

# UNIT 2: Matrices and determinants.

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**Mathematical methods II**

2011-2012

## A real matrix $A$ of size $m \times n$

is a rectangular array of numbers  $a_{ij} \in \mathbb{R}$  with  $m$  rows and  $n$  columns

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \cdots & a_{mn} \end{pmatrix} = (a_{ij}) \begin{matrix} i = 1 \dots m. \\ j = 1 \dots n. \end{matrix}$$

The set of all matrices of size  $m \times n$  is denoted by  $M_{m \times n}$ .

## Particular matrices:

- $n = 1$ . Column vector  $\rightarrow V = \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ \vdots \\ v_m \end{pmatrix}$ .
- $m = 1$ . Row vector  $\rightarrow V = (v_1, \dots, v_n)$ .
- $m = n$ . Square matrix.
- $m \neq n$ . Rectangular matrix.

- Zero matrix  $m \times n$ :

$$0_{mn} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \end{pmatrix}_{m \times n}$$

- Identity matrix of size  $n$ :

$$I_n = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 \end{pmatrix}_{n \times n}$$

The **main diagonal** of a square matrix  $A = (a_{ij})$  consists of the elements  $a_{11}, a_{22}, \dots, a_{nn}$ .

If  $A$  is a  $n \times n$  square matrix,

$A$  is **upper triangular** if  
 $a_{ij} = 0$  whenever  $i > j$ .

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & * & \cdots & * \\ 0 & a_{22} & \cdots & * \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & a_{nn} \end{pmatrix}.$$

$A$  is **lower triangular** if  
 $a_{ij} = 0$  whenever  $i < j$ .

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ * & a_{22} & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ * & * & \cdots & a_{nn} \end{pmatrix}.$$

If the only nonzero elements in a square matrix are the ones in the main diagonal, the matrix is said to be **diagonal**.

## Addition of matrices of the same size $m \times n$

$$A + B = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} + b_{11} & a_{12} + b_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} + b_{1n} \\ a_{21} + b_{21} & a_{22} + b_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} + b_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} + b_{m1} & a_{m2} + b_{m2} & \cdots & a_{mn} + b_{mn} \end{pmatrix}.$$

## Properties: For $A, B, C \in M_{m \times n}$

- Commutativity:  $A + B = B + A$ .
- Associativity:  $(A + B) + C = A + (B + C)$ .
- Identity element:  $A + 0_{mn} = A = 0_{mn} + A$ .
- Opposite element:  $A + (-A) = 0_{mn}$ .

## Scalar multiplication by $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$

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

## Properties: For $A, B \in M_{m \times n}$ and $\lambda, \mu \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

- Distributivity with respect to scalars:  $\lambda(A + B) = \lambda A + \lambda B$ .
- Distributivity with respect to matrices:  $(\lambda + \mu)A = \lambda A + \mu A$ .
- Associativity:  $\lambda\mu A = \lambda(\mu A)$ .
- Identity element:  $1A = A$ .

## Matrix product of $A$ by a vector $v$

$$\begin{aligned} Av &= A \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11}v_1 + a_{12}v_2 + \cdots + a_{1n}v_n \\ a_{21}v_1 + a_{22}v_2 + \cdots + a_{2n}v_n \\ \vdots \\ a_{m1}v_1 + a_{m2}v_2 + \cdots + a_{mn}v_n \end{pmatrix} \\ &= v_1 \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} \\ \vdots \\ a_{m1} \end{pmatrix} + v_2 \begin{pmatrix} a_{12} \\ \vdots \\ a_{m2} \end{pmatrix} + \cdots + v_n \begin{pmatrix} a_{1n} \\ \vdots \\ a_{mn} \end{pmatrix} = \\ &= v_1 A_1 + v_2 A_2 + \cdots + v_n A_n. \end{aligned}$$

where  $A_i$  is the  $i$ -th column of  $A$ .

