

## 2.2 Evaluating Determinants by Row Reduction

## **THEOREM:**

Let  $A$  be a square matrix. If  $A$  has a row of zeros or a column of zeros, then  $\det(A)=0$ .

## **THEOREM:**

Let  $A$  be a square matrix. Then  $\det(A) = \det(A^T)$

# Elementary Row Operations

Relationship	Operation
$\begin{vmatrix} ka_{11} & ka_{12} & ka_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{vmatrix} = k \begin{vmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{vmatrix}$ $\det(B) = k \det(A)$	In the matrix $B$ the first row of $A$ was multiplied by $k$ .
$\begin{vmatrix} a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{vmatrix} = - \begin{vmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{vmatrix}$ $\det(B) = - \det(A)$	In the matrix $B$ the first and second rows of $A$ were interchanged.
$\begin{vmatrix} a_{11} + ka_{21} & a_{12} + ka_{22} & a_{13} + ka_{23} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{vmatrix}$ $\det(B) = \det(A)$	In the matrix $B$ a multiple of the second row of $A$ was added to the first row.

## THEOREM:

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

(a) If  $B$  is the matrix that results when a single row or single column of  $A$  is multiplied by a scalar  $k$ , then  **$\det(B) = k \det(A)$** .

(b) If  $B$  is the matrix that results when two rows or two columns of  $A$  are interchanged, then  **$\det(B) = -\det(A)$** .

(c) If  $B$  is the matrix that results when a multiple of one row of  $A$  is added to another or when a multiple of one column is added to another, then  **$\det(B) = \det(A)$** .

# Elementary Matrices

## THEOREM:

Let  $E$  be an  $n \times n$  elementary matrix.

(a) If  $E$  results from multiplying a row of  $I_n$  by a nonzero number  $k$ , then  $\det(\mathbf{E}) = k$ .

(b) If  $E$  results from interchanging two rows of  $I_n$ , then  $\det(\mathbf{E}) = -1$ .

(c) If  $E$  results from adding a multiple of one row of  $I_n$  to another, then  $\det(\mathbf{E}) = 1$ .

## Example 1:

### Determinants of Elementary Matrices

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 3,$$

The second row of  $I_4$  was multiplied by 3.

$$\begin{vmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = -1,$$

The first and last rows of  $I_4$  were interchanged.

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 7 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 1$$

7 times the last row of  $I_4$  was added to the first row.

# Matrices with Proportional Rows or Columns

## THEOREM:

If  $A$  is a square matrix with two proportional rows or two proportional columns, then  $\det(A)=0$ .

## Example 2:

### Proportional Rows or Columns

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 4 \\ -2 & 8 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 7 \\ -4 & 8 & 5 \\ 2 & -4 & 3 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 & 4 & -5 \\ 6 & -2 & 5 & 2 \\ 5 & 8 & 1 & 4 \\ -9 & 3 & -12 & 15 \end{bmatrix}$$



# Evaluating Determinants by Row Reduction

## Example 3:

Evaluate  $\det(A)$  where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 5 \\ 3 & -6 & 9 \\ 2 & 6 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

## Solution:

$$\det(A) = \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 1 & 5 \\ 3 & -6 & 9 \\ 2 & 6 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = - \begin{vmatrix} 3 & -6 & 9 \\ 0 & 1 & 5 \\ 2 & 6 & 1 \end{vmatrix}$$

← The first and second rows of A were interchanged.

$$= -3 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 5 \\ 2 & 6 & 1 \end{vmatrix}$$

← A common factor of 3 from the first row was taken through the determinant sign.

$$= -3 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 10 & -5 \end{vmatrix}$$

← -2 times the first row was added to the third row.

$$= -3 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & -55 \end{vmatrix}$$

← -10 times the second row was added to the third row.

$$= (-3)(-55) \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix}$$

← A common factor of -55 from the last row was taken through the determinant sign.

$$= (-3)(-55)(1) = 165$$

## **Example 4:**

Compute the determinant of

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 2 & 7 & 0 & 6 \\ 0 & 6 & 3 & 0 \\ 7 & 3 & 1 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

## Example 5 :

Evaluate  $\det(A)$  where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 5 & -2 & 6 \\ 1 & 2 & -1 & 1 \\ 2 & 4 & 1 & 5 \\ 3 & 7 & 5 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

## Solution:

$$\det(A) = \begin{vmatrix} 0 & -1 & 1 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 8 & 0 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= - \begin{vmatrix} -1 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 3 & 3 \\ 1 & 8 & 0 \end{vmatrix}$$

← Cofactor expansion along the first column

$$= - \begin{vmatrix} -1 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 3 & 3 \\ 0 & 9 & 3 \end{vmatrix}$$

← We added the first row to the third row.

