Chapter 3

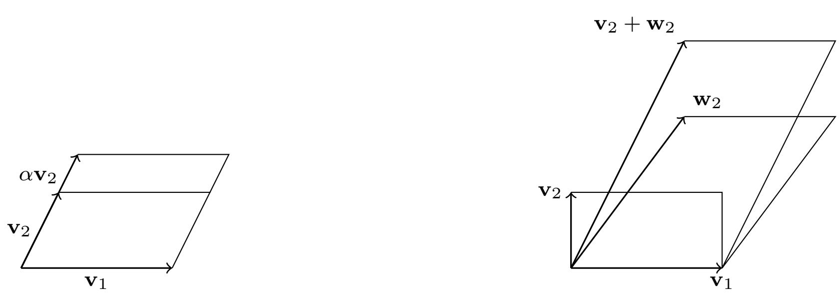
Determinants

9/29: • The determinant, geometrically, is the volume of the object (in $\mathbb{R}^3$) you get when you take linear combinations of the vectors.

- In 2D:
  - Let v_1, v_2 be two vectors. Put tail to tail and forming a parallelogram, the determinant of the matrix (v_1, v_2) is the area of said parallelogram.
  - Linearity 1: $D(av_1, v_2, \dots, v_n) = aD(v_1, \dots, v_n)$ is the same as saying that if you stretch one vector by a, you scale up the area by that much, too.
  - Linearity 2: $D(v_1, \dots, v_{k+} + v_{k-}, \dots, v_n) = D(-) + D(+)$.
  - Antisymmetry: $D(v_1, \dots, v_k, \dots, v_j, \dots, v_n) = -D(v_1, \dots, v_j, \dots, v_k, \dots, v_n)$. Interchanging columns flips the sign of the determinant.
  - Basis: $D(e_1, \dots, e_n) = 1$.
- Determinant: Denoted by $D(v_1, \dots, v_n)$, where $(v_1, \dots, v_n)$ is an $n \times n$ matrix.

10/1: • Consider an $n \times n$ matrix A consisting of n columns containing vectors $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

  - $D(A)$ is the volume of the solid $V = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_i v_i$.
  - $D(\mathbf{e}_1, \dots, \mathbf{e}_n) = 1$.



(a) $D(\mathbf{v}_1, \alpha\mathbf{v}_2) = \alpha D(\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2)$.

(b) $D(\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2 + \mathbf{w}_2) = D(\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2) + D(\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{w}_2)$.

Figure 3.1: Visualizing properties of determinants.

- Basic properties of the determinant.
  - If A has a zero column, then $\det A = 0$: Scalar property.
  - If A has two equal columns, then $\det A = 0$: Multiply one by minus and add.

  - If A has a column which is a multiple of another, then $\det A = 0$: Pull out the multiple and then you have the previous one.
  - If columns are linearly dependent, then $\det A = 0$: Decompose it into sums, split, add back up with previous properties.
  - The determinant is preserved under column reduction.
  - $\det A^T = \det A$: Put everything in rref.
  - If A is not invertible, then $\det A = 0$ (not invertible implies linearly dependent columns, implies $\det A = 0$).
  - $\det(AB) = \det A \det B$.

- Determinant of…
  - A diagonal matrix: The product of the diagonal entries (pull out the terms, and then note that the remaining identity matrix has determinant 1).
  - An upper triangular matrix: The product of the diagonal entries (column reduction to make it into a diagonal matrix, and then the property above).