

Problem A.31

Functions of matrices are typically defined by their Taylor series expansions. For example,

$$e^{\mathbf{M}} \equiv \mathbf{I} + \mathbf{M} + \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{M}^2 + \frac{1}{3!}\mathbf{M}^3 + \dots \quad (\text{A.99})$$

(a) Find $\exp(\mathbf{M})$, if

$$(i) \mathbf{M} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}; \quad (ii) \mathbf{M} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \theta \\ -\theta & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

(b) Show that if \mathbf{M} is diagonalizable, then

$$\det(e^{\mathbf{M}}) = e^{\text{Tr}(\mathbf{M})}. \quad (\text{A.100})$$

Comment: This is actually true even if \mathbf{M} is *not* diagonalizable, but it's harder to prove in the general case.

(c) Show that if the matrices \mathbf{M} and \mathbf{N} commute, then

$$e^{\mathbf{M}+\mathbf{N}} = e^{\mathbf{M}}e^{\mathbf{N}}. \quad (\text{A.101})$$

Prove (with the simplest counterexample you can think up) that Equation A.101 is *not* true, in general, for *non*-commuting matrices.²¹

(d) If \mathbf{H} is hermitian, show that $e^{i\mathbf{H}}$ is unitary.

Solution

Part (a)

Suppose that

$$\mathbf{M} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

By definition, the exponential of this matrix is

$$e^{\mathbf{M}} = \mathbf{I} + \mathbf{M} + \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{M}^2 + \frac{1}{3!}\mathbf{M}^3 + \dots$$

The aim, then, is to find the higher powers of \mathbf{M} .

$$\mathbf{M}^2 = \mathbf{M}\mathbf{M} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{M}^3 = \mathbf{M}^2\mathbf{M} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

²¹See Problem 3.29 for the more general “Baker–Campbell–Hausdorff” formula.

Because $M^3 = 0$, all higher powers are equal to the zero matrix as well.

$$M^4 = M^3M = 0M = 0$$

$$M^5 = M^4M = 0M = 0$$

$$\vdots$$

$$M^k = M^{k-1}M = 0M = 0, \quad k \geq 4$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} e^M &= I + M + \frac{1}{2}M^2 \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

Suppose now that

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \theta \\ -\theta & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

By definition, the exponential of this matrix is

$$e^M = I + M + \frac{1}{2}M^2 + \frac{1}{3!}M^3 + \dots$$

As before, the higher powers of M can be found by multiplying matrices [equation (1) below]. A more systematic approach will be taken here, though, in order to show how to exponentiate more complicated matrices. Consider the eigenvalue problem for M .

$$Ma = \lambda a$$

Bring λa to the left side and factor a .

$$(M - \lambda I)a = 0$$

Since $a \neq 0$, the matrix in parentheses must be singular, that is,

$$\det(M - \lambda I) = 0$$

$$\begin{vmatrix} -\lambda & \theta \\ -\theta & -\lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

$$\lambda^2 + \theta^2 = 0.$$

This is the characteristic equation of M . According to the Cayley-Hamilton theorem, every square matrix satisfies its own characteristic equation.

$$M^2 + \theta^2 I = 0$$

Solve for M^2 .

$$M^2 = -\theta^2 I \quad (1)$$

Use this result to construct the higher powers of M .

$$\begin{aligned} M^4 &= M^2 M^2 = (-\theta^2 I)(-\theta^2 I) = \theta^4 I & M^3 &= M^2 M = (-\theta^2 I)(M) = -\theta^2 M \\ M^6 &= M^4 M^2 = (\theta^4 I)(-\theta^2 I) = -\theta^6 I & M^5 &= M^2 M^3 = (-\theta^2 I)(-\theta^2 M) = \theta^4 M \\ M^8 &= M^6 M^2 = (-\theta^6 I)(-\theta^2 I) = \theta^8 I & M^7 &= M^2 M^5 = (-\theta^2 I)(\theta^4 M) = -\theta^6 M \\ &\vdots & &\vdots \\ M^{2k} &= (-1)^k \theta^{2k} I & M^{2k+1} &= (-1)^k \theta^{2k} M \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} e^M &= I + M + \frac{1}{2}M^2 + \frac{1}{3!}M^3 + \dots \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{M^k}{k!} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{M^{2k}}{(2k)!} + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{M^{2k+1}}{(2k+1)!} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k \theta^{2k} I}{(2k)!} + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k \theta^{2k} M}{(2k+1)!} \\ &= I \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k \theta^{2k}}{(2k)!} + M \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k \theta^{2k}}{(2k+1)!} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k \theta^{2k}}{(2k)!} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \theta \\ -\theta & 0 \end{pmatrix} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k \theta^{2k}}{(2k+1)!} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k \theta^{2k}}{(2k)!} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k \theta^{2k+1}}{(2k+1)!} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \cos \theta + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \sin \theta \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

