

Determinants

Recall that for $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$

it is invertible if and only if $ad - bc \neq 0$

$$\det(A) = ad - bc$$

Why?

Consider $\left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} a & b & 1 & 0 \\ c & d & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right]$

$$\xrightarrow{r_1 \left(\frac{1}{a} \right)} \left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} 1 & \frac{b}{a} & \frac{1}{a} & 0 \\ c & d & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\xrightarrow{r_2 \left(\frac{c}{a} \right)} \left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} 1 & \frac{b}{a} & \frac{1}{a} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{ad-bc}{a} & -\frac{c}{a} & 1 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\xrightarrow{r_2 \left(\frac{a}{ad-bc} \right)} \left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} 1 & \frac{b}{a} & \frac{1}{a} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \frac{-c}{ad-bc} & \frac{a}{ad-bc} \end{array} \right]$$

$$\xrightarrow{r_2 \left(-\frac{b}{a} \right)} \left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} 1 & 0 & \frac{d}{ad-bc} & \frac{-b}{ad-bc} \\ 0 & 1 & \frac{-c}{ad-bc} & \frac{a}{ad-bc} \end{array} \right]$$

\therefore The inverse exists as long as $ad - bc \neq 0$

Question: How to generalize determinant for $A \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$,

$n \geq 2$?

Consider "minor of entry a_{ij} " first!

$A: \begin{bmatrix} & & \\ & a_{ij} & \\ & & \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{matrix} i\text{th row} \\ j\text{th column} \end{matrix} \text{ are deleted from } A \rightarrow$
 take determinant $\rightarrow M_{ij}$ (the minor of entry a_{ij})

$(-1)^{i+j} \cdot M_{ij}$: cofactor of entry a_{ij}

Example:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 & -4 \\ 2 & 5 & 6 \\ 1 & 4 & 8 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$M_{11} = \det \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 6 \\ 4 & 8 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{vmatrix} 5 & 6 \\ 4 & 8 \end{vmatrix} = 8 \times 5 - 4 \times 6 = 16$$

Cofactor of a_{11} is

$$C_{11} = (-1)^{1+1} M_{11} = M_{11} = 16$$

$$M_{32} = \det \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -4 \\ 2 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{vmatrix} 3 & -4 \\ 2 & 6 \end{vmatrix} = 18 + 8 = 26$$

Cofactor of a_{32} is $C_{32} = (-1)^{3+2} \cdot M_{32} = -26$

$$\text{Let } A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\det(A) = \begin{vmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= a_{11} C_{11} + a_{12} C_{12}$$

$$= a_{21} C_{21} + a_{22} C_{22}$$

$$= a_{11} C_{11} + a_{21} C_{21}$$

$$= a_{12} C_{12} + a_{22} C_{22}$$

cofactor
expansion

Theorem: For $A \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$, then the cofactor expansion at on each row or each column is **the same**.

Definition: For $A \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$,

$$\det(A) = a_{1j} C_{1j} + a_{2j} C_{2j} + \dots + a_{nj} C_{nj}$$

and

$$\det(A) = a_{i1} C_{i1} + a_{i2} C_{i2} + \dots + a_{in} C_{in}$$

for each $i, j \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$

Example:

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

$$\begin{aligned} \det(A) &= \begin{vmatrix} 3 & 1 & 0 \\ -2 & -4 & 3 \\ 5 & 4 & -2 \end{vmatrix} = 3 \begin{vmatrix} -4 & 3 \\ 4 & -2 \end{vmatrix} - 1 \begin{vmatrix} -2 & 3 \\ 5 & -2 \end{vmatrix} + 0 \begin{vmatrix} -2 & -4 \\ 5 & 4 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= 3(-4) - 1(-11) = \boxed{-1} \end{aligned}$$

Also,

$$\det(A) = 3 \cdot \begin{vmatrix} -4 & 3 \\ 4 & -2 \end{vmatrix} - (-2) \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 4 & -2 \end{vmatrix} + 5 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -4 & 3 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= 3(-4) - (-2)(-2) + 5(3) = \boxed{-1}$$

⇒ Make a smarter choice!

Example: For a lower triangular matrix,

$$\begin{vmatrix} a_{11} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & 0 & 0 \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} & 0 \\ a_{41} & a_{42} & a_{43} & a_{44} \end{vmatrix} = a_{11} \begin{vmatrix} a_{22} & 0 & 0 \\ a_{32} & a_{33} & 0 \\ a_{42} & a_{43} & a_{44} \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= a_{11} a_{22} \begin{vmatrix} a_{33} & 0 \\ a_{43} & a_{44} \end{vmatrix}$$
$$= a_{11} a_{22} a_{33} | a_{44} |$$

$$= a_{11} a_{22} a_{33} a_{44} \Rightarrow \text{product of its diagonal entries!}$$

Theorem: If $A \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$ is triangular,

$$\text{then } \det(A) = a_{11} a_{22} \cdots a_{nn}$$

Theorem: Let A be a square matrix.

