# AN UPPER BOUND FOR THE DETERMINANT OF A MATRIX WITH GIVEN ENTRY SUM AND SQUARE SUM 

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#### Abstract

By deducing characterisations of the matrices which have maximal determinant in the set of matrices with given entry sum and square sum, we prove the inequality $|\operatorname{det} M| \leq$ $|\alpha|(\beta-\delta)^{(n-1) / 2}$ for real $n \times n$-matrices $M$, where $n \alpha$ and $n \beta$ are the sum of the entries and the sum of the squared entries of $M$, respectively, and $\delta:=\left(\alpha^{2}-\beta\right) /(n-1)$, provided that $\alpha^{2} \geq \beta$. This result is applied to find an upper bound for the determinant of a matrix whose entries are a permutation of an arithmetic progression.


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## 1. Introduction

Let $n \geq 2$ be a positive integer and $a=\left(a_{1}, \ldots, a_{n^{2}}\right)$ a vector of real numbers. What is the maximal determinant $D(a)$ of a matrix whose elements are a permutation of the entries of $a$ ? The answer is unknown even for the special case $a:=\left(1, \ldots, n^{2}\right)$ if $n>6$, see [4]. By computational optimisation using algorithms like tabu search, we have found matrices with the following determinants, which thus are lower bounds for $D\left(1, \ldots, n^{2}\right)$ :

| $n$ | lower bound for $D\left(1, \ldots, n^{2}\right)$ |
| ---: | ---: |
| 2 | 10 |
| 3 | 412 |
| 4 | 40800 |
| 5 | 6839492 |
| 6 | 1865999570 |
| 7 | 762150368499 |
| 8 | 440960274696935 |
| 9 | 346254605664223620 |
| 10 | 356944784622927045792 |

It would be nice to also have a good upper bound for $D\left(1, \ldots, n^{2}\right)$. We will show in this article how to find an upper bound by treating the problem of determining $D(a)$ as a continuous optimisation task. This is done by maximising the determinant under two equality contraints: by fixing the sum and the square sum of the entries of the matrix.

Our result is a characterisation of the matrices with maximal determinant in the set of matrices with given entry sum and square sum, and a general inequality for the absolute value of the determinant of a matrix.

For the problem of finding $D\left(1, \ldots, n^{2}\right)$, the upper bound derived in this way turns out to be quite sharp. So here we have an example where analytical optimisation gives valuable information about a combinatorial optimisation problem.

## 2. Conventions

Throughout this article, let $n>1$ be a natural number and $N:=\{1, \ldots, n\}$. Matrix always means a real $n \times n$ matrix, the set of which we denote by $\mathbb{M}$.
For $M \in \mathbb{M}$ and $i, j \in N$ we denote by $M_{i}$ the $i$-th row of $M$, by $M^{j}$ the $j$-th column of $M$, and by $M_{i, j}$ the entry of $M$ at position $(i, j)$. If $M$ is a matrix or a row or a column of a matrix, then by $s(M)$ we denote the sum of the entries of $M$ and by $q(M)$ the sum of their squares.

The identity matrix is denoted by $I$. By $J$ we name the matrix which has 1 at all of its fields, while $e$ is the column vector in $\mathbb{R}^{n}$ with all entries being 1 . Matrices of the structure $x I+y J$ will play an important role, so we state some of their properties:
Lemma 2.1. Let $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ and $M:=x I+y J$. Then we have:
(1) $\operatorname{det} M=x^{n-1}(x+n y)$
(2) $M$ is invertible if and only if $x \notin\{0,-n y\}$.
(3) If $M$ is invertible, then $M^{-1}=\frac{1}{x} I-\frac{y}{x(x+n y)} J$.

Proof. Since $J=e e^{T}$, it holds that

$$
M e=\left(x I+y e e^{T}\right) e=\left(x+y e^{T} e\right) e=(x+n y) e \quad \text { and } \quad M v=\left(x I+y e e^{T}\right) v=x v
$$

for all $v \in \mathbb{R}^{n}$ with $v \perp e$. Hence $M$ has the eigenvalue $x$ with multiplicity $n-1$ and the simple eigenvalue $x+n y$. This shows (1). (2) is an immediate consequence of (1). (3) can be verified by a straight calculation.

