Theory of Matrices

Chapter 3. Basic Properties of Matrices 3.4. More on Partitioned Square Matrices: The Schur Complement—Proofs of Theorems





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Theorem 3.4.2. If A is a square matrix such that $A = \begin{bmatrix} X^T \\ y^T \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X y \end{bmatrix}$ where X is of full column rank, then the Schur complement of $X^T X$ in A is

$$y^T y - y^T X (X^T X)^{-1} X^T y.$$

Proof. By Theorem 3.2.2 we have

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} X^T \\ y^T \end{bmatrix} [X y] = \begin{bmatrix} X^T X & X^T y \\ y^T X & y^T y \end{bmatrix},$$

so the Schur complement of $X^T X$ in A is, by definition, $Z = y^T y - y^T X (X^T X)^{-1} X^T y$, as claimed.

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Theorem 3.4.3. If A is a square matrix partitioned as $A = \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} \end{bmatrix}$ where A_{11} is square and nonsingular then

 $det(A) = det(A_{11})det(A_{22} - A_{21}A_{11}^{-1}A_{12}) = det(A_{11})det(Z)$ where $Z = A_{22} - A_{21}A_{11}^{-1}A_{12}$ is the Schur complement of A_{11} in A. **Proof.** By Theorem 3.2.2, we can write A as $\begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I & A_{11}^{-1}A_{12} \end{bmatrix}$

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by Theorem 3.2.4,

$$det(A) = det \left(\begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & 0 \\ A_{21} & A_{22} - A_{21}A_{11}^{-1}A_{12} \end{bmatrix} \right) det \left(\begin{bmatrix} I & A_{11}^{-1}A_{12} \\ 0 & I \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

= det(A_{11})det(A_{22} - A_{21}A_{11}^{-1}A_{12})det(I)det(I) by Theorem 3.1.G
= det(A_{11})det(A_{22} - A_{21}A_{11}^{-1}A_{12}) since det(I) = 1. \square

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So by Theorem 3.2.4,

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