

NPTEL
NPTEL ONLINE COURSE
Discrete Mathematics Relations
Condition for relation to be symmetric
With
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Discrete Mathematics

Relations

Condition for relation to be symmetric

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How does $M = M^T$ signify that M is symmetric? Observe. Symmetric means ij^{th} entry should be equal to ji^{th} entry. When you take the transpose of M , your ij^{th} entry becomes ji^{th} entry. Your ji^{th} entry becomes ij^{th} entry and when you say it should be equal, you are essentially saying the same thing; the ij^{th} entry should be equal to ji^{th} entry. The English statement of ij^{th} entry should be equal to ji^{th} entry is captured by this mathematical equation M should be equal to M^T , then M is symmetric. If not, then M is not symmetric.

How does $M = M^T$ signify that M is symmetric?

M^T : j^{th} entry = i^{th} entry

$M \neq M^T$
↳ Not Symmetric

Different from Anti-Symmetric

A word of warning, not symmetric is different antisymmetric. I leave it to you to observe what I just now said.

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