## 3. Main Theorem

Let $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$ with $\beta>0$ and $\mathbb{M}_{\alpha, \beta}:=\{M \in \mathbb{M}: s(M)=n \alpha, q(M)=n \beta\}$. Furthermore, let

$$
\delta:=\frac{\alpha^{2}-\beta}{n-1}
$$

In the proof of the following lemma, matrices are specified whose determinants will later turn out to be the greatest possible:

## Lemma 3.1.

(1) $\mathbb{M}_{\alpha, \beta} \neq \emptyset$ if and only if $\alpha^{2} \leq n \beta$. If $\alpha^{2} \leq n \beta$, then there exists an $M \in \mathbb{M}_{\alpha, \beta}$ with

$$
\operatorname{det} M=\alpha(\beta-\delta)^{\frac{n-1}{2}}
$$

(2) If $\alpha^{2} \leq \beta$, then there exists an $M \in \mathbb{M}_{\alpha, \beta}$ with $\operatorname{det} M=\beta^{\frac{n}{2}}$.
(3) There exists an $M \in \mathbb{M}_{\alpha, \beta}$ with $\operatorname{det} M \neq 0$ if and only if $\alpha^{2}<n \beta$.

Proof. (1) Suppose $\mathbb{M}_{\alpha, \beta} \neq \emptyset$, say $M \in \mathbb{M}_{\alpha, \beta}$. Reading $M$ and $J$ as elements of $\mathbb{R}^{n^{2}}$, the Cauchy inequality shows that

$$
\begin{aligned}
\alpha^{2} & =\frac{1}{n^{2}}\left(\sum_{i, j=1}^{n} M_{i, j}\right)^{2} \\
& =\frac{1}{n^{2}}\langle M, J\rangle^{2} \\
& \leq \frac{1}{n^{2}}\|M\|_{2}^{2}\|J\|_{2}^{2}=\sum_{i, j=1}^{n} M_{i, j}^{2}=n \beta
\end{aligned}
$$

For the other implication suppose $\alpha^{2} \leq n \beta$, i. e. $\beta \geq \delta$, and set $\gamma:=(\beta-\delta)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ and $M:=$ $\gamma I+\frac{1}{n}(\alpha-\gamma) J$. Then $M \in \mathbb{M}_{\alpha, \beta}$, and by Lemma 2.1

$$
\operatorname{det} M=\gamma^{n-1}\left(\gamma+n \frac{1}{n}(\alpha-\gamma)\right)=\gamma^{n-1} \alpha=\alpha(\beta-\delta)^{\frac{n-1}{2}}
$$

(2) Let $\alpha^{2} \leq \beta$. First suppose $\alpha \geq 0$, so $\gamma:=\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{3 \alpha}{\sqrt{\beta}}-1\right)$ gives $\gamma^{2} \leq 1$. Set

$$
A:=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
\alpha & \sqrt{\beta-\alpha^{2}} \\
-\sqrt{\beta-\alpha^{2}} & \alpha
\end{array}\right) \quad \text { and } \quad B:=\sqrt{\beta}\left(\begin{array}{ccc}
\gamma & \sqrt{1-\gamma^{2}} & 0 \\
-\sqrt{1-\gamma^{2}} & \gamma & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 1
\end{array}\right) .
$$

