The determinant of a matrix is a single numerical value which is used when calculating the inverse or when solving system of linear equation

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A = a(ei - fh) - b(di - gf) + c(dh - eg)$$

In terms of Cofactor:

$$\begin{bmatrix} a \\ x \\ e \\ f \\ h \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} b \\ x \\ d \\ f \\ g \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} c \\ d \\ g \\ h \end{bmatrix}^{x}$$