Applying $R_1 \to R_1 - R_2 - R_3$ to Δ, we get

$$\Delta = \begin{vmatrix} 0 & -2c & -2b \\ b & c+a & b \\ c & c & a+b \end{vmatrix}$$

Expanding along R_1, we obtain

$$\Delta = 0\begin{vmatrix} c+a & b \\ c & a+b \end{vmatrix} - (-2c)\begin{vmatrix} b & b \\ c & a+b \end{vmatrix} + (-2b)\begin{vmatrix} b & c+a \\ c & c \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= 2\,c\,(a\,b + b^2 - bc) - 2\,b\,(b\,c - c^2 - ac)$$

$$= 2\,a\,b\,c + 2\,cb^2 - 2\,bc^2 - 2\,b^2c + 2\,bc^2 + 2\,abc$$

$$= 4\,abc$$

Example 15 If x, y, z are different and $\Delta = \begin{vmatrix} x & x^2 & 1+x^3 \\ y & y^2 & 1+y^3 \\ z & z^2 & 1+z^3 \end{vmatrix} = 0$, then show that $1 + xyz = 0$

Solution We have

$$\Delta = \begin{vmatrix} x & x^2 & 1+x^3 \\ y & y^2 & 1+y^3 \\ z & z^2 & 1+z^3 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{vmatrix} x & x^2 & 1 \\ y & y^2 & 1 \\ z & z^2 & 1 \end{vmatrix} + \begin{vmatrix} x & x^2 & x^3 \\ y & y^2 & y^3 \\ z & z^2 & z^3 \end{vmatrix} \quad \text{(Using Property 5)}$$

$$= (-1)^2\begin{vmatrix} 1 & x & x^2 \\ 1 & y & y^2 \\ 1 & z & z^2 \end{vmatrix} + xyz\begin{vmatrix} 1 & x & x^2 \\ 1 & y & y^2 \\ 1 & z & z^2 \end{vmatrix} \quad \text{(Using } C_3 \leftrightarrow C_2 \text{ and then } C_1 \leftrightarrow C_2\text{)}$$

$$= \begin{vmatrix} 1 & x & x^2 \\ 1 & y & y^2 \\ 1 & z & z^2 \end{vmatrix}(1+xyz)$$

(ii) If area is given, use both positive and negative values of the determinant for calculation.

(iii) The area of the triangle formed by three collinear points is zero.

Example 17 Find the area of the triangle whose vertices are (3, 8), (– 4, 2) and (5, 1).

Solution The area of triangle is given by

$$\Delta = \frac{1}{2}\begin{vmatrix} 3 & 8 & 1 \\ -4 & 2 & 1 \\ 5 & 1 & 1 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2}\left[3(2-1)-8(-4-5)+1(-4-10)\right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{2}\,(3+72-14) = \frac{61}{2}$$

Example 18 Find the equation of the line joining A(1, 3) and B (0, 0) using determinants and find k if D(k, 0) is a point such that area of triangle ABD is 3sq units.

Solution Let P (x, y) be any point on AB. Then, area of triangle ABP is zero (Why?). So

$$\frac{1}{2}\begin{vmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 3 & 1 \\ x & y & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

This gives $\frac{1}{2}(y-3x) = 0$ or $y = 3x$,

which is the equation of required line AB.

Also, since the area of the triangle ABD is 3 sq. units, we have

$$\frac{1}{2}\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ k & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = \pm 3$$

This gives, $\frac{-3k}{2} = \pm 3$, i.e., $k = \mp 2$.

EXERCISE 4.3

1. Find area of the triangle with vertices at the point given in each of the following :
   (i) (1, 0), (6, 0), (4, 3) (ii) (2, 7), (1, 1), (10, 8)
   (iii) (–2, –3), (3, 2), (–1, –8)

Verification

Let $$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{bmatrix}, \text{ then } adj\ A = \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{21} & A_{31} \\ A_{12} & A_{22} & A_{32} \\ A_{13} & A_{23} & A_{33} \end{bmatrix}$$

Since sum of product of elements of a row (or a column) with corresponding cofactors is equal to $|A|$ and otherwise zero, we have

$$A\,(adj\ A) = \begin{bmatrix} |A| & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & |A| & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & |A| \end{bmatrix} = |A| \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = |A|\ I$$

Similarly, we can show $(adj\ A)\,A = |A|\ I$

Hence $A\,(adj\ A) = (adj\ A)\,A = |A|\ I$

Definition 4 A square matrix A is said to be singular if $|A| = 0$.

