

Monday: Apr. 13: Math 304-6 Feingold / 1

Example: Try to diagonalize  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ .

Step ①: Find all possible e-values

$\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$  s.t.  $AX = \lambda X$  for  $0 \neq X \in \mathbb{R}^3$ .  $X = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix}$

Suppose  $AX = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \lambda \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix}$  then it means

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 + x_2 + x_3 \\ x_1 + x_2 + x_3 \\ x_1 + x_2 + x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda x_1 \\ \lambda x_2 \\ \lambda x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \lambda I_3 X$$

same as  $(A - \lambda I_3)X = 0$  so looking for

$\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$  s.t.  $\text{Nul}(A - \lambda I_3)$  is non-trivial

(\*) has non-zero solutions.

$$2) [A - \lambda I_3 | 0^3] = \begin{bmatrix} 1-\lambda & 1 & 1 & | & 0 \\ 1 & 1-\lambda & 1 & | & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1-\lambda & | & 0 \\ -1 & -1 & \lambda-1 & | & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

try row op's  
 $-R_3 + R_1 \rightarrow R_1$   
 $-R_3 + R_2 \rightarrow R_2$

get

$$\begin{bmatrix} -\lambda & 0 & \lambda & | & 0 \\ 0 & -\lambda & \lambda & | & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1-\lambda & | & 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1-\lambda & | & 0 \\ \lambda & 0 & -\lambda & | & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda & -\lambda & | & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Two cases:  
 $\lambda = 0$  or  
 $\lambda \neq 0$

Case ①  $\lambda = 0$ :  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & | & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & | & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & | & 0 \end{bmatrix}$   $\begin{matrix} x_1 = -r-s \\ x_2 = r \\ x_3 = s \end{matrix}$  free

$\lambda_1 = 0$

$\text{Nul}(A - \lambda I_3) = \text{Nul}(A) = A_0 = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} -r-s \\ r \\ s \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid r, s \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$   
 has basis  $T_1 = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$   $g_{\lambda_1} = \dim(A_{\lambda_1}) = 2$   
 $w_{11} \quad w_{12}$

Case (2):  $\lambda \neq 0$ :  $\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & (1-\lambda) & 0 \\ \lambda & 0 & -\lambda & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda & -\lambda & 0 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & (1-\lambda) & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{R_3 + R_2} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & (1-\lambda) & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{R_1 - R_2} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 2-\lambda & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3-\lambda & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

has free variables

iff  $\lambda = 3$ .

So only other e-value

is  $\lambda_2 = 3$

To get e-space  $A_3 = \text{Nul}(A - 3I_3)$

solve  $\left[ \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right] \begin{array}{l} x_1 = r \\ x_2 = r \\ x_3 = r \text{ free} \end{array}$

$$A_3 = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} r \\ r \\ r \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid r \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

has basis  $T_2 = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = w_{21} \right\}$ ,  $g_{\lambda_2} = \dim(A_3) = 1$

Is  $T = T_1 \cup T_2 = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$  an e-basis of  $\mathbb{R}^3$

for  $A$ ? If so, find  $P = S P_T$ ,  $D = P^{-1} A P$ .



Check:  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = 0 \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$  4

$A \quad w_{11} \quad = 0 w_{11}$

$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = 0 \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = 3 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

$A \quad w_{12} \quad = 0 w_{12} \quad \quad \quad A \quad w_{21} \quad = 3 w_{21}$

$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & | & -1 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & | & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & | & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  is in RREF so  $S P_T = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = P$

$S \quad T$  (as columns)

$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 & 1 & | & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & | & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & | & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{+} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & | & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & | & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & | & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & | & -1/3 & 2/3 & -1/3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & | & -1/3 & -1/3 & 2/3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & | & 1/3 & 1/3 & 1/3 \end{bmatrix}$

$T \quad S$   
(as columns)

$\frac{1}{3} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} T P_S = P^{-1}$

$$P^{-1}AP = \frac{1}{3} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \boxed{5}$$

$$= \frac{1}{3} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{3} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 9 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= D = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_2 \end{bmatrix} \text{ is diagonal, } \begin{array}{l} \lambda_1 = 0 \\ \lambda_2 = 3 \end{array}$$

Note:  $\lambda_1 = 0$  was repeated corresponding to  $g_{\lambda_1} = 2$ .

