

# Linear Algebra Part I

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## 1 Basics

- **(Inverses Commute)** We say a matrix  $A$  is invertible if  $\exists A^{-1} : AA^{-1} = A^{-1}A = I$ .
- **Determinant.**  $\det : M_{n \times n} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .  $\det(A) = |A| = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \epsilon(\sigma) a_{1,\sigma(1)} a_{2,\sigma(2)} \dots a_{n,\sigma(n)}$ .

$$\det(A) \neq 0 \iff \exists A^{-1}$$

Or equivalently the determinant is a multi-linear and alternating map of the columns of a matrix with  $\det(I) = 1$ .

- The determinant is a multiplicative function

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

- **Elimination.** Every matrix  $A$  can be decomposed to two matrices  $U, L$  where the one is upper diagonal and the other is lower diagonal with diagonal elements equal to one. Or  $A = LU$ .

- **Rank Nullity Theorem.** Let a matrix  $A : V \rightarrow V$

$$\text{rank}(A) + \dim \text{Ker}(A) = \dim(V)$$

- **The determinant of a matrix is a polynomial function of its entries.**

- – Any spanning set of a vectorspace  $V$  can be cut down to a basis.  
– Any linearly independent set can be extended to a basis.

- The set of invertible matrices is dense in the set of all matrices.

## 2 Problems

1. Find the matrices  $A \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{R})$  that  $\forall B \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{R}) \ AB = BA$
2. Let  $A, B, C, D$  in  $M_n(\mathbb{R})$ ,  $n > 2$  with  $AD - BC = O$  and  $AC - BD = I$ . Show that  $DA - CB = 0, CA - DB = I$ .
3. Suppose  $A, B, C, D$  are  $n \times n$  matrices, satisfying the conditions that  $AB^T$  and  $CD^T$  are symmetric and  $AD^T - BC^T = I$ . Prove that  $A^T D - C^T B = I$ .

4. Let

$$V_n = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ x_1 & x_2 & x_3 & \dots & x_n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ x_1^{n-1} & x_2^{n-1} & x_3^{n-1} & \dots & x_n^{n-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

Compute  $\det(V_n)$ .

5. Show that there only one polynomial of  $n$  degree passing through any  $n+1$  points  $(x_i, y_i)$  with  $x_i \neq x_j \forall i \neq j$ .
6. Consider a natural number  $n \geq 1$  and a continuous real valued function  $f$  defined on the interval  $[a, b]$ . Show that there is only one polynomial function  $p$  of degree  $\leq n$  such that

$$p(a) = f(a)$$

and

$$\int_a^b (f(x) - p(x))q(x)dx = 0$$

,  $\forall q$  polynomial function of degree  $\leq n-1$ .

7. Find the determinant of a circulant matrix.

$$C_n = \begin{bmatrix} c_1 & c_2 & c_3 & \dots & c_n \\ c_2 & c_3 & c_4 & \dots & c_1 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ c_n & c_1 & c_2 & \dots & c_{n-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

8. Prove Rank Nullity Theorem.

9. Prove  $\text{rank}(A) = \text{rank}(B) \Leftrightarrow \exists X, Z \in GL(n) : A = XBZ$ .
10. Let  $V$  be a vector space over a field  $F$  and let  $V_1, V_2$  be subspaces of  $V$ . Prove that the union of  $V_1, V_2$  is a subspace of  $V$  if and only if  $V_1 \subset V_2$  or  $V_2 \subset V_1$ .
11. Let  $T_1, T_2 : V \rightarrow W$  be linear transformations. Prove that

$$|\text{rank}(T_1) - \text{rank}(T_2)| \leq \text{rank}(T_1 + T_2) \leq \text{rank}(T_1) + \text{rank}(T_2)$$

