Section 3.5 – Determinants and Cramer's Rule

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.

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

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.

30

♣ 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 detA 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 $\det A = a_{11}a_{22} \dots a_{nn} = \text{product of diagonal entries.}$

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

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

9. The determinant of AB detA is times detB: |AB| = |A||B|

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

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

Big Formula for Determinants (Diagonal)

Determinant Using Diagonal Method

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

Determinant: D = (1) + (2)

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

Example

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

Solution

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

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

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

Determinant by *Cofactors*

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

Minor

For a square matrix $A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{ij} \end{bmatrix}$, 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

$$M_{32} = \begin{vmatrix} 3 & 1 & -4 \\ 2 & 5 & 6 \\ 1 & 4 & 8 \end{vmatrix}$$
$$= \begin{vmatrix} 3 & -4 \\ 2 & 6 \end{vmatrix}$$
$$= 26$$

Theorem

The determinant is the dot product of any row i of A with its cofactors:

Cofactor Formula:
$$\begin{aligned} & C_{ij} = (-1)^{i+j} M_{ij} \\ & |A| = a_{11} C_{11} + a_{12} C_{12} + a_{13} C_{13} \\ & = a_{11} \begin{vmatrix} a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{22} & a_{23} \end{vmatrix} - a_{12} \begin{vmatrix} a_{21} & a_{23} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{vmatrix} + a_{13} \begin{vmatrix} a_{21} & a_{22} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{vmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Example

Find the determinant of the matrix:

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

Solution

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

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

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

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

$$= -36$$

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

Example

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

Theorem

Let A be any n by n matrix.

- a) If A' is the matrix that results when a single row of A is multiplied by a constant k, then $\det(A') = k \det(A)$.
- **b**) If A' is the matrix that results when two rows of A are interchanged, then $\det(A') = -\det(A)$
- c) If A' is the matrix that results when a multiple of one row of A is added to another row then $\det(A') = \det(A)$

Cramer's Rule

Theorem

If AX = B is a system of a linear equations in n unknowns such that $det(A) \neq 0$, then the system has a unique solution. This solution is

$$x_1 = \frac{\det(B_1)}{\det(A)}$$
 $x_2 = \frac{\det(B_2)}{\det(A)}$, ..., $x_n = \frac{\det(B_n)}{\det(A)}$

Where
$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & & & & \\ \vdots & & & & a_{nn} \end{bmatrix}$$
 $X = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}$ $B = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_n \end{bmatrix}$

$$\det(B_1) = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ b_2 & & & & \\ \vdots & & & & & \\ b_n & a_{n2} & & a_{nn} \end{bmatrix}$$

Example

Use Cramer's rule to solve

$$x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 1$$

 $-2x_1 + x_2 = 0$
 $-4x_1 + x_3 = 0$

Solution

$$|A| = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ -2 & 1 & 0 \\ -4 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 7$$

$$|B_1| = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 1 \qquad |B_2| = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ -2 & 0 & 0 \\ -4 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 2 \qquad |B_3| = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ -2 & 1 & 0 \\ -4 & 0 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = 4$$

$$x_1 = \frac{|B_1|}{|A|} = \frac{1}{7} \qquad x_2 = \frac{|B_2|}{|A|} = \frac{2}{7} \qquad x_3 = \frac{|B_3|}{|A|} = \frac{4}{7} \qquad \textit{Solution: } \left(\frac{1}{7}, \frac{2}{7}, \frac{4}{7}\right)$$

Example

Use Cramer's Rule to solve.

$$x_1 + 2x_3 = 6$$

 $-3x_1 + 4x_2 + 6x_3 = 30$
 $-x_1 - 2x_2 + 3x_3 = 8$

Solution

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ -3 & 4 & 6 \\ -1 & -2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \implies \det(A) = 44$$

$$A_{1} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 0 & 2 \\ 30 & 4 & 6 \\ 8 & -2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \implies \det(A_{1}) = -40$$

$$A_{2} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 6 & 2 \\ -3 & 30 & 6 \\ -1 & 8 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \implies \det(A_{2}) = 72$$

$$A_{3} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 6 \\ -3 & 4 & 30 \\ -1 & -2 & 8 \end{bmatrix} \implies \det(A_{3}) = 152$$

$$x_1 = \frac{\det(A_1)}{\det(A)} = \frac{-40}{44} = \frac{-10}{11}$$

$$x_2 = \frac{\det(A_2)}{\det(A)} = \frac{72}{44} = \frac{18}{11}$$

$$x_3 = \frac{\det(A_3)}{\det(A)} = \frac{152}{44} = \frac{38}{11}$$

A Formula for A^{-1}

Theorem: Inverse of a matrix using its Adjoint

The *i*, *j* entry of A^{-1} is the cofactor C_{ji} (not C_{ij}) divided by det(A):