Then $s(A)=2 \alpha, q(A)=2 \beta$, $\operatorname{det} A=\beta, s(B)=3 \alpha, q(B)=3 \beta$, $\operatorname{det} B=\beta^{\frac{3}{2}}$. In the case of $n=2 k$ with $k \in \mathbb{N}$, use $k$ copies of $A$ to build the block matrix

$$
M:=\left(\begin{array}{ccc}
A & & \\
& \ddots & \\
& & A
\end{array}\right)
$$

which has the required properties. In the case of $n=2 k+1$ with $k \in \mathbb{N}$, use $k-1$ copies of $A$ to build the block matrix

$$
M:=\left(\begin{array}{llll}
A & & & \\
& \ddots & & \\
& & A & \\
& & & B
\end{array}\right)
$$

which again fulfills the requirements.
In the case of $\alpha<0$, an $M^{\prime} \in \mathbb{M}_{-\alpha, \beta}$ with $\operatorname{det} M^{\prime}=\beta^{\frac{n}{2}}$ exists. For even $n$, the matrix $M:=-M^{\prime} \in \mathbb{M}_{\alpha, \beta}$ has the requested determinant, while for odd $n$ swapping two rows of $-M^{\prime}$ gives the desired matrix $M$.
(3) If $\alpha^{2}<n \beta$, then the existence of an $M \in \mathbb{M}_{\alpha, \beta}$ with $\operatorname{det} M \neq 0$ is proved by (1) in the case of $\alpha \neq 0$ and by (2) in the case of $\alpha=0$. For $\alpha^{2}=n \beta$ and $M \in \mathbb{M}_{\alpha, \beta}$, the calculation in (1) shows that $\langle M, J\rangle=\|M\|_{2}\|J\|_{2}$. However, this equality holds only if $M$ is a scalar multiple of $J$, so we have $\operatorname{det} M=0$ because of $\operatorname{det} J=0$.

For $\alpha^{2} \leq \beta$ we have given two types of matrices in Lemma 3.1, the first one having the determinant $\alpha(\beta-\delta)^{\frac{n-1}{2}}$, the second one with the determinant $\beta^{\frac{n}{2}}$. The proof of Theorem 3.3 below will use the fact that for $\alpha^{2}<\beta$ the determinant of the first type is strictly smaller than that of the second type. Indeed, the following stronger statement holds:
Lemma 3.2. Let $\alpha^{2} \leq n \beta$. Then $|\alpha|(\beta-\delta)^{\frac{n-1}{2}} \leq \beta^{\frac{n}{2}}$ with equality if and only if $\alpha^{2}=\beta$.

Proof. This is obvious for $\alpha=0$, so let $\alpha \neq 0$. With $f(x):=x\left(\frac{n-x}{n-1}\right)^{n-1}$ for $x \in[0, n]$ we have

$$
|\alpha|(\beta-\delta)^{\frac{n-1}{2}} \beta^{-\frac{n}{2}}=\sqrt{f\left(\frac{\alpha^{2}}{\beta}\right)}
$$

The proof is completed by applying the AM-GM inequality to $f(x)^{1 / n}$ :

$$
f(x)^{\frac{1}{n}}=\left(x\left(\frac{n-x}{n-1}\right)^{n-1}\right)^{\frac{1}{n}} \leq \frac{x+(n-1) \frac{n-x}{n-1}}{n}=1
$$

with equality if and only if $x=\frac{n-x}{n-1}$, i. e. if and only if $x=1$.
If $\alpha^{2}<n \beta$, then by Lemma 3.1 there exists an $M \in \mathbb{M}_{\alpha, \beta}$ with $\operatorname{det} M \neq 0$, and, by possibly swapping two rows of $M$, $\operatorname{det} M>0$ can be achieved. As $\mathbb{M}_{\alpha, \beta}$ is compact, the determinant function assumes a maximum value on $\mathbb{M}_{\alpha, \beta}$. The next theorem, which is essentially due to O. Gasper, shows that this maximum value is given by the determinants noted in Lemma 3.1:

Theorem 3.3. Let $\alpha^{2}<n \beta$ and $M \in \mathbb{M}_{\alpha, \beta}$ with maximal determinant. Then

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { if } \alpha^{2} \leq \beta: \begin{cases}(1) & M M^{T}=\beta I \\
(2) & \operatorname{det} M=\beta^{\frac{n}{2}}\end{cases} \\
& \text { if } \alpha^{2} \geq \beta: \begin{cases}(3) & s\left(M_{i}\right)=s\left(M^{j}\right)=\alpha \text { for all } i, j \in N \\
(4) & M M^{T}=(\beta-\delta) I+\delta J \\
(5) & \operatorname{det} M=|\alpha|(\beta-\delta)^{\frac{n-1}{2}}\end{cases}
\end{aligned}
$$