$$= -(-1) \begin{vmatrix} 3 & 3 \\ 9 & 3 \end{vmatrix}$$

← Cofactor expansion along the first column

$$= -18 \blacktriangleleft$$

## Exercise Set 2.2

► In Exercises 1–4, verify that  $\det(A) = \det(A^T)$ . ◀

1.  $A = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 3 \\ 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$

2.  $A = \begin{bmatrix} -6 & 1 \\ 2 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$

3.  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 5 & -3 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$

4.  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 & -3 \\ -1 & 1 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$

► In Exercises 5–8, find the determinant of the given elementary matrix by inspection. ◀

5.  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

6.  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -5 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

7.  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

8.  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{1}{3} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

► In Exercises 9–14, evaluate the determinant of the matrix by first reducing the matrix to row echelon form and then using some combination of row operations and cofactor expansion. ◀

9.  $\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -6 & 9 \\ -2 & 7 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$

10.  $\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 6 & -9 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 \\ -2 & 1 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$

11.  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$

12.  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 & 0 \\ -2 & 4 & 1 \\ 5 & -2 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$

13.  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 1 & 5 & 3 \\ -2 & -7 & 0 & -4 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

14.  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 3 & 1 \\ 5 & -9 & 6 & 3 \\ -1 & 2 & -6 & -2 \\ 2 & 8 & 6 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

► In Exercises 15–22, evaluate the determinant, given that

$$\begin{vmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{vmatrix} = -6 \quad \blacktriangleleft$$

$$15. \begin{vmatrix} d & e & f \\ g & h & i \\ a & b & c \end{vmatrix}$$

$$16. \begin{vmatrix} g & h & i \\ d & e & f \\ a & b & c \end{vmatrix}$$

$$17. \begin{vmatrix} 3a & 3b & 3c \\ -d & -e & -f \\ 4g & 4h & 4i \end{vmatrix}$$

$$18. \begin{vmatrix} a+d & b+e & c+f \\ -d & -e & -f \\ g & h & i \end{vmatrix}$$

$$19. \begin{vmatrix} a+g & b+h & c+i \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{vmatrix}$$

$$20. \begin{vmatrix} a & b & c \\ 2d & 2e & 2f \\ g+3a & h+3b & i+3c \end{vmatrix}$$

$$21. \begin{vmatrix} -3a & -3b & -3c \\ d & e & f \\ g-4d & h-4e & i-4f \end{vmatrix}$$

$$22. \begin{vmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ 2a & 2b & 2c \end{vmatrix}$$

23. Use row reduction to show that

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ a & b & c \\ a^2 & b^2 & c^2 \end{vmatrix} = (b-a)(c-a)(c-b)$$

24. Verify the formulas in parts (a) and (b) and then make a conjecture about a general result of which these results are special cases.

$$(a) \det \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & a_{13} \\ 0 & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{bmatrix} = -a_{13}a_{22}a_{31}$$

$$(b) \det \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & a_{14} \\ 0 & 0 & a_{23} & a_{24} \\ 0 & a_{32} & a_{33} & a_{34} \\ a_{41} & a_{42} & a_{43} & a_{44} \end{bmatrix} = a_{14}a_{23}a_{32}a_{41}$$

► In Exercises 25–28, confirm the identities without evaluating the determinants directly. ◀

$$25. \begin{vmatrix} a_1 & b_1 & a_1 + b_1 + c_1 \\ a_2 & b_2 & a_2 + b_2 + c_2 \\ a_3 & b_3 & a_3 + b_3 + c_3 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} a_1 & b_1 & c_1 \\ a_2 & b_2 & c_2 \\ a_3 & b_3 & c_3 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$26. \begin{vmatrix} a_1 + b_1t & a_2 + b_2t & a_3 + b_3t \\ a_1t + b_1 & a_2t + b_2 & a_3t + b_3 \\ c_1 & c_2 & c_3 \end{vmatrix} = (1-t^2) \begin{vmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \\ c_1 & c_2 & c_3 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$27. \begin{vmatrix} a_1 + b_1 & a_1 - b_1 & c_1 \\ a_2 + b_2 & a_2 - b_2 & c_2 \\ a_3 + b_3 & a_3 - b_3 & c_3 \end{vmatrix} = -2 \begin{vmatrix} a_1 & b_1 & c_1 \\ a_2 & b_2 & c_2 \\ a_3 & b_3 & c_3 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$28. \begin{vmatrix} a_1 & b_1 + ta_1 & c_1 + rb_1 + sa_1 \\ a_2 & b_2 + ta_2 & c_2 + rb_2 + sa_2 \\ a_3 & b_3 + ta_3 & c_3 + rb_3 + sa_3 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \\ c_1 & c_2 & c_3 \end{vmatrix}$$