

Step-1

Let P_1 be an even permutation matrix and P_2 be an odd permutation matrix. Then we have

$$\det(P_1) = 1$$

$$\det(P_2) = -1$$

Step-2

We know that $P_1 + P_2 = P_1(P_1^T + P_2^T)P_2$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned}\det(P_1 + P_2) &= \det(P_1(P_1^T + P_2^T)P_2) \\ &= \det(P_1)\det(P_1^T + P_2^T)\det(P_2) \\ &= -1 \times \det(P_1^T + P_2^T) \times 1 \\ &= -\det(P_1^T + P_2^T)\end{aligned}$$

Step-3

We further know the following two properties:

1. Addition of transpose is equal to the transpose of addition.
2. Determinant of a matrix is equal to the determinant of its transpose.

Thus, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\det(P_1 + P_2) &= -\det(P_1^T + P_2^T) \\ &= -\det(P_1 + P_2)^T \\ &= -\det(P_1 + P_2)\end{aligned}$$

There is only one number, which is equal to negative of itself. It is the zero.

Thus, $\boxed{\det(P_1 + P_2) = 0}$.