

Chapter 6.4: The Determinant of a Matrix



Definition (6.15)

Suppose that A is a square matrix.

- (i) If $A = [a]$ is a 1×1 matrix, then $\det A = a$.
- (ii) If A is an $n \times n$ matrix, with $n > 1$ the **minor** M_{ij} is the determinant of the $(n - 1) \times (n - 1)$ submatrix of A obtained by deleting the i th row and j th column of the matrix A .
- (iii) The **cofactor** A_{ij} associated with M_{ij} is defined by $A_{ij} = (-1)^{i+j} M_{ij}$.
- (iv) The **determinant** of the $n \times n$ matrix A , when $n > 1$, is given either by

$$\det A = \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} A_{ij} = \sum_{j=1}^n (-1)^{i+j} a_{ij} M_{ij}, \quad \text{for any } i = 1, 2, \dots, n,$$

or by

$$\det A = \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ij} A_{ij} = \sum_{i=1}^n (-1)^{i+j} a_{ij} M_{ij}, \quad \text{for any } j = 1, 2, \dots, n.$$

Chapter 6.4: The Determinant of a Matrix



Theorem (6.16)

Suppose A is an $n \times n$ matrix:

- (i)** *If any row or column of A has only zero entries, then $\det A = 0$.*
- (ii)** *If A has two rows or two columns the same, then $\det A = 0$.*
- (iii)** *If \tilde{A} is obtained from A by the operation $(E_i) \leftrightarrow (E_j)$, with $i \neq j$, then $\det \tilde{A} = -\det A$.*
- (iv)** *If \tilde{A} is obtained from A by the operation $(\lambda E_i) \rightarrow (E_i)$, then $\det \tilde{A} = \lambda \det A$.*
- (v)** *If \tilde{A} is obtained from A by the operation $(E_i + \lambda E_j) \rightarrow (E_i)$ with $i \neq j$, then $\det \tilde{A} = \det A$.*
- (vi)** *If B is also an $n \times n$ matrix, then $\det AB = \det A \det B$.*
- (vii)** $\det A^t = \det A$.
- (viii)** *When A^{-1} exists, $\det A^{-1} = (\det A)^{-1}$.*
- (ix)** *If A is an upper triangular, lower triangular, or diagonal matrix, then $\det A = \prod_{i=1}^n a_{ii}$.*

Chapter 6.4: The Determinant of a Matrix



Theorem (6.17)

The following statements are equivalent for any $n \times n$ matrix A :

- (i)** *The equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ has the unique solution $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$.*
- (ii)** *The system $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ has a unique solution for any n -dimensional column vector \mathbf{b} .*
- (iii)** *The matrix A is nonsingular; that is, A^{-1} exists.*
- (iv)** *$\det A \neq 0$.*
- (v)** *Gaussian elimination with row interchanges can be performed on the system $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ for any n -dimensional column vector \mathbf{b} .*

Corollary (6.18)

Suppose that A and B are both $n \times n$ matrices with either $AB = I$ or $BA = I$. Then $B = A^{-1}$ (and $A = B^{-1}$).

Ex. $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ -3 & 5 \\ 6 & 9 \end{bmatrix}_{3 \times 2}$ $A' = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 & 6 \\ 2 & 5 & 9 \end{bmatrix}_{2 \times 3}$

6.4. The determinant of a matrix.

Def. 6.15. Suppose that A is a square matrix

- (i) If $A = [a]_{1 \times 1}$ then $\det A = a$
- (ii) If A is $n \times n$ matrix with $n > 1$, the minor M_{ij} is the determinant of the $(n-1) \times (n-1)$ matrix obtained by deleting the i th row and j -th column of the matrix A .
- (iii) The cofactor A_{ij} associated with M_{ij} is $A_{ij} = (-1)^{i+j} M_{ij}$.
- (iv) The determinant of the $n \times n$ matrix A ($n > 1$) is given either by

$$\det A = \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} A_{ij} = \sum_{j=1}^n (-1)^{i+j} a_{ij} \cdot M_{ij} \text{ for any } i=1, 2, \dots, n$$

or by

$$\det A = \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ij} A_{ij} = \sum_{i=1}^n (-1)^{i+j} a_{ij} M_{ij} \text{ for any } j=1, 2, \dots, n.$$

The calculation of $\det A$ by def. 6.15 requires $O(n!)$ multiplications/divisions and additions/

subtractions.

The calculation results in the same value regardless of which row/column is chosen. Usually, selecting a row/column with most zeros is beneficial.

