

### 3.1 Introduction to Determinants

*Notation:*  $A_{ij}$  is the matrix obtained from matrix  $A$  by deleting the  $i$ th row and  $j$ th column of  $A$ .

**EXAMPLE:**

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 \\ 9 & 10 & 11 & 12 \\ 13 & 14 & 15 & 16 \end{bmatrix} \quad A_{23} = \begin{bmatrix} & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \end{bmatrix}$$

Recall that  $\det \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} = ad - bc$  and we let  $\det[a] = a$ .

For  $n \geq 2$ , the **determinant** of an  $n \times n$  matrix  $A = [a_{ij}]$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \det A &= a_{11} \det A_{11} - a_{12} \det A_{12} + \cdots + (-1)^{1+n} a_{1n} \det A_{1n} \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^n (-1)^{1+j} a_{1j} \det A_{1j} \end{aligned}$$

**EXAMPLE:** Compute the determinant of  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 3 & -1 & 2 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

*Solution*

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

$$= \underline{\hspace{10em}} = \underline{\hspace{10em}}$$

Common notation:  $\det \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} 3 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{vmatrix}.$

So

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 3 & -1 & 2 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 1 \begin{vmatrix} -1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} - 2 \begin{vmatrix} 3 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{vmatrix} + 0 \begin{vmatrix} 3 & -1 \\ 2 & 0 \end{vmatrix}$$

The **(i, j)-cofactor** of  $A$  is the number  $C_{ij}$  where  $C_{ij} = (-1)^{i+j} \det A_{ij}.$

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 3 & -1 & 2 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 1C_{11} + 2C_{12} + 0C_{13}$$

(cofactor expansion across row 1)

**THEOREM 1** The determinant of an  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$  can be computed by a cofactor expansion across any row or down any column:

$$\det A = a_{i1}C_{i1} + a_{i2}C_{i2} + \cdots + a_{in}C_{in} \quad (\text{expansion across row } i)$$

$$\det A = a_{1j}C_{1j} + a_{2j}C_{2j} + \cdots + a_{nj}C_{nj} \quad (\text{expansion down column } j)$$

Use a matrix of signs to determine  $(-1)^{i+j}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} + & - & + & \cdots \\ - & + & - & \cdots \\ + & - & + & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$

**EXAMPLE:** Compute the determinant of  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 3 & -1 & 2 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

using cofactor expansion down column 3.

*Solution*

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 3 & -1 & 2 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 0 \begin{vmatrix} 3 & -1 \\ 2 & 0 \end{vmatrix} - 2 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 0 \end{vmatrix} + 1 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & -1 \end{vmatrix} = 1.$$

**EXAMPLE:** Compute the determinant of  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$

*Solution*

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 5 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= 1 \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 & 5 \end{vmatrix} - 0 \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 & 5 \end{vmatrix} + 0 \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 3 & 5 \end{vmatrix} - 0 \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= 1 \cdot 2 \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 3 & 5 \end{vmatrix} = 14$$

*Method of cofactor expansion is not practical for large matrices - see Numerical Note on page 190.*

## Triangular Matrices:

$$\begin{bmatrix} * & * & \cdots & * & * \\ 0 & * & \cdots & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & \ddots & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & * \end{bmatrix}$$

(upper triangular)

$$\begin{bmatrix} * & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & \ddots & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & \cdots & * & 0 \\ * & * & \cdots & * & * \end{bmatrix}$$

(lower triangular)

**THEOREM 2:** If  $A$  is a triangular matrix, then  $\det A$  is the product of the main diagonal entries of  $A$ .

### EXAMPLE:

$$\begin{vmatrix} 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & -3 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 4 \end{vmatrix} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} = -24$$

## 3.2 Properties of Determinants

**THEOREM 3** Let  $A$  be a square matrix.

- If a multiple of one row of  $A$  is added to another row of  $A$  to produce a matrix  $B$ , then  $\det A = \det B$ .
- If two rows of  $A$  are interchanged to produce  $B$ , then  $\det B = -\det A$ .
- If one row of  $A$  is multiplied by  $k$  to produce  $B$ , then  $\det B = k \cdot \det A$ .

