

Examples of Properties of the Determinant

Let $A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \\ -1 & 0 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$ and $B = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 8 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$

1. Find $\det(A)$ by expanding along row 1 and along column 2.

$$\det(A) = 2 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 4 \end{vmatrix} - 0 \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 5 \\ -1 & 4 \end{vmatrix} + 5 \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = 2(4) + 5(0 - (-1)) = 8 + 5 = 13$$

$$\det(A) = -0 \cdot 1 + 1 \cdot \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 5 \\ -1 & 4 \end{vmatrix} + 0 \cdot 1 = 8 - (-5) = 13$$

2. Find $\det(B) = 2 \cdot \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 4 \end{vmatrix} = 2 \cdot 1 \cdot 4 = 8 = \text{prod of main diagonal terms.}$

$$A \xrightarrow{r_1 \leftrightarrow r_3} \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 0 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{2r_1 + r_3 \leftrightarrow r_3} \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 13 \end{pmatrix} = C$$

3. Let C be obtained from A by (i) exchanging rows 1 and 3 followed by (ii) adding $2 \cdot$ row 1 to row 3. Find $\det(C)$.

$$\det(C) = -13 = -\det(A)$$

$$\det(D) = 104$$

↑ technology

4. Find $D = BA$ and find $\det(D)$ two ways.

$$\det(B) \det(A) = 13 \cdot 8 = 104$$

$$D = BA = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 8 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \\ -1 & 0 & 4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 8 & 54 \\ -3 & 1 & 15 \\ -4 & 0 & 16 \end{pmatrix}$$

↑ technology