

Recall: for a 2×2 matrix $A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$, $\det A = ad - bc$
means two things:

1) The area expansion factor of the transformation $\mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ represented by A , w/ a \pm sign telling whether it reverses orientation;

2) It detects whether A is invertible:

$$A^{-1} \text{ exists } \Leftrightarrow \det A \neq 0.$$

F 9/27
class 15
(climate strike day)

Today, we generalize to all dimensions & state two algorithms.

Informal defn: for an $n \times n$ matrix A , the determinant of A denoted $\det A$, is the factor by which A expands/contracts volume, when viewed as a transformation $\mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$. It is given a \pm sign according to whether it preserves or reverses orientation.

Fact: for square A ,
 A^{-1} exists
 \Updownarrow
 $\det A \neq 0$.

(this is "informal" since I haven't defined "volume" in n dimensions.)

qu How do you compute ~~A~~ $\det A$? (for larger than 2×2 ?)

method 1 row-reduction + keeping score.

Handy algebraic facts:

1) $\det AB = \det A \cdot \det B$

2) $\det A^t = \det A$

warning

$\det(A+B) \neq \det A + \det B$.

Fact! Suppose B is obtained from A by a row operation. Then:

if the row op. was:

$R_i \leftarrow c R_j$

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$R_i \leftrightarrow R_j$

then the determinants satisfy:

$\det B = \det A$

$\det B = c \cdot \det A$

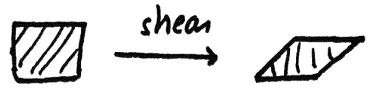
$\det B = -\det A$

(side note: "column operations" work the same way!)

Fact 2 $\det I = 1$ (I means "do nothing", so no volume expansion).

geometric reason // just say out loud in class.

$R_i + = cR_j$ takes all columns of A & "shears" them.



this doesn't change volume.

$R_i * = c$ magnifies one dim. by c.

This scales volume by |c|, & flips orientation if $c < 0$.

$R_i \leftrightarrow R_j$ "reflects" all columns across the plane $x_i = x_j$.

This preserves volume, but reverses orientation.

eg. 1

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 5 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 & 2 \\ 2 & 9 & 6 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{(R_1 \leftrightarrow R_2)} = -\det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & 2 \\ 0 & 5 & 2 \\ 2 & 9 & 6 \\ -2 & -6 & -4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\xrightarrow{(R_3 -= 2 \cdot R_1)} = -\det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & 2 \\ 0 & 5 & 2 \\ 0 & 3 & 2 \\ -5 & -6 & -4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\xrightarrow{(R_3 -= \frac{3}{5} R_2)} (*) = -\det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & 2 \\ 0 & 5 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 4/5 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= -\det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 4/5 \end{pmatrix}$$

a few more + = operations clear above the pivots without changing the determinant.

$$\begin{aligned} & \begin{pmatrix} R2 * = 1/5 \\ R3 * = 5/4 \end{pmatrix} \\ & = -5 \cdot \frac{4}{5} \cdot \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ & = \boxed{-4} \quad (\text{using } \det I_3 = 1). \end{aligned}$$

shortcut: "triangular" matrices (to go straight from (*) to answer)
no need to go all the way to RREF if all you need is $\det A$!

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & * & * & \dots & * \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & * & \dots & * \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_3 & \dots & * \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix} = \lambda_1 \lambda_2 \dots \lambda_n.$$

eg $\det \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 7 & \pi \\ 0 & 1 & 10^6 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = 3 \cdot 1 \cdot 2 = 6.$

reason: can cancel above pivots w/ $R_i + c R_j$ only,
& the scale $\begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix}$ to I.