Part (b)

Assume that M is a diagonalizable $n \times n$ matrix. Then it has n linearly independent eigenvectors, which means a similarity matrix S can be constructed. The product SMS^{-1} is a matrix with the eigenvalues corresponding to the n eigenvectors along the main diagonal and zeros elsewhere.

$$SMS^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix} \quad (2)$$

Premultiply both sides by S^{-1} .

$$S^{-1}SMS^{-1} = S^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix}$$

Postmultiply both sides by S .

$$S^{-1}SMS^{-1}S = S^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix} S$$

These last two steps isolate M on the left side, since matrix multiplication is associative and $S^{-1}S = I$.

$$M = S^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix} S$$

Exponentiate both sides.

$$\begin{aligned} e^M &= \exp \left[S^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix} S \right] \\ &= I + \left[S^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix} S \right] + \frac{1}{2} \left[S^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix} S \right]^2 + \cdots \\ &= I + S^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix} S + \frac{1}{2} S^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix} S + \cdots \end{aligned}$$

Multiply the diagonal matrices on the right side.

$$e^M = I + S^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix} S + \frac{1}{2} S^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1^2 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2^2 & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n^2 \end{pmatrix} S + \frac{1}{3!} S^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1^3 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2^3 & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n^3 \end{pmatrix} S + \cdots$$

Now proceed to eliminate S from the equation. Premultiply both sides by S .

$$\begin{aligned} S e^M &= S I + S S^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix} S + \frac{1}{2} S S^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1^2 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2^2 & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n^2 \end{pmatrix} S + \frac{1}{3!} S S^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1^3 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2^3 & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n^3 \end{pmatrix} S + \cdots \\ &= S + \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix} S + \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1^2 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2^2 & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n^2 \end{pmatrix} S + \frac{1}{3!} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1^3 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2^3 & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n^3 \end{pmatrix} S + \cdots \end{aligned}$$

Postmultiply both sides by S^{-1} .

$$\begin{aligned} S e^M S^{-1} &= S S^{-1} + \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix} S S^{-1} + \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1^2 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2^2 & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n^2 \end{pmatrix} S S^{-1} + \frac{1}{3!} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1^3 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2^3 & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n^3 \end{pmatrix} S S^{-1} + \cdots \\ &= I + \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1^2 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2^2 & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n^2 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{3!} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1^3 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2^3 & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n^3 \end{pmatrix} + \cdots \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 + \lambda_1 + \frac{1}{2} \lambda_1^2 + \frac{1}{3!} \lambda_1^3 + \cdots & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 + \lambda_2 + \frac{1}{2} \lambda_2^2 + \frac{1}{3!} \lambda_2^3 + \cdots & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 + \lambda_n + \frac{1}{2} \lambda_n^2 + \frac{1}{3!} \lambda_n^3 + \cdots \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda_1^k}{k!} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda_2^k}{k!} & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda_n^k}{k!} \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

As a result,

$$Se^MS^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} e^{\lambda_1} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & e^{\lambda_2} & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & e^{\lambda_n} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Take the determinant of both sides.

$$\det(Se^MS^{-1}) = \det \begin{pmatrix} e^{\lambda_1} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & e^{\lambda_2} & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & e^{\lambda_n} \end{pmatrix}$$

Use the fact that the determinant of a product is the product of the determinants:

$$\det(Se^MS^{-1}) = \det(S) \det(e^M) \det(S^{-1}) = \det(e^M) \det(S) \det(S^{-1}) = \det(e^M) \det(SS^{-1}) = \det(e^M) \det(I) = \det(e^M)(1) = \det(e^M).$$

$$\det(e^M) = \begin{vmatrix} e^{\lambda_1} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & e^{\lambda_2} & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & e^{\lambda_n} \end{vmatrix}$$

Evaluate the determinant on the right side.

$$\begin{aligned} \det(e^M) &= e^{\lambda_1} e^{\lambda_2} \cdots e^{\lambda_n} \\ &= e^{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \cdots + \lambda_n} \end{aligned}$$

