

for an r -blade A_r we have (the proof is left to the reader)

$$\mathbf{e}_i \mathbf{e}^i \cdot A_r = r A_r \quad (1.71)$$

Since $\mathbf{e}_i \mathbf{e}^i = n$ we have

$$\mathbf{e}_i \mathbf{e}^i \wedge A_r = \mathbf{e}_i (\mathbf{e}^i A_r - \mathbf{e}^i \cdot A_r) = (n - r) A_r \quad (1.72)$$

Flipping \mathbf{e}^i and A_r in equations 1.71 and 1.72 and subtracting equation 1.71 from 1.72 gives

$$\mathbf{e}_i A_r \mathbf{e}^i = (-1)^r (n - 2r) A_r \quad (1.73)$$

In Hestenes and Sobczyk (3.14) it is proved that

$$(\mathbf{e}^{k_r} \wedge \dots \wedge \mathbf{e}^{k_1}) \cdot (\mathbf{e}_{j_1} \wedge \dots \wedge \mathbf{e}_{j_r}) = \delta_{k_1}^{j_1} \delta_{k_2}^{j_2} \dots \delta_{k_r}^{j_r} \quad (1.74)$$

so that the general multivector A can be expanded in terms of the blades of the frame and reciprocal frame as

$$A = \sum_{i < j < \dots < k} A_{ij\dots k} \mathbf{e}^i \wedge \mathbf{e}^j \wedge \dots \wedge \mathbf{e}^k \quad (1.75)$$

where

$$A_{ij\dots k} = (\mathbf{e}_k \wedge \dots \wedge \mathbf{e}_j \wedge \mathbf{e}_i) \cdot A \quad (1.76)$$

The components $A_{ij\dots k}$ are totally antisymmetric on all indices and are usually referred to as the components of an *antisymmetric tensor*.

1.15 Linear Transformations

1.15.1 Definitions

Let f be a linear transformation on a vector space $f : \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}$ with $f(\alpha a + \beta b) = \alpha f(a) + \beta f(b)$ $\forall a, b \in \mathcal{V}$ and $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$. Then define the action of f on a blade of the geometric algebra by

$$f(a_1 \wedge \dots \wedge a_r) = f(a_1) \wedge \dots \wedge f(a_r) \quad (1.77)$$

and the action of f on any two $A, B \in \mathcal{G}(\mathcal{V})$ by

$$f(\alpha A + \beta B) = \alpha f(A) + \beta f(B) \quad (1.78)$$

Since any multivector A can be expanded as a sum of blades $f(A)$ is defined. This has many consequences. Consider the following definition for the determinant of f , $\det(f)$.

$$f(I) = \det(f) I \quad (1.79)$$

First show that this definition is equivalent to the standard definition of the determinant (again e_1, \dots, e_N is an orthonormal basis for \mathcal{V}).

$$f(e_r) = \sum_{s=1}^N a_{rs} e_s \quad (1.80)$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} f(I) &= \left(\sum_{s_1=1}^N a_{1s_1} e_{s_1} \right) \wedge \dots \wedge \left(\sum_{s_N=1}^N a_{Ns_N} e_{s_N} \right) \\ &= \sum_{s_1, \dots, s_N} a_{1s_1} \dots a_{Ns_N} e_{s_1} \dots e_{s_N} \end{aligned} \quad (1.81)$$

But

$$e_{s_1} \dots e_{s_N} = \varepsilon_{1\dots N}^{s_1\dots s_N} e_1 \dots e_N \quad (1.82)$$

so that

$$f(I) = \sum_{s_1, \dots, s_N} \varepsilon_{1\dots N}^{s_1\dots s_N} a_{1s_1} \dots a_{Ns_N} I \quad (1.83)$$

or

$$\det(f) = \sum_{s_1, \dots, s_N} \varepsilon_{1\dots N}^{s_1\dots s_N} a_{1s_1} \dots a_{Ns_N} \quad (1.84)$$

which is the standard definition. Now compute the determinant of the product of the linear transformations f and g

$$\begin{aligned} \det(fg) I &= fg(I) \\ &= f(g(I)) \\ &= f(\det(g) I) \\ &= \det(g) f(I) \\ &= \det(g) \det(f) I \end{aligned} \quad (1.85)$$

or

$$\det(fg) = \det(f) \det(g) \quad (1.86)$$

Do you have any idea of how miserable that is to prove from the standard definition of determinant?