

A matrix of real numbers A is said to be **idempotent** if it's equal to its own square, in other words $A^2 = A$.

Consider the following matrices, identify which of them are idempotent.

EXPLAIN YOUR ANSWERS.

(a) $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$2 \times 3 \quad 2 \times 3$

Multiplication
not defined
(not idempotent)

(b) $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \stackrel{?}{=} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \neq \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Not
idempotent

(c) $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \stackrel{?}{=} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

idempotent

(d) $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \stackrel{?}{=} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \neq \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{not idempotent}$$

MULTIPLICATION
NOT DEFINED

(e) $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$3 \times 2 \quad 3 \times 2$