In the exponent is the trace of the matrix in equation (2).

$$\det(e^M) = e^{\text{Tr}(SMS^{-1})}$$

Use the result from Problem A.17 that says three matrices in a product can be cyclically permuted within a trace argument.

$$\begin{aligned} \det(e^M) &= e^{\text{Tr}(MS^{-1}S)} \\ &= e^{\text{Tr}(M)} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\det(e^M) = e^{\text{Tr}(M)}.$$

Part (c)

Assume that M and N are $n \times n$ matrices and that they commute: $MN = NM$. By definition,

$$\begin{aligned} e^{M+N} &= I + (M + N) + \frac{1}{2}(M + N)^2 + \frac{1}{3!}(M + N)^3 + \dots \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(M + N)^k}{k!}. \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

Consider element ij of $(M + N)^2$.

$$\begin{aligned} [(M + N)^2]_{ij} &= \sum_{k=1}^n (M + N)_{ik} (M + N)_{kj} \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n (M_{ik} + N_{ik})(M_{kj} + N_{kj}) \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n (M_{ik}M_{kj} + M_{ik}N_{kj} + N_{ik}M_{kj} + N_{ik}N_{kj}) \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n M_{ik}M_{kj} + \sum_{k=1}^n M_{ik}N_{kj} + \sum_{k=1}^n N_{ik}M_{kj} + \sum_{k=1}^n N_{ik}N_{kj} \\ &= (MM)_{ij} + (MN)_{ij} + (NM)_{ij} + (NN)_{ij} \\ &= (MM + MN + NM + NN)_{ij} \\ &= (MM + MN + MN + NN)_{ij} \\ &= (M^2 + 2MN + N^2)_{ij} \end{aligned}$$

Consequently, $(M + N)^2 = M^2 + 2MN + N^2$.

Now consider element ij of $(M + N)^3$.

$$\begin{aligned}
[(M + N)^3]_{ij} &= [(M + N)(M + N)^2]_{ij} \\
&= [(M + N)(M^2 + 2MN + N^2)]_{ij} \\
&= \sum_{k=1}^n (M + N)_{ik} (M^2 + 2MN + N^2)_{kj} \\
&= \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{l=1}^n (M_{ik} + N_{ik}) (M_{kl}M_{lj} + 2M_{kl}N_{lj} + N_{kl}N_{lj}) \\
&= \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{l=1}^n (M_{ik}M_{kl}M_{lj} + 2M_{ik}M_{kl}N_{lj} + M_{ik}N_{kl}N_{lj} + N_{ik}M_{kl}M_{lj} + 2N_{ik}M_{kl}N_{lj} + N_{ik}N_{kl}N_{lj}) \\
&= \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{l=1}^n M_{ik}M_{kl}M_{lj} + 2 \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{l=1}^n M_{ik}M_{kl}N_{lj} + \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{l=1}^n M_{ik}N_{kl}N_{lj} \\
&\quad + \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{l=1}^n N_{ik}M_{kl}M_{lj} + 2 \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{l=1}^n N_{ik}M_{kl}N_{lj} + \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{l=1}^n N_{ik}N_{kl}N_{lj} \\
&= (MMM)_{ij} + 2(MMN)_{ij} + (MNN)_{ij} + (NMM)_{ij} + 2(NMN)_{ij} + (NNN)_{ij} \\
&= (MMM + 2MMN + MNN + NMM + 2NMN + NNN)_{ij} \\
&= [MMM + 2MMN + MNN + (NM)(M) + 2(NM)(N) + NNN]_{ij} \\
&= [MMM + 2MMN + MNN + (MN)(M) + 2(MN)(N) + NNN]_{ij} \\
&= [MMM + 2MMN + MNN + (M)(NM) + 2MNN + NNN]_{ij} \\
&= [MMM + 2MMN + MNN + (M)(MN) + 2MNN + NNN]_{ij} \\
&= (MMM + 2MMN + MNN + MMN + 2MNN + NNN)_{ij} \\
&= (MMM + 3MMN + 3MNN + NNN)_{ij} \\
&= (M^3 + 3M^2N + 3MN^2 + N^3)_{ij}
\end{aligned}$$