Proof. From Lemma 3.1, we know that $\operatorname{det} M>0$. The matrix $M$ solves an extremum problem with equality contraints
(P)

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
\operatorname{det} X \longrightarrow \max \\
s(X)=n \alpha \\
q(X)=n \beta
\end{array} \quad\left(X \in \mathbb{M}^{*}\right)\right.
$$

where $\mathbb{M}^{*}$ is the set of invertible matrices. The Lagrange function of $(\mathbb{P})$ is given by

$$
L(X, \lambda, \mu)=\operatorname{det} X-\lambda(s(X)-n \alpha)-\mu(q(X)-n \beta)
$$

so there exist $\lambda, \mu \in \mathbb{R}$ with $\frac{d}{d M_{i, j}} L(M, \lambda, \mu)=0$ for all $i, j \in N$. It is well known that

$$
\left(\frac{d}{d M_{i, j}} \operatorname{det} M\right)_{i, j}=(\operatorname{det} M)\left(M^{T}\right)^{-1}
$$

(see e.g. [3], 10.6), thus we get $(\operatorname{det} M)\left(M^{T}\right)^{-1}-\lambda M-2 \mu J=0$, i.e.

$$
\begin{equation*}
(\operatorname{det} M) I=\lambda M M^{T}+2 \mu J M^{T} \tag{3.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

Suppose $\lambda=0$. Then

$$
(\operatorname{det} M)^{n}=\operatorname{det}\left(2 \mu J M^{T}\right)=\operatorname{det}(2 \mu J) \operatorname{det} M=0 \operatorname{det} M=0
$$

by applying the determinant function to 3.1). This contradicts $\operatorname{det} M>0$. Hence

$$
\begin{equation*}
\lambda \neq 0 \tag{3.2}
\end{equation*}
$$

As $M M^{T}$ has diagonal elements $q\left(M_{1}\right), \ldots, q\left(M_{n}\right)$, and $J M^{T}$ has diagonal elements $s\left(M_{1}\right)$, $\ldots, s\left(M_{n}\right)$, we get

$$
n \operatorname{det} M=\lambda q(M)+2 \mu s(M)=\lambda n \beta+2 \mu n \alpha
$$

by applying the trace function to (3.1), consequently

$$
\begin{equation*}
\operatorname{det} M=\lambda \beta+2 \mu \alpha . \tag{3.3}
\end{equation*}
$$

The symmetry of $(\operatorname{det} M) I$ and the symmetry of $\lambda M M^{T}$ in (3.1) show that $\mu J M^{T}$ is symmetric as well. As all rows of $J M^{T}$ are identical, namely equal to $\left(s\left(M_{1}\right), \ldots, s\left(M_{n}\right)\right)$, we obtain

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mu s\left(M_{1}\right)=\cdots=\mu s\left(M_{n}\right) . \tag{3.4}
\end{equation*}
$$

In the following, we inspect the cases $\mu=0$ and $\mu \neq 0$ and prove:

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
\mu=0 \quad \Longrightarrow \quad \alpha^{2} \leq \beta \wedge(1) \wedge(2),  \tag{3.5}\\
\mu \neq 0 \quad \Longrightarrow \quad \alpha^{2} \geq \beta \wedge(3) \wedge(4) \wedge(5) .
\end{array}\right.
$$

