

This is consistent with multiplication of matrices through ...

DEF'N: Given $p = (1 \ 2 \ \dots \ n)$ $\in S_n$

its associated permutation matrix $P \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$

has exactly one nonzero entry in each row and column,

namely $P_{ij} = 1$ whenever $p(j) = i$

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \dots & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & & \vdots & & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & & \vdots & & \vdots & \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & \dots & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

row $i = p(j)$ col j

e.g. $p = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \leftrightarrow P = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

$q = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 4 & 2 & 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \leftrightarrow Q = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

$pq = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 4 & 3 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \leftrightarrow PQ = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \checkmark$

In other words,

$p(j) = i \Leftrightarrow P e_j = e_i$

where

$e_j = j^{\text{th}}$ standard basis vector

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \leftarrow j^{\text{th}}$$

Permutations $p \in S_n$ always have a (2-sided) inverse $p^{-1} \in S_n$

meaning $p \cdot p^{-1} = e := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & \dots & n \\ 1 & 2 & \dots & n \end{pmatrix}$
the identity permutation in S_n

that one gets by turning its two-line notation upside down,
or reversing the arrows in its functional directed graph,
or reading each cycle backwards

e.g. $p = \begin{array}{c} 1 \rightarrow 4 \\ \uparrow \quad \downarrow \\ 3 \leftarrow 6 \end{array} \begin{array}{c} 2 \rightarrow 7 \\ \uparrow \quad \downarrow \\ 7 \leftarrow 8 \end{array} \begin{array}{c} 5 \\ \downarrow \\ 5 \end{array} \begin{array}{c} p \\ q \\ 5 \end{array} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 \\ 4 & 8 & 1 & 6 & 5 & 3 & 2 & 7 \end{pmatrix} = (1463)(287)(5)$

has $p^{-1} = \begin{array}{c} 1 \leftarrow 4 \\ \downarrow \quad \uparrow \\ 3 \rightarrow 6 \end{array} \begin{array}{c} 2 \leftarrow 7 \\ \downarrow \quad \uparrow \\ 7 \rightarrow 8 \end{array} \begin{array}{c} 5 \\ \uparrow \\ 5 \end{array} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 8 & 1 & 6 & 5 & 3 & 2 & 7 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 \end{pmatrix} = (3641)(782)(5)$
 $= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 \\ 3 & 7 & 6 & 1 & 5 & 4 & 8 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$

(15) DEFINITION - PROPOSITION (!):

There is an (interesting) function $S_n \xrightarrow{\text{sign}} \{+1, -1\}$

$$p \longmapsto \text{sign}(p) := \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \frac{p(j) - p(i)}{j - i}$$

having these properties:

(i) $\text{sign}(p) = (-1)^{\#\{(i,j) : 1 \leq i < j \leq n, p(i) > p(j)\}}$
↑ called an inversion pair for p

(ii) $\text{sign}(e) = +1$
 $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & \dots & n \\ 1 & 2 & \dots & n \end{pmatrix}$

(iii) $\text{sign}((k \ l)) = -1 \quad \forall$ transpositions $(k \ l), 1 \leq k < l \leq n$

(iv) $\text{sign}(pq) = \text{sign}(p) \text{sign}(q)$

REMARK: $S_n \xrightarrow{\text{sign}} \{+1, -1\}$
will be (later) our 1st interesting
example of a group homomorphism

e.g. $\text{sign}(\begin{pmatrix} p \\ (1 \ 3) \\ (1 \ 2 \ 3) \\ (3 \ 2 \ 1) \end{pmatrix}) = \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq 3} \frac{p(j) - p(i)}{j - i} = \frac{\begin{matrix} p(j) & p(i) \\ (2-3) & (1-3) & (1-2) \\ (2-1) & (3-1) & (3-2) \end{matrix}}{\begin{matrix} j & i \\ 2-1 & 3-1 & 3-2 \end{matrix}} = \frac{1-2}{2-1} \cdot \frac{1-3}{3-1} \cdot \frac{2-3}{3-2} = (-1)(-1)(-1) = (-1)^3 = -1$