#1(a) Compute the determinant.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Select first row:

$$\det A = 4 \cdot \det \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} + 1 \cdot \det \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix} =$$

$$4 \cdot 3 + (2 \cdot 2 - 1 \cdot 2) = 12 + 4 - 2 = 14$$

Properties of determinants (A is an $n \times n$ matrix).

- (i) If any row or column has only zero entries, then $\det A = 0$.
- (ii) If two rows or two columns are the same, then $\det A = 0$.
- (iii) If \tilde{A} is obtained from A by $E_i \leftrightarrow E_j$ with $i \neq j$, then $\det \tilde{A} = -\det A$.
- (iv) If \tilde{A} is obtained from A by $\lambda E_i \rightarrow E_i$ then $\det \tilde{A} = \lambda \det A$.

(v) If \tilde{A} is obtained from A by $E_i + \lambda E_j \rightarrow E_i$ with $i \neq j$, then $\det \tilde{A} = \det A$.

(vi) If B is an $n \times n$ matrix, then $\det(AB) = \det A \cdot \det B$.

(vii) $\det A' = \det A$

(viii) If A^{-1} exists, then $\det(A^{-1}) = (\det A)^{-1}$.

(ix) If A is an upper-triangular, lower-triangular, or diagonal matrix, then $\det A = \prod_{i=1}^n a_{ii}$.

Apply (ix) to #1(a), together with (iii), (iv), (v):

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow[(1)]{E_2 - \frac{1}{2}E_1 \rightarrow E_2} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 - \frac{1}{2} \\ 2 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow[(2)]{E_3 - \frac{1}{2}E_1 \rightarrow E_3} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 - \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 2 & \frac{5}{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\xrightarrow[(3)]{E_3 - 2E_2 \rightarrow E_3} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 - \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{7}{2} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Each (1), (2), (3) didn't change $\det A$ (since this requires property (v) only).

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 - \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{7}{2} \end{bmatrix} = 4 \cdot 1 \cdot \frac{7}{2} = 14.$$

Thm 6.17. The following statements are equivalent for any $n \times n$ matrix A :

- (i) The equation $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$ has a unique solution $\vec{x} = \vec{0}$.
- (ii) The system $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$ has a unique solution for any n -dimensional vector \vec{b} .
- (iii) The matrix A is nonsingular, that is, A^{-1} exists.
- (iv) $\det A \neq 0$.
- (v) Gaussian elimination with row interchanges can be performed on the system $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$ for any n -dimensional column vector \vec{b} .

Corollary 6.18. Suppose that both A and B are $n \times n$ matrices with either $AB = I$ or $BA = I$. Then $B = A^{-1}$ (and $A = B^{-1}$).

#5.

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

$$\det A = 1 \cdot \det \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ \alpha & -\frac{3}{2} \end{bmatrix} - 2 \cdot \det \begin{bmatrix} -1 & \alpha \\ \alpha & -\frac{3}{2} \end{bmatrix} =$$

$$2 \cdot \left(-\frac{3}{2}\right) - \alpha \cdot 1 - 2 \left((-1) \left(-\frac{3}{2}\right) - \alpha^2 \right) =$$

$$-3 - \alpha - 2 \cdot \frac{3}{2} + 2\alpha^2 = 2\alpha^2 - \alpha - 6$$

$$2\alpha^2 - \alpha - 6 = 0.$$

$$\alpha_1 = 2 \quad \alpha_2 = -\frac{3}{2}$$

Ex. Find $\det A$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & -4 \\ 0 & 2 & 3 \\ -5 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

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

$$A_{11} = (-1)^2 \cdot M_{11} = M_{11}$$

$$M_{12} = \det \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 \\ -5 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$M_{13} = \det \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ -5 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\det A = 1 \cdot \det \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix} + (-1) \cdot 2 \cdot \det \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 \\ -5 & 4 \end{bmatrix} + (-4) \cdot \det \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ -5 & 1 \end{bmatrix} =$$

$$= 1 \cdot (1 \cdot 2 \cdot 4 + (-1)^{1+2} \cdot 3 \cdot 1) - 2 \cdot (0 + 15) - 4 \cdot (0 + 10) =$$

$$5 - 30 - 40 = \boxed{-65}$$

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} = a_{11} \cdot a_{22} - a_{12} \cdot a_{21}$$

$$\det A = 2 \cdot \det \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -4 \\ -5 & 4 \end{bmatrix} - 3 \cdot \det \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ -5 & 1 \end{bmatrix} =$$

$$2 \cdot (4 - 20) - 3 \cdot (1 + 10) = -32 - 33 = -65$$