= \begin{bmatrix} 11 & 9 \\ 9 & 11 \end{bmatrix}; & M^2 &= 2 \begin{bmatrix} 101 & 99 \\ 99 & 101 \end{bmatrix}; & M^3 &= \\
 4 \begin{bmatrix} 1001 & 999 \\ 999 & 1001 \end{bmatrix} & & & \\
 \text{If } k=-1; M &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -2 \\ -2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}; & M^2 &= 2 \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}; & M^3 &= 4 \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -2 \\ -2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \\
 \text{If } k=-2; M &= \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -3 \\ -3 & -1 \end{bmatrix}; & M^2 &= 2 \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 3 \\ 3 & 5 \end{bmatrix}; & M^3 &= 4 \begin{bmatrix} -7 & -9 \\ -9 & -7 \end{bmatrix} \\
 \text{If } k=1/2; M &= \begin{bmatrix} 1\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \\ -\frac{1}{2} & 1\frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}; & M^2 &= 2 \begin{bmatrix} 1.25 & -0.75 \\ -0.75 & 1.25 \end{bmatrix}; & M^3 &= 4 \begin{bmatrix} 1.125 & -0.875 \\ -0.875 & 1.125 \end{bmatrix}
 \end{aligned}$$

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There is still a common difference of two between a and b , c and d according to 2^{n-1} , ranging from whole values such as six or ten, to negative and rational values. From these results we can generalise the pattern as 2^n

$\frac{1}{2^n} \begin{bmatrix} k^n + 1 & k^n - 1 \\ k^n - 1 & k^n + 1 \end{bmatrix}$ to incorporate other values of n .

4. Use technology to investigate what happens with further values of k and n .

State the scope or limitations of k and n .

If $k=20$; $M = \begin{bmatrix} 21 & 19 \\ 19 & 21 \end{bmatrix}$; $M^{10} = 512 \begin{bmatrix} 1.024 \times 10^{13} & 1.024 \times 10^{13} \\ 1.024 \times 10^{13} & 1.024 \times 10^{13} \end{bmatrix}$

If $k=-10$; $M = \begin{bmatrix} -9 & -11 \\ -11 & -9 \end{bmatrix}$; $M^{-5} = \text{ERR:DOMAIN}$ if put in calculator

$M^{-5} = 0.015265 \begin{bmatrix} 0.9999830649 & -1.000016935 \\ -1.000016935 & 0.9999830649 \end{bmatrix}$ if put in

formula

If $k=-10$; $M = \begin{bmatrix} -9 & -11 \\ -11 & -9 \end{bmatrix}$; $M^{0.5} = \text{ERR:DOMAIN}$ if put in calculator

$M^{0.5} = 0.7071067812 \begin{bmatrix} -2.16227766 & -4.16227766 \\ -4.16227766 & -2.16227766 \end{bmatrix}$ if

put in calculator

The value of k has no limitations, any number plugged into k , be it negative, rational, whole, will be coherent with the pattern. The values of n however, is limited to only whole numbers. It can go to the extent of whole numbers but it can never be a negative value or a rational value as the error or DOMAIN would appear on the calculator. Theoretically, if these disallowed n values were to be solely plugged into the pattern $2^{n-1} \begin{bmatrix} k^n + 1 & k^n - 1 \\ k^n - 1 & k^n + 1 \end{bmatrix}$ and not M^n , then similar to k the pattern would also function with any rational or negative numbers.

5. Explain why your results hold true in general.

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Since we have proven the general expression for M^1 and all those examples are part of the pattern, the results holds true for all examples in the pattern except for the restrictions that have been proven .