

**Determinant:**

- is a **value** associated with a square matrix.
- Notated by straight vertical brackets ie.  $|A|$
- Also notated on by  $\det A$  (this is how your calculator shows it)

The formula for the determinant of a 2x2 is:

$$\begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix} = a(d) - b(c)$$

**TASK 1:** Find the determinant of each matrix.

a)  $\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 5 \\ 4 & 8 \end{vmatrix}$

$$1(8) - 4(5) = 8 - 20 = \boxed{-12}$$

b.  $\begin{vmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & -1 \\ -\frac{1}{2} & 2 \end{vmatrix}$

$$= \frac{1}{2}(2) - (-1)(-\frac{1}{2}) = 1 - \frac{1}{2} = \boxed{\frac{1}{2}}$$

**Determinant:**

When you find the value of the determinant of a 3x3 you use the Expansion by Minors method using diagonals.

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 1 \\ 5 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 4 & 8 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\det M = \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 4 & 1 \\ 5 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 4 & 8 \end{vmatrix}, \text{ so write } \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 5 & 2 & 3 & 5 & 2 \\ 1 & 4 & 8 & 1 & 4 \end{vmatrix}$$

Rewrite the first two columns at the right side of the determinant.

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & b_1 & c_1 \\ a_2 & b_2 & c_2 \\ a_3 & b_3 & c_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} a_1 & b_1 & c_1 & a_1 & b_1 \\ a_2 & b_2 & c_2 & a_2 & b_2 \\ a_3 & b_3 & c_3 & a_3 & b_3 \end{vmatrix} = a_1 b_2 c_3 + b_1 c_2 a_3 + c_1 a_2 b_3 - (a_3 b_2 c_1 + b_3 c_2 a_1 + c_3 a_2 b_1)$$

Add the sum of the products of the red diagonals. Then subtract the sum of the blue diagonals.

**TASK 2:** Find the determinant of

$$\begin{vmatrix} 2 & -3 & 4 \\ 5 & 1 & -2 \\ 10 & 3 & -1 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= (2)(1)(-1) + (-3)(-2)(10) + (4)(5)(3) - (10)(1)(4) - (3)(-2)(2) - (-1)(5)(-3)$$

$$= -2 + 60 + 60 - 40 + 12 - 15$$

$$= \boxed{75}$$

**When can I use determinants?**

A triangle has vertices as (1, 2); (3, -4); and (-2, 3). Find the area of the triangle.

You could try to work from a drawing of the triangle, but this can get very complicated. Instead, I put the vertices of the triangle into a determinant, with the x-values being the first column/row, the corresponding y-values being the second column/row, and the third row/column all filled with 1's, like this:

**\*\*\*REMEMBER WE CANNOT DIVIDE MATRICES.\*\*\***

Instead of dividing we multiply by the INVERSE. The inverse involves the determinant.

Formula for the inverse:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \quad A^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det A} \begin{bmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{bmatrix}$$

**TASK 4:** Find the inverse of the matrix, if it is defined. If not, explain why.

a)  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  b)  $B = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -3 \\ -\frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{4} \end{bmatrix}$

$$A^{-1} = \frac{1}{-2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 \\ -2 & 4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{3}{2} \\ 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= 4\left(\frac{1}{4}\right) - \left(-\frac{1}{3}\right)(-3) = 1 - 1 = 0$$

Still need help with:

NO INVERSE,  
det(B) = 0

**TASK 3:**

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 3 & -4 & 1 & 3 & -4 \\ -2 & 3 & 1 & -2 & 3 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} |-4 -4 + 9 - 8 - 3 - 6|$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} |-16|$$

$$= \frac{1}{2}(16)$$

$$= \boxed{8u^2}$$