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3.1 Determinants

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Recall:

$$\text{A} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{is invertible iff} \quad \underbrace{a_{11}a_{22} - a_{12}a_{21}}_{\det A} \neq 0$$

det A - "determinant"

For a 3×3 matrix:

$$\text{A} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\det A := a_{11}a_{22}a_{33} + a_{12}a_{23}a_{31} + a_{13}a_{21}a_{32} - a_{11}a_{23}a_{32} - a_{12}a_{21}a_{33} - a_{13}a_{22}a_{31}$$

terms: $\begin{bmatrix} \circ & \dots & \circ \\ \dots & \circ & \dots \\ \dots & \dots & \circ \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \dots & \circ & \circ \\ \dots & \dots & \circ \\ \circ & \dots & \dots \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \dots & \dots & \circ \\ \circ & \dots & \dots \\ \dots & \dots & \dots \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} \circ & \dots & \circ \\ \dots & \dots & \circ \\ \dots & \circ & \dots \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} \dots & \circ & \circ \\ \circ & \dots & \dots \\ \dots & \dots & \circ \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} \dots & \circ & \circ \\ \circ & \dots & \dots \\ \circ & \dots & \dots \end{bmatrix}$

• A invertible iff $\det A \neq 0$

$$\bullet \det A = a_{11}(a_{22}a_{33} - a_{23}a_{32}) - a_{12}(a_{21}a_{33} - a_{23}a_{31}) + a_{13}(a_{21}a_{32} - a_{22}a_{31})$$

$$= a_{11} \underbrace{\det \begin{bmatrix} a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{32} & a_{33} \end{bmatrix}}_{A_{11}} - a_{12} \underbrace{\det \begin{bmatrix} a_{21} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{33} \end{bmatrix}}_{A_{12}} + a_{13} \underbrace{\det \begin{bmatrix} a_{21} & a_{22} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} \end{bmatrix}}_{A_{13}}$$

A_{11} - A with row 1 and column 1 deleted

$$= a_{11} \det A_{11} - a_{12} \det A_{12} + a_{13} \det A_{13}$$

• for A $n \times n$ square matrix, A_{ij} - submatrix formed by deleting row i and column j from A

Ex: $\text{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 \\ 9 & 10 & 11 & 12 \\ 13 & 14 & 15 & 16 \end{bmatrix}$

$$A_{23} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 9 & 10 & 12 \\ 13 & 14 & 16 \end{bmatrix}$$

• For a 1×1 matrix, $\det [a_{11}] = a_{11}$

• recursive definition of the determinant:

def: For $A = [a_{ij}]$ an $n \times n$ matrix, $n \geq 2$, the determinant is:

$$(*) \det A = a_{11} \det A_{11} - a_{12} \det A_{12} + \dots + (-1)^{1+n} a_{1n} \det A_{1n} = \sum_{j=1}^n (-1)^{1+j} a_{1j} \det A_{1j}$$

$$\text{Ex: } A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 & 0 \\ 5 & 1 & -7 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Q: compute $\det A$

$$\text{Sol: } \det A = 2 \underbrace{\left| \begin{array}{cc} 1 & -7 \\ 0 & -2 \end{array} \right|}_{\text{det}(\dots) \text{ notation}} - 3 \left| \begin{array}{cc} 5 & -7 \\ 0 & -2 \end{array} \right| + 0 \cdot \left| \begin{array}{cc} 5 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{array} \right| = 2 \cdot (-2) - 3(-10) + 0 \cdot 0 = 26$$

for $A = [a_{ij}]$, the (i,j) -cofactor of A is: $C_{ij} = (-1)^{i+j} \det A_{ij}$

By (*), we have: $\det A = a_{11} C_{11} + a_{12} C_{12} + \dots + a_{1n} C_{1n}$ - "cofactor expansion across the first row of A ".

Thm $\det A$ can be computed by a cofactor expansion across any row:

$$\det A = a_{i1} C_{i1} + a_{i2} C_{i2} + \dots + a_{in} C_{in} \quad (\text{row } i)$$

$$\text{or down any column: } \det A = a_{1j} C_{1j} + a_{2j} C_{2j} + \dots + a_{nj} C_{nj} \quad (\text{column } j)$$

$$\text{Ex: } A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 5 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -7 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \quad Q: \text{compute } \det A \text{ (by cofactor expansion)}$$

Sol: cofactor expansion down 3rd column:

$$\det A = a_{31} \underbrace{C_{31}}_{\det A_{31}} + a_{32} \underbrace{C_{32}}_{-\det A_{32}} + a_{33} \underbrace{C_{33}}_{\det A_{33}} = 0 \cdot \left| \begin{array}{cc} 3 & 1 \\ 0 & -7 \end{array} \right| - 0 \cdot \left| \begin{array}{cc} 2 & 5 \\ 0 & -7 \end{array} \right| + (-2) \left| \begin{array}{cc} 2 & 5 \\ 3 & 1 \end{array} \right| = (-2)(-13) = 26$$

• It is useful to do a cofactor expansion across a row/col. containing many zeros!

$$\text{Ex: } A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -7 & 8 & 9 & -6 \\ 0 & 2 & -5 & 7 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 4 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\det A = 3 \left| \begin{array}{cccc} 2 & -5 & 7 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 4 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 & 0 \end{array} \right| + 0 \cdot (\dots) + 0 \cdot (\dots) + 0 \cdot (\dots) + 0 \cdot (\dots)$$

$$\xrightarrow[1^{\text{st}} \text{ col}]{} = 3 \cdot 2 \left| \begin{array}{ccc} 1 & 5 & 0 \\ 2 & 4 & -1 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 \end{array} \right| = 3 \cdot 2 \cdot \underbrace{(-1)}_{\text{3rd row}} \cdot \underbrace{(-2)}_{(-1)^{3+2}} \left| \begin{array}{cc} 1 & 0 \\ 2 & -1 \end{array} \right| = -12$$

