



MAT1320-Linear Algebra

Lecture Notes

Determinants and Properties

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Fall 2024

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Determinants

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- For $n = 1$, $A = [a]_{1 \times 1}$ and $\det(A) = a$.

- For $n = 2$, $A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{pmatrix}_{2 \times 2}$ and

$$\det(A) = a_{11}a_{22} - a_{12}a_{21}.$$

Determinants

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$$\det(A) = a_{11} \begin{vmatrix} a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{32} & a_{33} \end{vmatrix} - a_{12} \begin{vmatrix} a_{21} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{33} \end{vmatrix} + a_{13} \begin{vmatrix} a_{21} & a_{22} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} \end{vmatrix}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} &= a_{11} (a_{22}a_{33} - a_{23}a_{32}) - a_{12} (a_{21}a_{33} - a_{23}a_{31}) \\ &\quad + a_{13} (a_{21}a_{32} - a_{22}a_{31}) \end{aligned}$$

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In order to generalize this concept for $n > 3$, we need to give definition of the minors and cofactors.

Minors and Cofactors

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Definition

Given an $n \times n$ matrix \mathbf{A} , the (i, j) -th minor, denoted M_{ij} , is the determinant of the $(n - 1) \times (n - 1)$ matrix obtained from \mathbf{A} by deleting the i -th row and the j -th column.

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Example

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 \end{pmatrix}$$

we have

$$M_{23} = \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 7 & 8 \end{pmatrix} = 8 - 14 = -6$$

We also find $A_{23} = (-1)^{2+3}(-6) = 6$

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We find the determinant of

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

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Thus,

$$\det(A) = a_{11}A_{11} + a_{12}A_{12} + a_{13}A_{13} = 2(4) + (1) + 3(2) = 15$$

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Notice that

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Notice that

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$$a_{31}A_{11} + a_{32}A_{12} + a_{33}A_{13} = (-2)(4) + 2(1) + 3(2) = 0$$

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Thus,

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$$\begin{vmatrix} a + a' & b + b' \\ c & d \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix} + \begin{vmatrix} a' & b' \\ c & d \end{vmatrix}.$$

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- If A has a row or column that is all zeros, then $\det(A) = 0$.
- The determinant of a triangular matrix is the product of the diagonal entries (pivots) $d_{11}, d_{22}, \dots, d_{nn}$.

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$$\begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} a & c \\ b & d \end{vmatrix} = ad - bc$$

Properties of Determinants

Example

By using properties of determinants factorize the determinant

$$\begin{vmatrix} x+y & z & t \\ z & x+y & t \\ z & t & x+y \end{vmatrix}.$$

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$$= (x+y+z+t)(x+y-z)(x+y-t).$$

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By using properties of determinants find the determinant of the

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

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