

4. DETERMINANTS

$\det : \{ \text{square matrices} \} \rightarrow \mathbf{F}$

less important in modern & practical applications
but in theory

- new formula for solving LES
- new formula for inverse of a matrix
- test if a matrix is regular
- calculate area and orientation of parallelogram and parallelepiped

4.1. Determinants of order 2.

Notation:

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & \cdots & a_{nn} \end{pmatrix} \in M_{n \times n} \quad \det(A) = \begin{vmatrix} a_{11} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & \cdots & a_{nn} \end{vmatrix} \quad n - \text{order of determinant}$$

Definition 4.1. $A \in M_{2 \times 2}(\mathbf{F}) \quad A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \quad \det(A) = ad - bc.$

Example 4.2. $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \quad B = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 2 \\ 6 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \quad A + B = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 4 \\ 9 & 8 \end{pmatrix}$
 $\det A = 1 \cdot 4 - 3 \cdot 2 = -2 \quad \det B = 3 \cdot 4 - 6 \cdot 2 = 0 \quad \det(A + B) = -4$

determinant is not linear. but it is linear in row addition

Theorem 4.3. Let $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \in \mathbf{F}^2, \quad k \in \mathbf{F}.$

$$\begin{aligned} \det \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{u} + k\mathbf{v} \\ \mathbf{w} \end{pmatrix} &= \det \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{u} \\ \mathbf{w} \end{pmatrix} + k \det \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{v} \\ \mathbf{w} \end{pmatrix} \\ &\quad \uparrow \\ &\quad \text{put 2 row vectors above / below each other to get a } 2 \times 2 \text{ matrix} \\ \det \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{w} & \mathbf{u} + k\mathbf{v} \end{pmatrix} &= \det \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{w} & \mathbf{u} \end{pmatrix} + k \det \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{w} & \mathbf{v} \end{pmatrix} \\ &\quad \uparrow \\ &\quad \text{(put 2 col vectors beside each other)} \end{aligned}$$

Proof: exercise.

first application of determinant: detect invertibility

Theorem 4.4. $A = (A_{ij}) \in M_{2 \times 2}$ is invertible $\iff \det(A) \neq 0.$ Then

$$A^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det(A)} \begin{pmatrix} A_{22} & -A_{12} \\ -A_{21} & A_{11} \end{pmatrix}$$

Proof. Assume $\det(A) \neq 0$. Then

$$A \cdot \begin{pmatrix} A_{22} & -A_{12} \\ -A_{21} & A_{11} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \det(A) & 0 \\ 0 & \det(A) \end{pmatrix}$$

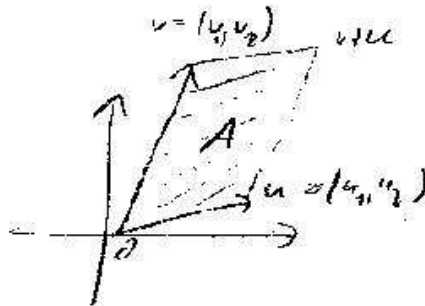
similarly $\begin{pmatrix} \downarrow \\ \downarrow \\ \downarrow \end{pmatrix} \cdot A = \dots$

Now assume A is invertible. $\iff \text{rk}(A) = 2$

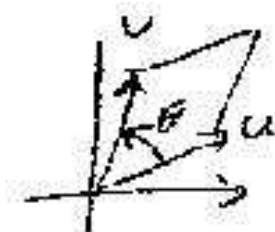
$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{rk} = 2 & & \text{rk} = 2 \\ \cdot -\frac{A_{11}}{A_{21}} \left[\begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\quad} \\ A = \begin{pmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} \end{pmatrix} \xleftarrow{\quad} \end{array} \right] \cdot -\frac{A_{21}}{A_{11}} & \xrightarrow{A_{11} \neq 0} & \begin{pmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} \\ 0 & \underbrace{A_{22} - \frac{A_{12}A_{21}}{A_{11}}}_{\neq 0 \iff \det(A) \neq 0} \end{pmatrix} \\ \downarrow A_{21} \neq 0 & & \\ \neq 0 \iff \det(A) \neq 0 & & \\ \text{rk} = 2 & \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \underbrace{A_{12} - \frac{A_{11}A_{22}}{A_{21}}}_{\neq 0} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} \end{pmatrix} & \square \end{array}$$

