

How Does Nature Compute?



How Does Nature Concatenate?

Strings: Trivial operation: $a \cdot b = ab$
 $x \cdot y = xy$

Nature uses (linear) operators $A \cdot B = \{x \cdot y : x \in A \wedge y \in B\}$
 that we represent as matrices (over a standard basis).

Nature's concatenation of operators A, B is not their product $A \cdot B$

All matrices we care about will be square $n \times n$ or $N \times N$ where n or N are finite.

This is composition

Convention: N usually stands for 2^n .

$(A \cdot B)(u) = A(v)$ where $v = B(u)$. Δ Matrix product is not commutative.

Main Point: Matrix multiplication is highly "Lossy".

Instead, it is Tensor Product: $A \otimes B =$

How to visualize it: Say $A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & \dots & a_{nn} \end{bmatrix}$:

$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11}B & a_{12}B & \dots & a_{1n}B \\ a_{21}B & a_{22}B & \dots & a_{2n}B \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1}B & a_{n2}B & \dots & a_{nn}B \end{bmatrix}$

As a matrix, if A is $n \times n$ and B is $r \times r$, then

$A \otimes B$ is $(nr) \times (nr)$. If we form $\underbrace{A \otimes A \otimes \dots \otimes A}_{K \text{ items}}$, then

the matrix $A^{\otimes K}$ has size n^K . If $K \ll n$, this is exponential size

Example Hadamard Matrix (without normalizing)

$$H = H_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

(normalized: $\begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & -1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}$)

$$H \otimes H = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} & 1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \\ 1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} & -1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{matrix} & 00 & 01 & 10 & 11 \\ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{matrix} 00 \\ 01 \\ 10 \\ 11 \end{matrix} \end{matrix} \quad 4 \times 4$$

$H \otimes H \otimes H$ is $2^3 \times 2^3$
ie 8×8

$H^{\otimes n}$ is $N \times N$ where $N = 2^n$

Rule: $+1$ if $\langle \text{row}, \text{col} \rangle = 0$
Multiply $\text{row}_i \cdot \text{col}_i$ for all i
then add up mod 2.

ADDED

Why is this concatenation?

Consider $A \otimes B \otimes C$ where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} b_{11} & b_{12} \\ b_{21} & b_{22} \end{bmatrix} \quad C = \begin{bmatrix} c_{11} & c_{12} \\ c_{21} & c_{22} \end{bmatrix}$$

This rule defines $H^{\otimes n} [x, y]$
for any n .

The resulting 8×8 matrix - call it D - gives
 $D[x_1, x_2, x_3, y_1, y_2, y_3] = A[x_1, y_1] \cdot B[x_2, y_2] \cdot C[x_3, y_3]$

a_{11}	$b_{11} \begin{bmatrix} c_{11} & c_{12} \\ c_{21} & c_{22} \end{bmatrix}$	$b_{21} \begin{bmatrix} c_{11} & c_{12} \\ c_{21} & c_{22} \end{bmatrix}$	a_{12}	$b_{11} \begin{bmatrix} c_{11} & c_{12} \\ c_{21} & c_{22} \end{bmatrix}$	$b_{12} \begin{bmatrix} c_{11} & c_{12} \\ c_{21} & c_{22} \end{bmatrix}$
a_{21}	$b_{21} \begin{bmatrix} c_{11} & c_{12} \\ c_{21} & c_{22} \end{bmatrix}$	$b_{22} \begin{bmatrix} c_{11} & c_{12} \\ c_{21} & c_{22} \end{bmatrix}$	a_{22}	$b_{21} \begin{bmatrix} c_{11} & c_{12} \\ c_{21} & c_{22} \end{bmatrix}$	$b_{22} \begin{bmatrix} c_{11} & c_{12} \\ c_{21} & c_{22} \end{bmatrix}$

for all binary strings $x_i, y_i \in \{0, 1\}^3$
as you can check by labeling the eight coordinates
000, 001, ...
... 110, 111.