

## Lecture 12 Determinants

If  $A$  is an  $n \times n$  square matrix, its determinant  $\det(A)$  is a number.

I). If  $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$ , then

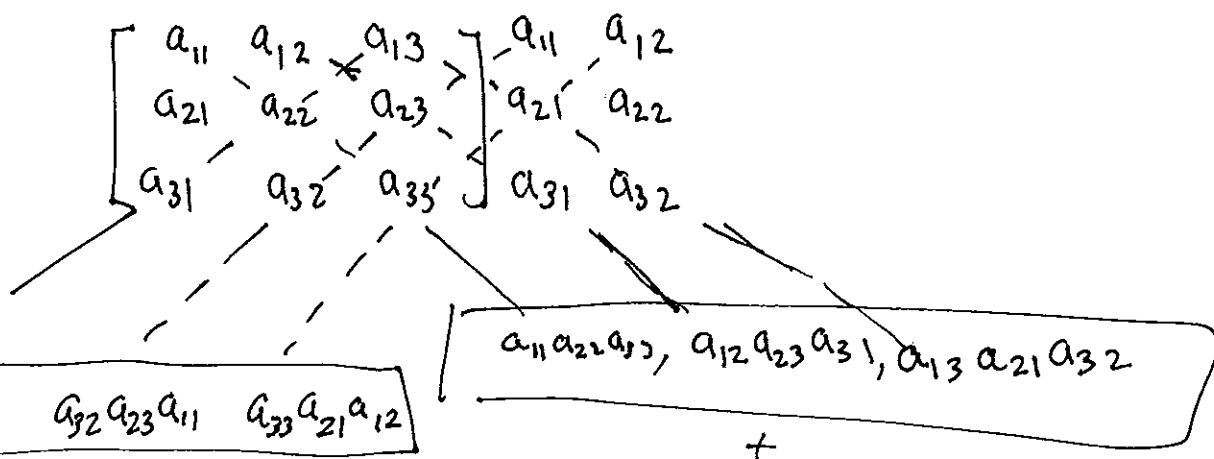
$$\det(A) = ad - bc$$

Ex.  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$   $\det(A) = 1 \times 4 - 2 \times 3 = 4 - 6 = -2.$

II) If  $A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{bmatrix}$ , then

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

It can be memorized via the following picture



Ex.  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$

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

$2 = 2 \times 1 \times 1$      $0$      $-3 = -1 \times 3 \times 1$      $6 = 2 \times 3 \times 1$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \det(A) &= 0 + 0 + 6 - (2 + 0 + (-3)) \\
 &= 6 - (-1) \\
 &= 7
 \end{aligned}$$

Exercise: 7.1.1. (b)  
7.1.2 (c)

(Before defining  $\det(A)$  for a general  $A$ , we introduce

### III) Minors and cofactors

i) Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix. The  $(i,j)$ th minor of  $A$ , denoted by  $M_{ij}$ , is the determinant of the  $(n-1) \times (n-1)$  matrix that is obtained by deleting the  $i$ th row and the  $j$ th column of  $A$ .

Ex Find the minors of the matrix  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 3 & 2 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

$M_{11}$  :

$$\begin{bmatrix} \cancel{1} & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 3 & 2 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$M_{11} = \det \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = 3 \times 1 - 2 \times 2 = 3 - 4 = -1$$

$M_{12}$  :

$$\begin{bmatrix} \cancel{1} & \cancel{2} & 3 \\ 4 & 3 & 2 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$M_{12} = \det \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 2 \\ 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = 4 \times 1 - 2 \times 3 = 4 - 6 = -2$$

$M_{13}$  :

$$\begin{bmatrix} \cancel{1} & 2 & \cancel{3} \\ 4 & 3 & 2 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$M_{13} = \det \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = 4 \times 2 - 3 \times 3 = 8 - 9 = -1$$

$$M_{21}: \left[ \begin{array}{cc|cc} & & 2 & 3 \\ & & 3 & 2 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 & \end{array} \right]$$

$$M_{21} = \det \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = 2 \times 1 - 3 \times 2 = 2 - 6 = -4$$

$$M_{22}: \left[ \begin{array}{cc|cc} & & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 3 & 2 & \\ 3 & 2 & 1 & \end{array} \right]$$

$$M_{22} = \det \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = 1 - 9 = -8$$

$$M_{23}: \left[ \begin{array}{cc|cc} & & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 3 & 2 & \\ 3 & 2 & & \end{array} \right]$$

$$M_{23} = \det \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = 1 \times 2 - 2 \times 3 = 2 - 6 = -4$$

$$M_{31}: \left[ \begin{array}{cc|cc} & & 2 & 3 \\ & & 3 & 2 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 & \end{array} \right]$$

