Assignment 3 MAT 257

Q6: We claim that if $f: \mathbb{R}^4 \to \mathbb{R}$ is the determinant on 2 by 2 matrices, then Df(a,b,c,d)(x,y,z,w) = dx - cy - bz + aw. We proceed by showing that $\lim_{h\to 0} \frac{\|f(x+h) - f(x) - Df(x)(h)\|}{\|h\|} = 0$

$$\begin{split} &\lim_{(x,y,z,w)\to 0} \frac{\|\det(a+x,b+y,c+z,d+w) - \det(a,b,c,d) - Df(a,b,c,d)(x,y,z,w)\|}{\|x,y,z,w\|} \\ &= \lim_{(x,y,z,w)\to 0} \frac{\|(a+x)(d+w) - (b+y)(c+z) - (ad-bc) - (dx-cy-bz+aw)\|}{\|(x,y,z,w)\|} \\ &= \lim_{(x,y,z,w)\to 0} \frac{\|ad+aw+dx+xw-bc-bz-cy-yz-ad+bc-dx+cy+bz-aw\|}{\|(x,y,z,w)\|} \\ &= \lim_{(x,y,z,w)\to 0} \frac{\|xw-yz\|}{\|(x,y,z,w)\|} \end{split}$$

. Note that $xw - yz = Det \begin{pmatrix} x & y \\ z & w \end{pmatrix}$ Since the determinant is bilinear in each column it follows that the above limit is equal to 0 by 5a. The claim follows.