

## Assignment 5

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Please note that

- **Released date: Mar. 24th**
- **Due date: Apr. 7th, by 11:59 pm.**
- Late submission is **NOT** accepted.
- Please hand in your solution in PDF format titled “student number + HW5.pdf”.  
 Note that the file size is at most 10MB.

**Question 1.** Let

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 2 & 4 \\ 1 & -2 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

- (a) Find the values of  $\det(M_{21})$ ,  $\det(M_{22})$ , and  $\det(M_{23})$ .  
 (b) Find the values of  $A_{21}$ ,  $A_{22}$ , and  $A_{23}$ .  
 (c) Use your answers from part (b) to compute  $\det(A)$ .

### Solution

- (a)  $\det(M_{21}) = -8$ ,  $\det(M_{22}) = -2$  and  $\det(M_{23}) = 5$ .  
 (b)  $A_{21} = 8$ ,  $A_{22} = -2$  and  $A_{23} = -5$ .  
 (c)  $\det(A) = 1A_{21} + (-2)A_{22} + 3A_{23} = -3$ .

**Question 2.** Evaluate the following determinant. Write your answer as a polynomial in

$x$  :

$$\begin{vmatrix} a-x & b & c \\ 1 & -x & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -x \end{vmatrix}$$

**Solution**

$$\begin{vmatrix} a-x & b & c \\ 1 & -x & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -x \end{vmatrix} = (-1)^{(1+1)} \cdot (a-x) \cdot \begin{vmatrix} -x & 0 \\ 1 & -x \end{vmatrix} + (-1)^{(2+1)} \cdot 1 \cdot \begin{vmatrix} b & c \\ 1 & -x \end{vmatrix} \\
 = -x^3 + ax^2 + bx + c$$

**Question 3.** Evaluate each of the following determinants by inspection.

(a)  $\begin{vmatrix} 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 4 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{vmatrix}$

(b)  $\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 3 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 2 \\ -1 & -1 & -1 & 2 \end{vmatrix}$

(c)  $\begin{vmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{vmatrix}$

**Solution**

(a)

$$\begin{aligned}
 \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 4 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{vmatrix} &= (-1)^{1+3} \cdot 3 \cdot \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 4 \\ 2 & 3 \end{vmatrix} \\
 &= 1 \cdot 3 \cdot (-8) \\
 &= -24
 \end{aligned}$$

(b)

$$\begin{aligned}
 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 3 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 2 \\ -1 & -1 & -1 & 2 \end{vmatrix} &= 1 \begin{vmatrix} 3 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 2 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 \end{vmatrix} - 0 + 0 + 1 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 2 \end{vmatrix} \\
 &= 1 \times 3 \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ -1 & 2 \end{vmatrix} + 1 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 \end{vmatrix} + 1 \times \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 \end{vmatrix} \\
 &\quad + 1 \times (-3) \times \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 2 \end{vmatrix} \\
 &= 3(4 + 2) + 1(2 - 2) + 1(2 - 2) - 3(2 - 6) \\
 &= 30
 \end{aligned}$$

(c)

$$\begin{aligned}
 \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{vmatrix} &= (-1)^{4+1} \cdot 1 \cdot \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} \\
 &= -1 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 \\
 &= -1
 \end{aligned}$$

**Question 4.** Let

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ -2 & -2 & 3 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & -2 & -3 \end{pmatrix}$$

(a) Use the elimination method to evaluate  $\det(A)$ .

(b) Use the value of  $\det(A)$  to evaluate

$$\begin{vmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ -2 & -2 & 3 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & -2 & -3 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{vmatrix} + \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 & 4 & 4 \\ 2 & 3 & -1 & -2 \end{vmatrix}$$

### Solution

(a)

$$\begin{aligned} & \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ -2 & -2 & 3 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & -2 & -3 \end{vmatrix} = - \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ -2 & -2 & 3 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & -2 & -3 \end{vmatrix} \\ & = - \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & -3 & -4 \end{vmatrix} \\ & = - \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & -5 & -7 \end{vmatrix} \\ & = - \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -2 \end{vmatrix} \\ & = -(-10) \\ & = 10 \end{aligned}$$

**Solution**

(b)