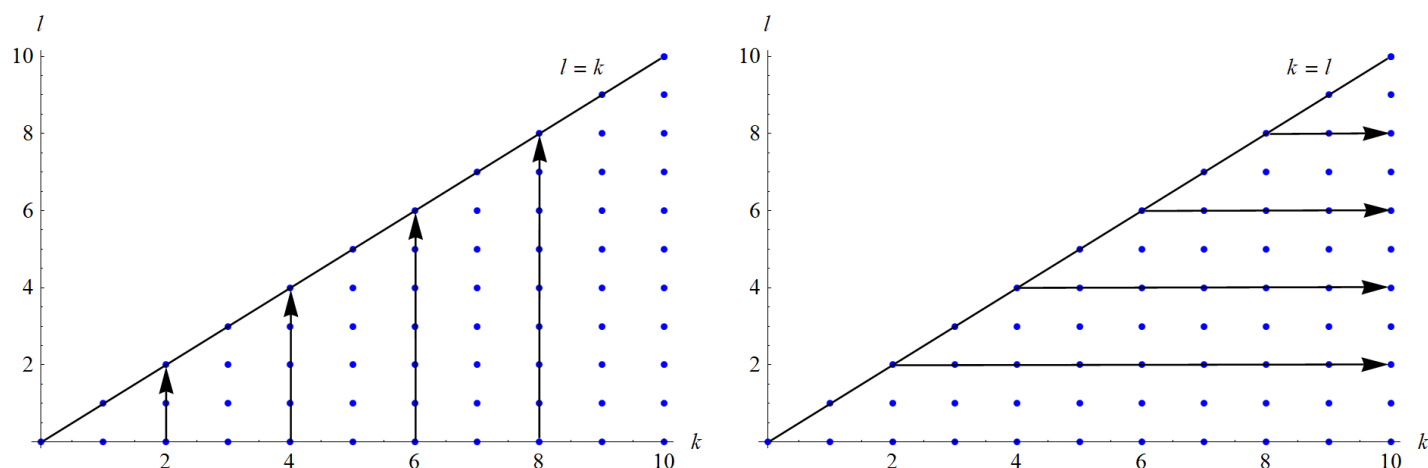
Consequently, $(M + N)^3 = M^3 + 3M^2N + 3MN^2 + N^3$. The binomial theorem holds for M and N apparently because these matrices commute.

$$(M + N)^k = \sum_{l=0}^k \frac{k!}{(k-l)!l!} M^{k-l} N^l$$

Equation (3) then becomes

$$\begin{aligned} e^{M+N} &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(M+N)^k}{k!} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k!} \sum_{l=0}^k \frac{k!}{(k-l)!l!} M^{k-l} N^l \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{l=0}^k \frac{M^{k-l} N^l}{(k-l)!l!}. \end{aligned}$$

The current mode of summation is shown below on the left. Each dot represents a term in the double sum.



To switch the order of summation, sum over the dots as shown on the right.

$$e^{M+N} = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=l}^{\infty} \frac{M^{k-l} N^l}{(k-l)!l!}$$

Bring l to the left side.

$$e^{M+N} = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k-l=0}^{\infty} \frac{M^{k-l} N^l}{(k-l)!l!}$$

Make the substitution $p = k - l$.

$$e^{M+N} = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{p=0}^{\infty} \frac{M^p N^l}{p!l!}$$

Since there are no longer indices in the sums, the sums can be separated and ordered in any way.

$$\begin{aligned} e^{M+N} &= \left(\sum_{p=0}^{\infty} \frac{M^p}{p!} \right) \left(\sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{N^l}{l!} \right) \\ &= (e^M)(e^N) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, provided that M and N are commuting matrices,

$$e^{M+N} = e^M e^N.$$

In order to show that this result is not true for non-commuting matrices, let

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ -\theta & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad N = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \theta \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{so that} \quad M + N = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \theta \\ -\theta & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The two matrix products are

$$MN = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ -\theta & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \theta \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\theta^2 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad NM = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \theta \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ -\theta & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -\theta^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

$MN \neq NM$, so M and N do not commute. Since

$$M^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ -\theta & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ -\theta & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad N^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \theta \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \theta \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

the higher powers of M and N vanish as well.

