

Linear Algebra  
11/5/2012

Topic: Practice computing determinants

Two big methods for m-by-m matrices:

- Cofactor expansion
- Forward elimination

These methods can be combined along with

- 2-by-2:  $ad-bc$
- 3-by-3:  $\begin{vmatrix} \backslash & / & / \\ / & \backslash & / \end{vmatrix}$  method.

EXAMPLE MATRIX

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 & 2 \\ 3 & -2 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 0 & 4 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

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FORWARD ELIMINATION (NO SCALING)

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

$$= 1 \cdot (-2) \cdot 1 \cdot (-9) = 18$$

I USED THESE FACTS

$$\det(\text{REPLACE}) = 1$$

$$\det(\text{SCALE BY } r) = r$$

MATRICES OF THE FORM

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & & * \\ & 1 & \\ 0 & & 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ ARE PRODUCTS OF "REPLACE"'S}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b & c & 0 \\ 0 & & & \ddots \\ & & & z \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & * \\ & 1 & \\ 0 & & \ddots \\ & & & 1 \end{bmatrix} =$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b & c & * \\ 0 & & & \ddots \\ & & & z \end{bmatrix}$$

NOTE ALSO  
 $\det(\text{SWAP}) = -1$

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3-By-3 TRICK

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & -1 & -3 \\ -2 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \overset{+}{1} & \overset{+}{2} & \overset{+}{3} & | & \overset{-}{1} & \overset{-}{2} & \overset{-}{3} \\ 0 & -1 & -3 & | & 0 & -1 & -3 \\ -2 & 0 & 1 & | & -2 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\underline{1 \cdot (-1) \cdot 1 + 2(-3)(-2) + 3 \cdot 0 \cdot 0} - \underline{1(-3) \cdot 0 - 2 \cdot 0 \cdot 1 - 3 \cdot (-1) \cdot (-2)}$$

$$-1 + 12 + 0 - 0 - 0 - 6 = 5$$

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & -1 & -3 \\ -2 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 5$$

**WARNING!!!**

THIS DOES NOT WORK FOR MATRICES THAT ARE NOT 3x3.

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MIXED APPROACH

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & -3 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 & -2 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 3 & 2 \end{vmatrix} \stackrel{\text{REPLACE}}{=} \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & -3 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 3 & 2 \end{vmatrix} \stackrel{\text{COFACTOR EXPANSION}}{=} \dots$$

1.  $\begin{vmatrix} -1 & 1 & 4 \\ -1 & 2 & 1 \\ -1 & 3 & 2 \end{vmatrix} + 0 + 0 + 0 = \dots$

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

$(-1) \cdot (2) \cdot (2) + 1 \cdot 1 \cdot (-1) + 4(-1) \cdot 3 - (-1) \cdot 1 \cdot 3 - 1 \cdot (-1) \cdot 2 - 4 \cdot 2 \cdot (-1)$

$$-4 - 1 - 12 + 3 + 2 + 8 = -4$$

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COMPUTE THE DETERMINANT

$$\begin{vmatrix} a_1 & b_1 & c_1 & a_1+b_1+c_1 \\ a_2 & b_2 & c_2 & a_2+b_2+c_2 \\ a_3 & b_3 & c_3 & a_3+b_3+c_3 \\ a_4 & b_4 & c_4 & a_4+b_4+c_4 \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

↑  
LINEAR  
COMBINATION  
OF THE FIRST  
3 COLUMNS.

↘  
MATRIX IS NOT INVERTIBLE

↓  
COLUMNS ARE  
LINEARLY  
DEPENDENT

Nov 5-9:43 AM