

(Q11)

(a) True.

*Proof.* Let  $A \sim B$ . Then  $A = PBP^{-1}$ , where  $P \in \mathcal{M}_{n \times n}$ . Then

$$A^k = (PBP^{-1})^k = \underbrace{(PBP^{-1})(PBP^{-1}) \dots (PBP^{-1})}_{k \text{ times}}$$

Since between each occurrence of  $B$ , we have  $P^{-1}P$ , they cancel into  $I_n$  which then disappears, leaving us with

$$P \underbrace{BB \dots B}_{k \text{ times}} P^{-1} = PB^k P^{-1}$$

So  $A^k = PB^k P^{-1} \iff A^k \sim B^k$ . ■

(b) False.

As a counterexample, let

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad B = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$A^2 = B^2$ , but  $A$  and  $B$  are clearly not similar.

(c) False.

As a counterexample, let

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 7 \\ 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \quad B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$\det(AB) = 1$ , but  $A$  and  $B$  are clearly not inverses of each other.