Case $\mu=0$ : Then (3.3) reads det $M=\lambda \beta$, so taking (3.2) into account and dividing (3.1) by $\lambda$ gives $\beta I=M M^{T}$, i.e. (1). Part (2) follows by applying the determinant function to (1). Using the Cauchy inequality and the fact that $(1 / \sqrt{\beta}) M$ is orthogonal and thus an isometry w.r.t. the euclidean norm $\|\cdot\|_{2}$, we get:

$$
\begin{align*}
\alpha^{2} & =\frac{1}{n^{2}}\left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} s\left(M_{i}\right)\right)^{2}  \tag{3.6}\\
& \leq \frac{1}{n^{2}} n \sum_{i=1}^{n} s\left(M_{i}\right)^{2} \\
& =\frac{1}{n}\|M e\|_{2}^{2}=\frac{1}{n} \beta\|e\|_{2}^{2}=\frac{1}{n} \beta n=\beta .
\end{align*}
$$

Case $\mu \neq 0$ : Then $s\left(M_{1}\right)=\cdots=s\left(M_{n}\right)$ by (3.4). The identity

$$
s\left(M_{1}\right)+\cdots+s\left(M_{n}\right)=s(M)=n \alpha
$$

shows that $s\left(M_{i}\right)=\alpha$ for all $i \in N$. Taking into account that the determinant is invariant against matrix transposition, this proves (3). Furthermore, $J M^{T}=\alpha J$, and (3.1) becomes

$$
\begin{equation*}
\lambda M M^{T}=(\operatorname{det} M) I-2 \mu \alpha J, \tag{3.7}
\end{equation*}
$$

hence

$$
q\left(M_{i}\right)=\left(M M^{T}\right)_{i, i}=\frac{1}{\lambda}(\operatorname{det} M-2 \mu \alpha)
$$

for all $i \in N$, and $q\left(M_{1}\right)=\cdots=q\left(M_{n}\right)$. With

$$
q\left(M_{1}\right)+\cdots+q\left(M_{n}\right)=q(M)=n \beta,
$$

this shows that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left(M M^{T}\right)_{i, i}=q\left(M_{i}\right)=\beta \quad \text { for all } i \in N . \tag{3.8}
\end{equation*}
$$

Let $i, j \in N$ with $i \neq j$. Equation (3.7) gives $\left(M M^{T}\right)_{i, k}=-\frac{1}{\lambda} 2 \mu \alpha$ for all $k \in N \backslash\{i\}$, and we get

$$
\begin{aligned}
\beta+(n-1)\left(M M^{T}\right)_{i, j} & =\left(M M^{T}\right)_{i, i}+\sum_{k \neq i}\left(M M^{T}\right)_{i, k} \\
& =\sum_{k=1}^{n}\left(M M^{T}\right)_{i, k} \\
& =\sum_{k=1}^{n} \sum_{p=1}^{n} M_{i, p} M_{k, p} \\
& =\sum_{p=1}^{n} M_{i, p} s\left(M^{p}\right) \\
& =\sum_{p=1}^{n} M_{i, p} \alpha=s\left(M_{i}\right) \alpha=\alpha^{2},
\end{aligned}
$$

so

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left(M M^{T}\right)_{i, j}=\frac{\alpha^{2}-\beta}{n-1}=\delta \tag{3.9}
\end{equation*}
$$

Equations (3.8) and (3.9) together prove (4). With Lemma 2.1, this yields

$$
(\operatorname{det} M)^{2}=\operatorname{det}\left(M M^{T}\right)=(\beta-\delta)^{n-1}(\beta-\delta+n \delta)=\alpha^{2}(\beta-\delta)^{n-1}
$$

and taking the square root gives (5). Suppose that $\alpha^{2}<\beta$. Then by Lemma 3.1 there exists an $M^{\prime} \in \mathbb{M}_{\alpha, \beta}$ with $\operatorname{det} M^{\prime}=\beta^{\frac{n}{2}}$, and by Lemma 3.2.