$$M_{31} = \det \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = 4 - 9 = -5$$

$$M_{32}: \left[ \begin{array}{cc|cc} & & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 3 & 2 & \\ 3 & 2 & 1 & \end{array} \right]$$

$$M_{32} = \det \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 4 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = 2 - 12 = -10$$

$$M_{33}: \left[ \begin{array}{cc|cc} & & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 3 & 2 & \\ 3 & 2 & & \end{array} \right]$$

$$M_{33} = \det \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 4 & 3 \end{bmatrix} = 3 - 8 = -5$$

ii) Def. Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix, the  $(i,j)$  cofactor, denoted by  $C_{ij}$  is defined to be  $C_{ij} = (-1)^{i+j} M_{ij}$

Sign of  $(-1)^{i+j}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} + & - & + & - \\ - & + & - & + \\ + & - & + & - \\ - & + & - & + \end{bmatrix}_{4 \times 4}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} + & - & + \\ - & + & - \\ + & - & + \end{bmatrix}_{3 \times 3}$$

Example contd

$M_{ij}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & -2 & -1 \\ -4 & -8 & -4 \\ -5 & -10 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$(-1)^{i+j}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} + & - & + \\ - & + & - \\ + & - & + \end{bmatrix}$$

$C_{ij}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 4 & -8 & 4 \\ -5 & 10 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

iii) Let  $A = (a_{ij})$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix. The determinant  $\det(A)$  of  $A$  can be computed as follows.

(1) Pick a row, say  $i$ , and add all  $(i, j)^{\text{th}}$  cofactor, for various  $j$ , multiply by  $a_{ij}$ .

$$\det(A) = a_{i1} \cdot c_{i1} + a_{i2} c_{i2} + \dots + a_{in} c_{in}$$

or

(2) Pick a column, say  $j$ , add all  $(i, j)$  cofactor for various  $i$ , multiply by  $a_{ij}$ .

$$\det(A) = a_{1j} c_{1j} + a_{2j} c_{2j} + \dots + a_{nj} c_{nj}.$$

EX. continued : use the new def to compute the determinant of the matrix A in previous example.

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{row 1 :} \\ a_{1j} \quad 1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \\ c_{1j} \quad -1 \quad 2 \quad -1 \end{array}$$

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$$-1 + 4 + -3 = 0$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{row 2 :} \\ a_{2j} \quad 4 \quad 3 \quad 2 \\ c_{2j} \quad 4 \quad -8 \quad 4 \end{array}$$

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$$16 + -24 + 8 = 0$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{row 3} \\ a_{3j} \quad 3 \quad 2 \quad 1 \\ c_{3j} \quad -5 \quad 10 \quad -5 \end{array}$$

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$$-15 + 20 + -5 = 0$$

Column 1

$a_{i1}$	1	4	3
$C_{i1}$	-1	4	-5

---


$$-1 + 16 - 15 = 0$$

Column 2

$a_{i2}$	2	3	2
$C_{i2}$	2	-8	10

---


$$4 - 24 + 20 = 0$$

Column 3

$a_{i3}$	3	2	1
$C_{i3}$	-1	4	-5

---


$$-3 + 8 - 5 = 0$$

Original det.

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

$$= 1(3-8) - 2(2-12) + 3(2-12)$$

$$= -5 - 2(-10) + 3(-10)$$

$$= -5 + 20 - 30 = -15$$

$$\therefore \det(A) = 39 - 39 = 0.$$



Why the various computations lead to the same answer?

It requires more advanced math beyond the scope of this course.  
Instead, we put this observation as a theorem.

THM Expanding/computing the determinant of an  $n \times n$  matrix along any row or column always gives the same answer, which is the determinant.

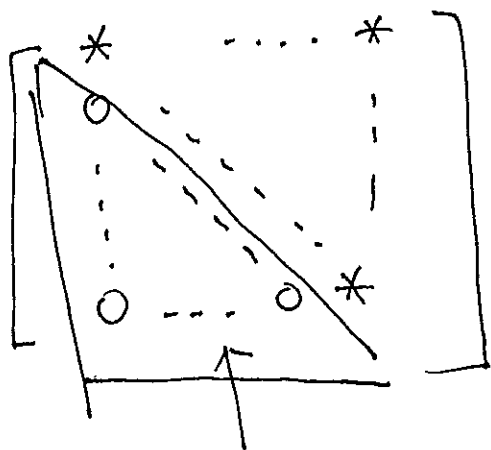
Exercise 7.2.1 (c), (f), 7.2.2.  $M_{32}, C_{3,2}$ .

