Section 1.6 – Determinants and Properties

The determinant is a number that contains information about matrix. It is used to find formulas for inverse matrices, pivots, and solutions $A^{-1}b$.

$$A=\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \text{ has inverse } A^{-1}=\frac{1}{ad-bc}\begin{pmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{pmatrix}$$

Determinant of the matrix $A=\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$ is written $\det(A)$ *or* $|A|$ and is define as

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

The determinant is zero when the matrix has no inverse.

Properties of the Determinants

There are 3 basic properties (rules 1, 2, 3), by using those rules we can compute the determinant of any square matrix.

1. ***Determinant of the n by n identity matrix is* 1.**

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 1 \quad and \quad \begin{vmatrix} 1 & & \\ & 1 & \\ & & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 1$$

2. ***Determinant changes sign when 2 rows are exchanged.***

$$\begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix} = ad - bc \qquad \begin{vmatrix} c & d \\ a & b \end{vmatrix} = bc - ad = -(ad - bc) \quad \Rightarrow \begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix} = -\begin{vmatrix} c & d \\ a & b \end{vmatrix}$$

3. ***Determinant is a linear function of each row separately*.**

Multiply row 1 by any number t: $\begin{vmatrix} ta & tb \\ c & d \end{vmatrix} = t\begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix}$

Add row 1 of A to row 1 of A': $\begin{vmatrix} a+a' & b+b' \\ c & d \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix} + \begin{vmatrix} a' & b' \\ c & d \end{vmatrix}$

- ***For 2 by 2 determinants, if you expand to a rectangle, the determinants equal areas.***
- ***For n-dimensional, the determinants equal volumes.***

4. ***If 2 rows of A are equal, then*** $\det A = 0$.

$$\begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ a & b \end{vmatrix} = ab - ab = 0$$

5. ***Subtracting a multiple of one row from another row leaves*** $\det A$ ***unchanged.***

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

6. ***A matrix with a row of zeros has*** $\det A = 0$.

$$\begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = 0 \quad and \quad \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ b & c \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

7. ***If A is triangular then*** $\det A = a_{11} a_{22} \cdots a_{nn}$ ***= product of diagonal entries.***

$$\begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & d \end{vmatrix} = ad \quad and \quad \begin{vmatrix} a_{11} & & 0 \\ & a_{22} & \\ & & \\ 0 & & a_{nn} \end{vmatrix} = a_{11} a_{22} \dots a_{nn}$$

8. ***If A is singular then*** $\det A = 0$. ***If A is invertible then*** $\det A \neq 0$.

9. ***The determinant of AB*** $\det A$ ***is times*** $\det B$ ***:*** $|AB| = |A||B|$

10. ***The transpose*** A^T ***has the same determinant as A:*** $\det(A) = \det\left(A^T\right)$

- $\det(A + B) \neq \det(A) + \det(B)$

Big Formula for Determinants (Diagonal)

Determinant Using Diagonal Method

$$\begin{vmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} & a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} & a_{21} & a_{22} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} & a_{31} & a_{32} \end{array} \qquad a_{11}a_{22}a_{33} + a_{12}a_{23}a_{31} + a_{13}a_{21}a_{32} \quad (1)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} & a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} & a_{21} & a_{22} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} & a_{31} & a_{32} \end{array} \qquad -a_{13}a_{22}a_{31} - a_{11}a_{23}a_{32} - a_{12}a_{21}a_{33} \quad (2)$$

Determinant: ***D* = (1) + (2)**

$$\textbf{det} = a_{11}a_{22}a_{33} + a_{12}a_{23}a_{31} + a_{13}a_{21}a_{32} - a_{13}a_{22}a_{31} - a_{11}a_{23}a_{32} - a_{12}a_{21}a_{33}$$

Example

Evaluate: $\begin{vmatrix} x & 0 & -1 \\ 2 & x & x^2 \\ -3 & x & 1 \end{vmatrix}$

Solution

$$\begin{vmatrix} x & 0 & -1 \\ 2 & x & x^2 \\ -3 & x & 1 \end{vmatrix} \begin{matrix} x & 0 \\ 2 & x \\ -3 & x \end{matrix} = x(x)(1) + 0\left(x^2\right)(2) + (-1)(2)(x) - (-1)(x)(-3) - x\left(x^2\right)(x) - 0(-3)(1)$$

$$= x^2 - 2x - 3x - x^4$$

$$\underline{= x^2 - 5x - x^4}$$

Determinant by *Cofactors*

$$\boldsymbol{A} = [a_{ij}] = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{bmatrix}$$

Minor

For a square matrix $A = \left[a_{ij} \right]$, the minor M_{ij}. Of an element a_{ij} is the ***determinant*** of the matrix formed by deleting the i^{th} row and the j^{th} column of A.