$$
\operatorname{det} M=|\alpha|(\beta-\delta)^{\frac{n-1}{2}}<\beta^{\frac{n}{2}}=\operatorname{det} M^{\prime}
$$

which contradicts the maximality of $\operatorname{det} M$. Hence $\alpha^{2} \geq \beta$.
We have now proved (3.5) and are ready to deduce the statements of the theorem: If $\alpha^{2}<\beta$, then (3.5) shows that $\mu=0$ and thus (1) and (2). If $\alpha^{2}>\beta$, then (3.5) shows that $\mu \neq 0$ and thus (3), (4) and (5). Finally suppose that $\alpha^{2}=\beta$. Then $\delta=0$, hence (1) $\Longleftrightarrow$ (4) and (2) $\Longleftrightarrow(5)$. If $\mu \neq 0$, then (3.5) shows (3), (4) and (5), from which (1) and (2) follow. If $\mu=0$, then (3.5) shows (1) and (2), from which (4) and (5) follow. It remains to prove (3) in the case of $\alpha^{2}=\beta$ and $\mu=0$. To this purpose, look at (3.6) again, where $\alpha^{2}=\beta$ means equality in the Cauchy inequality, which tells us that $\left(s\left(M_{1}\right), \ldots, s\left(M_{n}\right)\right)$ is a scalar multiple of $e$, hence $s\left(M_{1}\right)=\cdots=s\left(M_{n}\right)$, and (3) follows as in the case $\mu \neq 0$.

## 4. Application

The following is a more application-oriented extract of Theorem 3.3:
Proposition 4.1. Let $M \in \mathbb{M}, \alpha:=\frac{1}{n} s(M), \beta:=\frac{1}{n} q(M)$ and $\delta:=\frac{\alpha^{2}-\beta}{n-1}$. Then:

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\alpha^{2}<\beta & \Longrightarrow|\operatorname{det} M| \leq \beta^{\frac{n}{2}} \\
\alpha^{2}=\beta & \Longrightarrow|\operatorname{det} M| \leq|\alpha|(\beta-\delta)^{\frac{n-1}{2}}=\beta^{\frac{n}{2}} \\
\alpha^{2}>\beta & \Longrightarrow|\operatorname{det} M| \leq|\alpha|(\beta-\delta)^{\frac{n-1}{2}}<\beta^{\frac{n}{2}}
\end{array}
$$

Proof. This is clear if $\operatorname{det} M=0$. In the case of $\operatorname{det} M \neq 0$, we get $\alpha^{2}<n \beta$ by Lemma 3.1, and the stated inequalities are true by Lemma 3.2 and Theorem 3.3.

For $M \in \mathbb{M}$ with $\left|M_{i, j}\right| \leq 1$ for all $i, j \in N$, Proposition 4.1 tells us that

$$
\begin{equation*}
|\operatorname{det} M| \leq \beta^{\frac{n}{2}}=\left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i, j=1}^{n} M_{i, j}^{2}\right)^{\frac{n}{2}} \leq\left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i, j=1}^{n} 1\right)^{\frac{n}{2}}=n^{\frac{n}{2}} \tag{4.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

which is simply the determinant theorem of Hadamard [2]. If $M_{i, j} \in\{-1,1\}$ for all $i, j \in N$ and $|\operatorname{det} M|=n^{n / 2}$, i. e. $M$ is a Hadamard matrix, then Proposition 4.1 shows that $\alpha^{2} \leq \beta$ must hold. For a Hadamard matrix $M$, the value $s(M)$ is called the excess of $M$. Since $q(M)=n^{2}$ in the case of $M_{i, j} \in\{-1,1\}$, Proposition 4.1 yields an upper bound for the excess, known as Best's inequality [1]:

$$
\begin{equation*}
M \text { is a Hadamard matrix } \Longrightarrow s(M) \leq n^{\frac{3}{2}} \tag{4.2}
\end{equation*}
$$

The results (4.1) and (4.2), which both can be proved more directly, are mentioned here just as by-products of Proposition 4.1. In the following, we are interested only in the case $\alpha^{2} \geq \beta$, where the inequality

$$
|\operatorname{det} M| \leq|\alpha|(\beta-\delta)^{\frac{n-1}{2}}=: g(M)
$$

holds. Note that Lemma 3.2 states that $g(M)<\beta^{\frac{n}{2}}$ is true for $\alpha^{2}<\beta$ also, but $|\operatorname{det} M|$ is not necessarily bounded by $g(M)$ in this situation:

$$
M:=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
1 & 0 \\
0 & -1
\end{array}\right), \quad|\operatorname{det} M|=1, \quad g(M)=0
$$