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Exercise: Show that  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$  can not be diagonalized using only real numbers.

Th: Let  $L: V \rightarrow V$  have distinct e-values  $\lfloor 6$

$\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_r \in \mathbb{R}$  with corresponding e-vectors  
 $w_1, \dots, w_r \in V$ , so  $L(w_i) = \lambda_i w_i$  for  $1 \leq i \leq r$ .  
Then  $S = \{w_1, \dots, w_r\} \subseteq V$  is independent.

Proof. Suppose  $\theta = \sum_{i=1}^m c_i w_i$  is a shortest  
dep. relation on  $S$ , so all  $c_i \neq 0$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq m$ .

We may have relabeled vectors for convenience.  
Apply  $L$  to get  $\theta = \sum_{i=1}^m c_i L(w_i) = \sum_{i=1}^m c_i \lambda_i w_i$

Could also just multiply the dep rel. by  $\lambda_1$ , get  
 $\theta = \sum_{i=1}^m c_i \lambda_1 w_i$ . Subtract 2<sup>nd</sup> eq. from 1<sup>st</sup>:

$$\text{Get } \theta = \sum_{i=1}^m c_i (\lambda_i - \lambda_1) w_i = \sum_{i=2}^m c_i (\lambda_i - \lambda_1) w_i$$



Note:  $m \geq 2$  since  $\theta = c_1 \omega_1$  can't happen  $\square$   
( $c_1 \neq 0, \omega_1 \neq \theta$ ).

The  $i=1$  term is  $c_1(\lambda_1, -\lambda_1)\omega_1 = c_1(0)\omega_1 = \theta$ .  
For  $2 \leq i \leq m$ ,  $\lambda_i - \lambda_1 \neq 0$  (distinct e-values),  
so  $\theta = \sum_{i=2}^m c_i(\lambda_i - \lambda_1)\omega_i$  is a shorter dep.  
rel on  $S$ , contradicting "shortest" chosen.  $\square$

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Th: Let  $L: V \rightarrow V$  have distinct e-values  
 $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_r \in \mathbb{R}$  and for  $1 \leq i \leq r$  let  
 $T_i = \{\omega_{i1}, \dots, \omega_{ig_i}\}$  be a basis of e-space  $L_{\lambda_i}$ .  
Then  $T = T_1 \cup T_2 \cup \dots \cup T_r$  is independent.

Note:  $T = \{\omega_{11}, \dots, \omega_{1g_1}, \omega_{21}, \dots, \omega_{2g_2}, \dots, \omega_{r1}, \dots, \omega_{rg_r}\}$   
is a list of  $g_1 + g_2 + \dots + g_r$  e-vectors in  $V$ .

Proof. Since  $w_{ij} \in T_i \subseteq L_{\lambda_i}$  for  $1 \leq i \leq r$  and  $1 \leq j \leq g_i$  we have  $L(w_{ij}) = \lambda_i w_{ij}$ .

Suppose  $T$  were dependent, so there is a "shortest" dep. rel. on  $T$ . If necessary, by relabeling sets  $T_i$  and vectors in  $T_i$ , we could write that dep. rel. as

$$\theta = \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^{h_i} c_{ij} w_{ij} \quad \text{where each } c_{ij} \neq 0.$$
$$= \sum_{i=1}^m w_i \quad \text{where } w_i = \sum_{j=1}^{h_i} c_{ij} w_{ij} \in L_{\lambda_i}$$

and each  $w_i \neq \theta$  since  $T_i$  is indep and  $c_{ij} \neq 0$ .  
But that contradicts the last Theorem, so  $T$  indep.  $\square$



This means  $T$  is a basis of  $V$  iff  $\lfloor 9$   
 $g_1 + g_2 + \dots + g_r = n = \dim(V)$ , so  $L$  is  
diag-able iff we get a basis of e-vectors  
for  $V$ , enough from each e-space  $L_{\lambda_i}$   
to make an e-basis for all of  $V = \langle T \rangle$ .