**Then the multiplication  $Av$  is a linear combination of the columns of  $A$ .**

## Matrix multiplication of $A \in M_{m \times n}$ by $B \in M_{n \times p}$ :

If we write the matrix  $B = [B_1|B_2|\cdots|B_p]$  by columns,

$$AB = A[B_1|B_2|\cdots|B_p] = [AB_1|AB_2|\cdots|AB_p],$$

is a  $m \times p$  matrix and  $(AB)_{ij} = a_{i1}b_{1j} + a_{i2}b_{2j} + \cdots + a_{in}b_{nj}$ .

**Properties:** For  $A \in M_{m \times n}$ ,  $B, C$  matrices of suitable size and

$\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

- $A(BC) = (AB)C$
- $\lambda(AB) = (\lambda A)B = A(\lambda B)$
- $A(B + C) = AB + AC$
- $I_m A = A = A I_n$
- $(B + C)A = BA + CA$
- $A 0_{np} = 0_{mp}$ ,  $0_{rm} A = 0_{rn}$

**Be careful: Matrix multiplication is not commutative:**

$AB \neq BA$ .



## Transpose matrix

Let  $A \in M_{m \times n}$ , the **transpose matrix of  $A$**  is a matrix of size  $n \times m$  such that its columns are the rows of  $A$ . The transpose matrix of  $A$  is denoted by  $A^T$ .

Example: If  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 & 6 \end{pmatrix}$ , then  $A^T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 4 \\ 2 & 6 \end{pmatrix}$ .

**Properties:** For matrices  $A, B$  of suitable size and  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

- $(A^T)^T = A$ .
- $(A + B)^T = A^T + B^T$ .
- $(\lambda A)^T = \lambda A^T$ .
- $(AB)^T = B^T A^T$ . **Note the change in the order of matrices.**

## A matrix $A$ is...

- **symmetric** if  $A^T = A$ . (Then  $A$  must be square).
- **skewsymmetric** if  $A^T = -A$ . (Then  $A$  must be square).
- **orthogonal** if  $A^T A = AA^T = I$ . ( $A$  is not necessarily square).

## A square matrix $A$ of size $n \times n$ has inverse...

if there exists a  $n \times n$  matrix  $A^{-1}$  such that

$$AA^{-1} = A^{-1}A = I_n.$$

The matrix  $A^{-1}$  denotes the inverse matrix of  $A$ .

## If $A$ is invertible,

the systems of linear equations  $Ax = b$  has a unique solution and it is given by  $x = A^{-1}b$ .

**Properties:** For invertible matrices  $A$  and  $B$  of suitable size,

- $(A^{-1})^{-1} = A$ .
- $(AB)^{-1} = B^{-1}A^{-1}$ .
- $(A^T)^{-1} = (A^{-1})^T$ .
- The inverse matrix is unique, if it exists.

**How to compute the inverse matrix by elementary row operations (ERO):**

$$\left( A \mid I_n \right) \underset{\text{By ERO}}{\sim} \left( I_n \mid A^{-1} \right).$$

The identity matrix has the same size as the matrix  $A$ .

## Determinants

A scalar can be assigned to any square matrix. That scalar is called **determinant**.

How to compute determinants of matrices  $A \in M_{n \times n}$  with  $n = 2$  and  $n = 3$ . (Rule of Sarrus)

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

- $$\begin{vmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{vmatrix} = a_{11}a_{22}a_{33} + a_{12}a_{23}a_{31} + a_{13}a_{21}a_{32} \\ - a_{31}a_{22}a_{13} - a_{32}a_{23}a_{11} - a_{33}a_{21}a_{12}.$$

## For a square matrix $A \in M_{n \times n}$ :

- The **determinant associated with  $a_{ij}$**  is the determinant of the matrix  $A_{ij}$  of size  $(n-1) \times (n-1)$  obtained by removing the  $i$ -th row and the  $j$ -th column of the matrix  $A$ .

Example:  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 3 \\ -2 & 4 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $\det A_{21} = \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 0 - 3 = -3$ .