Area of parallelogram

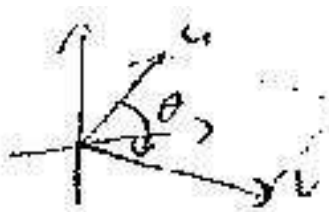
$$A = |\det(\mathbf{u} \ \mathbf{v})|$$



$\text{sgn} \det(\mathbf{u} \ \mathbf{v})$ is orientation



$\theta > 0$ positive

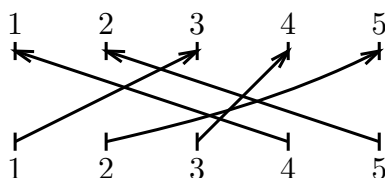


$\theta < 0$ negative

4.2. Determinants of order n .

Definition 4.5. $\sigma : \overbrace{\{1, \dots, n\}}^{\mathbb{N}_n} \rightarrow \{1, \dots, n\}$ bijective is called *permutation* $(\sigma(1) \dots \sigma(n))$

$S_n := \{\sigma : \mathbb{N}_n \rightarrow \mathbb{N}_n\}$ *symmetric group*

$$(1) \quad (3 \ 5 \ 4 \ 1 \ 2) = \begin{array}{lll} 1 \mapsto 3 & 3 \mapsto 4 & 5 \mapsto 2 \\ 2 \mapsto 5 & 4 \mapsto 1 & \end{array}$$


S_n is a group with multiplication given by composition $\sigma\tau := \sigma \circ \tau$.

$$(4 \ 3 \ 1 \ 2) \cdot (2 \ 1 \ 3 \ 4) = (4 \ 3 \ 1 \ 2) \circ (2 \ 1 \ 3 \ 4) = \begin{array}{c} \text{diagram of } (4 \ 3 \ 1 \ 2) \circ (2 \ 1 \ 3 \ 4) \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \text{diagram of } (3 \ 4 \ 1 \ 2) \end{array} = (3 \ 4 \ 1 \ 2)$$

$$|S_n| = n! = 1 \cdot 2 \cdot \dots \cdot n.$$

sign: In (1),

$$(-1)^\sigma = \text{sgn}(\sigma) := (-1)^{\# \text{ of crossings}} \quad \text{sign of } \sigma \quad \text{remark: no } \begin{array}{c} \nearrow \searrow \\ \nwarrow \nearrow \end{array} !!!$$

example $\text{sgn} \left(\begin{array}{cc} 1 & 2 \\ \uparrow & \uparrow \\ 1 & 2 \end{array} \right) = (-1)^0 = 1$

$$\text{sgn} \left(\begin{array}{cc} 1 & 2 \\ \nearrow & \nwarrow \\ 1 & 2 \end{array} \right) = (-1)^1 = -1$$

$$\text{sgn} \left((1) \right) = (-1)^7 = -1$$

When $\text{sgn}(\sigma) = 1$, we call σ *even* (or positive),

when $\text{sgn}(\sigma) = -1$, we call σ *odd* (or negative).