For example, the determinant of matrix $A = \begin{matrix} 1 & 2 \\ 4 & 8 \end{matrix}$ is zero

Hence A is a singular matrix.

Definition 5 A square matrix A is said to be non-singular if $|A| \neq 0$

Let $$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}. \text{ Then } |A| = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{vmatrix} = 4 - 6 = -2 \neq 0.$$

Hence A is a nonsingular matrix

We state the following theorems without proof.

Theorem 2 If A and B are nonsingular matrices of the same order, then AB and BA are also nonsingular matrices of the same order.

Theorem 3 The determinant of the product of matrices is equal to product of their respective determinants, that is, $|AB| = |A|\ |B|$, where A and B are square matrices of the same order

Remark We know that $$(adj\ A)\,A = |A|\ I = \begin{matrix} |A| & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & |A| & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & |A| \end{matrix}$$

Writing determinants of matrices on both sides, we have

$$|(adj\,\mathrm{A})\,\mathrm{A}| = \begin{vmatrix} |\mathrm{A}| & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & |\mathrm{A}| & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & |\mathrm{A}| \end{vmatrix}$$

i.e. $$|(adj\ \mathrm{A})|\ |\mathrm{A}| = |\mathrm{A}|^3 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} \qquad \text{(Why?)}$$

i.e. $|(adj\ \mathrm{A})|\ |\mathrm{A}| = |\mathrm{A}|^3\ (1)$

i.e. $|(adj\ \mathrm{A})| = |\mathrm{A}|^2$

In general, if A is *a* square matrix of order *n*, then $|adj\,(\mathrm{A})| = |\mathrm{A}|^{n-1}$.

Theorem 4 A square matrix A is invertible if and only if A is nonsingular matrix.

Proof Let A be invertible matrix of order *n* and I be the identity matrix of order *n*. Then, there exists a square matrix B of order *n* such that AB = BA = I

Now AB = I. So $|\mathrm{AB}| = |\mathrm{I}|$ or $|\mathrm{A}|\,|\mathrm{B}| = 1$ (since $|\mathrm{I}|=1, |\mathrm{AB}|=|\mathrm{A}||\mathrm{B}|$)

This gives $|\mathrm{A}| \neq 0$. Hence A is nonsingular.

Conversely, let A be nonsingular. Then $|\mathrm{A}| \neq 0$

Now $\mathrm{A}\ (adj\ \mathrm{A}) = (adj\ \mathrm{A})\ \mathrm{A} = |\mathrm{A}|\,\mathrm{I}$ (Theorem 1)

or $$\mathrm{A}\left(\frac{1}{|\mathrm{A}|}adj\ \mathrm{A}\right) = \left(\frac{1}{|\mathrm{A}|}adj\ \mathrm{A}\right)\mathrm{A} = \mathrm{I}$$

or $$\mathrm{AB} = \mathrm{BA} = \mathrm{I},\ \text{where } \mathrm{B} = \frac{1}{|\mathrm{A}|}adj\ \mathrm{A}$$

Thus A is invertible and $$\mathrm{A}^{-1} = \frac{1}{|\mathrm{A}|}adj\ \mathrm{A}$$

Example 24 If $\mathrm{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 3 \\ 1 & 4 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$, then verify that A *adj* A = |A| I. Also find A^{-1}.

Solution We have $|\mathrm{A}| = 1\,(16-9) - 3\,(4-3) + 3\,(3-4) = 1 \neq 0$

8. Let A = $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 1 \\ -2 & 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$. Verify that

(i) $[adj\ A]^{-1} = adj\ (A^{-1})$ (ii) $(A^{-1})^{-1} = A$

9. Evaluate $\begin{vmatrix} x & y & x+y \\ y & x+y & x \\ x+y & x & y \end{vmatrix}$

10. Evaluate $\begin{vmatrix} 1 & x & y \\ 1 & x+y & y \\ 1 & x & x+y \end{vmatrix}$

Using properties of determinants in Exercises 11 to 15, prove that:

11. $\begin{vmatrix} \alpha & \alpha^2 & \beta+\gamma \\ \beta & \beta^2 & \gamma+\alpha \\ \gamma & \gamma^2 & \alpha+\beta \end{vmatrix} = (\beta-\gamma)(\gamma-\alpha)(\alpha-\beta)(\alpha+\beta+\gamma)$

12. $\begin{vmatrix} x & x^2 & 1+px^3 \\ y & y^2 & 1+py^3 \\ z & z^2 & 1+pz^3 \end{vmatrix} = (1+pxyz)(x-y)(y-z)(z-x)$, where p is any scalar.