We are now going to apply Proposition 4.1 to the problem stated in the introduction. This problem is a special case of finding an upper bound for the determinant of matrices whose entries are a permutation of an arithmetic progression:

Proposition 4.2. Let $p, q$ be real numbers with $q>0$ and $M$ a matrix whose entries are $a$ permutation of the numbers $p, p+q, \ldots, p+\left(n^{2}-1\right) q$. Set

$$
r:=\frac{p}{q}+\frac{n^{2}-1}{2} \quad \text { and } \quad \varrho:=\frac{n^{3}+n^{2}+n+1}{12} .
$$

Then

$$
|\operatorname{det} M| \leq n^{\frac{n}{2}} q^{n}\left(r^{2}+\frac{n^{4}-1}{12}\right)^{\frac{n}{2}}
$$

and

$$
r^{2}>\varrho \quad \Longrightarrow \quad|\operatorname{det} M| \leq n^{n} q^{n}|r| \varrho^{\frac{n-1}{2}}<n^{\frac{n}{2}} q^{n}\left(r^{2}+\frac{n^{4}-1}{12}\right)^{\frac{n}{2}}
$$

Proof. For $\alpha:=\frac{1}{n} s(M)$ and $\beta:=\frac{1}{n} q(M)$ a calculation shows that $\alpha^{2}-\beta=n(n-1) q^{2}\left(r^{2}-\varrho\right)$, hence $\left(\alpha^{2}>\beta \Longleftrightarrow r^{2}>\varrho\right)$. The bounds noted in Proposition 4.1 yield the asserted inequalities for $|\operatorname{det} M|$.

Corollary 4.3. If $M$ is a matrix whose entries are a permutation of $1, \ldots, n^{2}$, then

$$
|\operatorname{det} M| \leq n^{n} \frac{n^{2}+1}{2}\left(\frac{n^{3}+n^{2}+n+1}{12}\right)^{\frac{n-1}{2}}
$$

Proof. Apply Proposition 4.2 to $(p, q):=(1,1)$. For $r=\left(n^{2}+1\right) / 2$ it is easy to see that $r^{2}>\varrho$, which yields the stated bound.

Comparing the lower bounds for $D\left(1, \ldots, n^{2}\right)$ noted in the introduction with the upper bounds resulting from rounding down the values given by Corollary 4.3 shows that the quality of these upper bounds is quite convincing:

| $n$ | determinant of best known matrix | upper bound given by Corollary 4.3 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 2 | 10 | 11 |
| 3 | 412 | 450 |
| 4 | 40800 | 41021 |
| 5 | 6839492 | 6865625 |
| 6 | 1865999570 | 1867994210 |
| 7 | 762150368499 | 762539814814 |
| 8 | 440960274696935 | 441077015225642 |
| 9 | 346254605664223620 | 346335386150480625 |
| 10 | 356944784622927045792 | 357017114947987625629 |