$\text{sgn} : S_n \rightarrow \{-1, +1\}$ is multiplicative:

$$\text{sgn}(\tau\sigma) = \text{sgn}(\tau) \text{sgn}(\sigma).$$

Definition 4.6. $A = (A_{ij}) \quad A \in M_{n \times n}$ (square matrix!)

determinant of A

$$\det(A) = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} (-1)^\sigma \prod_{j=1}^n A_{j\sigma(j)}$$

Example 4.7. $n = 2 \quad A = \begin{pmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} \end{pmatrix}$

$$\sigma_1 = \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \quad \uparrow \\ 1 \quad 2 \end{array} \quad \sigma_2 = \begin{array}{c} \nearrow \quad \nwarrow \\ 1 \quad 2 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \det(A) &= (-1)^{\sigma_1} \prod_{j=1}^2 A_{j\sigma_1(j)} + (-1)^{\sigma_2} \prod_{j=1}^2 A_{j\sigma_2(j)} \\ &= \underbrace{(-1)^{\uparrow \uparrow}}_1 A_{11} A_{22} + \underbrace{(-1)^{\nearrow \nwarrow}}_{-1} A_{12} A_{21} = A_{11} A_{22} - A_{12} A_{21} \\ &\quad \sigma_1(1) \sigma_1(2) \quad \sigma_2(1) \sigma_2(2) \end{aligned}$$

Example 4.8. $n = 3$ $\begin{vmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} & A_{23} \\ A_{31} & A_{32} & A_{33} \end{vmatrix}$ $S_3 = \left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} \begin{array}{c} + \\ \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} - \\ \uparrow \times \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} - \\ \times \uparrow \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \times \times \\ + \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \times \times \\ + \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \times \times \\ - \end{array} \end{array} \right\}$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= (-1)^{\uparrow \uparrow \uparrow} A_{11} A_{22} A_{33} + (-1)^{\uparrow \times} A_{11} A_{23} A_{32} + (-1)^{\times \uparrow} A_{12} A_{21} A_{33} \\
&+ (-1)^{\times \times} A_{13} A_{21} A_{32} + (-1)^{\times \times} A_{12} A_{23} A_{31} + (-1)^{\times \times} A_{13} A_{22} A_{31} \\
&= A_{11} A_{22} A_{33} + A_{12} A_{23} A_{31} + A_{13} A_{21} A_{32} \\
&- A_{11} A_{23} A_{32} - A_{12} A_{21} A_{33} - A_{13} A_{22} A_{31} \quad \Rightarrow \text{gives volume of parallelepiped (평행육면체)}
\end{aligned}$$

Why am I doing this?

Theorem 4.9. *det is linear in each row/column*

$$\begin{aligned}
&\det \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{\mathbf{a}_1} \\ \vdots \\ \boxed{\mathbf{a}_{i-1}} \\ \boxed{\mathbf{a}_i + k \cdot \mathbf{b}} \\ \boxed{\mathbf{a}_{i+1}} \\ \vdots \\ \boxed{\mathbf{a}_n} \end{pmatrix} = \det \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{\mathbf{a}_1} \\ \vdots \\ \boxed{\mathbf{a}_{i-1}} \\ \boxed{\mathbf{a}_i} \\ \boxed{\mathbf{a}_{i+1}} \\ \vdots \\ \boxed{\mathbf{a}_n} \end{pmatrix} + k \cdot \det \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{\mathbf{a}_1} \\ \vdots \\ \boxed{\mathbf{a}_{i-1}} \\ \boxed{\mathbf{b}} \\ \boxed{\mathbf{a}_{i+1}} \\ \vdots \\ \boxed{\mathbf{a}_n} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2) \\
&\quad \parallel \quad \parallel \quad \parallel \\
&\hat{A} \quad A \quad \tilde{A} \\
&\det \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{\mathbf{a}_1} & \cdots & \boxed{\mathbf{a}_{i-1}} & \boxed{\mathbf{a}_i + k \cdot \mathbf{b}} & \boxed{\mathbf{a}_{i+1}} & \cdots & \boxed{\mathbf{a}_n} \end{pmatrix} = \det \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{\mathbf{a}_1} & \cdots & \boxed{\mathbf{a}_i} & \cdots & \boxed{\mathbf{a}_n} \end{pmatrix} + k \cdot \det \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{\mathbf{a}_1} & \cdots & \boxed{\mathbf{a}_{i-1}} & \boxed{\mathbf{b}} & \boxed{\mathbf{a}_{i+1}} & \cdots & \boxed{\mathbf{a}_n} \end{pmatrix}.
\end{aligned}$$

