

We might hope to add up products of entries (with signs) in a general $n \times n$ matrix to define $\det(A)$ in general. How to decide which products and signs?

In the 2×2 case, we have the terms

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$$

+ -

For 3×3 , we have

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

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

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

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

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

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

Def A pattern in an $n \times n$ matrix A is a choice of n entries of A such that there is exactly one entry \bar{m} in each row and column. Two entries \bar{m} in a pattern P are inverted if one is above and to the right of the other. We say P is odd or even according to whether it has an odd or even number of inversions.

The determinant of A is

$$\det(A) = \sum \text{sgn } P \cdot \text{prod } P,$$

where the summation is over all patterns P , $\text{prod } P$ is the product of the entries of P , and

$$\text{sgn } P = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{if } P \text{ is even} \\ -1 & \text{if } P \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

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

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

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

0

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

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

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

2

2

3

1

1

$$\begin{bmatrix}
 0 & \textcircled{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
 0 & 0 & 0 & \textcircled{8} & 0 & 0 \\
 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \textcircled{2} \\
 \textcircled{3} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \textcircled{5} & 0 \\
 0 & 0 & \textcircled{1} & 0 & 0 & 0
 \end{bmatrix}$$

7

$$\det(A) = -3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1 \cdot 8 \cdot 5 \cdot 2 = -480$$

Goal $\det(A) = 0 \iff A$ is not invertible

Idea We test invertibility with row reduction, so let's try to relate determinants and row operations.

For 2×2 matrices, this is easily done.

Matrix	Determinant
$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$	$ad - bc$
$\begin{bmatrix} c & d \\ a & b \end{bmatrix}$	$cb - da = -(ad - bc)$
$\begin{bmatrix} ka & kb \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$	$kad - kbc = k(ad - bc)$
$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c+ka & d+kb \end{bmatrix}$	$ad + kab - bc - kab = ad - bc$

Guess Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix.

(1) Swapping two rows of A changes the determinant by -1 .

(2) Scaling a row by k scales the determinant by k .

(3) Adding a multiple of a row to another doesn't change the determinant

Not only will this accomplish our goal, it gives us a method for calculating determinants.

Ex let's calculate the determinant

$$\text{of } A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 7 & 5 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow[\text{swap } 1 \leftrightarrow 2]{} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 7 & 5 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\xrightarrow{\text{subtract } 1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 7 & 5 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow[\text{swap } 3 \leftrightarrow 4]{} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 7 & 5 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix} = B$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{So } \det(A) &= (-1)^2 \det(B) \\ &= (-1)^2 \cdot 1 \cdot 7 \cdot (-1) \cdot (-2) \\ &= 14. \end{aligned}$$