

# Determinants

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} + & - & + \\ - & + & - \\ + & - & + \end{pmatrix}$$

Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix, then we write  $A_{ij}$  for the  $(n-1) \times (n-1)$  matrix obtained by deleting row  $i$  & column  $j$ .

Now let  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . We define the determinant of  $A$  recursively as follows:

$$\textcircled{*} \det(A) = \sum_{j=1}^n (-1)^{i+j} a_{ij} \det(A_{ij}) \quad \text{if } n > 1$$

$$\textcircled{*} \det(A) = a_{11} \quad \text{if } n = 1$$

$A_{ij}$  is called a minor of  $A$

$C_{ij} = (-1)^{i+j} \det(A_{ij})$  is called a cofactor of  $A$

Theorem  $\det(A)$  is the same no matter which row (or column) you define it with.

proof delayed

Example Find  $\det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 4 & 7 \\ 2 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = -17$

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} = ad - bc$$

Top row

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 4 & 7 \\ 2 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = 1 \det \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} - 4 \det \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} + 7 \det \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$= 3 - 4(2) + 7(-2)$$
$$= -17$$

Column 3

$$7 \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 4 \\ 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} - 0 \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 4 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} + 1 \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 4 \\ 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$= 7(-2) - 0 + (-5)$$
$$= -17$$

Example Find  $\det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 4 & 0 & 6 \\ 9 & 3 & 8 & 26 \\ 8 & -11 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$

$$= 8 \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 4 & 6 \\ 8 & -11 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= 8 \left[ \det \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 6 \\ -11 & -1 \end{pmatrix} - 0 + 8 \det \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 6 \end{pmatrix} \right]$$

$$= 8 [ 62 + 8(0) ]$$

$$= 496$$

Lesson Strategie!

Target Theorem ① If  $A$  is a square matrix, then  
 $A^{-1}$  exists  $\Leftrightarrow \det(A) \neq 0$

Target Theorem ②  $\det(AB) = \det(A) \cdot \det(B)$

Lemma Suppose the square matrix  $A$  has a row or a column that is all zeros. Then  $\det(A) = 0$ .

Proof Calculate the determinate using that row/column  $\square$

Defn  $A$  is upper triangular if  $a_{ij} = 0$  for all  $i > j$

Defn  $A$  is lower triangular if  $a_{ij} = 0$  for all  $j > i$

Lemma Suppose  $A$  is either upper triangular or lower triangular.

Then  $\det(A)$  is the product of the diagonal entries.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 5 & 6 & 0 & 0 \\ 7 & 3 & 2 & 0 \\ 10 & 11 & 12 & 13 \end{pmatrix}$$

Proof  $\det(A) = a_{11} \cdot \det \begin{pmatrix} a_{22} & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ x & a_{nn} \end{pmatrix}$

$$= a_{11} \cdot a_{22} \cdot \det \begin{pmatrix} a_{33} & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ x & a_{nn} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \dots = a_{11} a_{22} \dots a_{nn} \quad \square$$

The key fact will be what elementary matrices do to the determinant!

Thm Suppose  $A$  is a square matrix:

① If  $B$  is obtained by switching 2 rows of  $A$ , then  $\det(B) = -\det(A)$

② If  $B$  is obtained by adding a nonzero multiple of

one row of  $A$  to another, then  $\det(B) = \det(A)$

③ If  $B$  is obtained from  $A$  by multiplying a row by the constant  $k$ , then  $\det(B) = k \cdot \det(A)$

proof ① Induction on  $n$ . Base Case  $\det \begin{pmatrix} c & d \\ a & b \end{pmatrix} = cb - ad = -\det \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$

Inductive Step Suppose  $n \geq 3$ . Suppose we switch rows  $i$  and  $j$ .

Let  $k$  be any other row. Expand along row  $k$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \det(B) &= \sum_{l=1}^n b_{kl} (-1)^{l+k} \det(B_{kl}) \\ &= \sum_{l=1}^n a_{kl} (-1)^{l+k} \det(B_{kl}) \quad \text{since row } k \text{ is unchanged} \\ &= \sum_{l=1}^n a_{kl} (-1)^{l+k} (-\det(A_{kl})) \quad \text{by induction} \\ &= - \sum_{l=1}^n a_{kl} (-1)^{l+k} \det(A_{kl}) = -\det(A) \end{aligned}$$

~~$R_1 + 5R_2 \rightarrow R_1$~~   
 ~~$5R_2 + R_1 \rightarrow R_2$~~

② Induction on  $n$ . Base Case  $\det \begin{pmatrix} a+hc & b+hd \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} = (a+hc)d - (b+hd)c = ad + hcd - bc - hcd = ad - bc = \det \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$

Inductive Step Suppose  $B$  is obtained from  $A$  by operation  $R_i + hR_j \rightarrow R_i$ .