$$M^3 = M^2M = 0M = 0$$

$$N^3 = N^2N = 0N = 0$$

$$M^4 = M^3M = 0M = 0$$

$$N^4 = N^3N = 0N = 0$$

$$\vdots$$

$$\vdots$$

$$M^k = 0, \quad k \geq 2$$

$$N^k = 0, \quad k \geq 2$$

And that means the respective exponential functions are

$$e^M = I + M + \frac{1}{2}M^2 + \dots$$

$$e^N = I + N + \frac{1}{2}N^2 + \dots$$

$$e^M = I + M$$

$$e^N = I + N$$

$$e^M = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -\theta & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$e^N = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \theta \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Therefore, for these non-commuting matrices, M and N ,

$$e^{M+N} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix} \neq \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \theta \\ -\theta & 1 - \theta^2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -\theta & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \theta \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = e^M e^N.$$

Part (d)

Assume that \mathbf{H} is a hermitian matrix: $\mathbf{H}^\dagger = \mathbf{H}$. The aim here is to show that $e^{i\mathbf{H}}$ is unitary, that is,

$$\left(e^{i\mathbf{H}}\right)^\dagger = \left(e^{i\mathbf{H}}\right)^{-1}.$$

Consider the exponential function of $i\mathbf{H}$.

$$\begin{aligned} e^{i\mathbf{H}} &= \mathbf{I} + (i\mathbf{H}) + \frac{1}{2}(i\mathbf{H})^2 + \frac{1}{3!}(i\mathbf{H})^3 + \dots \\ &= \mathbf{I} + (i\mathbf{H}) + \frac{1}{2}(i\mathbf{H})(i\mathbf{H}) + \frac{1}{3!}(i\mathbf{H})(i\mathbf{H})(i\mathbf{H}) + \dots \end{aligned}$$

Take the complex conjugate of both sides.

$$\begin{aligned} \left(e^{i\mathbf{H}}\right)^* &= \left[\mathbf{I} + (i\mathbf{H}) + \frac{1}{2}(i\mathbf{H})(i\mathbf{H}) + \frac{1}{3!}(i\mathbf{H})(i\mathbf{H})(i\mathbf{H}) + \dots\right]^* \\ &= \mathbf{I}^* + (i\mathbf{H})^* + \left[\frac{1}{2}(i\mathbf{H})(i\mathbf{H})\right]^* + \left[\frac{1}{3!}(i\mathbf{H})(i\mathbf{H})(i\mathbf{H})\right]^* + \dots \\ &= \mathbf{I} + (i\mathbf{H})^* + \frac{1}{2}(i\mathbf{H})^*(i\mathbf{H})^* + \frac{1}{3!}(i\mathbf{H})^*(i\mathbf{H})^*(i\mathbf{H})^* + \dots \end{aligned}$$

Take the transpose of both sides.

$$\begin{aligned} \left[\left(e^{i\mathbf{H}}\right)^*\right]^T &= \left[\mathbf{I} + (i\mathbf{H})^* + \frac{1}{2}(i\mathbf{H})^*(i\mathbf{H})^* + \frac{1}{3!}(i\mathbf{H})^*(i\mathbf{H})^*(i\mathbf{H})^* + \dots\right]^T \\ &= \mathbf{I}^T + [(i\mathbf{H})^*]^T + \left[\frac{1}{2}(i\mathbf{H})^*(i\mathbf{H})^*\right]^T + \left[\frac{1}{3!}(i\mathbf{H})^*(i\mathbf{H})^*(i\mathbf{H})^*\right]^T + \dots \\ &= \mathbf{I} + [(i\mathbf{H})^*]^T + \frac{1}{2}[(i\mathbf{H})^*]^T [(i\mathbf{H})^*]^T + \frac{1}{3!}[(i\mathbf{H})^*]^T [(i\mathbf{H})^*]^T [(i\mathbf{H})^*]^T + \dots \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \left(e^{i\mathbf{H}}\right)^\dagger &= \mathbf{I} + (i\mathbf{H})^\dagger + \frac{1}{2}(i\mathbf{H})^\dagger(i\mathbf{H})^\dagger + \frac{1}{3!}(i\mathbf{H})^\dagger(i\mathbf{H})^\dagger(i\mathbf{H})^\dagger + \dots \\ &= \mathbf{I} + (i\mathbf{H})^\dagger + \frac{1}{2}\left[(i\mathbf{H})^\dagger\right]^2 + \frac{1}{3!}\left[(i\mathbf{H})^\dagger\right]^3 + \dots \\ &= e^{(i\mathbf{H})^\dagger} \\ &= e^{-i\mathbf{H}^\dagger} \\ &= e^{-i\mathbf{H}} \\ &= \left(e^{i\mathbf{H}}\right)^{-1}, \end{aligned}$$

which means $e^{i\mathbf{H}}$ is unitary.