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Focus now on finding all distinct e-values  
 $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_r$  for  $L: V \rightarrow V$  or for  $A \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .  
Find all  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$  s.t.  $(L - \lambda I_V)(v) = \theta$   
has solutions  $v \neq \theta$ , that is, s.t.  
 $\ker(L - \lambda I_V) \neq \{\theta_V\}$ . Let  $S$  be any basis  
of  $V$ , and  $A = {}_S[L]_S$  so  $A - \lambda I_n = {}_S[L - \lambda I_V]_S$ .

$\text{Nul}(A - \lambda I_n) \neq \{0\}$  iff  $\text{rank}(A - \lambda I_n) < n$   
iff  $A - \lambda I_n$  is not invertible.  
Use determinants to study this, and  
for other uses.

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Def. For  $1 \leq n \in \mathbb{Z}$  (integer) let

$S = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  and let

$S_n = \text{Perm}(S) = \{f: S \rightarrow S \mid f \text{ is bijective}\}$

Notation: Write  $f = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & \dots & i & \dots & n \\ f(1) & f(2) & \dots & f(i) & \dots & f(n) \end{pmatrix}$

like a table of values. Examples:

$S_2 = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$  has only two elements.

$S_3 = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$  has six elements.

For  $f = (f(1) f(2) \dots f(n))$  there are 11  
# of choices:  $n(n-1)\dots(2)(1) = n!$  ("n factorial")

So  $S_n$  contains  $n!$  distinct elements, each  
one a bijection from  $S$  to  $S$ .

Composition of any two elements of  $S_n$   
is another one, so have a binary operation  
on  $S_n$ ,  $\circ$ , composition.

Example: For  $f = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $g = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$

find  $f \circ g$  and  $g \circ f$ .

$$g = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$f = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$f \circ g = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$f = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$g = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$g \circ f = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Note:

$f \circ g \neq g \circ f$   
can happen.



Note:  $I = I_S = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & \dots & i & \dots & n \\ 1 & 2 & \dots & i & \dots & n \end{pmatrix}$  the identity [12]  
map on  $S$  is bijective so  $I \in S_n$  and  
 $\forall f \in S_n, f \circ I = f = I \circ f$ , so have an identity  
element for  $\circ$  in  $S_n$ .

Also:  $\forall f \in S_n, f^{-1} \in S_n$  since bijections are  
invertible and their inverses are bijective.

Ex:  $f = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 2 & 5 & 4 & 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$  has  $f^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 5 & 4 & 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$

(just permute columns to  
get top row in order)  $= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 5 & 1 & 4 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$

Th:  $(S_n, \circ, I)$  is a group under composition  
with id. elt.  $I$ .

Def: For  $f = (f(1) \dots f(i) \dots f(j) \dots f(n)) \in S_n$

Say  $f$  has an inversion for the pair  $(i, j)$ ,  $1 \leq i < j \leq n$ , when  $f(i) > f(j)$ .

Ex: Inversions of  $f = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \in S_3$   
are marked below: (only one)

$f = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$  has 3 inversions

Def: Let  $\text{Inv}(f) = \text{Total number of inversions in } f \in S_n$ .

Def: For  $f \in S_n$  let  $\text{sgn}(f) = (-1)^{\text{Inv}(f)}$   
 $\in \{1, -1\}$  (say  $f$  is even or odd)

Def: For  $A = [a_{ij}] \in \mathbb{R}^n$  define [14]

$$|A| = \det(A) = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \operatorname{sgn}(\sigma) a_{1\sigma(1)} a_{2\sigma(2)} \cdots a_{n\sigma(n)}$$

a sum ( $n!$  terms) one term for each  $\sigma \in S_n$   
each term a product of  $n$  entries from  
 $A$ , one from each row, column number  
depends on  $\sigma$ .

Ex:  $n=2$ :  $A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix}$   $S_2 = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$   
 $\operatorname{sgn}(\sigma) = 1 \quad -1$

$$\det(A) = (+1)a_{11}a_{22} + (-1)a_{12}a_{21}$$

$$= a_{11}a_{22} - a_{12}a_{21}$$

"Cross hatching"

is usual  $2 \times 2$   
 $\det(A)$  formula.



