

Lecture 29: § 6.3 Elementary operations & Determinants

Last time ① Defined determinants via cofactor formula.

- Cofactors of A = signed determinants of submatrices of A with 1 less row & col.

$$\rightarrow A_{r,s} = (-1)^{r+s} \cdot \det(A \text{ without row } r \text{ \& column } s)$$

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & & a_{nn} \end{pmatrix} \rightsquigarrow \boxed{\det(A) = a_{11} A_{11} + a_{12} A_{12} + \dots + a_{1n} A_{1n}}$$

- 2x2 case: $\det \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{pmatrix} = a_{11}a_{22} - a_{12}a_{21}$

Example $\det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 & 5 \end{pmatrix} =$

② For Triangular matrices $A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & & a_{1n} \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & a_{nn} \end{pmatrix}$ or $\begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ & & & \ddots & \\ a_{n1} & & & & a_{nn} \end{pmatrix}$ zeros above the diagonal
zeros below diag
 $\rightsquigarrow \det(A) = \text{product of diagonal entries} = a_{11} a_{22} \dots a_{nn}.$

TODAY: Use elementary row operations to simplify calculation of determinants.

3 row operations $\longleftrightarrow$ 3 effects on determinants

INPUT: $n \times n$ matrix A $\xrightarrow{\text{row op.}}$ OUTPUT: $n \times n$ matrix B

Q: How are $\det(B)$ & $\det(A)$ related?

A:

Operation	$\det(B)$	Net Effect
(I) $R_i \leftrightarrow R_j$ $i \neq j$ (exchange 2 rows)		
(II) $R_i \rightarrow \alpha R_i$ $\alpha \neq 0$ scalar (multiply a row by a <u>nonzero</u> scalar)		
(III) $R_i \rightarrow R_i + \beta R_j$ $i \neq j$ (Add to a row a scalar multiple of a <u>different</u> row)		

Operation I : Exchange 2 rows

$$A \xrightarrow{R_i \leftrightarrow R_j} B$$

Effect : $\det(B) = -\det(A)$.

• 2x2 case

Example : ① $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_1 \leftrightarrow R_2} B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$

② $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_2 \leftrightarrow R_3} B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$

Operation II: Multiply a row by a nonzero scalar α

$$A \longrightarrow B \\ r_i \rightarrow \alpha r_i \\ \alpha \neq 0$$

Effect: $\det(B) = \alpha \det(A)$

Example: ① $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_1 \rightarrow \alpha R_1} B = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & 0 & 2\alpha \\ 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$

② $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_1 \rightarrow \alpha R_1} B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ \alpha & \alpha & 2\alpha \\ 3 & 4 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$

Operation III: Add to a row a scalar multiple of a different row

$$A \longrightarrow B \\ R_i \rightarrow R_i + BR_j \\ i \neq j.$$

Effect: $\det(B) = \det(A)$

Example: ① $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_2 \rightarrow R_2 - R_1} B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 4 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$

② $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_1 \rightarrow R_1 + R_2} B = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$

Combine all 3 operations

ALGORITHM for computing $\det(A)$

- ① Use row operations to go from A to B with B in EF (keeping a record of them!)
- ② Compute $\det(B)$
- ③ Trace back the operations $A \rightarrow B$ & use the rules to get $\det(A)$ from $\det(B)$.

Key: A matrix in EF is upper triangular, so $\det B$ is easy to compute (just take the product of diag entries)

Why? Each step starts either on or to the right of the diag

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & 1 & \\ 0 & & & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Ex: $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ & $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

Example: $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 4 & 8 & 4 \\ -3 & 2 & -1 & 0 \\ 2 & -3 & -2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

Determinants to test for singular matrices

Theorem: A of size $n \times n$ is invertible if, and only if, $\det A \neq 0$.