

Finding the determinant of a matrix (4×4) different than using co-factor?

This method will explain the step by step on how to use the diagonal (3×3) method and co-factor to determine the matrix (4×4) determinant.

$$\begin{vmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} & a_{14} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} & a_{24} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} & a_{34} \\ a_{41} & a_{42} & a_{43} & a_{44} \end{vmatrix}$$

- 1- Copy the 2^{nd} & 3^{rd} rows below 4^{th} row respectively.
- 2- Copy the 1^{st} , 2^{nd} and 3^{rd} column next to the 4^{th} column respectively as is shown below

	+	-	+	-			
	a_{11}	a_{12}	a_{13}	a_{14}	a_{11}	a_{12}	a_{13}
a_{21}	a_{22}	a_{23}	a_{24}	a_{21}	a_{22}	a_{23}	a_{24}
a_{31}	a_{32}	a_{33}	a_{34}	a_{31}	a_{32}	a_{33}	a_{34}
a_{41}	a_{42}	a_{43}	a_{44}	a_{41}	a_{42}	a_{43}	a_{44}
a_{21}	a_{22}	a_{23}	a_{24}	a_{21}	a_{22}	a_{23}	a_{24}
a_{31}	a_{32}	a_{33}	a_{34}	a_{31}	a_{32}	a_{33}	a_{34}

Determinant =

$$\begin{aligned} & a_{11} (a_{22} a_{33} a_{44} + a_{24} a_{32} a_{43} + a_{23} a_{34} a_{42} - a_{24} a_{33} a_{42} - a_{22} a_{34} a_{43} - a_{23} a_{32} a_{44}) \\ & - a_{12} (a_{23} a_{34} a_{41} + a_{21} a_{33} a_{44} + a_{24} a_{31} a_{43} - a_{21} a_{34} a_{43} - a_{23} a_{31} a_{44} - a_{24} a_{33} a_{41}) \\ & + a_{13} (a_{24} a_{31} a_{42} + a_{22} a_{34} a_{41} + a_{21} a_{32} a_{44} - a_{22} a_{31} a_{44} - a_{24} a_{32} a_{41} - a_{21} a_{34} a_{42}) \\ & - a_{14} (a_{21} a_{32} a_{43} + a_{22} a_{33} a_{41} + a_{23} a_{31} a_{42} - a_{21} a_{33} a_{42} - a_{22} a_{31} a_{43} - a_{23} a_{32} a_{41}) \end{aligned}$$

The steps to determine the determinant are:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & + & & & & \\
 \textcolor{red}{a}_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} & a_{14} & a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\
 a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} & a_{24} & a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\
 a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} & a_{34} & a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \\
 a_{41} & a_{42} & a_{43} & a_{44} & a_{41} & a_{42} & a_{43} \\
 a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} & a_{24} & a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\
 a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} & a_{34} & a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33}
 \end{array}$$

$$a_{11} (a_{22} a_{33} a_{44} + a_{24} a_{32} a_{43} + a_{23} a_{34} a_{42} - a_{24} a_{33} a_{42} - a_{22} a_{34} a_{43} - a_{23} a_{32} a_{44})$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & - & & & & \\
 a_{11} & \textcolor{green}{a}_{12} & a_{13} & a_{14} & a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\
 a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} & a_{24} & a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\
 a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} & a_{34} & a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \\
 a_{41} & a_{42} & a_{43} & a_{44} & a_{41} & a_{42} & a_{43} \\
 a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} & a_{24} & a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\
 a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} & a_{34} & a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33}
 \end{array}$$

$$-a_{12} (a_{23} a_{34} a_{41} + a_{21} a_{33} a_{44} + a_{24} a_{31} a_{43} - a_{21} a_{34} a_{43} - a_{23} a_{31} a_{44} - a_{24} a_{33} a_{41})$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & & + & & & \\
 \textcolor{red}{a}_{11} & \textcolor{green}{a}_{12} & \textcolor{blue}{a}_{13} & a_{14} & a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\
 a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} & a_{24} & a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\
 a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} & a_{34} & a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \\
 a_{41} & a_{42} & a_{43} & a_{44} & a_{41} & a_{42} & a_{43} \\
 a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} & a_{24} & a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\
 a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} & a_{34} & a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33}
 \end{array}$$

$$+a_{13} (a_{24} a_{31} a_{42} + a_{22} a_{34} a_{41} + a_{21} a_{32} a_{44} - a_{22} a_{31} a_{44} - a_{24} a_{32} a_{41} - a_{21} a_{34} a_{42})$$

\mathbf{a}_{11}	\mathbf{a}_{12}	\mathbf{a}_{13}	\mathbf{a}_{14}	\mathbf{a}_{11}	\mathbf{a}_{12}	\mathbf{a}_{13}
\mathbf{a}_{21}	\mathbf{a}_{22}	\mathbf{a}_{23}	\mathbf{a}_{24}	\mathbf{a}_{21}	\mathbf{a}_{22}	\mathbf{a}_{23}
\mathbf{a}_{31}	\mathbf{a}_{32}	\mathbf{a}_{33}	\mathbf{a}_{34}	\mathbf{a}_{31}	\mathbf{a}_{32}	\mathbf{a}_{33}
\mathbf{a}_{41}	\mathbf{a}_{42}	\mathbf{a}_{43}	\mathbf{a}_{44}	\mathbf{a}_{41}	\mathbf{a}_{42}	\mathbf{a}_{43}
\mathbf{a}_{21}	\mathbf{a}_{22}	\mathbf{a}_{23}	\mathbf{a}_{24}	\mathbf{a}_{21}	\mathbf{a}_{22}	\mathbf{a}_{23}
\mathbf{a}_{31}	\mathbf{a}_{32}	\mathbf{a}_{33}	\mathbf{a}_{34}	\mathbf{a}_{31}	\mathbf{a}_{32}	\mathbf{a}_{33}

$$-a_{14} \left(a_{21} a_{32} a_{43} + a_{22} a_{33} a_{41} + a_{23} a_{31} a_{42} - a_{23} a_{32} a_{41} - a_{21} a_{33} a_{42} - a_{22} a_{31} a_{43} \right)$$