

## Lecture #20

## Determinants

(Quiz theme - e-values & e-vectors)

EX Let  $M[L] = \begin{pmatrix} m_1^1 & m_1^2 \\ m_2^1 & m_2^2 \end{pmatrix}$  where  $L: V \rightarrow V$ ,  $\dim V = 2$ ,  
linear

We saw  $L$  invertible  $\Leftrightarrow \det M = m_1^1 m_2^2 - m_2^1 m_1^2 \neq 0$

In fact, for  $\dim V = 3$ , a similar criterion exists

$$\det M = m_1^1 m_2^2 m_3^3 - m_2^1 m_1^2 m_3^3 + m_1^1 m_2^3 m_3^2 - m_3^1 m_2^2 m_1^3 + m_1^1 m_2^2 m_3^3 - m_1^1 m_2^3 m_3^2$$

Notice this formula is obtained by permuting column numbers with signs.

# Permutations

Set of bijections

$$\sigma : \{1, 2, \dots, n\} \longrightarrow \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$$

Common notations

$$\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & \dots & n \\ \sigma(1) & \sigma(2) & \sigma(3) & \dots & \sigma(n) \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{OR JUST} \quad \sigma(1) \sigma(2) \dots \sigma(n)$$

The set of all  $\sigma$  is called  $S_n$ , it has  $n!$  elements and forms a non-abelian group with multiplication defined by composition. Groups will be the main focus in 15DA.

## The sign function

All we need to know about  $S_n$  is that there is a well-defined group homomorphism

$$\text{sign} : S_n \longrightarrow \{+1, -1\}$$

by counting the number of pairwise swaps required to reach the identity permutation

$$\text{sgn}(\sigma) = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{even \# swaps} \\ -1 & \text{odd \# swaps} \end{cases}$$

EX  $\text{sgn}(\underbrace{65}_{\curvearrowright} \underbrace{14}_{\curvearrowright} 32) = +1.$

The determinant Let  $M = (m_j^i)$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix, then

$$\det M = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \operatorname{sgn} \sigma \cdot m_{\sigma(1)}^1 m_{\sigma(2)}^2 \cdots m_{\sigma(n)}^n$$

\* Computation involves  $n!$  terms, half +ve, half -ve  $\Rightarrow$  very inefficient:

$\Rightarrow$  FIND CLEVER RULES FOR DETERMINANTS

\* Let  $I = M[\text{Id}] = (\delta_j^i)$   $\delta_j^i = \begin{cases} 1 & i=j \\ 0 & i \neq j \end{cases}$

$$\det I = 1$$



Proof  $\det M' = \sum_{\sigma} \operatorname{sgn} \sigma : m_{\sigma(1)}^1 m_{\sigma(2)}^2 \dots m_{\sigma(i)}^j \dots m_{\sigma(j)}^i \dots m_{\sigma(n)}^n$

$j > i$

$\nearrow = \sum_{\sigma} (-\operatorname{sgn} \tilde{\sigma}) \cdot m_{\tilde{\sigma}(1)}^1 m_{\tilde{\sigma}(2)}^2 \dots m_{\tilde{\sigma}(i)}^i \dots m_{\tilde{\sigma}(j)}^j \dots m_{\tilde{\sigma}(n)}^n$

$\tilde{\sigma}$  is  $\sigma$  with  $i \leftrightarrow j$

But  $\sum_{\sigma} f(\sigma) = \sum_{\tilde{\sigma}} f(\tilde{\sigma})$  so we are done.

**EXERCISE**

Define  $M^T = (\overline{m}_{ij}^i)$ , the transpose matrix where

$$\overline{m}_{ij}^i = m_{ji}^j.$$

Use the above method to prove

$$\det M^T = \det M$$

\* Corollaries If two rows or columns of  $M$  are the same  $\det M = 0$

\* Let  $M'$  equal  $M$  save for multiplying one row by  $\mu$ .

Then

$$\det M' = \mu \det M$$

Proof This is more or less obvious from the definition because  $m_j^i \rightarrow \mu m_j^i$  for some row number  $i$ .

\* Let  $M'$  equal  $M$  with row  $i$  replaced by row  $i$  plus  $\lambda$  (row  $k$ ). Then  $\det M' = \det M$

because  $m_j^i \rightarrow m_j^i + \lambda m_j^k$

$\nearrow$   $\det M$

$\nwarrow$   $\det$  of matrix  $\in$  two equal rows.

We have established the effect of row operations on the determinant:

$$\begin{cases} M \xrightarrow{R_i \leftrightarrow R_j} M' & \det M' = -\det M \\ M \xrightarrow{R_i \rightarrow \lambda R_i} M' & \det M' = \lambda \det M \\ M \xrightarrow{R_i \rightarrow R_i + \lambda R_k} M' & \det M' = \det M \end{cases}$$

Applying these to the identity gives "elementary matrices"

$$I \xrightarrow{R_i \leftrightarrow R_j} E_j^i = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & 0 & 1 \\ & & 1 & 0 \\ & & & \ddots \end{pmatrix} \quad \det E_j^i = -1$$

$$I \xrightarrow{R_i \rightarrow \lambda R_i} R^i(\lambda) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & \lambda & \\ & & & \ddots \end{pmatrix} \quad \det R^i(\lambda) = \lambda$$

$$I \xrightarrow{R_i \rightarrow R_i + \mu R_k} S_k^i(\mu) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & 1 & \mu \\ & & & \ddots \end{pmatrix} \quad \det S_k^i(\mu) = 1$$

Claim  $E_j^i M = M'$   
 $R^i(\lambda) M = M'$   
 $S_k^i(\mu) M = M'$

where  $\begin{cases} M \xrightarrow{R_i \leftrightarrow R_j} M' \\ M \xrightarrow{R_i \rightarrow \lambda R_i} M' \\ M \xrightarrow{R_i \rightarrow R_i + \mu R_k} M' \end{cases}$

i.e. Left multiplication by elementary matrices performs row operations — this is coded by matrix multiplication.

Moreover if  $E$  is any of  $E_j^i, R^i(\lambda), S_k^i(\mu)$  we see

$$\boxed{\det EM = \det E \det M}$$

But Gauss-Jordan elimination performs row operations to bring  $M$  to the identity or RREF. For the former case this

means  $M = E_1 \cdots E_k I$  where  $E_1, \dots, E_k$  are a sequence of elementary matrices. Thus

$$\det M = \det E_1 \cdots \det E_k$$

Similarly, if

$$N = F_1 \cdots F_\ell$$

for some other matrix  $N$ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \det MN &= \det E_1 \cdots E_k F_1 \cdots F_\ell = \det E_1 \cdots \det E_k \det F_1 \cdots \det F_\ell \\ &= \det M \det N. \end{aligned}$$

When  $M$  is singular,  $\text{RREF}(M)$  has a row of zeros so  $\det M = 0$ , but the above conclusion still holds.

Summarise the above discussion by

Theorem Let  $M, N$  be the matrices of linear transformations

$$L: V \rightarrow V, \quad K: V \rightarrow V.$$

Then  $L$  non-invertible  $\Leftrightarrow \det M = 0$

ii)

$$\det MN = \det M \det N$$