Let  $k$  be any row besides  $i$  and  $j$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \det(B) &= \sum_{l=1}^n b_{kl} (-1)^{l+k} \det(B_{kl}) \\ &= \sum_{l=1}^n a_{kl} (-1)^{l+k} \det(A_{kl}) \quad \begin{matrix} a_{kl} = b_{kl} \text{ since row } k \text{ unchanged} \\ \det(B_{kl}) = \det(A_{kl}) \text{ by induction} \end{matrix} \\ &= \det(A) \end{aligned}$$

③ Suppose  $B$  is obtained from  $A$  by operation  $kR_i \rightarrow R_i$

Expand along row  $i$ :

$$\det(B) = \sum_{j=1}^n \underbrace{b_{ij}}_{k a_{ij}} (-1)^{i+j} \det(\underbrace{B_{ij}}_{A_{ij}}) = \sum_{j=1}^n k a_{ij} (-1)^{i+j} \det(A_{ij}) = k \det(A)$$

other rows are unchanged



Thm Similar for Columns proof similar.

Example  $\det \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 & 5 & 13 \\ 2 & 1 & 5 & 12 \\ 4 & 3 & 2 & 11 \\ 4 & 3 & 2 & 06 \\ 2 & 1 & 6 & \pi 7 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_1 - R_2 \rightarrow R_1} \det \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 5 & 12 \\ 4 & 3 & 2 & 11 \\ 4 & 3 & 2 & 06 \\ 2 & 1 & 6 & \pi 7 \end{pmatrix}$

$= \det \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 & 5 & 1 \\ 4 & 3 & 2 & 1 \\ 4 & 3 & 2 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 6 & \pi \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_2 - R_3 \rightarrow R_2} \det \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 & 5 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 4 & 3 & 2 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 6 & \pi \end{pmatrix}$

$= \det \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 & 5 \\ 4 & 3 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 & 6 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_3 - R_1 \rightarrow R_3} \det \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 & 5 \\ 4 & 3 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \det \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 4 & 3 \end{pmatrix} = 2$

Defn If  $A = (a_{ij})$  then the transpose of  $A$  is defined as  $A^t = (a_{ji})$

Thm  $\det A = \det A^t$

proof Expanding along row  $i$  of  $A$  is the same as expanding along column  $i$  of  $A^t$   $\square$

Lemma 1 If  $E$  is an elementary matrix, then

- (A)  $\det(E) = 1$  if  $E$  corresponds to  $R_i + kR_j \rightarrow R_i$
- (B)  $\det(E) = -1$  if  $E$  corresponds to  $R_i \leftrightarrow R_j$
- (C)  $\det(E) = k$  if  $E$  corresponds to  $kR_i \rightarrow R_i$

Sketch Proof (A) Examples

$E = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$  then  $\det E = 1$

(B)  $\det \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \det \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = -1$

(C)  $\det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = 5$   $\square$

Lemma 2 If  $E$  is elementary then  $\det(EA) = \det(E) \cdot \det(A)$

□

Proof of target 2 ( $\det(AB) = \det(A) \det(B)$ )

Let  $A'$  be  $A$  in RREF.

Suppose  $A = E_1 \dots E_n A'$  where the  $E_i$ 's are elementary

Case 1  $\det(A) = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \det(A') = 0.$$

Then since  $A'$  is in RREF, it has an all zero row.

$$\Rightarrow A'B \text{ has an all zero row} \Rightarrow \det(A'B) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \det(AB) = \det(E_1 \dots E_n A'B)$$

$$= \det(E_1) \dots \det(E_n) \det(A'B) = 0$$

Case 2  $\det(A) \neq 0$

$$\Rightarrow \det(A') \neq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow A' = I$$

$$\Rightarrow AB = E_1 \dots E_n B$$

$$\Rightarrow \det(AB) = \det(E_1) \dots \det(E_n) \det(B)$$

$$= \det(E_1 \dots E_n) \det(B)$$

$$= \det(A) \det(B) \quad \square$$