For the first part:

$$\begin{aligned}
|A| &= \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ -2 & -2 & 3 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & -2 & -3 \end{vmatrix} \\
&= - \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ -2 & -2 & 3 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & -2 & -3 \end{vmatrix} \quad R_2 \leftrightarrow R_3 \\
&= (-1)(-1) \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ -2 & -2 & 3 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & -2 & -3 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{vmatrix} \quad R_3 \leftrightarrow R_4 \\
&= \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ -2 & -2 & 3 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & -2 & -3 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{vmatrix} \\
&= |B|
\end{aligned}$$

For the second part:

The matrix

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 & 4 & 4 \\ 2 & 3 & -1 & -2 \end{pmatrix}$$

is obtained by replacing  $R_3$  by  $R_3 \rightarrow R_2 + R_3$ ,  $R_4$  by  $R_4 \rightarrow R_4 + R_2$  of the matrix  $A$ . Under this operation, the value of determinant will not change.

Therefore,

$$|C| = \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 & 4 & 4 \\ 2 & 3 & -1 & -2 \end{vmatrix} = |A|$$

Therefore,

$$|B| + |C| = |A|^5 + |A| = 10 + 10 = 20$$

**Question 5.** For each of the following, compute the determinant and state whether the matrix is singular or nonsingular:

(a)  $\begin{pmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 6 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$

(e)  $\begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & 3 \\ -1 & 2 & -2 \\ 1 & 4 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

### Solution

(a)

$$\begin{aligned} |A| &= \begin{vmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 6 & 2 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= 3 \times 2 - 6 \times 1 \\ &= 6 - 6 \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Since  $|A| = 0$ , matrix  $A$  is singular.

(e)

$$\begin{aligned} |A| &= \begin{vmatrix} 2 & -1 & 3 \\ -1 & 2 & -2 \\ 1 & 4 & 0 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= 2 \begin{vmatrix} 2 & -2 \\ 4 & 0 \end{vmatrix} + 1 \begin{vmatrix} -1 & -2 \\ 1 & 0 \end{vmatrix} + 3 \begin{vmatrix} -1 & 2 \\ 1 & 4 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= 2(0 + 8) + 1(0 + 2) + 3(-4 - 2) \\ &= 2(8) + 1(2) + 3(-6) \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Since  $|A| = 0$ ,  $A$  is singular.

**Question 6.** Find all possible choices of  $c$  that would make the following matrix singular:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 9 & c \\ 1 & c & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

**Solution**

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 9 & c \\ 1 & c & 3 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 8 & c-1 \\ 0 & c-1 & 2 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 8 & c-1 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 - \frac{(c-1)^2}{8} \end{vmatrix} = 16 - (c-1)^2$$

To make the matrix singular, the determinant should be 0.

Therefore,  $16 - (c-1)^2 = 0$ ,  $c = 5$  or  $-3$ .

(*Tips*: Cofactor expansion is also ok here.)

**Question 7.** Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix and  $\alpha$  a scalar. Show that

$$\det(\alpha A) = \alpha^n \det(A)$$

**Solution**

$\alpha A$  means multiplying a constant  $\alpha$  to each row/column of  $A$ .

And  $EA$  means multiplying a constant  $\alpha$  to a row of  $A$ , if  $E$  is a type II elementary matrix with  $\det(E) = \alpha$ .

Therefore,

$\alpha A = E_1 E_2 \dots E_i \dots E_n A$ , if  $E_i$  is a type II elementary matrix with the nonzero entry in  $i$ th row is  $\alpha$ .

Then,

$$\det(\alpha A) = \det(E_1 E_2 \dots E_i \dots E_n A) = \det(E_1) \det(E_2) \dots \det(E_i) \dots \det(E_n) \det(A) = \alpha^n \det(A)$$

**Question 8.** Let  $A$  be a nonsingular matrix. Show that

$$\det(A^{-1}) = \frac{1}{\det(A)}$$

**Solution**

$$\det(A^{-1}) \det(A) = \det(A^{-1} A) = \det(I) = 1$$

Therefore,

$$\det(A^{-1}) = \frac{1}{\det(A)}$$

**Question 9.** Let  $E_1, E_2$ , and  $E_3$  be  $3 \times 3$  elementary matrices of types I, II, and III, respectively, and let  $A$  be a  $3 \times 3$  matrix with  $\det(A) = 6$ . Assume, additionally, that  $E_2$  was formed from  $I$  by multiplying its second row by 3. Find the values of

each of the following:

