

## Step-1

The product rule of determinant says that if  $A$  and  $B$  are square matrices of the same order, then  $\det(AB) = (\det A)(\det B)$ .

It is also known that  $\det I = 1$ .

Therefore, we get

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= \det I \\ &= \det(Q^T Q) \\ &= \det(Q^T) \det(Q) \end{aligned}$$

## Step-2

We also know that determinant of a matrix  $A$  is equal to the determinant of its transpose,  $A^T$ . Therefore,  $\det(Q) = \det(Q^T)$ .

Thus,  $(\det(Q))^2 = 1$

Therefore,  $\boxed{\det(Q) = \pm 1}$ .

By the same logic,  $\det(Q^T) = \pm 1$ .

## Step-3

Now we show that  $Q^2$  is also an Orthogonal matrix. Thus, we need to show that  $(Q^2)^{-1} = (Q^2)^T$ .

$$\begin{aligned} Q^2 (Q^2)^T &= (Q \cdot Q)(Q^T \cdot Q^T) \\ &= Q(Q \cdot Q^T)Q^T \\ &= Q \cdot Q^T \\ &= I \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $Q^2$  is an Orthogonal matrix. Similarly, it can be shown that  $Q^n$  is also an Orthogonal matrix.

## Step-4

If  $\det Q$  is not equal to  $\pm 1$ , then  $\det(Q^n)$  would either tend to zero or would tend to plus or minus infinity.

But,  $Q^n$  remains an Orthogonal matrix.

This also shows that  $\det Q = \pm 1$ .