

Step-1

Let U be a complex matrix.

A complex matrix U is unitary if $UU^* = I$,

Where U^* is transpose of complex conjugate of U .

Clearly it can be written as $U\bar{U}^T = I$

Take the determinant on both sides then,

$$|U\bar{U}^T| = |I|$$

But $|U\bar{U}^T| = |\bar{U}^T| |U|$

Thus, $|U\bar{U}^T| = |I|$ can be written as,

$$|\bar{U}^T| |U| = 1$$

$$\det(\bar{U}) \det U = 1 \quad \text{Since } U \text{ is a unitary matrix that is } |\bar{U}^T| = |\bar{U}|$$

Step-2

By known condition, the determinant of conjugate of the matrix is equal to conjugate of determinant of that matrix.

That is,

$$\det \bar{U} = \overline{\det(U)}$$

Thus,

$$\det(\bar{U}) \det U = 1$$

$$\overline{\det(U)} \det U = 1$$

$$|\det U|^2 = 1 \quad \text{Since } \overline{\det(U)} \det(U) = |\det U|^2$$

$$\boxed{|\det U| = 1}.$$

Step-3

Suppose $U = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & i \end{bmatrix}$

Then $U^H = \text{transpose of conjugate matrix of } U$

$$U^H = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -i \end{bmatrix}$$

So $\det U = i$ and $\det U^H = -i$

Therefore, clearly $\det U \neq \det U^H$.

Step-4

Suppose $U = \begin{bmatrix} r_1 e^{i\theta_1} & r_3 e^{i\theta_3} \\ r_2 e^{i\theta_2} & r_4 e^{i\theta_4} \end{bmatrix}$ is unitary.

Then U has orthonormal columns,

So $r_1^2 + r_2^2 = 1$ and $r_3^2 + r_4^2 = 1$.

Let $r_1 = \sin \theta_1$ then $r_2 = \cos \theta_1$, and if $r_3 = \cos \theta_2$ then $r_4 = \sin \theta_2$

Where $0 \leq \theta_1, \theta_2 \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$.

By orthogonality of the column vectors,

$$\sin \theta_1 \cos \theta_2 e^{i(\theta_1 + \theta_2)} + \cos \theta_1 \sin \theta_2 e^{i(\theta_2 + \theta_1)} = 0.$$

This implies that $\theta_2 = \theta_1$ and $e^{\theta_1 + \theta_1} = -e^{\theta_2 + \theta_1}$

$$\theta_1 + \theta_3 = \theta_2 + \theta_4 + \pi.$$

So,

$$U = \begin{bmatrix} \sin \theta e^{i\theta_1} & \cos \theta e^{i\theta_3} \\ \cos \theta e^{i\theta_2} & \sin \theta e^{i(\theta_1 + \theta_3 - \theta_2 - \pi)} \end{bmatrix} \text{ for some } 0 \leq \theta \leq \frac{\pi}{2}.$$