- (a)  $\det(E_1 A)$       (b)  $\det(E_2 A)$       (c)  $\det(E_3 A)$   
 (d)  $\det(AE_1)$       (e)  $\det(E_1^2)$       (f)  $\det(E_1 E_2 E_3)$

### Solution

(a) -6; (b) 18; (c) 6; (d) -6; (e) 1; (f) -3

**Question 10.** Consider the  $3 \times 3$  Vandermonde matrix

$$V = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & x_1 & x_1^2 \\ 1 & x_2 & x_2^2 \\ 1 & x_3 & x_3^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

- (a) Show that  $\det(V) = (x_2 - x_1)(x_3 - x_1)(x_3 - x_2)$ .

*Hint:* Make use of row operation III.

- (b) What conditions must the scalars  $x_1, x_2$ , and  $x_3$  satisfy in order for  $V$  to be nonsingular?

### Solution

(a)

$$\begin{aligned} \det(V) &= \begin{vmatrix} 1 & x_1 & x_1^2 \\ 1 & x_2 & x_2^2 \\ 1 & x_3 & x_3^2 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & x_1 & x_1^2 \\ 0 & x_2 - x_1 & x_2^2 - x_1^2 \\ 0 & x_3 - x_1 & x_3^2 - x_1^2 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} x_2 - x_1 & x_2^2 - x_1^2 \\ x_3 - x_1 & x_3^2 - x_1^2 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= (x_2 - x_1)(x_3^2 - x_1^2) - (x_3 - x_1)(x_2^2 - x_1^2) \\ &= x_2 x_3^2 - x_1 x_3^2 - x_2 x_1^2 + x_1^3 - x_3 x_2^2 + x_1 x_2^2 + x_3 x_1^2 - x_1^3 \\ &= (x_2 x_3^2 - x_1 x_3^2 + x_3 x_1^2 - x_1 x_2 x_3) + (x_1 x_2^2 - x_3 x_2^2 - x_2 x_1^2 + x_1 x_2 x_3) \\ &= x_3(x_2 x_3 - x_1 x_3 + x_1^2 - x_1 x_2) + x_2(x_1 x_2 - x_3 x_2 - x_1^2 + x_1 x_3) \\ &= (x_3 - x_2)(x_2 x_3 - x_1 x_3 + x_1^2 - x_1 x_2) \\ &= (x_2 - x_1)(x_3 - x_1)(x_3 - x_2) \end{aligned}$$

(b)

To make  $V$  nonsingular,

$$\det(V) = (x_2 - x_1)(x_3 - x_1)(x_3 - x_2) \neq 0.$$

Then the scalars  $x_1, x_2$ , and  $x_3$  should satisfy  $x_1 \neq x_2 \neq x_3$ .

**Question 11.** A matrix  $A$  is said to be *skew symmetric* if  $A^T = -A$ . For example,

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$



is skew symmetric, since

$$A^T = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = -A$$

If  $A$  is an  $n \times n$  skew-symmetric matrix and  $n$  is odd, show that  $A$  must be singular.

### Solution

Since  $A^T = -A$  and  $n$  is odd,

$$\det(A) = \det(A^T) = \det(-A) = (-1)^n \det(A) = -\det(A)$$

Therefore,

$\det(A) = 0$ , which means  $A$  must be singular.

**Question 12.** Let  $A$  be a  $k \times k$  matrix and let  $B$  be an  $(n - k) \times (n - k)$  matrix. Let

$$E = \begin{bmatrix} I_k & O \\ O & B \end{bmatrix}, F = \begin{bmatrix} A & O \\ O & I_{n-k} \end{bmatrix}, C = \begin{bmatrix} A & O \\ O & B \end{bmatrix}, \quad (1)$$

where  $I_k$  and  $I_{n-k}$  are the  $k \times k$  and  $(n - k) \times (n - k)$  identity matrices.

- (a) Show that  $\det(E) = \det(B)$ .
- (b) Show that  $\det(F) = \det(A)$ .
- (c) Show that  $\det(C) = \det(A)\det(B)$ .