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned}
\det \hat{A} &= \sum_{\sigma} (-1)^{\sigma} \prod_{j=1}^{i-1} \hat{A}_{j\sigma(j)} \prod_{j=i} \hat{A}_{j\sigma(j)} \prod_{j=i+1}^n \hat{A}_{j\sigma(j)} \\
&= \sum_{\sigma} (-1)^{\sigma} \prod_{j=1}^{i-1} \hat{A}_{j\sigma(j)} (a_{i\sigma(i)} + kb_{\sigma(i)}) \prod_{j=i+1}^n \hat{A}_{j\sigma(j)} \\
&= \sum_{\sigma} (-1)^{\sigma} \prod_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^n \hat{A}_{j\sigma(j)} \cdot a_{i\sigma(i)} + k \sum_{\sigma} (-1)^{\sigma} \prod_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^n \hat{A}_{j\sigma(j)} \cdot b_{\sigma(i)} \\
&= \sum_{\sigma} (-1)^{\sigma} \prod_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^n A_{j\sigma(j)} \cdot A_{i\sigma(i)} + k \sum_{\sigma} (-1)^{\sigma} \prod_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^n \tilde{A}_{j\sigma(j)} \cdot \tilde{A}_{\sigma(i)} \\
&= \det A + k \cdot \det(\tilde{A}).
\end{aligned}$$

Corollary 4.10. *If A has a zero row or column, then $\det(A) = 0$.*

Theorem 4.11. $\det \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \boxed{\mathbf{a}_1} \\ \boxed{\mathbf{a}_2} \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix}}_A = -\det \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \boxed{\mathbf{a}_2} \\ \boxed{\mathbf{a}_1} \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix}}_{\hat{A}}$ *& more generally
for any 2 rows
and columns*

Proof. Let $\tau = (1, 2) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \mapsto 2 & 2 \mapsto 1 \\ i \mapsto i & i = 3, \dots, n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{matrix} \nearrow & \uparrow & \uparrow & \cdots & \uparrow \end{matrix}$. Then $\text{sgn}(\tau) = -1$ and $\text{sgn}(\sigma\tau) = -\text{sgn}(\sigma)$. Thus multiplication by τ gives a bijective map

$$\{\text{odd/even permutations}\} \ni \sigma \mapsto \hat{\sigma} := \sigma \circ \tau \in \{\text{even/odd permutations}\}.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \det \hat{A} &= \sum_{\sigma} (-1)^{\sigma} \prod_{j=3}^n a_{j\sigma(j)} \cdot a_{1\sigma(2)} \cdot a_{2\sigma(1)} \\ &= \sum_{\sigma} (-1)^{\sigma} \prod_{j=3}^n a_{j\hat{\sigma}(j)} \cdot a_{1\hat{\sigma}(1)} \cdot a_{2\hat{\sigma}(2)} \\ &= - \sum_{\sigma} (-1)^{\hat{\sigma}} \prod_{j=1}^n a_{j\hat{\sigma}(j)} \\ &\stackrel{\sigma \leftrightarrow \hat{\sigma}}{=} - \sum_{\hat{\sigma}} (-1)^{\hat{\sigma}} \prod_{j=1}^n a_{j\hat{\sigma}(j)} = -\det A. \end{aligned}$$

Corollary 4.12. *If A has two equal rows or columns, then $\det(A) = 0$ (for $\text{char}(\mathbf{F}) \neq 2$; otherwise exercise).*