12. Let  $A, B, C, D$  be  $n \times n$  matrices such that  $AC = CA$ . Prove that

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix} = \det(AD - CB)$$

13. Let  $A$  be a square matrix with real entries. Show that  $\det(A^2 + I) \geq 0$ .
14.  $\text{rank}(A) = \max\{n : \exists A_{n \times n} \in GL(n) \text{ submatrix of } A\}$ .
15. Prove **Cramer's Rule**. Let system  $Ax = b$  with  $\det(A) \neq 0$  then

$$x_i = \frac{\det(A_1, A_2, \dots, b, \dots, A_n)}{\det A}$$

16. Prove **Expansion in minors**.

$$\det(A) = \sum (-1)^{i+1} |M_{1,i}|$$

$M_{i,j}$  the matrix if that you get if you delete the  $i$ 'th

17. Do there exist polynomials  $a(x), b(x), c(y), d(y)$  such that

$$1 + xy + x^2 + y^2 = a(x)c(y) + b(x)d(y)$$

holds identically?

18. Let  $A, B$  be  $n \times n$  matrices, such that  $\text{rank}(AB - BA) = 1$ . Prove that  $(AB - BA)^2$  is zero matrix.
19. Let  $T$  be a linear transformation of a vector space  $V$  into itself. Suppose  $x \in V$  such that  $T^m x = 0, T^{m-1} x \neq 0$  for some positive integer  $m$ . Show that  $x, Tx, \dots, T^{m-1}x$  are linearly independent.

20. Let  $A \in M_2(\mathbb{C})$  so that  $\text{tr}(A) = \varepsilon, \det(A) = \varepsilon^2$ , where  $\varepsilon$  is  $n$  order unit root,  $n \geq 4$ . Prove that  $\sum_{k=1}^n \varepsilon^k \det(A - \varepsilon^k I) = 0$ .
21. Let  $A, B, C$  be  $n \times n$  real matrices that pairwise commute and  $ABC = O$ . Show that  $\det(A^3 + B^3 + C^3) \det(A + B + C) \geq 0$
22. (**Grassman formula**) If  $U$  and  $W$  are subspaces of a finite dimensional vector space,  $\dim U + \dim W = \dim(U \cup W) + \dim(U \cap W)$ .
23. (**Frobenius inequality**)

$$\text{rank} BC + \text{rank} AB \leq \text{rank} ABC + \text{rank} B$$

24. (**Sylvester inequality**)

$$\text{rank} A + \text{rank} B \leq \text{rank} AB + n$$

where  $n$  is the number of columns of the matrix  $A$  and also the number of rows of the matrix  $B$ .

25. Let  $A$  and  $B$  be two  $n \times n$  real matrices that commute. Suppose that  $\det(A + B) \geq 0$ . Prove that  $\det(A^k + B^k) \geq 0 \forall k \geq 1$
26. Let  $A$  be real skew-symmetric square matrix (i.e.,  $A^T = -A$ ). Prove that  $\det(I + tA^2) \geq 0$  for all real  $t$ .
27. Prove that  $SO(n, \mathbb{Z})$ . The set of integer matrices with integral inverses is exactly the same as the set of integer matrices with determinant  $1, -1$ .
28. Show there do not exist four points in the Euclidean plane such that the pairwise distances between the points are all odd integers.
29. Let  $A = (a_{ij})$  be real  $n \times n$  matrix satisfying

$$a_{ii} > \sum_{i \neq j} a_{ij}$$

Show that  $A$  is invertible.

30. (Oddtown). In a town with  $n$  people,  $m$  clubs have been formed. Every club have an odd number of members, and every two clubs have an even number of members in common. Prove that  $m \leq n$ .

31. (Fisher's inequality). Let  $k$  be a positive integer. In a town with  $n$  people,  $m$  clubs have been formed. Every two clubs share exactly  $k$  members. Prove that  $m \leq n$ .
32. Let  $A$  be a  $2n \times 2n$  matrix, with entries chosen independently at random. Every entry is chosen to be 0 or 1, each with probability  $1/2$ . Find the expected value of  $\det(A - A^t)$  (as a function of  $n$ ), where  $A^t$  is the transpose of  $A$ .