Example

Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 & -4 \\ 2 & 5 & 6 \\ 1 & 4 & 8 \end{bmatrix}$ Find M_{32}

Solution

$$M_{32} = \begin{vmatrix} 3 & \cancel{1} & -4 \\ 2 & \cancel{5} & 6 \\ \cancel{1} & \cancel{4} & \cancel{8} \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{vmatrix} 3 & -4 \\ 2 & 6 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\underline{= 26}$$

Theorem

The determinant is the dot product of any row $\boldsymbol{i}$ of $\boldsymbol{A}$ with its cofactors:

Cofactor Formula: $\boxed{C_{ij} = (-1)^{i+j} M_{ij}}$

$$|\boldsymbol{A}| = a_{11}C_{11} + a_{12}C_{12} + a_{13}C_{13}$$

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

Example

Find the determinant of the matrix:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} -8 & 0 & 6 \\ 4 & -6 & 7 \\ -1 & -3 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

Solution

$$|A| = \begin{vmatrix} -8 & 0 & 6 \\ 4 & -6 & 7 \\ -1 & -3 & 5 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= -8\begin{vmatrix} -6 & 7 \\ -3 & 5 \end{vmatrix} - 0\begin{vmatrix} 4 & 7 \\ -1 & 5 \end{vmatrix} + 6\begin{vmatrix} 4 & -6 \\ -1 & -3 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= -8(-30 - (-21)) - 0 + 6(-12 - 6)$$

$$= -8(-9) + 6(-18)$$

$$\underline{= -36}$$

✓ By the property of determinants, If $\boldsymbol{A}$ is triangular then $\mathbf{det}\boldsymbol{A} = \boldsymbol{a}_{11}\boldsymbol{a}_{22} \ \ldots \ \boldsymbol{a}_{nn}$ = product of diagonal entries.

Example

$$\begin{vmatrix} 2 & 7 & -3 & 8 & 3 \\ 0 & -3 & 7 & 5 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 6 & 7 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 9 & 8 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 4 \end{vmatrix} = (2)(-3)(6)(9)(4) \ \underline{= -1296}$$

Theorem

Let $\boldsymbol{A}$ be any n by n matrix.

a) If $\boldsymbol{A'}$ is the matrix that results when a single row of $\boldsymbol{A}$ is multiplied by a constant $\boldsymbol{k}$, then $\det(A') = k\det(A)$.

b) If $\boldsymbol{A'}$ is the matrix that results when two rows of $\boldsymbol{A}$ are interchanged, then $\det(A') = -\det(A)$

c) If $\boldsymbol{A'}$ is the matrix that results when a multiple of one row of $\boldsymbol{A}$ is added to another row then $\det(A') = \det(A)$

Example

Evaluate $\begin{vmatrix} 0 & 1 & 5 \\ 3 & -6 & 9 \\ 2 & 6 & 1 \end{vmatrix}$

Solution

$$\begin{vmatrix} 0 & 1 & 5 \\ 3 & -6 & 9 \\ 2 & 6 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = -\begin{vmatrix} 3 & -6 & 9 \\ 0 & 1 & 5 \\ 2 & 6 & 1 \end{vmatrix}$$

Interchanged 1^{st} and 2^{nd} row

$$= -3\begin{vmatrix} 1 & -2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 5 \\ 2 & 6 & 1 \end{vmatrix}$$

A common factor of 3 from the first row (no need)

$$= -3\begin{vmatrix} 1 & -2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 5 \\ 2 & 6 & 1 \end{vmatrix} \quad R_3 - 2R_1$$

$$= -3\begin{vmatrix} 1 & -2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 10 & -5 \end{vmatrix} \quad R_3 - 10R_2$$

$$= -3\begin{vmatrix} 1 & -2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & -55 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= -3(1)(1)(-55)$$

$$\underline{= 165}$$

Exercises Section 1.6 – Determinants and Properties

1. Verify that $\det(AB)=\det(A)\det(B)$ when: $A=\begin{pmatrix}2&1&0\\3&4&0\\0&0&2\end{pmatrix}$ *and* $B=\begin{pmatrix}1&-1&3\\7&1&2\\5&0&1\end{pmatrix}$

2. For which value(s) of $\boldsymbol{k}$ does A fail to be invertible? $A=\begin{bmatrix}k-3&-2\\-2&k-2\end{bmatrix}$

3. Without directly evaluating, show that $\begin{vmatrix}b+c&c+a&b+a\\a&b&c\\1&1&1\end{vmatrix}=0$

4. If the entries in every row of A add to zero, solve $\boldsymbol{Ax}=0$ to prove $\det(A)=0$. If those entries add to one, show that $\det(A-I)=0$. Does this mean $\det(A)=I$?

5. Does $\det(AB)=\det(BA)$ in general?

a) True or false if $\boldsymbol{A}$ and $\boldsymbol{B}$ are square n x n matrices?

b) True or false if $\boldsymbol{A}$ is m x n and B is n x m with $m\neq n$?

6. True or false, with a reason if true or a counterexample if false:

a) The determinant of $I+A$ is $1+\det(A)$.

b) The determinant of ABC is $|A||B||C|$.

c) The determinant of $4A$ is $4|A|$

d) The determinant of $AB-BA$ is zero. (try an example)

e) If A is not invertible then AB is not invertible.

f) The determinant of $A-B$ equals to $\det(A)-\det(B)$.

