

Course : Algebra 3  
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Department of Computer Science

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## Chapter 1 : Determinants of matrices

### 1 Matrices and their properties

**Definition 1.1** A rectangular array that is defined by

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \cdots & a_{mn} \end{pmatrix},$$

represents an  $m \times n$  matrix where  $m$  and  $n$  are, respectively, row dimension and column dimension. The elements which are denoted by  $a_{ij}$  are real numbers for  $1 \leq i \leq m$  and  $1 \leq j \leq n$ .

**Example 1.1** Let  $A$  be an  $m \times n$  matrix defined by

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 7 \\ 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 8 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Here, we have  $m = 3$  and  $n = 2$ .

**Definition 1.2** , Let  $A = [a_{ij}]_{m \times n}$  be an  $m \times n$  matrix and Let  $B = [b_{ji}]_{n \times m}$  be an  $n \times m$  matrix with  $b_{ji} = a_{ij}$ . Then the matrix  $B$  is called the transpose of  $A$  and denoted by  $A^T$ .

**Example 1.2** Let  $A$  be a  $2 \times 3$  matrix defined by

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 0 & 5 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The transpose of  $A$  is given by

$$A^T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 0 \\ 4 & 5 \end{pmatrix}.$$

**Remark 1.1** Let  $A$  be an  $m \times n$  matrix.  $A$  is said to be a square matrix if we have  $m = n$

**Definition 1.3** Assume that  $A$  is a square matrix of order  $n$  and let  $a_{ij}$  be real numbers for all  $i, j$ .

1. An identity matrix is an  $n \times n$  matrix with  $a_{ij} = 0$  for  $i \neq j$  and  $a_{ij} = 1$  for  $i = j$ . This type of matrices is denoted by  $I_n$ .
2. If the elements of  $A$  satisfy  $a_{ij} = 0$  for  $i \neq j$ , then  $A$  can be called a diagonal matrix.
3. If  $a_{ij} = 0$  for all  $i < j$  ( or  $i > j$ ), then  $A$  represents a so-called lower (or upper) triangular matrix.
4. If  $a_{ij} = a_{ji}$  for all  $i, j$ , then we can say that  $A$  is a symmetric matrix.

**Example 1.3** Let

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, B = \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, C = \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 6 & 7 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, D = \begin{pmatrix} 6 & 0 \\ 1 & 5 \end{pmatrix},$$

and

$$E = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 8 & 9 & 5 \\ 8 & 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 9 & 2 & 6 & 3 \\ 5 & 4 & 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Thus, we can see that

$A$  is an identity matrix.

$B$  is a diagonal matrix.

$C$  is an upper triangular matrix.

$D$  is a lower triangular matrix.

$E$  is a so-called symmetric matrix.

**Theorem 1.1** Suppose that  $A, B$  and  $C$  are matrices of order  $m \times n$  and that  $\alpha$  is a scalar. Then we get that

- a)  $A + B = B + A$ .
- b)  $(A + B) + C = A + (B + C)$ .
- c)  $\alpha(A + B) = \alpha A + \alpha B$ .
- d)  $(A + B)^T = A^T + B^T$ .

**Theorem 1.2** We assume that  $A$  is a matrix of order  $m \times n$  and that  $\alpha$  is a scalar. Take that  $B$  and  $C$  are matrices of order  $n \times q$ , then

- a)  $A(B + C) = AB + AC$ .
- b)  $\alpha(AB) = (\alpha A)B$ .
- c)  $(A^T)^T = A$ .
- d)  $(AB)^T = B^T A^T$ .

**Remark 1.2** Under the condition that  $A$  is a matrix of order  $m \times n$ , we have

$$AI_n = I_m A = A$$

## 2 Calculation of determinants

**Definition 2.1** Assume that  $A$  is a square matrix of order  $n$  and that the elements of  $A$ , denoted by  $a_{ij}$ , are real numbers for all  $i, j$ . Let  $|M_{ij}|$  be the minor of the matrix  $A$  corresponding to  $a_{ij}$ . Then the determinant of  $A$  is given by

$$|A| = \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ij} (-1)^{i+j} |M_{ij}|, \quad (1)$$

with  $j$  is fixed.

**Example 2.1** Consider

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, \text{ and } B = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 4 & 1 \\ 2 & 6 & 7 \\ 3 & 0 & 4 \end{pmatrix}.$$

It is obvious that  $A$  and  $B$  represent square matrices and their determinants are given by

$$|A| = 4$$

$$\begin{aligned}
|B| &= 3 \begin{vmatrix} 6 & 7 \\ 0 & 4 \end{vmatrix} - 4 \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 7 \\ 3 & 4 \end{vmatrix} + 1 \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 6 \\ 3 & 0 \end{vmatrix}, \\
&= 106.
\end{aligned}$$

**Proposition 2.1** Consider two square matrices of the same order, denoted by  $A$  and  $B$ , and a scalar  $\alpha$ . Assume that  $a_{ij}$  are the elements of  $A$ . Then the following statements are true.