### Solution

(a) The matrix  $E$  can be written as

$$E = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & O & O \\ O & I_{k-1} & O \\ O & 0 & B \end{bmatrix}, \quad (2)$$

By the cofactor expansion formula, we have

$$|E| = e_{11}(-1)^{1+1} \det \left( \begin{bmatrix} I_{k-1} & O \\ O & B \end{bmatrix} \right) = \det \left( \begin{bmatrix} I_{k-1} & O \\ O & B \end{bmatrix} \right) \quad (3)$$

By further applying the above derivations recursively, it will be seen that  $|E| = |B|$ .

(b) The proof is similar to that in (a).

(c) As

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} A & O \\ O & B \end{bmatrix} = EF, \quad |C| = |E||F| = |B||A| = |A||B|. \quad (4)$$

**Question 13.** For each of the following, compute (i)  $\det(A)$ , (ii)  $\text{adj}(A)$ , and (iii)  $A^{-1}$ .

(a)

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (5)$$

(b)

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 1 \\ -2 & 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (6)$$

### Solution

(a)

$$|A| = -7, \text{adj}(A) = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -2 \\ -3 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, A^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/7 & 2/7 \\ 3/7 & -1/7 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (7)$$

(b)

$$|A| = 3, \text{adj}(A) = \begin{bmatrix} -3 & 5 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 6 & -8 & -5 \end{bmatrix}, A^{-1} = \frac{1}{3}\text{adj}(A). \quad (8)$$

**Question 14.** Use Cramer's rule to solve the following system.

$$\begin{aligned} 2x_1 + x_2 - 3x_3 &= 0 \\ 4x_1 + 5x_2 + x_3 &= 8 \\ -2x_1 - x_2 + 4x_3 &= 2 \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

### Solution

As  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & -3 \\ 4 & 5 & 1 \\ -2 & -1 & 4 \end{bmatrix} = [\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2, \mathbf{a}_3]$ , and  $\mathbf{b} = [0, 8, 2]^T$ , by the Cramer's rule, we have

$$x_1 = \frac{|A_1|}{|A|} = \frac{|[\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{a}_2, \mathbf{a}_3]|}{|A|} = \frac{24}{6} = 4. \quad (10)$$

Similarly,

$$x_2 = \frac{|A_2|}{|A|} = \frac{|[\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{a}_3]|}{|A|} = \frac{-12}{6} = -2, \quad (11a)$$

$$x_3 = \frac{|A_3|}{|A|} = \frac{|[\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2, \mathbf{b}]|}{|A|} = \frac{12}{6} = 2. \quad (11b)$$

**Question 15.** Let

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 3 & 4 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \quad (12)$$

- (a) Compute  $\det(A)$ . Is  $A$  nonsingular?  
 (b) Compute  $\text{adj}(A)$  and the product  $A\text{adj}(A)$ .

**Solution**

(a) As

$$|A| = \sum_{j=1}^3 a_{1j}(-1)^{1+j}|M_{1j}| \quad (13a)$$

$$= 1|M_{11}| - 2|M_{12}| + 3|M_{13}| \quad (13b)$$

$$= 1 \times (-1) - 2 \times (-2) + 3 \times (-1) \quad (13c)$$

$$= 0, \quad (13d)$$

$A$  is singular.

$$(b) \text{ adj}(A) = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 2 & -4 & 2 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix}, \text{ and } A\text{adj}(A) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

**Question 16** Show that if  $A$  is nonsingular, then  $\text{adj}(A)$  is nonsingular and

$$[\text{adj}(A)]^{-1} = \det(A^{-1})A = \text{adj}(A^{-1}). \quad (14)$$

**Solution**

For a nonsingular matrix  $A$ , we have

$$|A| \neq 0 \quad (15a)$$

$$|A^{-1}| = \frac{1}{|A|} \quad (15b)$$

$$A^{-1} = \frac{\text{adj}(A)}{|A|} \quad (15c)$$

(a) Therefore,  $\text{adj}(A) = |A|A^{-1}$  is also nonsingular;

(b)  $\text{adj}(A) = |A|A^{-1} \Rightarrow [\text{adj}(A)]^{-1} = \frac{1}{|A|}(A^{-1})^{-1} = |A^{-1}|A$ ;

(c)  $A = \frac{\text{adj}(A^{-1})}{|A^{-1}|} \Rightarrow \text{adj}(A^{-1}) = |A^{-1}|A$ .

Combining (b) and (c), we have

$$[\text{adj}(A)]^{-1} = |A^{-1}|A = \text{adj}(A^{-1}). \quad (16)$$