

The $n \times n$ case

def: Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix and A_{ij} is the number in i^{th} row and j^{th} column of A .

our book's notation

Let S_{ij} denote the $(n-1) \times (n-1)$ submatrix of A obtained by deleting the i^{th} row and the j^{th} column from A .

Typically, S_{ij} is called a minor of A , or, the ij^{th} minor of A .

Let $C_{ij} = (-1)^{i+j} \det(S_{ij})$ be the cofactor of A associated with element A_{ij} .

Example

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ -1 & -2 & 3 \\ 2 & 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix}, \quad A_{11} = 1, \quad S_{11} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 3 \\ 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$C_{11} = (-1)^{1+1} \begin{vmatrix} -2 & 3 \\ 0 & 4 \end{vmatrix} = -8$$

You find C_{12} and C_{13} .

$$C_{12}: A_{12} = 2, \quad S_{12} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 3 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}, \quad C_{12} = (-1)^{1+2} \begin{vmatrix} -1 & 3 \\ 2 & 4 \end{vmatrix} = (-1)(-4-6) = 10$$

$$C_{13}: A_{13} = 3, \quad S_{13} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -2 \\ 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad C_{13} = (-1)^{1+3} \begin{vmatrix} -1 & -2 \\ 2 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = 4$$

Thm: A is $n \times n$ matrix with entries A_{ij} .

For any row i (so $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$)

$$\det(A) = \sum_{j=1}^n A_{ij} C_{ij} = A_{i1}C_{i1} + A_{i2}C_{i2} + \dots + A_{in}C_{in}$$

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Example $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ -1 & -2 & 3 \\ 2 & 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\det(A) = A_{11}C_{11} + A_{12}C_{12} + A_{13}C_{13} = 1 \cdot (-8) + 2(10) + 3(4) = 24$$

- How we usually write/think about this computation.
- Where this comes from.