- a)  $|AB| = |A||B|$ .
- b)  $|A| = \prod_{i=1}^n a_{ii}$ , in the case where  $A$  defines a lower or an upper triangular matrix and in the case where  $A$  represents a diagonal matrix of order  $n$ .
- c)  $|\alpha A| = \alpha^n |A|$ .
- d)  $|A| = |A^T|$ .
- e)  $|I_n + DC| = |I_m + CD|$ , in the case where  $C$  is a matrix of order  $m \times n$ , and where  $D$  is a matrix of order  $n \times m$ .
- f)  $|A| = 0$  in the case where there exists a column or a row of zeros

### 3 Invertible matrices

**Definition 3.1** We say that  $B$  is the inverse of an  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$  in the case where  $B$  is an  $n \times n$  matrix satisfying  $BA = I_n$  and  $AB = I_n$  such that the inverse of  $A$  is represented by  $A^{-1}$ .

**Proposition 3.1** Suppose that  $A$  is a square matrix of order  $n$ . Then we have

$$|A|I_n = A \operatorname{adj}(A) = \operatorname{adj}(A)A, \quad (2)$$

where

$$\operatorname{adj}(A) = C^T, \quad (3)$$

with

$$C_{ij} = (-1)^{i+j} |M_{ij}|. \quad (4)$$

**Remark 3.1** Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix and let  $|A| \neq 0$ . Thus, we can say that the inverse of  $A$  exists and is defined as

$$A^{-1} = \frac{1}{|A|} \operatorname{adj}(A). \quad (5)$$

**Example 3.1** Find the inverse of  $A$  in the case where

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{pmatrix},$$

and where

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 4 & 1 \\ 5 & 6 & 7 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

1) Under the condition that  $a_{11}a_{22} - a_{21}a_{12} \neq 0$ ,  $A^{-1}$  exists with

$$A^{-1} = \frac{1}{a_{11}a_{22} - a_{21}a_{12}} \begin{pmatrix} a_{22} & -a_{12} \\ -a_{21} & a_{11} \end{pmatrix}.$$

2) We have

$$\begin{aligned} |A| &= 3 \begin{vmatrix} 6 & 7 \\ 1 & 2 \end{vmatrix} - 4 \begin{vmatrix} 5 & 7 \\ 0 & 2 \end{vmatrix} + 1 \begin{vmatrix} 5 & 6 \\ 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix}, \\ &= -20. \end{aligned}$$

We note that  $|A| \neq 0$ , then the inverse of  $A$  is

$$A^{-1} = -\frac{1}{20} \begin{pmatrix} 5 & -7 & 22 \\ -10 & 6 & -16 \\ 5 & -3 & -2 \end{pmatrix},$$

such that

$$\text{adj}(A) = \begin{pmatrix} 5 & -10 & 5 \\ -7 & 6 & -3 \\ 22 & -16 & -2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

**Theorem 3.1** Assume that  $A$  is a matrix and  $A^{-1}$  exists. Then we can say that  $A^{-1}$  is unique.

**Proof :** We suppose that  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are the inverses of  $A$ . Here, we can take

$$A_1A = I_n, \text{ and } AA_1 = I_n, \tag{6}$$

with

$$A_2A = I_n, \text{ and } AA_2 = I_n. \tag{7}$$

This leads to

$$\begin{aligned} A_2 &= I_n A_2 \\ &= (A_1 A) A_2 \\ &= A_1 (A A_2) \\ &= A_1 I_n \\ &= A_1 \end{aligned}$$

Then, we deduce that

$$A_2 = A_1, \quad (8)$$

which means that  $A^{-1}$  is unique. ■

**Theorem 3.2** *Let  $A$  be a square matrix of order  $n$ . We can say that the matrix  $A$  is invertible if and only if the determinant of  $A$  is not equal to zero.*

**Proof :**

a) Under the assumptions that the inverse of  $A$  exists, we get

$$|AA^{-1}| = |A||A^{-1}|. \quad (9)$$

This leads to

$$|I| = |A||A^{-1}|. \quad (10)$$

From the fact that  $|I| = 1$  which represents the determinant of a diagonal matrix, we can obtain

$$1 = |A||A^{-1}|. \quad (11)$$

In the sequel, we deduce that

$$|A| \neq 0. \quad (12)$$

b) We let

$$|A| \neq 0, \quad (13)$$

and know

$$|A|I_n = \text{adj}(A)A \quad (14)$$

Here, we find

$$A^{-1} = \frac{1}{|A|} \text{adj}(A). \quad (15)$$

Then, we can say that the inverse of  $A$  exists.

■

## 4 Cramer's rule for systems

Consider the system of linear equations

$$AX = B, \quad (16)$$

where  $A$  is a square matrix of order  $n$  and where  $B$  is a column vector. Under the assumption that  $A$  is invertible, there exists a unique solution which is denoted by  $X$  and defined as  $X = A^{-1}B$ . Using Cramer's rule, we are able to solve the above system and to compute its solution

$$x_i = \frac{|A_i|}{|A|}, \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, n, \quad (17)$$

such that  $A_i$  represents a square matrix, after a change of the  $i$ -th column of the matrix  $A$  by putting the column vector  $B$ .

## References

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