Thm if A is a triangular matrix, then $\det A$ is the product of diagonal entries of A

$$\text{Ex: } \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 4 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 6 \end{vmatrix} = 1 \cdot \begin{vmatrix} 4 & 5 \\ 0 & 6 \end{vmatrix} = 1 \cdot 4 \cdot 6 = 1 \cdot 4 \cdot 6$$

Practice problem:

compute $\begin{vmatrix} 5 & -7 & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 & -4 \\ -5 & -8 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 5 & 0 & -6 \end{vmatrix}$

3.2 Properties of determinants

How does det change under row operations?

THM

Let A be a square matrix

(a) if $A \sim B$ row replacement, then $\det B = \det A$

(b) if $A \sim B$ row interchange, then $\det B = -\det A$

(c) if $A \sim B$, then $\det B = k \cdot \det A$
 $\Leftrightarrow k \cdot r_i$

Ex compute $\det A$, $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -4 & 2 \\ -2 & 8 & -9 \\ -1 & 7 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

Sol: $\det A = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -4 & 2 \\ -2 & 8 & -9 \\ -1 & 7 & 0 \end{vmatrix} \underset{\substack{\text{row replacements} \\ \uparrow}}{=} \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 4 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & -5 \\ 0 & 3 & 2 \end{vmatrix} = - \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 4 & -2 \\ 0 & 3 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & -5 \end{vmatrix} \underset{\substack{\text{triangular} \\ \underbrace{r_2 \leftrightarrow r_3}}}{} = -1 \cdot 3 \cdot (-5) = 15$

• Suppose A was reduced to REF U using only row replacements & interchanges (always possible!)

Then: $\det A = (-1)^{\# \text{interchanges}} \det U = (-1)^{\# \text{interchanges}} u_{11} u_{22} \dots u_{nn}$
since U triangular

$$U = \begin{bmatrix} * & * & * & * \\ 0 & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & * \end{bmatrix}$$

A invertible \Rightarrow

$$\det A = (-1)^{\# \text{interchanges}} \cdot (\text{product of pivots})$$

$$U = \begin{bmatrix} * & * & * & * \\ 0 & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & * \end{bmatrix}$$

A non-invertible $\Rightarrow \det A = 0$

Thm A square matrix A is invertible iff $\det A \neq 0$

- $\det A = 0 \Leftrightarrow$ columns of A are lin. dep. \Leftrightarrow rows of A are lin. dep.

Ex: $\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 4 \end{vmatrix} = 0$ since $r_3 = r_1 + r_2$

Ex: (combining row reduction and cofactor expansion)

$$\begin{vmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 2 & 5 & -7 & 3 \\ 0 & 3 & 6 & 2 \\ -2 & -5 & 4 & -2 \end{vmatrix} \xrightarrow{r_4 \leftrightarrow r_3 + r_2} \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 2 & 5 & -7 & 3 \\ 0 & 3 & 6 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & -3 & 1 \end{vmatrix} \xrightarrow[\text{cofactor expansion down col. 1}]{} -2 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 3 & 6 & 2 \\ 0 & -3 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = -2 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & -3 & 1 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\xrightarrow[r_2 \leftrightarrow r_3]{\text{triangular}} = 2 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & -3 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 \end{vmatrix} = 2 \cdot 1 \cdot (-3) \cdot 5 = -30$$

Thm: $\det A^T = \det A$

Thm: $\det(AB) = (\det A)(\det B)$

Ex: $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$ $B = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ $AB = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 5 \\ 4 & 15 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\det A = 3 \quad \det B = 2 \quad \det AB = 2 \cdot 15 - 5 \cdot 4 = 6 = 3 \cdot 2 \quad \checkmark$$

WARNING: $\det(A+B) \neq \det A + \det B$ generally

$$(\text{e.g. in ex. above, } A+B = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 5 \\ 2 & 5 \end{bmatrix}, \det(A+B) = 2 \neq 3+2)$$

- one can perform column operations on A , similar to row operations
 $\det A$ changes in the same way as for row op.

Linearity property of the determinant function

Suppose, j -th column of A can vary: $A = [\vec{a}_1 \dots \vec{a}_{j-1} \ \vec{x} \ \vec{a}_{j+1} \dots \vec{a}_n]$

Set $T: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$$\vec{x} \mapsto T(\vec{x}) = \det[\vec{a}_1 \dots \vec{a}_{j-1} \ \vec{x} \ \vec{a}_{j+1} \dots \vec{a}_n]$$

Thm: $T(c\vec{x}) = c T(\vec{x})$

$$T(\vec{u} + \vec{v}) = T(\vec{u}) + T(\vec{v})$$

I.e., T is a lin. mapping.

Practice problem:

Compute $\begin{vmatrix} 1 & -3 & 1 & -2 \\ 2 & -5 & -1 & -2 \\ 0 & -4 & 5 & 1 \\ -3 & 10 & -6 & 8 \end{vmatrix}$

Sol:
$$\begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{R_2 \rightarrow R_2 - 2R_1} \\ \xrightarrow{R_3 \rightarrow R_3 + 3R_1} \end{array} \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -3 & 1 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & -3 & 2 \\ 0 & -4 & 5 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -3 & 2 \end{vmatrix} = 0$$