ASSIGNMENT 3

Anjana V

AI20MTECH14010

Abstract—This document solves determinant of a matrix using its properties

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1 Question No. 16 (II)

By using properties of determinants, show that:

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ a & b & c \\ a^3 & b^3 & c^3 \end{vmatrix} = (a-b)(b-c)(c-a)(a+b+c) \quad (1.0.1)$$

2 Answer

Using column operations to simplify the equation, we get:

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ a & b & c \\ a^3 & b^3 & c^3 \end{vmatrix} \xleftrightarrow{C_1 \to C_1 - C_2} \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ a-b & b & c \\ a^3-b^3 & b^3 & c^3 \end{vmatrix} \quad (2.0.1)$$

$$\begin{vmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ a-b & b & c \\ a^3-b^3 & b^3 & c^3 \end{vmatrix} \xleftrightarrow{C_2 \to C_2 - C_3}$$

$$\begin{vmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ a-b & b-c & c \\ a^3-b^3 & b^3-c^3 & c^3 \end{vmatrix} \quad (2.0.2)$$

$$(a-b)(b-c)\begin{vmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & c \\ a^2+ab+b^2 & b^2+bc+c^2 & c^3 \end{vmatrix} \quad (2.0.3)$$

$$\xleftrightarrow{C_1 \to C_1 - C_2} (a-b)(b-c)\begin{vmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & c \\ a^2+ab-bc-c^2 & b^2+bc+c^2 & c^3 \end{vmatrix} \quad (2.0.4)$$

$$\implies (a-b)(b-c)\begin{vmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & c \\ (a^2-c^2)+b(a-c) & b^2+bc+c^2 & c^3 \end{vmatrix} \quad (2.0.5)$$

$$\implies (a-b)(b-c)\begin{vmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & c \\ k & b^2+bc+c^2 & c^3 \end{vmatrix} \quad (2.0.6)$$

Where

$$k = (a-c)(a+c)+b(a-c) \quad (2.0.7)$$

$$\implies (a-b)(b-c)(a-c)\begin{vmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & c \\ a+b+c & b^2+bc+c^2 & c^3 \end{vmatrix} \quad (2.0.8)$$

$$= (a-b)(b-c)(a-c)(-1)(a+b+c) \quad (2.0.9)$$

$$= (a-b)(b-c)(c-a)(a+b+c) \quad (2.0.10)$$