

1. As we easily check, 3 divides 1110, 2136, 5121 and 3987. Lo and behold, 3 divides

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 & 6 \\ 5 & 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 3 & 9 & 8 & 7 \end{vmatrix}.$$

Explain why. Can we generalise to other numbers in place of 3?

2. Determine the following determinant and generalise!

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 3 & 6 & 10 \\ 1 & 4 & 10 & 20 \end{vmatrix}$$

3. Determine the determinant of $A = (a_{ij})$ if

(i) $a_{ij} = \min(i, j)$;

(ii) $a_{ij} = ij$;

(iii) $a_{ij} = i + j$

(iv) $a_{ij} = i^j$.

4. Given A , an $n \times n$ matrix, we obtain B by exchanging a_{11} with a_{12} . Show that $\det(A) = \det(B)$ if and only if $a_{11} = a_{12}$ or $A_{11} = A_{12}$.

5. Let a, b be complex numbers and k a positive integer. Determine the determinant of the $2k \times 2k$ matrix whose main diagonal consists of a 's and the other diagonal consists of b 's, all other entries are 0.

6. Let $p_1 \cdots p_n$ be arbitrary and form the matrix $A = (a_{ij})$, where

$$a_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 - p_i^2, & \text{if } i = j; \\ -p_i p_j, & \text{if } i \neq j. \end{cases}$$

7. Show that $V(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ is not a symmetric polynomial in the variables x_1, \dots, x_n , however its square is. For which permutations σ of $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ is $V(x_1, \dots, x_n) = V(x_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, x_{\sigma(n)})$?

8. Show that if a_1, \dots, a_n are integers then $V(a_1, \dots, a_n)$ is divisible by $V(1, \dots, n)$.

9. Let E_{ij} denote the matrix with 1 in the i -th row j -th column and 0 everywhere else. Determine $E_{ij}A$ and AE_{ij} for a matrix A .

10. Which statements are true for matrices A, B where the products make sense?

(i) If A has a full 0 row then AB also has one.

(ii) If A has a full 0 row then BA also has one.

(iii) If all rows of A form an arithmetic progression then so are the rows of AB .

(iv) If all rows of A form an arithmetic progression then so are the rows of BA .

(v) If the sum of every entry of A is 0 then so is for AB .

(vi) If the sum of every entry of A is 0 then so is for BA .