7.2.3 (b), (c).

IV) The determinant of a triangular matrix.

Def. A square matrix  $A$  is upper triangular if  $a_{ij} = 0 \forall i > j$

It looks like



entries below the diagonal are zero

THM If  $A$  is upper triangular, then

$$\det(A) = \text{product of the diagonal entries} \\ = a_{11} a_{22} \dots a_{nn}$$

EX

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \boxed{1} & 2 & 3 & 16 \\ 0 & \boxed{2} & 6 & -7 \\ 0 & 0 & \boxed{3} & 33 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \boxed{-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\det(A) = 1 \times 2 \times 3 \times (-1) = -6$$

of diagonal entries

Similar one can define lower triangular, and its determinant is still product

Exercise 7.3.1 (c).

V) Determinants and row operations

$$A \xrightarrow[\text{operation}]{\text{a row}} B$$

$$\det(A) \longleftrightarrow \det(B)$$

How to relate?

THM. (1) If  $B$  is obtained from  $A$  by switching two rows, then

$$-\det(A) = \det(B)$$

(2) If  $B$  is obtained from  $A$  by multiplying one row by a non zero scalar  $k$ , then

$$\det(B) = k \det(A)$$

(3) If  $B$  is obtained from  $A$  by adding a multiple of one row to another row, then

$$\det(B) = \det(A).$$

VI)

## Properties of determinants

THM Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix. Then

$A$  is invertible if and only if  $\det(A) \neq 0$ .

Corollary Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix. Then the homogeneous system  
 $Ax = 0$  has non-trivial solutions if and only if  
 $\det(A) = 0$ .

THM Let  $A, B$  be  $n \times n$  matrices. Then

$$\det(AB) = \det(A) \cdot \det(B).$$

Example

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ -3 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 \\ 4 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad AB = \begin{bmatrix} 11 & 4 \\ -1 & -4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\det(A) = 2 - (-3) \times 2 = 8 \quad \det(B) = 3 - 8 = -5, \quad \det(AB) = -40$$

$$\det(A) \cdot \det(B) = 8 \times (-5) = -40 = \det(AB).$$

Prop .  $\det(I) = 1,$

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

·  $\det(A^k) = \det(A)^k$

·  $\det(kA) = k^n \det(A),$  if  $A$   $n \times n$  matrix

·  $\det(A^T) = \det(A).$

· If  $A$  has a row/column consisting of only zeros,  
then  $\det(A) = 0.$

· If  $A$  has two rows linearly dependent, then  
 $\det(A) = 0.$

Exercise. 7.5.10, 7.5.13.

11.

Consider the cofactor matrix  $\text{Cof}(A)$  of  $A$

THM

$$\text{Cof}(A) = [C_{ij}] = \begin{bmatrix} C_{11} & \dots & C_{1n} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ C_{n1} & \dots & C_{nn} \end{bmatrix}$$

$C_{ij}$  the  $(i,j)$ -th cofactor of  $A$

$(-1)^{i+j} M_{ij}$ ,

$M_{ij}$  the ~~det~~  $(i,j)$ -th minor of  $A$ .

Let  $\text{adj}(A) := (\text{Cof}(A))^T$  the classical adjoint of  $A$ .

Ex

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 3 & 2 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{Cof}(A) = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 4 & -8 & 4 \\ -5 & 10 & -5 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{adj}(A) = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 4 & -5 \\ +2 & -8 & 10 \\ -1 & 4 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

Ex

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad C = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & -2 & 6 \\ 4 & -2 & 0 \\ 2 & 8 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{adj}(A) = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 4 & 2 \\ -2 & -2 & 8 \\ 6 & 0 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

THM If  $A$  is invertible, then

$$A^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det(A)} \cdot \text{adj}(A).$$

$$\text{Ex. } A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad C = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & -2 & 6 \\ 4 & -2 & 0 \\ 2 & 8 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{adj}(A) = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 4 & 2 \\ -2 & -2 & 8 \\ 6 & 0 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\det(A) = \frac{\begin{vmatrix} 3 & 0 & 1 \\ 4 & -2 & 0 \end{vmatrix}}{12+0+0} = 12.$$

$$A^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det(A)} \cdot \text{adj}(A) = \frac{1}{12} \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 4 & 2 \\ -2 & -2 & 8 \\ 6 & 0 & 6 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{6} & \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{6} \\ -\frac{1}{6} & -\frac{1}{6} & \frac{2}{3} \\ \frac{1}{2} & 0 & \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

Verify that  $A \cdot A^{-1} = I$ .

Exercise . 7.6.1. B, 7.6.4.

VIII) Cramer's rule: Self study

Exercise: 7.7.4.