

SAGE Activity (Determinants)

Log in to SAGE and create a new SAGE worksheet titled “Determinants”.

1. Let's all make sure we know how to get SAGE to compute a determinant for us.

- (a) Make a random matrix by calling `A=random_matrix(QQ,8)`
- (b) Take a good look at `A` and thank god you don't have to compute a determinant by hand.
- (c) Compute the determinant using `A.determinant()`.

2. (a) Suppose you have two distinct points on the plane (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) . The unique line through the points can be given by finding coefficients c_i that are not all zero such that

$$\begin{aligned}c_1x_1 + c_2y_1 + c_3 &= 0 \\c_1x_2 + c_2y_2 + c_3 &= 0\end{aligned}$$

Furthermore, any general (x, y) on this line must also satisfy

$$c_1x + c_2y + c_3 = 0$$

Notice these three equations can be written in matrix form as:

$$\begin{pmatrix} x & y & 1 \\ x_1 & y_1 & 1 \\ x_2 & y_2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ c_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Since the vector of c_i 's is not the zero vector, the 3×3 matrix must have nontrivial null space. Hence it is singular and has determinant 0. In other words,

$$\begin{vmatrix} x & y & 1 \\ x_1 & y_1 & 1 \\ x_2 & y_2 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 0.$$

This is called the determinant form of a line.

- (b) Use (2a) to find the equation of the line through the points $(3, 5)$ and $(-4, 1)$. Remember to make variables in SAGE use `x=var('x')`.
- (c) The same process in (2a) also works for circles. In this case, suppose (x_1, y_1) , (x_2, y_2) and (x_3, y_3) are 3 distinct noncolinear points. Then there is a unique circle of the form

$$c_1(x^2 + y^2) + c_2x + c_3y + c_4 = 0$$

which passes through the points.

- (d) Redo the line a thinking in (2a) for this situation. Then give the determinant form of the circle through the points $(1, 2)$, $(-3, 7)$ and $(9, 5)$.
- (e) Have SAGE compute the determinant you made in part (2d) to find an equation of the circle
- (f) Complete the squares in your equation from (2e) to find the center and radius.
- (g) The same process in (2a) and (2c) can be done in higher dimensions as well. A sphere in 3-space has an equation

$$c_1(x^2 + y^2 + z^2) + c_2x + c_3y + c_4z + c_5 = 0$$

- (h) How many points in three space do you need to determine a sphere?
- (i) Consider the points $(1, 1, 1)$, $(2, 4, 8)$, $(3, 9, 27)$, Find the determinant form of the sphere through these points.
- (j) Find the center and radius for the sphere.

3. One of the most well-known formulas involving determinants is “Cramer's Rule” (often taught in high school algebra courses).

- (a) Cramer's Rule: If $Ax = b$ represents a system of n equations in n unknowns and $\det(A) \neq 0$, then the unique solution is

$$x_i = \frac{\det(A_i)}{\det(A)}$$

where A_i is the matrix A where the i^{th} column has been replaced with b .

SAGE Activity (Determinants)

Log in to SAGE and create a new SAGE worksheet titled “Eigenvectors”.

1. (a) The following SAGE function was emailed out:

```
def Transform(A):
    precision=200
    CirclePoints=[vector(RR,[cos(i*2*pi/precision),sin(i*2*pi/precision)])
        for i in range(precision)]
    ACirclePoints=[A*CirclePoints[i] for i in range(precision)]
    CirclePlot=sum([list_plot([CirclePoints[i]], hue=i/precision, aspect_ratio=1)
        for i in range(precision)])
    ACirclePlot=sum([list_plot([ACirclePoints[i]], hue=i/precision, aspect_ratio=1)
        for i in range(precision)])
    return CirclePlot+ACirclePlot
```

This function will show the before and after of transforming a rainbow colored unit circle according to the 2×2 matrix given as input.

Let’s see the regular circle first by calling `Transform(identity_matrix(2))`

- (b) Create matrix $F = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1/10 \\ 1/10 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ and call `Transform(F)` to see what it does to the unit circle.