EX:  $n=3$ :  $A = [a_{ij}] \in \mathbb{R}_3^3$

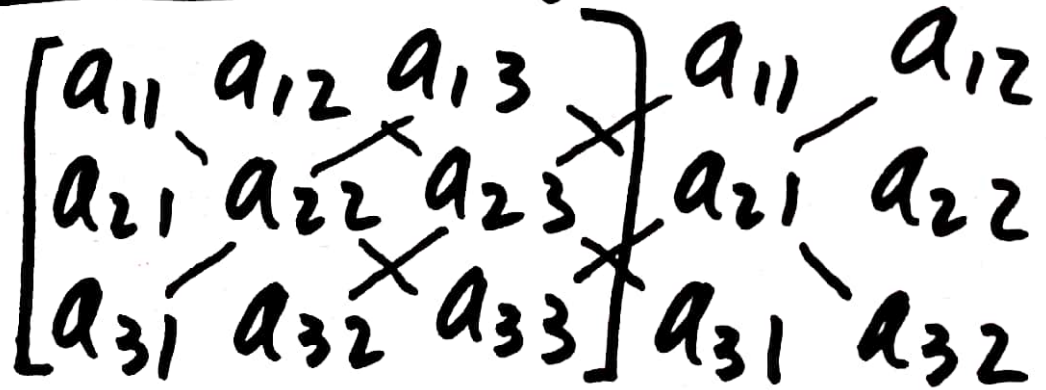
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$S_3 = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 123 \\ 123 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 123 \\ 132 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 123 \\ 213 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 123 \\ 231 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 123 \\ 312 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 123 \\ 321 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$

sgn( $\sigma$ ):  $\quad 1 \quad -1 \quad -1 \quad +1 \quad +1 \quad -1$

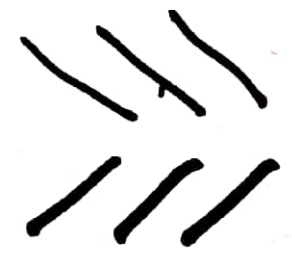
$\det(A) = 1 a_{11} a_{22} a_{33} + 1 a_{12} a_{23} a_{31} + 1 a_{13} a_{21} a_{32}$   
 $- 1 a_{11} a_{23} a_{32} - 1 a_{12} a_{21} a_{33} - 1 a_{13} a_{22} a_{31}$

Crosshatching Method:



Warning:  
 Crosshatching  
 ONLY works  
 for  $n=2, 3$

Products of three "+1" terms  
 Products of three "-1" terms



$$\underline{\text{Ex:}} \det \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 2 \\ 3 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 4 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{matrix} 1 & -1 \\ 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 4 \end{matrix}$$

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$$= (1)(1)(5) + (-1)(-1)(0) + (2)(3)(4) - (2)(1)(0) - (1)(-1)(4) - (-1)(3)(5) = 5 + 24 + 4 + 15 = 48$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 2 \\ 3 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 4 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{adder}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 2 \\ 0 & 4 & -7 \\ 0 & 4 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{adder}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 2 \\ 0 & 4 & -7 \\ 0 & 0 & 12 \end{bmatrix}$$

$\begin{matrix} -3 & 3 & -6 \\ 0 & -4 & 7 \end{matrix}$ 
B

$$\det(B) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 2 \\ 0 & 4 & -7 \\ 0 & 0 & 12 \end{bmatrix} \begin{matrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 \end{matrix} = (1)(4)(12) = 48$$

How do row operations affect  $\det(A)$ ?

## Facts about $\det(A)$ .

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Th: Let  $A = [a_{ij}] \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . Then we have

- (a) If  $A$  has a row of zeros then  $\det(A) = 0$
- (b)  $\det(A^T) = \det(A)$
- (c) If  $A$  has two identical rows, then  $\det A = 0$
- (d) If  $\text{rank}(A) < n$  then  $\det(A) = 0$
- (e)  $\det(A) = 0$  implies  $\text{rank}(A) < n$
- (f)  $\det(A) = 0$  iff  $A$  is not invertible

Goal: Understand how elementary row operations affect  $\det(A)$ .