

MATH 165
Linear Algebra & Diff. Equation
Midterm II
Review Note with Examples

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Chapter 1

Determinants

1.1 Lecture 9: Def. of Determinants & it's calculation

This lecture covers:

- 3.1 The Definition of the Determinant
- 3.3 Cofactor Expansions (partly)

1.1.1 What is Determinants

Definition 1.1.1: Determinants

The **determinants** of a square matrix A , denoted $\det(A)$, is a number associated with the matrix A that is *designed* to carry information about the invertibility (among other things) of the matrix A . We also use the notation $|A|$ to denote the determinant of A .

The way we calculate determinants is derived from the fact of changing the matrix into RREF (Reduce-Row-Echelon-Form) and seeing if the matrix is invertible. If the matrix is invertible, then the determinant is not zero. If the matrix is not invertible, then the determinant is zero. The way we calculate it is based on observation. (P.196)

1.1.2 How to calculate Determinants

1 by 1 matrix The determinant of a 1×1 matrix $[a_{11}]$ is a_{11} .

Example.

Calculate the determinant of the matrix $A = [3]$.

$$|3| = 3$$

What is the rank of the matrix A ?

The rank of the matrix A is 1.

Example.

Calculate the determinant of the matrix $A = [0]$.

$$\begin{vmatrix} 0 \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

What is the rank of the matrix A ?

The rank of the matrix A is 0. (Since the determinant is 0, the matrix is not invertible.)

2 by 2 matrix The determinant of a 2×2 matrix $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$ is given by $ad - bc$.

$$\begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix} = ad - bc$$

The way we calculate it is by taking the product of the diagonal elements and subtracting the product of the off-diagonal elements.

Example.

Calculate the determinant of the matrix $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$.

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{vmatrix} = 1 \cdot 4 - 2 \cdot 3 = 4 - 6 = -2$$

What is the rank of the matrix A ?

The rank of the matrix A is 2.

Is the matrix invertible?

Yes, the matrix is invertible, since $-2 \neq 0$.

Example.

Calculate the determinant of the matrix $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$.

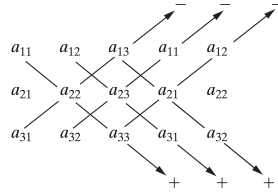
$$\begin{vmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 6 \end{vmatrix} = 2 \cdot 6 - 3 \cdot 4 = 12 - 12 = 0$$

What is the rank of the matrix A ?

The rank of the matrix A is 1.

Is the matrix invertible?

No, the matrix is not invertible, since $0 = 0$.

Figure 1.1: Determinant of a 3×3 matrix

3 by 3 matrix The determinant of a 3×3 matrix has a similar 'diagonals'-type definition:

$$|A| = \begin{vmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{vmatrix} = aei + bfg + cdh - ceg - bdi - afh$$

We can use a clever trick with arrows by repeating the first two columns to calculate the determinant of a 3×3 matrix.

Example.

Calculate the determinant of the matrix $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$.

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 \end{vmatrix} = 1 \cdot 5 \cdot 9 + 2 \cdot 6 \cdot 7 + 3 \cdot 4 \cdot 8 - 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 - 2 \cdot 4 \cdot 9 - 1 \cdot 6 \cdot 8 = 0$$

What is the rank of the matrix A ?

The rank of the matrix A is 2.

Is the matrix invertible?

No, the matrix is not invertible, since $0 = 0$.

Remark.

If the dimension of a matrix is greater than 3×3 , we won't be able to find the determinant in one step, as the sub-matrices will have dimension at least 3×3 .

Larger matrix Another more common way to find the determinant of a 3×3 matrix is to use the **cofactor expansion** method. The cofactor expansion method is a way to calculate the determinant of a matrix by breaking it down into smaller matrices. This can also apply to **larger matrices**.

$$\begin{vmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{vmatrix} = a \begin{vmatrix} e & f \\ h & i \end{vmatrix} - b \begin{vmatrix} d & f \\ g & i \end{vmatrix} + c \begin{vmatrix} d & e \\ g & h \end{vmatrix}$$

Theorem 1.1.2: Cofactor Expansion

We may expand along row i :

$$\det(A) = a_{i1}C_{i1} + a_{i2}C_{i2} + \cdots + a_{in}C_{in} = \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}C_{ij}$$

We may expand along column j :

$$\det(A) = a_{1j}C_{1j} + a_{2j}C_{2j} + \cdots + a_{nj}C_{nj} = \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ij}C_{ij}$$

The way you do so is to choose a row or a column (typically, a row or column with the most zeros) and expand the determinant along that row or column. If the matrix after expansion is still not a 2×2 matrix, you can expand it again.

Example.

Calculate the determinant of the matrix $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 \\ 9 & 10 & 11 & 12 \\ 13 & 14 & 15 & 16 \end{bmatrix}$.

Let's choose the first row to expand the determinant.

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 \\ 9 & 10 & 11 & 12 \\ 13 & 14 & 15 & 16 \end{vmatrix} = 1 \begin{vmatrix} 6 & 7 & 8 \\ 10 & 11 & 12 \\ 14 & 15 & 16 \end{vmatrix} - 2 \begin{vmatrix} 5 & 7 & 8 \\ 9 & 11 & 12 \\ 13 & 15 & 16 \end{vmatrix} + 3 \begin{vmatrix} 5 & 6 & 8 \\ 9 & 10 & 12 \\ 13 & 14 & 16 \end{vmatrix} - 4 \begin{vmatrix} 5 & 6 & 7 \\ 9 & 10 & 11 \\ 13 & 14 & 15 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= 1 \times 6 \begin{vmatrix} 11 & 12 \\ 15 & 16 \end{vmatrix} - 2 \times 7 \begin{vmatrix} 9 & 12 \\ 13 & 16 \end{vmatrix} + 3 \times 8 \begin{vmatrix} 9 & 11 \\ 13 & 15 \end{vmatrix} - 4 \times 5 \begin{vmatrix} 10 & 11 \\ 14 & 15 \end{vmatrix} \dots = 0$$

What is the rank of the matrix A ?

The rank of the matrix A is 2.

Is the matrix invertible?

No, the matrix is not invertible, since $0 = 0$.

1.1.3 Determinant of matrix functions

1.1.4 geometry Application: areas and volumes

1.2 Lecture 10: Rank, Invertibility, Elementary Row Operations & additional properties of determinants

Chapter 2

Vector Spaces

- 2.1 Lecture 11: Vector Spaces, Zero-Vectors, Dimensions, basis, & Linear Combinations
- 2.2 Lecture 12: Vector Subspace & Proof
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