

Quiz 5

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212

Section: 3D

Use the determinant to find out for which values of k the following matrix is invertible.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & k \\ 1 & k & k \\ k & k & k \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\det A = \det \begin{pmatrix} k & k \\ k & k \end{pmatrix} - \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & k \\ k & k \end{pmatrix} + k \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & k \\ k & k \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \cancel{0} - (k - k^2) + k(k - k^2)$$

$$= 0 - k + k^2 + k^2 - k^3$$

$$= -k^3 + 2k^2 - k$$

$$= -k(k^2 - 2k + 1)$$

$$= -k(k-1)(k-1) = 0 \quad \text{when } k = 1 \text{ or } 0$$

so A is invertible when $k \neq 0$ or 1