

matrices. So A is the result of applying the corresponding row ops to I and AB is the result of applying them to B
so $\det(AB) = \det(A) \det(B)$



(e.g. $\det(ABC) = \det((AB)C) = \det(AB) \det(C)$
 $= \det A \det B \det C$.)

Remark: If A is invertible,
then $\det(A^{-1}) = \det(A)^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det(A)}$
since $\det(A^{-1}) \det(A) = \det(A^{-1}A) = \det(I) = 1$

Cofactor Expansion

Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix

Cofactor expansion on the first row:

Let M_{ij} be the $(n-1) \times (n-1)$ matrix obtained from A by crossing out the i th row and j th column (the i th minor of A)

$$\det(A) = a_{11} \det M_{11} - a_{12} \det M_{12} + a_{13} \det M_{13} - \dots + (-1)^{1+n} a_{1n} \det M_{1n}$$

Example:

$$\begin{aligned} \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 \end{pmatrix} &= 1 \det \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 6 \\ 8 & 9 \end{pmatrix} - 2 \det \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 6 \\ 7 & 9 \end{pmatrix} + 3 \det \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 5 \\ 7 & 8 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= 1(5 \cdot 9 - 6 \cdot 8) - 2(4 \cdot 9 - 6 \cdot 7) + 3(4 \cdot 8 - 5 \cdot 7) \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

We can do cofactor expansion on any row, but the signs are flipped if we use an even row

$$\text{so } \det(A) = a_{i1} (-1)^{i+1} \det(M_{i1}) + a_{i2} (-1)^{i+2} \det M_{i2} + \dots + a_{in} (-1)^{i+n} \det M_{in}$$

if we let $c_{ij} = (-1)^{i+j} \det(M_{ij})$

$$\text{we have } \det(A) = a_{i1} c_{i1} + \dots + a_{in} c_{in} \quad (\text{for any } i)$$

similarly for columns

$$\det(A) = a_{1i} c_{1i} + \dots + a_{ni} c_{ni} \quad (\text{any } i)$$

and note if $i \neq j$

$$\text{then } a_{1i} c_{1j} + \dots + a_{ni} c_{nj} = 0 \quad \text{because it's the determinant of the matrix obtained by replacing the } j\text{th row with the } i\text{th row}$$

so set $\text{cof}(A)$ to be the $n \times n$ matrix with entries
 $(\text{cof}(A))_{ij} = c_{ji}$

then $\text{cof}(A) A = \det(A) I = A \text{cof}(A)$

so
Theorem: If A is invertible, then

$$A^{-1} = \frac{\text{cof}(A)}{\det(A)}$$

eg. 2×2 case: $A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$

then $\text{cof}(A) = \begin{pmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{pmatrix}$

so $A^{-1} = \frac{1}{ad-bc} \begin{pmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{pmatrix}$

Don't memorise this!

eg. 3×3 case: $A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{pmatrix}$

$$\det(A) = a(ei - fh) - b(di - fg) + c(dh - eg)$$

$$\text{cof}(A) = \begin{pmatrix} (ei - fh) & -(bi - ch) & (bf - ce) \\ -(di - fg) & (ai - cg) & -(af - dc) \\ (dh - eg) & -(ah - bg) & (ae - bd) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A^{-1} = \frac{\text{cof}(A)}{\det(A)}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} + & - & + \\ - & + & - \\ + & - & + \end{pmatrix} (-1)^{i+j}$$

So since $R=I$ if and only if A is invertible

Theorem: For any square matrix A ,

$\det(A) = 0$ if and only if A is singular.

Example of calculating $\det(A)$ with row reduction:

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{\cdot (\frac{1}{4})} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{3}{4} \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{\cdot 1} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{3}{4} \\ 0 & -\frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix}$$

so $\det(A) = \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{3}{4} \\ 0 & -\frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix} = -2$

$$= \frac{1}{(\frac{1}{4} \cdot -2)} = \frac{1}{-\frac{1}{2}} = -2$$

$$\downarrow \cdot (-2)$$
$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{3}{4} \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\cdot 1 \downarrow$$
$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{\cdot (-1)} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

so $\det(A) = -1$

Also:

Theorem: $\det(AB) = \det(A)\det(B)$

A, B $n \times n$ matrices

Proof: If A is singular then $Ax=b$ has no solution

for some b , so $ABx=b$ has no solution, so AB is singular

so in this case, $\det(AB) = 0 = \det(A)\det(B)$

If A is not singular, A is a product of elementary