

**Definition**

If  $A$  is an  $n \times n$  matrix and  $1 \leq i, j \leq n$  then the  $ij$ -cofactor of  $A$  is the number

$$C_{ij} = (-1)^{i+j} \det A_{ij}$$

**Example.**

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

**Note.** By the definition of the determinant we have:

$$\det A = a_{11}C_{11} + a_{12}C_{12} + \dots + a_{1n}C_{1n}$$

### Theorem

Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix.

1) For any  $1 \leq i \leq n$  we have

$$\det A = a_{i1}C_{i1} + a_{i2}C_{i2} + \dots + a_{in}C_{in}$$

(cofactor expansion across the  $i^{\text{th}}$  row).

2) For any  $1 \leq j \leq n$  we have

$$\det A = a_{1j}C_{1j} + a_{2j}C_{2j} + \dots + a_{nj}C_{nj}$$

(cofactor expansion down the  $j^{\text{th}}$  column).

**Example.**

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 4 & 6 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 5 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

**Example.** Compute the determinant of the following matrix:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & e & 0 & 0 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 & \pi & 0 & 0 & 0 & 6 & 0 & 0 & 5 & 6 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 7 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 11 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 7 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 4 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 4 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 9 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 5 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 12 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 4 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 7 & 0 & -4 & 0 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 6 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{4} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{5} & 0 & 1 & 0 & 4 & 3 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 8 & 7 & 7 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 8 & 9 & 0 & 3 & 3 & 2 & 5 & 6 & 3 & 8 & 9 & 2 & 6 & 2 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

### Definition

An square matrix is *upper triangular* if all its entries below the main diagonal are 0.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ 0 & a_{22} & a_{23} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ 0 & 0 & a_{33} & \dots & a_{3n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & a_{nn} \end{bmatrix}$$

### Proposition

If  $A$  is an upper triangular matrix as above then

$$\det A = a_{11} \cdot a_{22} \cdot \dots \cdot a_{nn}$$