7. Use row operations to show the 3 by 3 "Vandermonde determinant" is

$$\det\begin{bmatrix}1&a&a^2\\1&b&b^2\\1&c&c^2\end{bmatrix}=(b-a)(c-a)(c-b)$$

8. The inverse of a 2 by 2 matrix seems to have determinant = 1:

$$\det A^{-1}=\det\frac{1}{ad-bc}\begin{bmatrix}d&-b\\-c&a\end{bmatrix}=\frac{ad-bc}{ad-bc}=1$$

What is wrong with this calculation? What is the correct $\det A^{-1}$

9. A *Hessenberg* matrix is a triangular matrix with one extra diagonal. Use cofactors of row 1 to show that the 4 by 4 determinant satisfies Fibonacci's rule $|H_4| = |H_3| + |H_2|$. The same rule will continue for all sizes $|H_n| = |H_{n-1}| + |H_{n-2}|$. Which Fibonacci number is $|H_n|$?

$$H_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad H_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad H_4 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & & \\ \mathbf{1} & 2 & \mathbf{1} & \\ \mathbf{1} & 1 & \mathbf{2} & \mathbf{1} \\ \mathbf{1} & 1 & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

10. Evaluate the determinant:

a) $\begin{vmatrix} -1 & 7 \\ -8 & -3 \end{vmatrix}$

b) $\begin{vmatrix} a-3 & 5 \\ -3 & a-2 \end{vmatrix}$

c) $\begin{vmatrix} k-1 & 2 \\ 4 & k-3 \end{vmatrix}$

d) $\begin{vmatrix} c & -4 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & c^2 \\ 4 & c-1 & 2 \end{vmatrix}$

e) $\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 4 & 0 & -1 \\ 2 & 8 & 6 \end{vmatrix}$

f) $\begin{vmatrix} x & -3 & 9 \\ 2 & 4 & x+1 \\ 1 & x^2 & 3 \end{vmatrix}$

g) $\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 4 & -3 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 & 6 & 3 \\ 4 & -1 & 2 & 5 \\ 1 & 0 & -2 & 4 \end{vmatrix}$

h) $\begin{vmatrix} -3 & 1 & 2 \\ 6 & 2 & 1 \\ -9 & 1 & 2 \end{vmatrix}$

i) $\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 3 & 2 & -1 \\ 4 & 3 & -1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 5 & 1 & 3 & -2 \end{vmatrix}$

j) $\begin{vmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 & -2 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 3 & -3 \end{vmatrix}$

11. Find all the values of λ for which $\det(A) = 0$

$$a)\ A = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda-1 & -2 \\ 1 & \lambda-4 \end{bmatrix} \qquad b)\ A = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda-6 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda & -1 \\ 0 & 4 & \lambda-4 \end{bmatrix}$$

12. Prove that if a square matrix $\boldsymbol{A}$ has a column of zeros, then $\det(A) = 0$

13. With 2 by 2 blocks in 4 by 4 matrices, you cannot always use block determinants:

$$\begin{vmatrix} A & B \\ 0 & D \end{vmatrix} = |A||D| \quad \text{but} \quad \begin{vmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{vmatrix} \neq |A||D| - |C||B|$$

a) Why is the first statement true? Somehow B doesn't enter.

b) Show by example that equality fails (as shown) when C enters.

c) Show by example that the answer $\det(AD - CB)$ is also wrong.

14. Show that the value of the following determinant is independent of θ.

$$\begin{vmatrix} \sin\theta & \cos\theta & 0 \\ -\cos\theta & \sin\theta & 0 \\ \sin\theta - \cos\theta & \sin\theta + \cos\theta & 1 \end{vmatrix}$$

15. Show that the matrices $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & c \end{bmatrix}$ *and* $B = \begin{bmatrix} d & e \\ 0 & f \end{bmatrix}$

commute if and only if $\begin{vmatrix} b & a-c \\ e & d-f \end{vmatrix} = 0$

16. Show that $\det(A) = \frac{1}{2}\begin{vmatrix} tr(A) & 1 \\ tr(A^2) & tr(A) \end{vmatrix}$ for every 2×2 matrix *A*.

17. What is the maximum number of zeros that a 4×4 matrix can have without a zero determinant? Explain your reasoning.

18. Evaluate $\det(A)$, $\det(E)$, and $\det(AE)$. Then verify that $\det(A)\cdot\det(E) = \det(AE)$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 & 5 \end{bmatrix}, \qquad E = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & \\ & 3 & \\ & & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

19. Show that $\begin{bmatrix} \sin^2\alpha & \sin^2\beta & \sin^2\gamma \\ \cos^2\alpha & \cos^2\beta & \cos^2\gamma \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ is not invertible for any values of α, β, γ

20. The determinant of a 2×2 matrix $A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$ is $\det(A) = ad - bc$.

Assuming no rows swaps are required, perform elimination on *A* and show explicitly that $ad - bc$ is the product of the pivots.

21. If *A* is a 7×7 matrix and let $\det(A) = 17$. What is $\det(3A^2)$?