

## Determinants

$$(e) \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 3 & 2 \\ 4 & 1 & -2 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \end{vmatrix} \quad (f) \begin{vmatrix} 2 & -1 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 & 2 \\ 5 & 1 & 6 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$(g) \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 6 & 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & -2 & 3 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$(h) \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 3 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 2 & -2 & 1 \\ -3 & 2 & 3 & 1 \end{vmatrix}$$

4. Evaluate the following determinants by inspection:

$$(a) \begin{vmatrix} 3 & 5 \\ 2 & 4 \end{vmatrix} \quad (b) \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 4 & 1 & 0 \\ 7 & 3 & -2 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$(c) \begin{vmatrix} 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 \end{vmatrix} \quad (d) \begin{vmatrix} 4 & 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 5 & 0 & 4 & 2 \\ 2 & 0 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 & 3 \end{vmatrix}$$

5. Evaluate the following determinant. Write your answer as a polynomial in  $x$ .

$$\begin{vmatrix} a-x & b & c \\ 1 & -x & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -x \end{vmatrix}$$

6. Find all values of  $\lambda$  for which the following determinant will equal 0:

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

7. Let  $A$  be a  $3 \times 3$  matrix with  $a_{11} = 0$  and  $a_{21} \neq 0$ . Show that  $A$  is row equivalent to  $I$  if and only if

$$-a_{12}a_{21}a_{33} + a_{12}a_{31}a_{23} + a_{13}a_{21}a_{32} - a_{13}a_{31}a_{22} \neq 0$$

8. Write out the details of the proof of Theorem 1.3.  
 9. Prove that if a row or a column of an  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$  consists entirely of zeros, then  $\det(A) = 0$ .  
 10. Use mathematical induction to prove that if  $A$  is an  $(n+1) \times (n+1)$  matrix with two identical rows, then  $\det(A) = 0$ .  
 11. Let  $A$  and  $B$  be  $2 \times 2$  matrices.

- (a) Does  $\det(A+B) = \det(A) + \det(B)$ ?  
 (b) Does  $\det(AB) = \det(A)\det(B)$ ?  
 (c) Does  $\det(AB) = \det(BA)$ ?

Justify your answers.

12. Let  $A$  and  $B$  be  $2 \times 2$  matrices and let

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ b_{21} & b_{22} \end{bmatrix}, \quad D = \begin{bmatrix} b_{11} & b_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix}.$$

$$E = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \alpha \\ \beta & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- (a) Show that  $\det(A+B) = \det(A) + \det(B) + \det(C) + \det(D)$ .  
 (b) Show that if  $B = EA$  then  $\det(A+B) = \det(A) + \det(B)$ .

13. Let  $A$  be a symmetric tridiagonal matrix (i.e.,  $A$  is symmetric and  $a_{ij} = 0$  whenever  $|i-j| > 1$ ). Let  $B$  be the matrix formed from  $A$  by deleting the first two rows and columns. Show that

$$\det(A) = a_{11} \det(M_{11}) - a_{12}^2 \det(B)$$

## 2 Properties of Determinants

In this section, we consider the effects of row operations on the determinant of a matrix. Once these effects have been established, we will prove that a matrix  $A$  is singular if and only if its determinant is zero, and we will develop a method for evaluating determinants by using row operations. Also, we will establish an important theorem about the determinant of the product of two matrices. We begin with the following lemma:

**Lemma 2.1** Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix. If  $A_{jk}$  denotes the cofactor of  $a_{jk}$  for  $k = 1, \dots, n$ , then

$$a_{i1}A_{j1} + a_{i2}A_{j2} + \dots + a_{in}A_{jn} = \begin{cases} \det(A) & \text{if } i = j \\ 0 & \text{if } i \neq j \end{cases}$$