Say (13) is an odd permutation since $\text{sign}((13)) = -1$

$\text{sign}(\begin{pmatrix} (1 \ 2 \ 3) \\ (2 \ 3 \ 1) \end{pmatrix}) = \frac{(3-2)(1-2)(1-3)}{(2-1)(3-1)(3-2)} = \frac{1-2}{2-1} \cdot \frac{1-3}{3-1} \cdot \frac{3-2}{3-2} = (-1)(-1)(+1) = (-1)^2 = +1$

Say $(\begin{smallmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{smallmatrix})$ is an even permutation $\text{sign}(\begin{smallmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{smallmatrix}) = +1$

proof of DEF'N - PROP:

First note $\text{sign}(p) = \prod_{i < j} \frac{p(j) - p(i)}{j - i}$ really does lie in $\{+1, -1\}$,

since for each denominator factor $j - i$ one can find a unique occurrence of either $j - i$ or $i - j$ in the numerator,

and $\frac{j-i}{j-i} = +1, \frac{i-j}{j-i} = -1$.

Then (i) follows because the denominator is all positive factors $j - i$ with $1 \leq i < j \leq n$, while the numerator has exactly as many negative factors $p(j) - p(i)$ as $\#\{(i,j) : 1 \leq i < j \leq n, p(i) > p(j)\}$, so this predicts its sign

(17)

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

$$p = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ i & j & k \end{pmatrix} \quad p = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \circ & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} \vdots & 0 & \vdots \\ 0 & \vdots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \circ & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} \vdots & \vdots & 0 \\ \vdots & 0 & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & \vdots \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} \vdots & \vdots & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} \vdots & \vdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & \vdots \end{bmatrix}$$

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Determinants have many properties ...

THEOREM: Regarded as a function $\det(A) = \det(A_1, \dots, A_n)$ of the n column vectors A_1, \dots, A_n of A ,

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_1 & \dots & A_n \\ | & & | \end{bmatrix}$$

(i) \det is linear in each column, meaning

$$\det(A_1, \dots, A_i + A'_i, \dots, A_n) = \det(A_1, \dots, A_i, \dots, A_n) + \det(A_1, \dots, A'_i, \dots, A_n)$$

and $\det(A_1, \dots, cA_i, \dots, A_n) = c \det(A_1, \dots, A_n)$ for any $c \in \mathbb{R}$

(ii) \det is alternating in the columns, meaning

$$\det(A_1, \dots, A_i, \dots, A_j, \dots, A_i, \dots, A_n) = -\det(A_1, \dots, A_j, \dots, A_i, \dots, A_n)$$

(iii) $\det(I_n) = +1$.

Furthermore, properties (i), (ii), (iii) ^(uniquely) completely characterize $\mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \xrightarrow{\det} \mathbb{R}$.

proof: Property (i) holds for each of the $n!$ ^{n!} simpler functions $A \mapsto \text{sign}(p) a_{1p(1)} a_{2p(2)} \dots a_{np(n)}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \circ & \circ & \circ \\ 0 & \circ & \circ \\ \circ & \circ & \circ \end{bmatrix}$$

and hence it holds for \det , which you get by summing these $n!$ simpler functions.

Property (ii) holds for \det because a term $\text{sign}(p) a_{1p(1)} \dots a_{np(n)}$ in $\det(A_1, \dots, A_i, \dots, A_j, \dots, A_n)$

will correspond to a term $\text{sign}(p') a_{1p'(1)} \dots a_{np'(n)}$ in which $p' = p \cdot (ij)$

$$\text{so } \text{sign}(p') = \text{sign}(p \cdot (ij)) = \text{sign}(p) \cdot \text{sign}(ij) = -\text{sign}(p)$$