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Books that are to be followed :

1. Comprehensive Degree Mathematics - D. Chatterjee & B.K. Pal (Vol. 1 & Vol. 2)
2. Higher Algebra - J.G. Chakravorty & P.R. Ghosh
3. Analytical Geometry - J.G. Chakravorty & P.R. Ghosh
4. Differential Calculus - K.C. Maiti & R.K. Ghosh

The portion of the syllabus we start with is :

Rank of a matrix; Determination of rank either by considering minors or by sweep-out process. Consistency and solution of a system of linear equations with not more than 3 variables by matrix method.

### 1. Rank of a matrix :

We first define submatrices and minors of a matrix.

Any matrix obtained by taking some rows and columns of a given  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$  is called a <sup>sub-matrix</sup> ~~submatrix~~ of  $A$ .

Examples:  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$  is a sub-matrix of  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 7 & 1 \\ 5 & 4 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$  by

taking first row and third row and second column and third column

$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 7 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  is a sub-matrix taking second row and first, second and third column.

$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 7 & 1 \\ 5 & 4 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$  is a sub-matrix taking second and third row and first, second and third column. So, a sub-matrix may be a square matrix or may not be a square matrix.

The determinant of the a square sub-matrix of order  $r$ , obtained from a given  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$  by taking  $r$  rows and  $r$  columns, is called a minor of  $A$  of order  $r$ .

So, we now find some minors of a particular matrix,

Consider the matrix  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 3 & 4 \\ 4 & 1 & 3 & 7 \\ 2 & 5 & 7 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$ .

Highest order minor of  $A$  that can be formed, is of order minimum of 3 and 4 = 3 as  $A$  has 3 rows and 4 columns. A minor of order 3 is the determinant

by taking forming a submatrix sub-matrix

$$\begin{vmatrix} 2 & 1 & 4 \\ 4 & 1 & 7 \\ 2 & 5 & 3 \end{vmatrix}$$

by taking 3 rows and the first, second and fourth column and taking its determinant.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{value of this minor} &= 2 \times (3 - 35) - 1 \times (12 - 14) + 4 \times (20 - 2) \\ &= -64 + 2 + 72 = 10 \end{aligned}$$

How many minors of order 3 can be formed from  $A$ ?

The answer is  ${}^3C_3 \times {}^4C_3$  (choosing 3 rows from 3 rows and simultaneously choosing 3 columns from 4 columns).

$$= \frac{4 \times 3 \times 2}{3 \times 2 \times 1} = 4$$

They are  $\begin{vmatrix} 2 & 1 & 3 \\ 4 & 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 5 & 7 \end{vmatrix}$ ,  $\begin{vmatrix} 2 & 1 & 4 \\ 4 & 1 & 7 \\ 2 & 5 & 3 \end{vmatrix}$ ,  $\begin{vmatrix} 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 4 & 3 & 7 \\ 2 & 7 & 3 \end{vmatrix}$  and  $\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 3 & 7 \\ 5 & 7 & 3 \end{vmatrix}$

A minor of order 2 is  $\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 5 \end{vmatrix} = 20 - 2 = 18$ . It is formed by

taking the determinant of the submatrix formed by taking second and third row and first and second column.

How many minors of order 2 can be formed from  $A$ ?

The answer is  ${}^3C_2 \times {}^4C_2 = \frac{3 \times 2}{2 \times 1} \times \frac{4 \times 3}{2 \times 1} = 18$  (choosing 2 rows from 3 rows and simultaneously choosing 2 columns from 4 columns)

Some of them are  $\begin{vmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 4 & 1 \end{vmatrix}$ ,  $\begin{vmatrix} 3 & 7 \\ 7 & 3 \end{vmatrix}$ ,  $\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 5 & 7 \end{vmatrix}$  etc.

A minor of order 1 is 2, formed by taking the determinant of the submatrix formed by taking only first row and first column. So, each element of the matrix is a minor of order 1.

How many minors of order 1 can be formed?

The answer is the number of elements of the matrix =  $4 \times 3 = 4 \times 3 = 12$ .  
If a minor has value which is non-zero, it is called a non-zero minor.

Definition of rank of a matrix: Let  $A$  be a non-zero matrix of order  $m \times n$ . The rank of  $A$  is defined to be the greatest positive integer  $r$  such that  $A$  has at least one non-zero minor of order  $r$ . The rank of a zero matrix is defined to be 0.

Examples: 1. Let  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 3 & 4 \\ 4 & 1 & 7 & 7 \\ 2 & 5 & 7 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$ . We want to find <sup>the</sup> rank of  $A$ .

The highest order minor of  $A$  is of order 3.

$$\text{rows} \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 1 & 4 \\ 4 & 1 & 7 \\ 2 & 5 & 3 \end{vmatrix} = 10 \neq 0$$

So, rank of  $A = 3$ .

$$2. \text{ Let } A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 4 & -1 & 5 \\ 2 & 0 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

The highest order minor of  $A$  is of order 3 and the

$$\text{only minor of order 3} = \det A = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 4 & -1 & 5 \\ 2 & 0 & 6 \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

( $\det A =$  determinant of  $A$ )

So, rank of  $A < 3$  and since there is a second order

$$\text{minor} \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 4 & -1 \end{vmatrix} = -1 \neq 0, \text{ rank of } A = 2$$

3. Let  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 & -1 & 1 \\ 3 & 0 & 4 & 2 \\ 6 & 9 & -3 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$

The highest order minor of ~~order~~  $A$  is of order 3 and they are  $A_{C_3} = \frac{4 \times 3 \times 2}{3 \times 2 \times 1} = 4$  in numbers. They are

$$\begin{vmatrix} 2 & 3 & -1 \\ 3 & 0 & 4 \\ 6 & 9 & -3 \end{vmatrix} = 0, \quad \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 3 & 1 \\ 3 & 0 & 2 \\ 6 & 9 & 3 \end{vmatrix} = 0, \quad \begin{vmatrix} 2 & -1 & 1 \\ 3 & 4 & 2 \\ 6 & -3 & 3 \end{vmatrix} = 0 \text{ and}$$

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

So, every minor of order 3 is zero and so rank of  $A$  is less than 3. There is a second order minor

~~or~~  $\begin{vmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = -9 \neq 0$  and so rank of  $A = 2$

Home work : HW1. Determine the rank of the following matrices :

(i)  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 2 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  (ii)  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 & -1 \\ 2 & -2 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$  (iii)  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 5 \\ -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 4 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

(iv)  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 5 & -1 \\ 2 & 1 & -2 & 8 \\ 0 & 5 & 12 & -10 \end{bmatrix}$  (v)  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & -1 & 2 \\ 2 & 8 & -2 & 4 \\ -1 & -4 & 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$  (vi)  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 2 & 4 \\ 5 & 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 3 & -4 & -4 & -7 \\ -7 & 5 & 6 & 10 \end{bmatrix}$

HW2. Find the value of  $a$  if the rank of the

matrix  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & a & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$  is 2.