Corollary 4.13. $\det$ is preserved under row & column operations of type III
(add to a row a multiple of another row)
 $\det$ changes sign under row & column operations of type I
(exchange 2 rows or 2 columns)
 $\det$ multiplies under row & column operations of type II
(multiply row)

$$\det(I_n) = 1 \quad \left(\det = \sum_{\sigma} \prod \quad \prod \neq 0 \text{ only if } \sigma = Id \right)$$

so can calculate determinant using row & column operations:

$$\begin{array}{c} \cdot -7 \\ \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \cdot -4 \\ \cdot -3 \\ \cdot -2 \end{array} \right. \end{array} \left| \begin{array}{ccc} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 & 8 \end{array} \right| = \left| \begin{array}{ccc} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 \\ 0 & -6 & -13 \end{array} \right| = \left| \begin{array}{ccc} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 & -6 \\ 0 & -6 & -13 \end{array} \right| = -3 \left| \begin{array}{ccc} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & -6 & -13 \end{array} \right|$$

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

$\hookrightarrow$ complexity is n^3

Another (less practical) way : development

 $\hookrightarrow$ complexity $n!$

$$\tilde{A}_{ij} = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} \text{delete } i\text{-th row and } j\text{-th column} \\ \hline (i, j)\text{-minor of } A \end{array} \right)$$

$$\text{row develop.} \quad \det A = \sum_{j=1}^n (-1)^{k+j} a_{kj} \det \tilde{A}_{kj} \quad \text{for every } k = 1, \dots, n$$

$$\text{column develop.} \quad \det A = \sum_{k=1}^n (-1)^{k+j} a_{kj} \det \tilde{A}_{kj} \quad \text{for every } j = 1, \dots, n$$

Theorem 4.14. A invertible $\iff \det A \neq 0$.

Proof. A invertible $\longrightarrow A \longrightarrow Id$ by row and col. op.

do not change $\det \neq 0$

$$\implies \det \neq 0.$$

A non-inv. $\implies A \longrightarrow$ zero row/col matrix ———” ——— (동상)

$$\implies \det A = 0.$$

4.3. (More) properties of determinant.

Theorem 4.15. $\det(A) = \det(A^T)$

Proof. $A \longrightarrow Id$

$$A^T \longrightarrow Id \quad \square$$

transposed

operations change determinant in same way

Theorem 4.16. (3) $\det(A \cdot B) = \det(A) \cdot \det(B)$.

If $\det(A \cdot B) = 0 \iff \det(A) = 0 \text{ or } \det(B) = 0$

$\updownarrow$

$\updownarrow$

$$A \cdot B \text{ not invert.} \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad A \text{ not invert. or } B \text{ not invert.} \quad (4)$$

$$(4) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} A \& B \text{ invert.} & \longrightarrow AB \text{ invert.} \\ \text{if } A \text{ not invert.} & \xRightarrow{A \text{ square mx}} \ker(A) \neq \{\mathbf{0}\} \\ & \Rightarrow \ker(BA) \neq \{\mathbf{0}\} \\ \text{if } B \text{ not invert.} & \xRightarrow{B \text{ square mx}} B \text{ not surj.} \\ & \Rightarrow BA \text{ not surj.} \end{array} \right.$$

so assume both hand sides are not zero in (3).

now A is invertible $\implies A =$ product of elementary matrices

enough to prove (3) for A elementary matrix

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & 0 & 1 \\ & & & \ddots & \\ & & 1 & & 0 \\ & & & & \ddots & \\ & & & & & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{array}{l} AB = B \text{ with row } i \& j \text{ exchanged. Thus} \\ \det(AB) = -\det(B) = \det(A) \det(B) \Rightarrow (3) \text{ ok} \end{array}$$

$\det = -1$

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \lambda \\ & & & \ddots & \\ & & & & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{array}{l} AB = B \text{ with row } i \text{ multiplied by } \lambda. \text{ Thus} \\ \det(AB) = \lambda \det(B) = \det(A) \det(B) \end{array} \quad (3) \text{ ok}$$

$\det = \lambda$

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \alpha \\ & & & \ddots & \\ & & & & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{array}{l} \rightrightarrows_{+\alpha} \\ \leftrightsquigarrow \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} AB = B \text{ with row } i+ = \alpha \cdot \text{row } j. \text{ Thus} \\ \det(AB) = \det(B) = \det(A) \det(B) \end{array} \quad (3) \text{ ok}$$

$\det = \det(Id_n) = 1$

A formula for the matrix inverse

$$(A^{-1})_{ij} = \frac{\det(\tilde{A}_{ji}) \cdot (-1)^{i+j}}{\det(A)}$$

Example 4.17.

