

(18)

Property (iii) holds for \det since the only nonzero term in

$$\det(I_n) = \det \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ is the } p=e = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & \dots & n \\ 1 & 2 & \dots & n \end{pmatrix} \text{ term } + a_{11}a_{22}\dots a_{nn} = +1$$

To see that (i), (ii), (iii) characterize $\mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \xrightarrow{\det} \mathbb{R}$, assume one has some function $\delta: \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ satisfying (i), (ii), (iii), and we'll show $\delta(A)$ is uniquely calculable using (i), (ii), (iii). Note that for elementary matrices E , one has

$$\delta \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & a & \\ & & & \ddots \\ & & & & 1 \end{bmatrix} \stackrel{\text{by (i)}}{=} \delta \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & 0 & \\ & & & \ddots \\ & & & & 1 \end{bmatrix} + \delta \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & \ddots \\ & & & & a \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\stackrel{\text{by (iii) and (i)}}{=} 1 + a \cdot \delta \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & \ddots \\ & & & & 1 \end{bmatrix} \stackrel{\text{by (ii)}}{=} 1$$

has two columns equal, so its δ value is the same as its negative, i.e. zero by (i)

$$\delta \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & \ddots \\ & & & & 1 \end{bmatrix} \stackrel{\text{by (ii)}}{=} -\delta \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & \ddots \\ & & & & 1 \end{bmatrix} \stackrel{\text{by (iii)}}{=} -1$$

$$\delta \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & c & \\ & & & \ddots \\ & & & & 1 \end{bmatrix} \stackrel{\text{by (i)}}{=} c \delta \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & \ddots \\ & & & & 1 \end{bmatrix} \stackrel{\text{by (iii)}}{=} c$$

Also, given $A = \begin{bmatrix} | & & | \\ A_1 & \dots & A_n \\ | & & | \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$,

$$\delta \left(A \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & a \\ & & & \ddots \\ & & & & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \delta(A_1, \dots, A_i + aA_j, \dots, A_j, \dots, A_n) \stackrel{\text{by (i)}}{=} \delta(A_1, \dots, A_n) + a \underbrace{\delta(A_1, \dots, A_j, \dots, A_j, \dots, A_n)}_{=0 \text{ by (ii)}} = \delta(A)$$

$$\delta \left(A \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & \ddots \\ & & & & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \delta(A_1, \dots, A_j, \dots, A_i, \dots, A_n) \stackrel{\text{by (ii)}}{=} -\delta(A_1, \dots, A_n) = -\delta(A) \cdot \delta \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\delta \left(A \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & c & \\ & & & \ddots \\ & & & & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \delta(A_1, \dots, cA_i, \dots, A_n) \stackrel{\text{by (i)}}{=} c \delta(A_1, \dots, A_n) = \delta(A) \cdot \delta \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & c & \\ & & & \ddots \\ & & & & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

(19) Hence if A has column-echelon form $A' = A E_1 E_2 \dots E_r$,
 this shows $\delta(A) = \delta(A') \cdot \delta(E_1) \dots \delta(E_r)$ where $\delta(E_i) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } E_i \text{ is type (i)} \\ -1 & \text{if } E_i \text{ is type (ii)} \\ c & \text{if } E_i = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & c \end{bmatrix} \\ & \text{of type (iii)} \end{cases}$
 (= $\det E_i$ in each case)

But also, either $A' = \begin{bmatrix} \textcircled{1} & & & \\ & \textcircled{1} & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & \textcircled{1} \end{bmatrix}$ so $\delta(A') = 1$
 by (ii)

or $A' = \begin{bmatrix} \textcircled{1} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & \textcircled{1} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & 0 & \textcircled{1} & 0 & 0 \\ * & * & * & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ has some zero column,
 so $\delta(A') = 0$ by (i). $\delta(A') = 0$.

9/14/18 \rightarrow Thus $\delta(A)$ is already uniquely determined by (i), (ii), (iii) \blacksquare
 REMARK: This also showed row-reduction lets one calculate $\det A$ in $\leq c \cdot n^3$ steps
 The argument in the previous proof really showed more ...

THEOREM: For $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, (a) $\det A \neq 0 \iff A$ is invertible
 and (b) $\det(AB) = \det A \cdot \det B$.

proof: (a): As in previous proof, if A has col-echelon form A'
 then $A' = A E_1 E_2 \dots E_r$

with $\det(A') = \det(A) \cdot \underbrace{\det(E_1) \dots \det(E_r)}_{\text{these are all } +1, -1, \text{ or } 0 \neq 0}$
 $\begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } A' \text{ has a zero column, that is,} \\ & \text{if } A \text{ is not invertible} \\ 1 & \text{if } A' = I_n, \text{ that is, if } A \text{ is invertible} \end{cases}$

Thus $\det(A) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } A \text{ is not invertible} \\ \text{nonzero} & \text{if } A \text{ is invertible (in fact, } \det(A) = \frac{1}{\det(E_1) \dots \det(E_r)} \text{ in this case)} \end{cases}$

(b): If B is not invertible, then $\det(B) = 0$ by (a), but also AB is not invertible
 since any $X \neq 0$ with $BX = 0$ has $ABX = 0$ also. So $\det(AB) = 0$ by (a),
 and $\det(AB) = \det(A) \cdot \det(B)$ holds for trivial reasons.