

# Determinants

## 2x2 determinants:

Def: The determinant of a  $2 \times 2$  matrix  $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$

is  $\det(A) = ad - bc$


$|A| = ad - bc$  (different notation for same thing)

$\begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix} = ad - bc$  (yet another notation)

Ex:  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$   $\det(A) = 1 \cdot 4 - 2 \cdot 3 = 4 - 6 = \textcircled{-2}$

What is the determinant good for?

(1)  $\det(A) \neq 0 \Leftrightarrow A^{-1}$  exists!

$A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow A^{-1} = \frac{1}{ad-bc} \begin{bmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{bmatrix}$   
 need this  $\neq 0$ .

(2)  $\det(A)$  tells us some really cool stuff about the transformation of  $\mathbb{R}^2$  given by  $A$ .

•  $A = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$  rotation

$\det(A) = \cos^2 \theta + \sin^2(\theta) = \textcircled{1} !!$

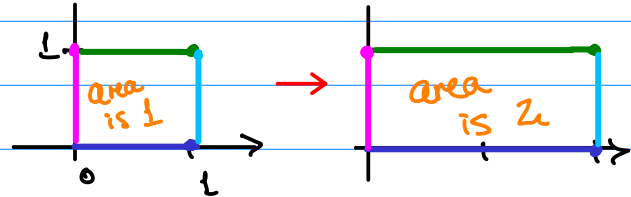
•  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$  reflection across  $y=x$

$$\det(A) = 0 \cdot 0 - 1 \cdot 1 = \textcircled{-1}$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

stretches by a factor of 2 in x-direction

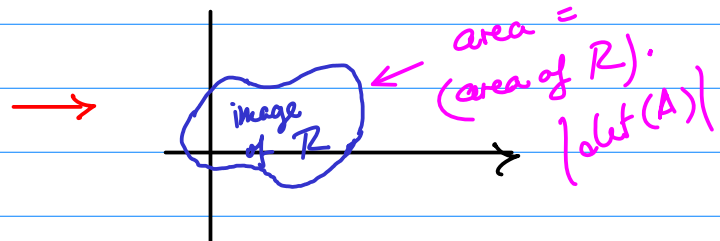
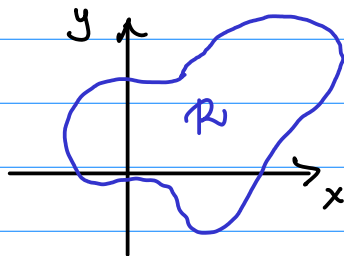
$$\det(A) = 2 \cdot 1 - 0 \cdot 0 = \textcircled{2}$$



Theorem: Let  $A$  be a  $2 \times 2$ , then

$$|\det(A)| = \text{area of the image of the unit square}$$

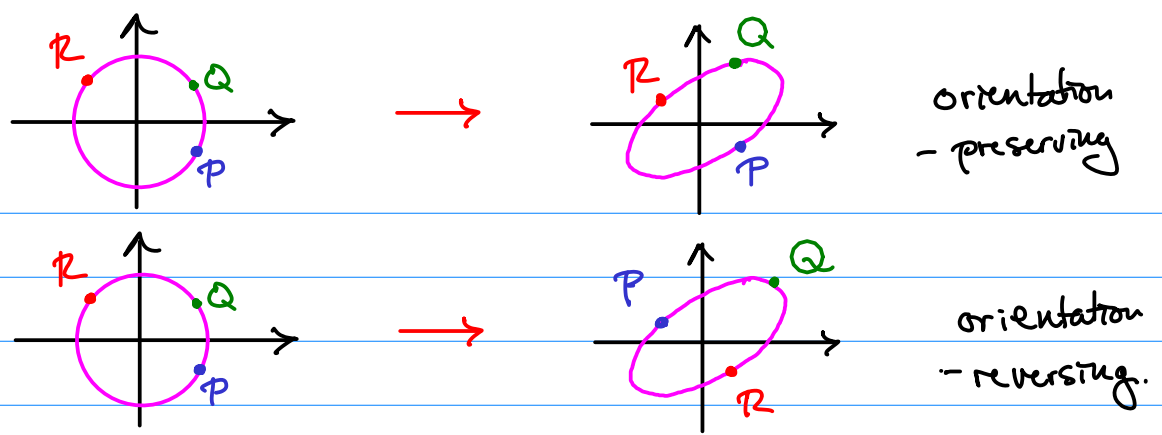
In fact, for any region  $R \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$ ,  
 area of the image of  $R = (\text{area of } R) \cdot \det(A)$



Note: if we rotate, it doesn't change the area  
 so it makes sense that  $\det(A) = 1$  for  
 rotation matrices!

Quest: where does the sign of the determinant  
 come from?

Def: A  $2 \times 2$  matrix  $A$  is orientation-preserving  
 if it sends a circle with three points to a  
 curve with those points in the same order.  
 Otherwise it is orientation-reversing



Theorem: Suppose  $A$   $2 \times 2$  matrix and  $\det(A) \neq 0$   
 Then  $\det(A) > 0 \iff A$  is orientation-preserving.

Problem:  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$   $\det(A) = 0 \cdot 0 - (-1)(-1) = -1$

What kind of transformation is  $A$ ?

$|\det(A)| = 1 \rightsquigarrow$  transformation preserves area  
 reflection ~~rotation~~

$\det(A) < 0 \rightsquigarrow$  transformation does not preserve orientation!

