

Step-1

The product rule of determinant says that if A and B are square matrices of the same order, then $\det(AB) = (\det A)(\det B)$.

It is also known that $\det I = 1$.

Therefore, we get

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= \det I \\ &= \det(Q^T Q) \\ &= \det(Q^T) \det(Q) \end{aligned}$$

Step-2

We also know that determinant of a matrix A is equal to the determinant of its transpose, A^T . Therefore, $\det(Q) = \det(Q^T)$.

Thus, $(\det(Q))^2 = 1$

Therefore, $\boxed{\det(Q) = \pm 1}$.

By the same logic, $\det(Q^T) = \pm 1$.

Step-3

Now we show that Q^2 is also an Orthogonal matrix. Thus, we need to show that $(Q^2)^{-1} = (Q^2)^T$.

$$\begin{aligned} Q^2 (Q^2)^T &= (Q \cdot Q)(Q^T \cdot Q^T) \\ &= Q(Q \cdot Q^T)Q^T \\ &= Q \cdot Q^T \\ &= I \end{aligned}$$

Thus, Q^2 is an Orthogonal matrix. Similarly, it can be shown that Q^n is also an Orthogonal matrix.

Step-4

If $\det Q$ is not equal to ± 1 , then $\det(Q^n)$ would either tend to zero or would tend to plus or minus infinity.

But, Q^n remains an Orthogonal matrix.

This also shows that $\det Q = \pm 1$.