**EXAMPLE:** Compute 
$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 5 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 7 & 6 & 10 \\ 2 & 9 & 7 & 11 \end{vmatrix}.$$

*Solution*

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 5 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 7 & 6 & 10 \\ 2 & 9 & 7 & 11 \end{vmatrix} = 5 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 6 & 10 \\ 2 & 7 & 11 \end{vmatrix} = 5 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \\ 2 & 7 & 11 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= 5 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \end{vmatrix} = -5 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{vmatrix} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}.$$

Theorem 3(c) indicates that 
$$\begin{vmatrix} * & * & * \\ -2k & 5k & 4k \\ * & * & * \end{vmatrix} = k \begin{vmatrix} * & * & * \\ -2 & 5 & 4 \\ * & * & * \end{vmatrix}.$$

**EXAMPLE:** Compute 
$$\begin{vmatrix} 2 & 4 & 6 \\ 5 & 6 & 7 \\ 7 & 6 & 10 \end{vmatrix}$$

*Solution*

$$\begin{vmatrix} 2 & 4 & 6 \\ 5 & 6 & 7 \\ 7 & 6 & 10 \end{vmatrix} = 2 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 5 & 6 & 7 \\ 7 & 6 & 10 \end{vmatrix} = 2 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & -4 & -8 \\ 0 & -8 & -11 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= 2(-4) \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & -8 & -11 \end{vmatrix} = 2(-4) \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= 2(-4)(1)(1)(5) = -40$$

**EXAMPLE:** Compute  $\begin{vmatrix} 2 & 3 & 0 & 1 \\ 4 & 7 & 0 & 3 \\ 7 & 9 & -2 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 & 4 \end{vmatrix}$  using a combination of row reduction and cofactor expansion.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Solution } \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 3 & 0 & 1 \\ 4 & 7 & 0 & 3 \\ 7 & 9 & -2 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 & 4 \end{vmatrix} &= -2 \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 3 & 1 \\ 4 & 7 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 4 \end{vmatrix} = -2 \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 4 \end{vmatrix} \\
 &= 2 \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = -2 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = -2 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 0 & -1 & -7 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{vmatrix} \\
 &= -2 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 0 & -1 & -7 \\ 0 & 0 & -6 \end{vmatrix} = -2(1)(-1)(-6) = -12.
 \end{aligned}$$



Suppose  $A$  has been reduced to  $U = \begin{bmatrix} \blacksquare & * & * & \cdots & * \\ 0 & \blacksquare & * & \cdots & * \\ 0 & 0 & \blacksquare & \cdots & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \blacksquare \end{bmatrix}$  by

row replacements and row interchanges, then

$$\det A = \begin{cases} (-1)^r \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{product of} \\ \text{pivots in } U \end{array} \right) & \text{when } A \text{ is invertible} \\ 0 & \text{when } A \text{ is not invertible} \end{cases}$$

**THEOREM 4** A square matrix is invertible if and only if  $\det A \neq 0$ .

**THEOREM 5** If  $A$  is an  $n \times n$  matrix, then  $\det A^T = \det A$ .

**Partial proof** ( $2 \times 2$  case)

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} = ad - bc \quad \text{and}$$

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}^T = \det \begin{bmatrix} a & c \\ b & d \end{bmatrix} = ad - bc$$

$$\Rightarrow \det \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} = \det \begin{bmatrix} a & c \\ b & d \end{bmatrix}.$$

(3 × 3 case)

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{bmatrix} = a \begin{vmatrix} e & f \\ h & i \end{vmatrix} - b \begin{vmatrix} d & f \\ g & i \end{vmatrix} + c \begin{vmatrix} d & e \\ g & h \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} a & d & g \\ b & e & h \\ c & f & i \end{bmatrix} = a \begin{vmatrix} e & h \\ f & i \end{vmatrix} - b \begin{vmatrix} d & g \\ f & i \end{vmatrix} + c \begin{vmatrix} d & g \\ e & h \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \det \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{bmatrix} = \det \begin{bmatrix} a & d & g \\ b & e & h \\ c & f & i \end{bmatrix}.$$

*Implications of Theorem 5?*

Theorem 3 still holds if the word *row* is replaced

with \_\_\_\_\_.

## THEOREM 6 (Multiplicative Property)

For  $n \times n$  matrices  $A$  and  $B$ ,  $\det(AB) = (\det A)(\det B)$ .

**EXAMPLE:** Compute  $\det A^3$  if  $\det A = 5$ .

*Solution:*  $\det A^3 = \det(AAA) = (\det A)(\det A)(\det A)$

$$= \underline{\hspace{2cm}} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}.$$

**EXAMPLE:** For  $n \times n$  matrices  $A$  and  $B$ , show that  $A$  is singular if  $\det B \neq 0$  and  $\det AB = 0$ .

*Solution:* Since  
$$(\det A)(\det B) = \det AB = 0$$

and

$$\det B \neq 0,$$

then  $\det A = 0$ . Therefore  $A$  is singular.