These are the record matrices $R(n)$ corresponding to the noted determinants:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& R(2)=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
4 & 2 \\
1 & 3
\end{array}\right), \quad R(3)=\left(\begin{array}{ccc}
9 & 3 & 5 \\
4 & 8 & 1 \\
2 & 6 & 7
\end{array}\right), \quad R(4)=\left(\begin{array}{cccc}
12 & 13 & 6 & 2 \\
3 & 8 & 16 & 7 \\
14 & 1 & 9 & 10 \\
5 & 11 & 4 & 15
\end{array}\right), \\
& R(5)=\left(\begin{array}{ccccc}
25 & 15 & 9 & 11 & 4 \\
7 & 24 & 14 & 3 & 17 \\
6 & 12 & 23 & 20 & 5 \\
10 & 13 & 2 & 22 & 19 \\
16 & 1 & 18 & 8 & 21
\end{array}\right), \quad R(6)=\left(\begin{array}{cccccc}
36 & 24 & 21 & 17 & 5 & 8 \\
3 & 35 & 25 & 15 & 23 & 11 \\
13 & 7 & 34 & 16 & 10 & 31 \\
14 & 22 & 2 & 33 & 12 & 28 \\
20 & 4 & 19 & 29 & 32 & 6 \\
26 & 18 & 9 & 1 & 30 & 27
\end{array}\right), \\
& R(7)=\left(\begin{array}{ccccccc}
46 & 42 & 15 & 2 & 27 & 24 & 18 \\
9 & 48 & 36 & 30 & 7 & 14 & 31 \\
39 & 11 & 44 & 34 & 13 & 29 & 5 \\
26 & 22 & 17 & 41 & 47 & 1 & 21 \\
20 & 8 & 40 & 6 & 33 & 23 & 45 \\
4 & 28 & 19 & 25 & 38 & 49 & 12 \\
32 & 16 & 3 & 37 & 10 & 35 & 43
\end{array}\right), \quad R(8)=\left(\begin{array}{cccccccc}
1 & 12 & 20 & 52 & 40 & 50 & 53 & 32 \\
44 & 35 & 3 & 14 & 43 & 15 & 45 & 61 \\
57 & 2 & 51 & 49 & 23 & 11 & 38 & 29 \\
28 & 22 & 55 & 4 & 64 & 41 & 18 & 27 \\
25 & 36 & 42 & 34 & 5 & 48 & 7 & 63 \\
19 & 60 & 33 & 56 & 46 & 6 & 16 & 24 \\
59 & 39 & 9 & 37 & 30 & 58 & 21 & 8 \\
26 & 54 & 47 & 13 & 10 & 31 & 62 & 17
\end{array}\right), \\
& R(9)=\left(\begin{array}{ccccccccc}
68 & 7 & 12 & 62 & 73 & 26 & 29 & 58 & 34 \\
67 & 37 & 43 & 10 & 3 & 61 & 33 & 78 & 36 \\
30 & 20 & 79 & 53 & 49 & 71 & 40 & 25 & 2 \\
56 & 50 & 8 & 27 & 42 & 60 & 81 & 4 & 41 \\
23 & 14 & 54 & 63 & 11 & 18 & 72 & 44 & 70 \\
1 & 38 & 32 & 21 & 65 & 66 & 22 & 48 & 76 \\
45 & 74 & 31 & 80 & 17 & 46 & 5 & 24 & 47 \\
15 & 77 & 35 & 39 & 51 & 16 & 59 & 69 & 9 \\
64 & 52 & 75 & 13 & 57 & 6 & 28 & 19 & 55
\end{array}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
R(10)=\left(\begin{array}{cccccccccc}
1 & 2 & 61 & 84 & 81 & 82 & 39 & 54 & 41 & 60 \\
53 & 57 & 3 & 65 & 94 & 20 & 91 & 22 & 66 & 33 \\
46 & 63 & 47 & 4 & 45 & 78 & 83 & 28 & 13 & 98 \\
79 & 42 & 49 & 71 & 5 & 95 & 51 & 10 & 77 & 26 \\
17 & 75 & 87 & 58 & 30 & 6 & 38 & 27 & 86 & 80 \\
68 & 93 & 76 & 50 & 85 & 56 & 7 & 37 & 14 & 19 \\
100 & 16 & 31 & 35 & 62 & 34 & 8 & 64 & 67 & 88 \\
21 & 72 & 29 & 9 & 48 & 73 & 43 & 97 & 89 & 25 \\
69 & 15 & 99 & 32 & 44 & 24 & 90 & 74 & 40 & 18 \\
52 & 70 & 23 & 96 & 11 & 36 & 55 & 92 & 12 & 59
\end{array}\right)
$$

Calculating the matrix $M M^{T}$ for each record matrix $M$ reveals that $M M^{T}$ has roughly the structure $(\beta-\delta) I+\delta J$ that was noted in Theorem 3.3 for the optimal matrices of the corresponding real optimisation problem.

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