

Prove that for an  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$ , its determinant can be computed by the formula

$$\det(A) = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \text{sign}(\sigma) \cdot a_{1\sigma(1)} \cdot a_{2\sigma(2)} \cdot \dots \cdot a_{n\sigma(n)}$$

Hint : Define  $\det'(A)$  by the above formula and check that  $\det'$  satisfies the following properties

- a)  $\det'$  is linear in each row of  $A$  when the remaining rows are fixed.
- b)  $\det'(A_1) = -\det'(A)$  if  $A_1$  is obtained from  $A$  by switching two rows of  $A$ .
- c) Use a) and b) to conclude that  $\det'(A) = \det(A)$  for any  $A$ .