

4.2 Determinants Cont'd

Quick Method for 3x3 Determinants

Ex: $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & 9 \\ 2 & -2 & 6 \\ 1 & 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$ Find $\det A$

Diagram illustrating the expansion of a 3x3 determinant. The matrix is written with red numbers. Blue circles with '+' and '-' signs are placed above the first row. Blue lines connect the first row to the second and third rows, and the second and third rows to the first row, forming a cycle. The resulting terms are written below the matrix: 18, 0, -32, -8, 24, 0.

$$\det A = 18 + 0 - 32 - 8 + 24 + 0 = 2$$

Fact

If A is upper/lower triangular or diagonal then $|A| = \text{product of diagonal entries}$

Ex: $\begin{vmatrix} 2 & 9 & 13 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 \end{vmatrix} = 2(-1)(4) = -8$
 upper triangular

Why?

$$\begin{vmatrix} 2 & 9 & 13 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 \end{vmatrix} = 4 \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 9 \\ 0 & -1 \end{vmatrix} = 4(2)(-1) = -8$$

Row Operations to Calculate $|A|$

$R_i \leftrightarrow R_j$ changes sign of $|A|$

Can factor a row

$R_i \pm kR_j$ does not change $|A|$

Ex: Calculate $|A|$ using row operations

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & -2 & 1 & 9 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 4 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 6 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\begin{matrix} R_2 - 2R_1 \\ R_3 - 3R_1 \end{matrix}$$

$$= \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -2 & 1 & 9 \\ 0 & 5 & 1 & -15 \\ 0 & 7 & 1 & -22 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 6 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$R_2 \leftrightarrow R_4$$

$$= - \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -2 & 1 & 9 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 6 \\ 0 & 7 & 1 & -22 \\ 0 & 5 & 1 & -15 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} R_3 - 7R_2 \\ R_4 - 5R_2 \end{array}$$

$$= - \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -2 & 1 & 9 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & -6 & -64 \\ 0 & 0 & -4 & -45 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\frac{R_3}{-6}$$

$$= -(-6) \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -2 & 1 & 9 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \frac{32}{3} \\ 0 & 0 & -4 & -45 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$R_4 + 4R_3$$

$$= 6 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -2 & 1 & 9 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \frac{32}{3} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{7}{3} \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\leftarrow -45 + 4 \left(\frac{32}{3} \right) = -\frac{7}{3}$$

upper triangular

$$= 6 \left(1 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 \cdot -\frac{7}{3} \right)$$

$$= -14$$

Fact

An $n \times n$ matrix A is invertible if and only if $\det A \neq 0$

Properties of $\det A$

- ① $\det A^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det A}$
- ② $\det(AB) = (\det A)(\det B)$
- ③ $\det(kA) = k^n (\det A)$ where A is $n \times n$
- ④ $\det(A^T) = \det A$

Ex: Property ③

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

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

$$\begin{vmatrix} 3 & 6 \\ 9 & 12 \end{vmatrix} = 3^2(-2)$$

$$\begin{vmatrix} 5a & 5b & 5c \\ 5d & 5e & 5f \\ 5g & 5h & 5i \end{vmatrix} = 5^3 \begin{vmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{vmatrix}$$

Ex: Show Property ① by starting
with $AA^{-1} = I$

$$AA^{-1} = I$$

$$\det(AA^{-1}) = \det I$$

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

$$\det A^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det A}$$

Cramer's Rule

Let A be $n \times n$

When $\det A \neq 0$, $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$ has a unique solution \therefore

$$i^{\text{th}} \text{ variable} = \frac{|A_i|}{|A|}$$

where $A_i = A$, with i^{th} column replaced by \vec{b}