

MA1114 10/11/21

Determinants by Cofactor Expansion & Properties of Determinants.

Proposition

$A \in M_{2,2}$ is invertible $\Leftrightarrow \det(A) \neq 0$

Formulae

$$\textcircled{1} \det \begin{pmatrix} ra & b \\ rc & d \end{pmatrix} = r \det \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\textcircled{2} \det \begin{pmatrix} a+x & b \\ c+z & d \end{pmatrix} = \det \begin{pmatrix} x & b \\ z & d \end{pmatrix} + \det \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\textcircled{3} \det \begin{pmatrix} b & a \\ d & c \end{pmatrix} = \det \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\textcircled{4} \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = 1$$

spoiler $A \in M_{n,n}$ can detect invertibility of using $\det(A)$

Definition "determinant by cofactor expansion"

let $A \in M_{n,n}$ have (i,j) entry $a_{i,j}$

$$\det(A) = \sum_{j=1}^n a_{i,j} (-1)^{1+j} \det(\widehat{A}_{i,j})$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 & 2 \\ \hline 2 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

where $\widehat{A}_{i,j}$ is a matrix obtained A given by deleting row i and column j

$$\det(A \in M_{n,n}) \Rightarrow \det(A \in M_{n-1,n-1}) \Rightarrow \det(A \in M_{n-2,n-2}) \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow \det(A \in M_{2,2}) \Leftarrow \dots$$

Example

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 5 & 0 \\ 2 & 4 & 7 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \det(A) = a_{11}(-1)^2 \det(\hat{A}_{11}) + a_{12}(-1)^3 \det(\hat{A}_{12}) + a_{13}(-1)^4 \det(\hat{A}_{13})$$

where:

$$\hat{A}_{11} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -1 \\ -2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \det = -2$$

$$\hat{A}_{12} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \det = 0$$

$$\hat{A}_{13} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 \\ 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \det = -4$$

$$\text{so } 1 \cdot 1 \cdot (-2) + 5 \cdot (-1) \cdot 0 + 0 \cdot 1 \cdot (-4) = -2$$

Exercise

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

$$\det(A) = 3 \cdot 1 \cdot (-4) + 1 \cdot (-1) \cdot (-11) = -12 + 11 = -1$$

Proposition 3.41 (General Cofactor Expansion)

$$A \in M_{nn} \quad n \geq 2$$

a_{ij} : (i, j) entry of A

$$\det(A) = \sum_{j=1}^n (a_{ij})(-1)^{i+j} \det(\widehat{A}_{ij})$$

(row i expansion)

and

$$\det(A) = \sum_{i=1}^n (a_{ij})(-1)^{i+j} \det(\widehat{A}_{ij})$$

(column j expansion)

Proof: omitted - too hard for current state

For $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 5 & 0 \\ 2 & 4 & -1 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ we calculate $\det(A)$ using a column 3 expansion

$$\begin{aligned} \det(A) &= a_{13}(-1)^{1+3} \det(\widehat{A}_{13}) \\ &\quad + a_{23}(-1)^{2+3} \det(\widehat{A}_{23}) \\ &\quad + a_{33}(-1)^{3+3} \det(\widehat{A}_{33}) \end{aligned}$$

$$= -1 \cdot -1 \cdot -2$$

$$= -2$$

Note: can calculate determinants quickly using a row or column with lots of 0's $\det(A) = 0$ if A contains a row or column of 0's

in fact $\det(A) \neq 0 \Rightarrow A$ is invertible

Properties of the Determinant:

Proposition if $A \in M_{n,n}$ then $\det(A) = \det(A^T)$

Proof

$\det(A)$ using row 1 expansion. This is the same as calculating
 $\det(A^T)$ using column expansion.