

## 4.2 Determinants Cont'd

### Quick Method for 3x3 Determinants

Ex:  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & 9 \\ 2 & -2 & 6 \\ 1 & 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$  Find  $\det A$

Diagram illustrating the quick method for calculating the determinant of a 3x3 matrix. The matrix is written with red numbers. Blue lines connect the top row elements to the bottom row elements. Signs (+, -, +, -, +, -) are written above the lines. The resulting terms are 18, 0, -32, -8, 24, and 0.

$$\det A = 18 - 32 - 8 + 24 = 2$$

### Fact

If  $A$  is upper/lower triangular or diagonal then  $|A| = \text{product of diagonal entries}$

Ex:  $\begin{vmatrix} 2 & 9 & 13 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 \end{vmatrix} = 2(-1)(4) = -8$

Why?

$$\begin{vmatrix} 2 & 9 & 13 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 \end{vmatrix} = 4 \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 9 \\ 0 & -1 \end{vmatrix} = 4(2)(-1) = -8$$

## Row Operations to Calculate $|A|$

$R_i \leftrightarrow R_j$  changes sign of  $|A|$

Can factor a row

$R_i \pm k R_j$  does not change  $|A|$

Ex: Calculate  $|A|$  using row operations

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & -2 & 1 & 9 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 4 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 6 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} R_2 &\rightarrow R_2 - 2R_1 \\ R_3 &\rightarrow R_3 - 3R_1 \end{aligned}$$

$$= \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -2 & 1 & 9 \\ 0 & 5 & 1 & -15 \\ 0 & 7 & 1 & -22 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 6 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$R_2 \leftrightarrow R_4$$

$$= - \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -2 & 1 & 9 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 6 \\ 0 & 7 & 1 & -22 \\ 0 & 5 & 1 & -15 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} R_3 &\rightarrow R_3 - 7R_2 \\ R_4 &\rightarrow R_4 - 5R_2 \end{aligned}$$

$$= - \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -2 & 1 & 9 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & -6 & -64 \\ 0 & 0 & -4 & -45 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\boxed{\frac{R_3}{-6}}$$

$$= -(-6) \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -2 & 1 & 9 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \frac{64}{6} \\ 0 & 0 & -4 & -45 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\boxed{R_4 \rightarrow R_4 + 4R_3}$$

$$= 6 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -2 & 1 & 9 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \frac{64}{6} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{7}{3} \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\leftarrow -45 + 4 \left( \frac{32}{3} \right) = -\frac{7}{3}$$

Upper triangular

$$= 6 \left( 1 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 \cdot -\frac{7}{3} \right)$$

$$= -14$$

Fact

An  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$  is invertible  
if and only if  $\det A \neq 0$

## Properties of $\det A$

- ①  $\det A^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det A}$
- ②  $\det (AB) = \det A \cdot \det B$
- ③  $\det (cA) = c^n \det A$  where  $A$  is  $n \times n$
- ④  $\det (A^T) = \det A$

Ex: Use Property ② to show Property ①

$$AA^{-1} = I$$

$$\det (AA^{-1}) = \det I$$

$$\det A \cdot \det A^{-1} = 1$$

$$\det A^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det A}$$

Ex: Property ③

$$\begin{vmatrix} 3a & 3b \\ 3c & 3d \end{vmatrix} = 3 \begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ 3c & 3d \end{vmatrix} = 3^2 \begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix}$$

$$|5A| = 5^4 |A| \quad \text{if } A \text{ is } 4 \times 4$$

$$|kA| = k^n |A| \quad \text{if } A \text{ is } n \times n$$

## Cramer's Rule

Let  $A$  be  $n \times n$   
When  $\det A \neq 0$ ,

$A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$  has a unique solution:

$$i^{\text{th}} \text{ variable} = \frac{|A_i|}{|A|}$$

where  $A_i = A$ , with  $i^{\text{th}}$  column replaced by  $\vec{b}$