If A has any row or column that is full of zeros,

$$\text{then } \det(A) = 0$$

Theorem: Let A be a square matrix. Then $\det(A) = \det(A^T)$

$$\left[\begin{array}{c} \longrightarrow \\ \longrightarrow \\ \longrightarrow \end{array} \right] \Leftrightarrow \left[\begin{array}{c} \downarrow \\ \downarrow \\ \downarrow \end{array} \right]$$

Theorem^{2.2.3} Let $A \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$

(a) If $A \xrightarrow{r_i^{(k)}} B$ or $A \xrightarrow{c_i^{(k)}} B$ for some $i \in [n]$ and scalar k

then $\det(B) = k \cdot \det(A)$

(b) If $A \xrightarrow{r_{ij}} B$ or $A \xrightarrow{c_{ij}} B$ for some $i, j \in [n]$

then $\det(B) = -\det(A)$

(c) If $A \xrightarrow{r_{ij}^{(k)}} B$ or $A \xrightarrow{c_{ij}^{(k)}} B$ for some $i, j \in [n]$ and scalar k

then $\det(B) = \det(A)$

Example

$$\begin{vmatrix} ka_{11} & ka_{12} & ka_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{vmatrix} = k \cdot \begin{vmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{vmatrix}$$

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

$$\begin{vmatrix} a_{11} + ka_{21} & a_{12} + ka_{22} & a_{13} + ka_{23} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & (a_{11} + ka_{21}) \begin{vmatrix} a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{32} & a_{33} \end{vmatrix} - (a_{12} + ka_{22}) \begin{vmatrix} a_{21} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{33} \end{vmatrix} + (a_{13} + ka_{23}) \begin{vmatrix} a_{21} & a_{22} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} \end{vmatrix} \\ & = \det(A) + k a_{21} a_{22} a_{33} - k a_{21} a_{23} a_{32} \\ & \quad - k a_{22} a_{21} a_{33} + k a_{22} a_{23} a_{31} \\ & \quad + k a_{23} a_{21} a_{32} - k a_{23} a_{22} a_{31} \\ & = \det(A) \end{aligned}$$

Try to prove (a):

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{vmatrix} ka_{11} & ka_{12} & ka_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{vmatrix} &= ka_{11}C_{11} + ka_{12}C_{12} + ka_{13}C_{13} \\ &= k(a_{11}C_{11} + a_{12}C_{12} + a_{13}C_{13}) \\ &= k \begin{vmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{vmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

2.2.4
Theorem Let E be an elementary matrix, $E \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$

(a) If $I_n \xrightarrow{r_i^{(k)}} E$ for some scalar $k \neq 0$ and $i \in [n]$, then $\det(E) = k$.

(b) If $I_n \xrightarrow{r_{ij}} E$ for some $i, j \in [n]$, then $\det(E) = -1$.

(c) If $I_n \xrightarrow{r_{ij}^{(k)}} E$ for some scalar k and $i, j \in [n]$, then $\det(E) = 1$.

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = -2 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{vmatrix} + \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 1$$

2.2.5
Theorem If $A \in \mathbb{F}^{n \times n}$ has two proportional rows or two proportional columns, then $\det(A) = 0$.

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ ka_{11} & ka_{12} & ka_{13} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{r_{12}^{(-k)}} \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

Example

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 3 & -2 & 4 \\ 2 & 6 & -4 & 8 \\ 3 & 9 & 1 & 5 \\ 1 & 1 & 4 & 8 \end{vmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_{12} \times (-2)} \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 3 & -2 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 9 & 1 & 5 \\ 1 & 1 & 4 & 8 \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

Using row reduction helps

Example: Evaluate $\det(A)$, where $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 5 \\ 3 & -6 & 9 \\ 2 & 6 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

(sol):

$$\det(A) = \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 1 & 5 \\ 3 & -6 & 9 \\ 2 & 6 & 1 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= - \begin{vmatrix} 3 & -6 & 9 \\ 0 & 1 & 5 \\ 2 & 6 & 1 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= -3 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 5 \\ 2 & 6 & 1 \end{vmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_{13} \times (-2)}$$

$$= -3 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 10 & -5 \end{vmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_{23} \times (-10)}$$

$$= -3 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & -55 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= (-3)(-55) \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \det(A) = (-3)(-55)(1) = 165$$

Example

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 2 & 7 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 6 & 3 & 0 \\ 7 & 3 & 1 & -5 \end{bmatrix}, \text{ Compute } \det(A)$$

(sol):

$$\det(A) = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 2 & 7 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 6 & 3 & 0 \\ 7 & 3 & 1 & -5 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 7 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 6 & 3 & 0 \\ 7 & 3 & 1 & -26 \end{vmatrix} \begin{matrix} \times (-2) \\ \text{or } C_4 \end{matrix}$$

$$= (1) \cdot (7) \cdot (3) \cdot (-6) = -126$$

Example

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 5 & -2 & 6 \\ 1 & 2 & -1 & 1 \\ 2 & 4 & 1 & 5 \\ 3 & 7 & 5 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \text{ Evaluate } \det(A)$$

(sol):

$$\det(A) = \begin{vmatrix} 0 & -1 & 1 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 8 & 0 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= (-1) \cdot \begin{vmatrix} -1 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 3 & 3 \\ 1 & 8 & 0 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= (-1) \cdot \begin{vmatrix} -1 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 3 & 3 \\ 0 & 9 & 3 \end{vmatrix} = (-1) \cdot (-1) \cdot \begin{vmatrix} 3 & 3 \\ 9 & 3 \end{vmatrix} = -18$$