- (c) For each of the following matrices,

- indicate how many eigenvectors there are
- determine whether the eigenvalues are positive or negative
- determine whether the magnitude of the eigenvalues is greater than, less than, or approximately equal to 1
- give a description of what will happen to the circle if you repeatedly transform by that matrix

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

iv. $D = \begin{pmatrix} -1/4 & 1/2 \\ 1/8 & -1/4 \end{pmatrix}$

ii. $B = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 2 \\ 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$

v. $E = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{-1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix}$ (Note: If you can’t tell what happened, modify the precision in your function to `precision=60` and try again.)

iii. $C = \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ 1/2 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$

2. Let’s all make sure we know how to get SAGE to compute eigenvalues and eigen vectors for us.

- (a) Make the matrix

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

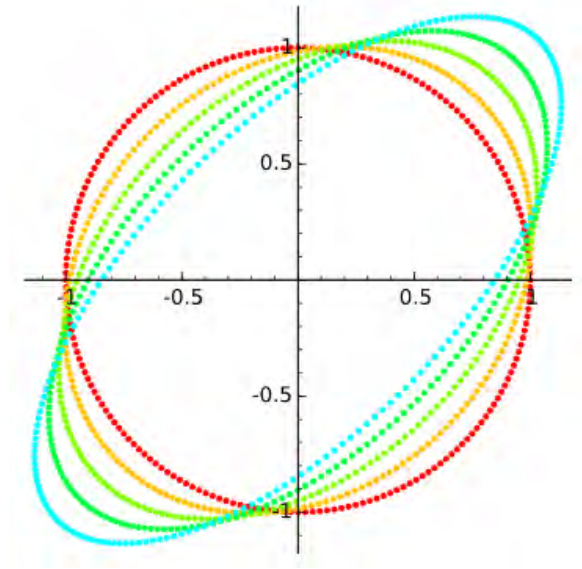
- (b) Compute the characteristic polynomial with `A.charpoly()`
- (c) Compute the eigenvalues using `A.eigenvalues()`
- (d) Compute the eigenvectors using `MyEigenInfo=A.eigenvectors_right(); MyEigenInfo`
- (e) That looks like a mess: it’s a list of lists. The lists contain [eigenvalue λ , eigenvectors for λ , $\gamma_A(\lambda)$].
- (f) You can access just the eigenvectors by digging into the list with `[MyEigenInfo[i][1][0] for i in [0,1,2]]`
- (g) Make a matrix S with the columns of eigenvectors for A and check that $S^{-1}AS$ gives a diagonal matrix of the eigenvalues.
- (h) Determine $A^5 - 3A^2 + 2$ with no more than 2 matrix multiplications.
- (i) Use the idea of a Taylor Series to compute the matrices e^A and $\arctan(A)$.
- (j) Recall in (b) you found the characteristic polynomial $p_A(x)$. Now compute $p_A(A)$.
- (k) Prove that what you observed in (j) will always be true.
- (l) Give a conjecture (stating all the necessary conditions and then the conclusion) to describe in general what you found in (j). Check with me before going on.
- (m) What does this mean we can say about the set of matrices $\{I, A, A^2, A^3, \dots, A^n\}$?

SAGE HOMEWORK

For each, give one cell of input that gives the desired output.

- (5 points) Compute the eigenvalues and eigenvectors for the matrices in 1(b).
- (5 points) Modify the code above to create a function that takes as input a matrix A and positive integer n and gives as output the transformations of A , A^2 , A^3 , ... A^n on a solid colored circle but with each power of A takes on evenly spaced out colors in the hue range 0 to $1/2$. Demonstrate your function on the first 5 powers of the matrix C from part 1(b).

For example, with the matrix $F = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1/10 \\ 1/10 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ up to the 4th power, we would get output of:



- (5 points) Create a function that takes as input a list of 2 eigenvalues and a list of two linearly independent eigenvectors and outputs a matrix with those properties. Demonstrate your function on the inputs:
 $[5, 7]$, $[(1, 2), (-3, 4)]$
 and
 $[I, -I]$, $[(1, 1), (1, -1)]$

Bonus. (5 points) Prove that if A is diagonalizable, then $\sin^2(A) + \cos^2(A) = I$.

Markov Chains: Thomas Train Game Analysis

1. WARM-UP: Determine the probability of reaching home on the 7th turn if you are the yellow train.
2. TASK: Rank order the trains from most likely to win first to least likely to win using a 50% threshold.
3. CHALLENGE: Approximate (to 3 decimals) the expected number of turns for each train to reach home.
(Recall: Expected value is given by $\sum_n n \cdot P(n)$).