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 & 8 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{had before} \\ \det A = 3 \end{array}$$

check by development rule: $\det A = -8 \cdot 1 - (-10) \cdot 2 + 3 \cdot (-3) = 3$ ok.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \tilde{A}_{11} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 6 \\ 8 & 8 \end{pmatrix} & \tilde{A}_{12} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 \end{pmatrix} & \tilde{A}_{13} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 5 \\ 7 & 8 \end{pmatrix} \\ \det \tilde{A}_{11} = -8 & \det \tilde{A}_{12} = -10 & \det \tilde{A}_{13} = -3 \end{array}$$

$\Uparrow$

$$\begin{aligned}
A^{-1} &= \frac{1}{\det A} \begin{pmatrix} \det \tilde{A}_{11} & -\det \tilde{A}_{21} & \det \tilde{A}_{31} \\ -\det \tilde{A}_{12} & \det \tilde{A}_{22} & -\det \tilde{A}_{32} \\ \det \tilde{A}_{13} & -\det \tilde{A}_{23} & \det \tilde{A}_{33} \end{pmatrix} \\
&= \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} -8 & +8 & -3 \\ +10 & -13 & +6 \\ -3 & +6 & -3 \end{pmatrix} \quad \det \tilde{A}_{21} = \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 8 & 8 \end{vmatrix} = -8 \quad \det \tilde{A}_{22} = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 7 & 8 \end{vmatrix} = -13 \\
&\quad \det \tilde{A}_{23} = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 7 & 8 \end{vmatrix} = -6 \\
A^{-1} &= \begin{pmatrix} -8/3 & 8/3 & -1 \\ 10/3 & -13/3 & 2 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \det \tilde{A}_{31} = \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 5 & 6 \end{vmatrix} = -3 \quad \det \tilde{A}_{32} = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 4 & 6 \end{vmatrix} = -6 \\
&\quad \det \tilde{A}_{33} = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 4 & 5 \end{vmatrix} = -3
\end{aligned}$$

This is not practical (Gauss elimination better),
but has some theoretical applications.

e.g. $A \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{Z}) \quad \det A = \pm 1 \implies A^{-1} \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{Z})$

a consequence of this formula is

Theorem 4.18. (Cramer's rule) The (unique) solution $\mathbf{x} = A^{-1}\mathbf{b}$
of $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ for A square matrix
invertible

$$\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)^T$$

$$x_k = \frac{\det M_k}{\det A} \quad M_k = \text{replace column } k \text{ of } A \\ \text{by } \mathbf{b}$$

Example 4.19.

$$\begin{array}{rrcr}
x_1 & +2x_2 & +3x_3 & = 2 \\
x_1 & & +x_3 & = 3 \\
x_1 & +x_2 & -x_3 & = 1
\end{array} \quad A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$x_1 = \frac{\det(M_1)}{\det(A)} = \frac{\det \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{2} & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}}{\det(A)} = \frac{15}{6} = \frac{5}{2}$$

$$x_2 = \frac{\det(M_2)}{\det(A)} = \frac{\det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \boxed{2} & 3 \\ 1 & 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}}{\det(A)} = \frac{-6}{6} = -1$$

$$x_3 = \frac{\det(M_3)}{\det(A)} = \frac{\det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & \boxed{2} \\ 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}}{\det(A)} = \frac{3}{6} = \frac{1}{2} \implies \mathbf{x} = \left(\frac{5}{2}, -1, \frac{1}{2} \right)$$

(again, this is not practical for large n
as Gaussian elimination!)

but it says again: if $\det A = \pm 1$, $A, \mathbf{b}$ have integer entries, then $\mathbf{x}$ is integer solution