LESSON Reading Strategies

4-2 Compare and Contrast

Like real numbers, matrices can be multiplied. But unlike numbers that can be multiplied in any order, matrices must be multiplied in a specific way.

Multiplication of real numbers is	Matrix multiplication is NOT commutative.		
commutative; that is, the order does not matter.	$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 5 \\ - & - \end{bmatrix} B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 \\ - & - \end{bmatrix}$		
4 × 8 = 32	L6 3J L7 8J		
and	$A \times B = \begin{bmatrix} 37 & 48 \end{bmatrix}$ but $B \times A = \begin{bmatrix} 26 & 17 \end{bmatrix}$		
8 × 4 = 32	L 27 48 J L62 59 J		
So the product $a \times b$ is the same as $b \times a$.	$A \times B \neq B \times A$		
$a \times b = b \times a$			

Two matrices can be multiplied if the number of *columns* in the first matrix is the same as the number of *rows* in the second matrix. If matrix R is 2×4 and matrix S is 4 \times 3, then RS is possible but SR is NOT possible.

Matrix R	Matrix S	Product Matrix RS		
$\begin{bmatrix} 5 & 2 & -4 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & 3 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 & -2 \\ 1 & 4 & 2 \\ 0 & -3 & 1 \\ -5 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 12 & 22 & -10 \\ 7 & -13 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$		
2 imes 4	4 imes 3	2 imes 3		

Use matrices *D*, *E*, and *F* to answer the following questions.

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$D = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -4 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	<i>E</i> = 1	5	$F = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$	- I -	0
L 6 31		-4	L4	1	-31

1. Can you multiply matrices D and E to give DE or ED? Explain.

2. Can you multiply matrices D and F to give DF or FD? Explain.

3. Explain why matrix multiplication is not commutative. Give examples.

4. Can you multiply matrices *E* and *F*? Describe all possibilities. Give the dimensions of any resulting matrices.

