

Lecture #22

Determinants ctd.

Recall, the eigenvalue problem $LV = \lambda V$ required a characterization of when

$L - \lambda \text{Id}$ is invertible, achieved via $\det M[L - \lambda \text{Id}]$.

$$\det M = \sum_{\sigma} \text{sgn } \sigma \, m_{\sigma(1)}^1 m_{\sigma(2)}^2 \cdots m_{\sigma(n)}^n$$

Row operations required for Gauß-Jordan elimination:

Row swap $R_i \leftrightarrow R_j$

Scalar Multiply $R_i \rightarrow \lambda R_i$

Addition $R_i \rightarrow R_i + \lambda R_j$

Row operation	Elementary Matrix E = Row op. on I	Change in determinant	$\det E$
$R_i \leftrightarrow R_j$	$E_{ij}^c = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & 0 & 1 \\ & & 1 & 0 \\ & & & \ddots \end{pmatrix}$	$\det M' = -\det M$	-1
$R_i \rightarrow \lambda R_i$	$R^i(\lambda) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & \lambda & \\ & & & \ddots \\ & & & & 1 \end{pmatrix}$	$\det M' = \lambda \det M$	λ
$R_i \rightarrow R_i + \lambda R_j$	$S_{ij}^c(\lambda) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & 1 & \lambda \\ & & & \ddots \\ & & & & 1 \end{pmatrix}$	$\det M' = \det M$	1

In all cases $M' = EM$ & $\det M' = \det E \cdot \det M$

Two cases ① M invertible

Gauß-Jordan elimination $M \sim \dots \sim I$ ↖ sequence of row ops

$$\Rightarrow M = E_1 E_2 \dots E_k I \rightarrow \text{sequence of elementary matrices}$$

$$\Rightarrow \det M = \det E_1 \det E_2 \dots \det E_k$$

② M not invertible

$$\Rightarrow M = E_1 E_2 \dots E_k \text{ RREF}(M)$$

where $\text{RREF}(M)$ has a row of zeros.

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\det M = 0 \iff M \text{ not invertible.}}$$

Now suppose $M \Delta N$ are both invertible, then

$$\left. \begin{aligned} M &= E_1 \dots E_k \\ N &= F_1 \dots F_l \end{aligned} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{sequences of} \\ \text{elementary matrices} \end{array}$$

$$\Rightarrow \det M = \det E_1 \dots \det E_k$$

$$\det N = \det F_1 \dots \det F_l$$

$$\text{But } \det MN = \det E_1 \dots E_k F_1 \dots F_l$$

$$= \det E_1 \dots \det E_k \det F_1 \dots \det F_l$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\det MN = \det M \det N}$$

When either M or N is singular, easy to check the same holds.

Corollary: If M^{-1} exists, $\det M^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det M}$

Application: The characteristic polynomial.

If λ is an eigenvalue, $M - \lambda I$ is singular,

thus

$$\det(M - \lambda I) = 0$$

This quantity is called the characteristic polynomial

$$P(\lambda) = \det(M - \lambda I).$$

It is order n , thus over $\mathbb{C}$

$$P(\lambda) = (\lambda - \lambda_1)(\lambda - \lambda_2) \cdots (\lambda - \lambda_n) \quad \text{where } \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n \in \mathbb{C} \text{ are eigenvalues.}$$

If a root λ_i repeats k times we say λ_i has multiplicity k .

Example:



Scientists at CERN notice that if their beam deviates from its target by an amount $(\delta x, \delta y)$,

the deviation after the particles perform another loop is

$$(\delta x + 2\delta y, 3\delta x + 6\delta y).$$

For a fixed initial deviation, what happens to the beam after N loops?