Formula for
$$A^{-1}$$
: $\left(A^{-1}\right)_{ij} = \frac{C_{ji}}{|A|}$ and $A^{-1} = \frac{C^T}{|A|}$

$$A^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det(A)} adj(A)$$

Example

Find the inverse matrix of $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ -2 & 1 & 0 \\ -4 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ using its adjoint.

Solution

$$C_{11} = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 1; \quad C_{12} = -\begin{vmatrix} -2 & 0 \\ -4 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 2; \quad C_{13} = \begin{vmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ -4 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = 4$$

$$C_{21} = -\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = -1; \quad C_{22} = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -4 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 5; \quad C_{23} = -\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -4 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = -4$$

$$C_{31} = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = -1; \quad C_{32} = -\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -2 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = -2; \quad C_{33} = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -2 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 3$$

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & -1 \\ 2 & 5 & -2 \\ 4 & -4 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \det(A) = \frac{1}{7} \quad \Rightarrow \quad A^{-1} = \frac{1}{7} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & -1 \\ 2 & 5 & -2 \\ 4 & -4 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Theorem

If A is an $n \times n$ matrix, then the following statements are equivalent

- a) A is invertible
- **b**) Ax = 0 has only the trivial solution
- c) The reduced row echelon form of A is I_n
- d) A can be expressed as a product of elementary matrices
- e) Ax = b is consistent for every $n \times 1$ matrix b
- f) $\det(A) \neq 0$

Exercises Section 3.5 – Determinants and Cramer's Rule

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 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 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 A and B are square $n \times n$ matrices?
 - b) True or false if A is $m \times n$ and B is $n \times m$ 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:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 12. Prove that if a square matrix 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:

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

- 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 $(\det A)(\det E) = \det(AE)$

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

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. Use Cramer's Rule with ratios
$$\frac{\det B_j}{\det A}$$
 to solve $A\mathbf{x} = b$. Also find the inverse matrix $A^{-1} = \frac{C^T}{\det A}$.

Why is the solution x is the first part the same as column 3 of A^{-1} ? Which cofactors are involved in computing that column x?

$$Ax = b \quad is \quad \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 6 & 2 \\ 1 & 4 & 2 \\ 5 & 9 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

21. Verify that $\det(AB) = \det(BA)$ and determine whether the equality $\det(A+B) = \det(A) + \det(B)$ holds

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 4 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad and \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 3 \\ 7 & 1 & 2 \\ 5 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

22. Verify that $\det(kA) = k^n \det(A)$

a)
$$A = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$
, $k = 2$
b) $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 4 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$, $k = -2$
c) $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$, $k = 3$

23. Solve by using Cramer's rule

a)
$$\begin{cases} 7x - 2y = 3\\ 3x + y = 5 \end{cases}$$
b)
$$\begin{cases} 4x + 5y = 2\\ 11x + y + 2z = 3\\ x + 5y + 2z = 1 \end{cases}$$
c)
$$\begin{cases} x - 4y + z = 6\\ 4x - y + 2z = -1\\ 2x + 2y - 3z = -20 \end{cases}$$

c)
$$\begin{cases} x-4y+z=6\\ 4x-y+2z=-1\\ 2x+2y-3z=-20 \end{cases}$$

$$d) \begin{cases} -x_1 - 4x_2 + 2x_3 + x_4 = -32 \\ 2x_1 - x_2 + 7x_3 + 9x_4 = 14 \\ -x_1 + x_2 + 3x_3 + x_4 = 11 \\ -x_1 - 2x_2 + x_3 - 4x_4 = -4 \end{cases}$$

e)
$$\begin{cases} 2x - y + z = -1 \\ 3x + 4y - z = -1 \\ 4x - y + 2z = -1 \end{cases}$$

Show that the matrix A is invertible for all values of θ , then find A^{-1} using $A^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det(A)} adj(A)$ 24.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta & 0 \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$