- The  **$(i, j)$ -cofactor  $C_{ij}$**  is the value  $(-1)^{i+j} \det A_{ij} = C_{ij}$ .  
In the previous example,  $C_{21} = (-1)^{2+1} \det A_{21} = -(-3) = 3$ .
- The **adjugate matrix of  $A$**  is the matrix of size  $n \times n$  that consists of the  $(i, j)$ -cofactor of all the elements in  $A$ :

$$\text{Adj } A = \begin{pmatrix} C_{11} & \cdots & C_{1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ C_{n1} & \cdots & C_{nn} \end{pmatrix}.$$

The determinant of any  $n \times n$  square matrix  $A$  is computed as:

- a cofactor expansion across the  $i$ -th row:

$$\det A = |A| = a_{i1}C_{i1} + \cdots + a_{in}C_{in},$$

- or a cofactor expansion across the  $j$ -th column:

$$\det A = |A| = a_{1j}C_{1j} + \cdots + a_{nj}C_{nj}.$$

Usually we choose the row or column with more zeroes to compute the determinants as a cofactor expansion across it to simplify the computations.

## Properties of the determinants for $A \in M_{n \times n}$ :

Associated with elementary row operations:

- If  $A \xrightarrow{\lambda R_i + R_j \rightarrow R_j} B$ , then  $\det A = \det B$ .
- If  $A \xrightarrow{R_i \leftrightarrow R_j} B$ , then  $\det A = -\det B$ .
- If  $A \xrightarrow{\lambda R_j \rightarrow R_j} B$ , then  $\det B = \lambda \det A$ .

Other properties:

- If two rows are equal or proportional,  $\det A = 0$ .
- If a matrix has a row of zeroes,  $\det A = 0$ .
- If a matrix is invertible,  $\det A \neq 0$ .
- If a matrix is upper or lower triangular or diagonal, then  $\det A = a_{11} \dots a_{nn}$ .
- $\det(A^{-1}) = \frac{1}{\det A}$ .
- $\det(\lambda A) = \lambda^n \det A$ .
- $\det(I_n) = 1$ .
- $\det(AB) = \det(A)\det(B)$ .
- $\det(A^T) = \det(A)$ .

## Application of determinants:

- **To compute the inverse matrix:**  $A^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det A} (\text{Adj} A)^T$ .

Example:  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 4 & 6 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $\det A = 1$ ,  $\text{Adj} A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 & -2 \\ -1 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ .

Then,  $A^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & -1 \\ -2 & 3 & -1 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ .

- **Cramer's rule:** The solution of the system  $Ax = b$  if  $\det A \neq 0$  is given by

$$x_i = \frac{\det A_i(b)}{\det A}, \text{ where } A_i(b) = (A_1 \dots A_{i-1} \ b \ A_{i+1} \dots A_n)$$

and  $A_i$  denotes the  $i$ -th column of the matrix  $A$ .



## Example of how to solve the systems by Cramer's rule.

Given the following system  $\begin{pmatrix} 3 & -2 \\ -5 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix}$ .

In this case  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & -2 \\ -5 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $b = \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix}$ .

**As  $\det A = 12 - 10 = 2 \neq 0$ , we can use Cramer's rule to compute the solution of the system  $Ax = b$ .**

The matrices we need are

$$A_1(b) = \begin{pmatrix} 6 & -2 \\ 8 & 4 \end{pmatrix}, \quad A_2(b) = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 6 \\ -5 & 8 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then,

$$x_1 = \frac{\det A_1(b)}{\det A} = \frac{24 + 16}{2} = 20, \quad x_2 = \frac{\det A_2(b)}{\det A} = \frac{24 + 30}{2} = 27.$$

## Characterization of invertible matrices.

Let  $A \in M_{n \times n}$ . The following statements are equivalent:

- 1  $A$  is invertible.
- 2  $A$  is a row equivalent matrix to the identity matrix  $I_n$ .
- 3  $A$  has  $n$  pivot positions.
- 4  $A$  has  $n$  pivot columns.
- 5  $\det A \neq 0$ .
- 6 The systems of linear equations  $Ax = 0$  has a unique solution, the trivial one  $x_n = 0_n$ .
- 7 For each  $b \in \mathbb{R}^n$  the system of linear equations  $Ax = b$  has a unique solution.