How to calculate determinants:

$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{bmatrix}$   $\det(A) = ?$

Do a row expansion or column expansion:

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

Ex:  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\det(A) = 1 \cdot \det \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} - 1 \cdot \det \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + (-1) \det \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= 1 \cdot (-2) - 1 \cdot (-4) + (-1) \cdot (-2) = \boxed{4}$$

Ex:  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$   $\det(A) = ?$

$$\det(A) = 1 \cdot \det \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} - 2 \cdot \det \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + 3 \cdot \det \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

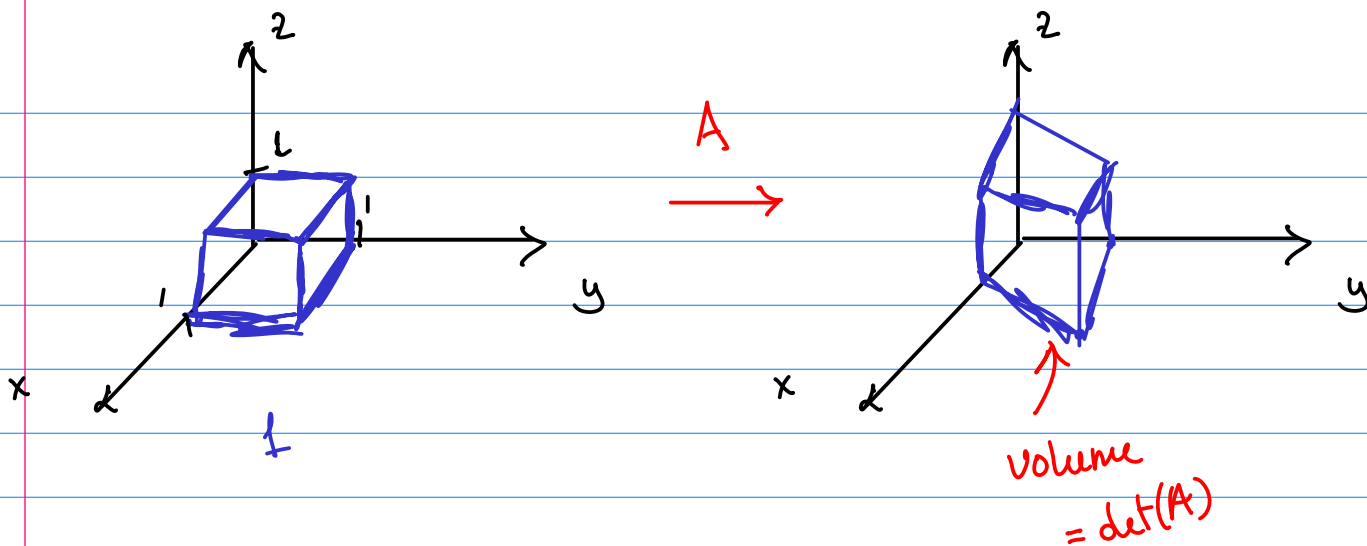
$$= -3 - 2 + 6 = \boxed{1} \quad \checkmark$$

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

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

Ex:  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 100 & 4 \\ 0 & 7 & 21 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$   $\det(A) = ?$

$$\det(A) = 3 \cdot \det \begin{pmatrix} 7 & 21 \\ 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix} = 3 \cdot 7 \cdot 3 = \boxed{63}$$



## Properties of Determinants :

- $A, B$  be  $n \times n$  matrices
- $c \in \mathbb{C}$  complex number

- ★ (1)  $A$  is invertible if and only if  $\det(A) \neq 0$
- (2)  $\det(AB) = \det(A)\det(B)$
- (3)  $\det(AB) = \det(BA)$
- (4) if  $A^{-1}$  exists, then  $\det(A^{-1}) = \frac{1}{\det(A)}$
- (5) the system of linear equations  $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$  has a unique solution  $\Leftrightarrow \det(A) \neq 0$ .

Def: An  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$  is called singular if  $\det(A) = 0$ .  
Otherwise  $A$  is called non-singular.

Ex:  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$   $\det(A) = ?$

$$\det(A) = 1 \cdot \det \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} - 0 \cdot \det \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + 1 \cdot \det \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} - 2 \det \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= 0 - 0 + 1 \cdot 1 - 2 \cdot 1 = (-1)$$

Cofactor matrix:

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \frac{1}{ad-bc} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{bmatrix}$$

↑ transpose of  
cofactor matrix

Generalize this formula for larger matrices

Def: The cofactor matrix  $\text{cof}(A)$  of  $A$  is the  $n \times n$  matrix whose  $ij^{\text{th}}$  entry is

$$\text{cof}(A)_{ij} = (-1)^{i+j} \det(A_{ij})$$

$A_{ij}$  =  $(n-1) \times (n-1)$  matrix obtained by deleting  $i^{\text{th}}$  row and  $j^{\text{th}}$  column

Ex:

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

$$\text{cof}(A) = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 & 1 \\ +1 & 3 & -3 \\ 1 & -1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\det(A) = 3 \det \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} - 1 \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = -3 + 1 = (-2)$$

$$\text{Theorem: } A^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det(A)} \text{cof}(A)^T$$

$$A^{-1} = \frac{1}{-2} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 3 & -3 \\ 1 & -1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}^T = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{3}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{3}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

