

# Determinants of $3 \times 3$ Matrices

- Note  $A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow A^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{a} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{d} \end{pmatrix}$  if  $a \neq 0$
- Note  $A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow A^{-1} = \frac{1}{ad-bc} \begin{pmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{pmatrix}$  if  $ad-bc \neq 0$ .

- Define  $A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{pmatrix}$

$$\begin{aligned} \det(A) &= a_{11} \cdot \det \begin{pmatrix} a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{32} & a_{33} \end{pmatrix} \\ &\quad - a_{12} \cdot \det \begin{pmatrix} a_{21} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{33} \end{pmatrix} \\ &\quad + a_{13} \cdot \det \begin{pmatrix} a_{21} & a_{22} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

- If  $A = (a_{ij})_{n \times n}$ ,

then, the " $i,j$ -th minor",  $M_{ij}$  is the  $(n-1) \times (n-1)$  matrix formed by deleting the row and column containing  $a_{ij}$

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

$$\Rightarrow \det(A) = a_{ij} \cdot A_{ij} \dots$$

$$\Rightarrow \det(A) = a_{11}A_{11} + a_{12}A_{12} + a_{13}A_{13} \dots$$

- for an  $n \times n$   $|n \geq 2$ :

$$\det(A) = a_{11}A_{11} + a_{12}A_{12} \dots a_{1n}A_{1n}$$

- One can take the determinant with regard to any row/col

- When choosing where to take the determinant, seek the place that will <sup>include</sup> generate the most 0's

$$\det(A^T) = \det(A)$$

- Triangular Matrices

$$\hookrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & & \\ & a_{22} & * \\ & 0 & \ddots & a_{nn} \end{pmatrix} = \text{Upper triangular}$$

$$\hookrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & & 0 \\ & a_{22} & \\ * & \ddots & a_{nn} \end{pmatrix} = \text{lower triangular}$$

$$\det(\text{triangular}) = a_{11} \cdot a_{22} \cdot \dots \cdot a_{nn}$$

- If  $A$  has a row or column of 0's, the determinant is 0

- If  $A$  has two identical rows, or cols, then  $\det(A) = 0$

- If you switch two rows in a matrix:

$$A \xrightarrow{\text{switch rows } i \text{ and } j} \tilde{A} \rightarrow \det(\tilde{A}) = -\det(A)$$

- Constant Multiple

$$A \xrightarrow{\alpha \text{ times}} \tilde{A} \rightarrow \det \tilde{A} = \alpha \det(A)$$

- Replace:

$$A \xrightarrow{\text{replace row } i \text{ by row } i + \alpha \text{ row } j} \tilde{A}, \text{ then } \det(A) = \det(\tilde{A})$$