13. $\begin{vmatrix} 3a & -a+b & -a+c \\ -b+a & 3b & -b+c \\ -c+a & -c+b & 3c \end{vmatrix} = 3(a+b+c)(ab+bc+ca)$

14. $\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1+p & 1+p+q \\ 2 & 3+2p & 4+3p+2q \\ 3 & 6+3p & 10+6p+3q \end{vmatrix} = 1$

15. $\begin{vmatrix} \sin\alpha & \cos\alpha & \cos(\alpha+\delta) \\ \sin\beta & \cos\beta & \cos(\beta+\delta) \\ \sin\gamma & \cos\gamma & \cos(\gamma+\delta) \end{vmatrix} = 0$

16. Solve the system of equations

$$\frac{2}{x} \quad \frac{3}{y} \quad \frac{10}{z} \quad 4$$

Summary

- Determinant of a matrix $A = [a_{11}]_{1\times 1}$ is given by $|a_{11}| = a_{11}$
- Determinant of a matrix $A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix}$ is given by

$$|A| = \begin{vmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{vmatrix} = a_{11}\, a_{22} - a_{12}\, a_{21}$$

- Determinant of a matrix $A = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & b_1 & c_1 \\ a_2 & b_2 & c_2 \\ a_3 & b_3 & c_3 \end{bmatrix}$ is given by (expanding along R_1)

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

For any square matrix A, the |A| satisfy following properties.

- $|A'| = |A|$, where A' = transpose of A.
- If we interchange any two rows (or columns), then sign of determinant changes.
- If any two rows or any two columns are identical or proportional, then value of determinant is zero.
- If we multiply each element of a row or a column of a determinant by constant k, then value of determinant is multiplied by k.
- Multiplying a determinant by k means multiply elements of only one row (or one column) by k.
- If $A = [a_{ij}]_{3\times 3}$, then $|k.A| = k^3 |A|$
- If elements of a row or a column in a determinant can be expressed as sum of two or more elements, then the given determinant can be expressed as sum of two or more determinants.
- If to each element of a row or a column of a determinant the equimultiples of corresponding elements of other rows or columns are added, then value of determinant remains same.

- Unique solution of equation AX = B is given by $X = A^{-1} B$, where $|A| \neq 0$.
- A system of equation is consistent or inconsistent according as its solution exists or not.
- For a square matrix A in matrix equation AX = B
  (i) $|A| \neq 0$, there exists unique solution
  (ii) $|A| = 0$ and (*adj* A) B $\neq$ 0, then there exists no solution
  (iii) $|A| = 0$ and (*adj* A) B = 0, then system may or may not be consistent.

Historical Note

The Chinese method of representing the coefficients of the unknowns of several linear equations by using rods on a calculating board naturally led to the discovery of simple method of elimination. The arrangement of rods was precisely that of the numbers in a determinant. The Chinese, therefore, early developed the idea of subtracting columns and rows as in simplification of a determinant '*Mikami, China, pp* 30, 93.

Seki Kowa, the greatest of the Japanese Mathematicians of seventeenth century in his work '*Kai Fukudai no Ho*' in 1683 showed that he had the idea of determinants and of their expansion. But he used this device only in eliminating a quantity from two equations and not directly in the solution of a set of simultaneous linear equations. 'T. Hayashi, "*The Fakudoi and Determinants in Japanese Mathematics*," in the proc. of the Tokyo Math. Soc., V.

Vendermonde was the first to recognise determinants as independent functions. He may be called the formal founder. Laplace (1772), gave general method of expanding a determinant in terms of its complementary minors. In 1773 Lagrange treated determinants of the second and third orders and used them for purpose other than the solution of equations. In 1801, Gauss used determinants in his theory of numbers.

The next great contributor was Jacques - Philippe - Marie Binet, (1812) who stated the theorem relating to the product of two matrices of *m*-columns and *n*-rows, which for the special case of *m* = *n* reduces to the multiplication theorem.

Also on the same day, Cauchy (1812) presented one on the same subject. He used the word 'determinant' in its present sense. He gave the proof of multiplication theorem more satisfactory than Binet's.

The greatest contributor to the theory was Carl Gustav Jacob Jacobi, after this the word determinant received its final acceptance.