Monday.

$$\text{eg2 } \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 4 & 8 \\ 1 & 3 & 9 & 27 \end{pmatrix} \begin{matrix} (R2, R3, R4 \leftarrow R1) \\ \\ \\ \end{matrix} = \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2-2 & 4-2 & 8-2 \\ 0 & 3-3 & 9-3 & 27-3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{matrix} R3 \leftarrow 2R2 \\ R4 \leftarrow 3R2 \end{matrix} = \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 6 & 24 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{matrix} R4 \leftarrow 3R3 \end{matrix} = \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 6 \end{pmatrix} = 1 \cdot 1 \cdot 2 \cdot 6 = \boxed{12}$$

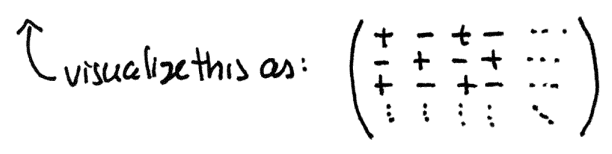
eg 3 rederivation of 2x2 formula: (when $a \neq 0$)

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_2 \leftarrow \frac{c}{a} R_1} \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & d - \frac{bc}{a} \end{pmatrix} = a \cdot \left(d - \frac{bc}{a} \right) = \underline{ad - bc}.$$

Method 2 Cofactor expansion. (recursive... expresses $n \times n$ determinant w/ $(n-1) \times (n-1)$ determinants)

For $n \times n$ matrix A , the cofactor of entry (i, j) is

$$C_{ij} := (-1)^{i+j} \cdot [\det \text{ of } A \text{ w/ row } i \text{ \& column } j \text{ removed}].$$



Fact for any row R_i , in an $n \times n$ matrix A ,

$$\det A = \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} \cdot C_{ij}. \quad (\text{"expanding along a row"})$$

& for any column j ,

$$\det A = \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ij} \cdot C_{ij}.$$

eg 1 expanding along row 1:
(again)

$$\begin{aligned} \det \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 5 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 & 2 \\ 2 & 9 & 6 \end{pmatrix} &= 0 \cdot \det \begin{pmatrix} // & // \\ 3 & 2 \\ 9 & 6 \end{pmatrix} - 5 \cdot \det \begin{pmatrix} // & // \\ 1 & // \\ 2 & // \end{pmatrix} + 2 \cdot \det \begin{pmatrix} // & // \\ 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 9 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= 0 - 5 \cdot (1 \cdot 6 - 2 \cdot 2) + 2 \cdot (1 \cdot 9 - 3 \cdot 2) \quad (\text{2x2 formula}) \\ &= -5 \cdot 2 + 2 \cdot 3 = \boxed{-4} \quad (\text{as we found before!}) \end{aligned}$$

===== M 9/30: begin here.

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Notice: 0's are great! You can skip terms:

briefly
discussed
Friday:
finish
Monday.

eg. 4

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 6 & 2 & 17 & 18 \\ 7 & 0 & 1 & 19 \\ 4 & 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

expand along column 2:

mind the sign!

$$= -0 \cdot \det \begin{pmatrix} \text{don't care!} \end{pmatrix} + 2 \cdot \det \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 0 & 1 \\ 7 & 1 & 19 \\ 4 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} - 0 \cdot \det \begin{pmatrix} \text{don't care!} \end{pmatrix} + 0 \cdot \det \begin{pmatrix} \text{?} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= 2 \cdot \det \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 0 & 1 \\ 7 & 1 & 19 \\ 4 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= 2 \cdot \left[-0 + 1 \cdot \det \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 1 \\ 4 & 2 \end{pmatrix} - 0 \right]$$

$$= 2 \cdot (5 \cdot 2 - 1 \cdot 4) = \boxed{12}$$

qu which method is better?

am It depends!

- Cofactors are great when a row or column has lots of 0's, and works quickly for 3x3 matrices.
- Row-reduction is better (usually) for bigger matrices, or when you see an operation that simplifies things.
- Sometimes, a hybrid approach is best. (do a row op, then expand).

eg. $\det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 7 & 2 & 5 \\ 2 & 16 & 4 & 10 \\ 3 & 4 & 11 & 15 \\ 4 & 40 & 78 & 27 \end{pmatrix} = \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 7 & 2 & 5 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -17 & 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 12 & 70 & 7 \end{pmatrix}$

$R_2 = 2R_1$
 $R_3 = 3R_1$
 $R_4 = 4R_1$

(expand
col. 1)

$$= 1 \cdot \det \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ -17 & 5 & 0 \\ 12 & 70 & 7 \end{pmatrix} - 0 + 0 - 0$$

$$= 1 \cdot (2 \cdot 5 \cdot 7) = \boxed{70}$$