

## Practice Questions

Q1.

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**Example 3** Without expanding, show that

$$\Delta = \begin{vmatrix} \operatorname{cosec}^2\theta & \cot^2\theta & 1 \\ \cot^2\theta & \operatorname{cosec}^2\theta & -1 \\ 42 & 40 & 2 \end{vmatrix} = 0.$$

**Solution** Applying  $C_1 \rightarrow C_1 - C_2 - C_3$ , we have

$$\Delta = \begin{vmatrix} \operatorname{cosec}^2\theta - \cot^2\theta - 1 & \cot^2\theta & 1 \\ \cot^2\theta - \operatorname{cosec}^2\theta + 1 & \operatorname{cosec}^2\theta & -1 \\ 0 & 40 & 2 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} 0 & \cot^2\theta & 1 \\ 0 & \operatorname{cosec}^2\theta & -1 \\ 0 & 40 & 2 \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

Q2.

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**Example 5** If  $\Delta = \begin{vmatrix} 0 & b-a & c-a \\ a-b & 0 & c-b \\ a-c & b-c & 0 \end{vmatrix}$ , then show that  $\Delta$  is equal to zero.

**Solution** Interchanging rows and columns, we get  $\Delta = \begin{vmatrix} 0 & a-b & a-c \\ b-a & 0 & b-c \\ c-a & c-b & 0 \end{vmatrix}$

Taking '−1' common from  $R_1, R_2$  and  $R_3$ , we get

$$\Delta = (-1)^3 \begin{vmatrix} 0 & b-a & c-a \\ a-b & 0 & c-b \\ a-c & b-c & 0 \end{vmatrix} = -\Delta$$

$$\Rightarrow 2\Delta = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \Delta = 0$$

Q3.

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**Example 7** If  $x = -4$  is a root of  $\Delta = \begin{vmatrix} x & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & x & 1 \\ 3 & 2 & x \end{vmatrix} = 0$ , then find the other two roots.

**Solution** Applying  $R_1 \rightarrow (R_1 + R_2 + R_3)$ , we get

$$\begin{vmatrix} x+4 & x+4 & x+4 \\ 1 & x & 1 \\ 3 & 2 & x \end{vmatrix}.$$

Taking  $(x + 4)$  common from  $R_1$ , we get

$$\Delta = (x+4) \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & x & 1 \\ 3 & 2 & x \end{vmatrix}$$

Applying  $C_2 \rightarrow C_2 - C_1$ ,  $C_3 \rightarrow C_3 - C_1$ , we get

$$\Delta = (x+4) \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & x-1 & 0 \\ 3 & -1 & x-3 \end{vmatrix}.$$

Expanding along  $R_1$ ,

$$\Delta = (x + 4) [(x - 1)(x - 3) - 0]. \text{ Thus, } \Delta = 0 \text{ implies}$$

$$x = -4, 1, 3$$

Q4.

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**Example 8** In a triangle ABC, if

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 + \sin A & 1 + \sin B & 1 + \sin C \\ \sin A + \sin^2 A & \sin B + \sin^2 B & \sin C + \sin^2 C \end{vmatrix} = 0,$$

then prove that  $\Delta ABC$  is an isosceles triangle.

**Solution** Let  $\Delta = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 + \sin A & 1 + \sin B & 1 + \sin C \\ \sin A + \sin^2 A & \sin B + \sin^2 B & \sin C + \sin^2 C \end{vmatrix}$

$$= \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 + \sin A & 1 + \sin B & 1 + \sin C \\ -\cos^2 A & -\cos^2 B & -\cos^2 C \end{vmatrix} \quad R_3 \rightarrow R_3 - R_2$$

$$= \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 + \sin A & \sin B - \sin A & \sin C - \sin B \\ -\cos^2 A & \cos^2 A - \cos^2 B & \cos^2 B - \cos^2 C \end{vmatrix} \cdot (C_3 \rightarrow C_3 - C_2 \text{ and } C_2 \rightarrow C_2 - C_1)$$

Expanding along  $R_1$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta &= (\sin B - \sin A) (\sin^2 C - \sin^2 B) - (\sin C - \sin B) (\sin^2 B - \sin^2 A) \\ &= (\sin B - \sin A) (\sin C - \sin B) (\sin C - \sin A) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{either } \sin B - \sin A = 0 \text{ or } \sin C - \sin B \text{ or } \sin C - \sin A = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow A = B \text{ or } B = C \text{ or } C = A$$

i.e. triangle ABC is isosceles.

Q5. Objective Type

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**Example 10** Let  $\Delta = \begin{vmatrix} Ax & x^2 & 1 \\ By & y^2 & 1 \\ Cz & z^2 & 1 \end{vmatrix}$  and  $\Delta_1 = \begin{vmatrix} A & B & C \\ x & y & z \\ zy & zx & xy \end{vmatrix}$ , then

(A)  $\Delta_1 = -\Delta$

(B)  $\Delta \neq \Delta_1$

(C)  $\Delta - \Delta_1 = 0$

(D) None of these

**Solution** (C) is the correct answer since  $\Delta_1 = \begin{vmatrix} A & B & C \\ x & y & z \\ zy & zx & xy \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} A & x & yz \\ B & y & zx \\ C & z & xy \end{vmatrix}$

$$= \frac{1}{xyz} \begin{vmatrix} Ax & x^2 & xyz \\ By & y^2 & xyz \\ Cz & z^2 & xyz \end{vmatrix} = \frac{xyz}{xyz} \begin{vmatrix} Ax & x^2 & 1 \\ By & y^2 & 1 \\ Cz & z^2 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = \Delta$$

Q6.

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**Example 13** The determinant  $\Delta = \begin{vmatrix} \sqrt{23} + \sqrt{3} & \sqrt{5} & \sqrt{5} \\ \sqrt{15} + \sqrt{46} & 5 & \sqrt{10} \\ 3 + \sqrt{115} & \sqrt{15} & 5 \end{vmatrix}$  is equal to .....

**Solution** Answer is 0. Taking  $\sqrt{5}$  common from  $C_2$  and  $C_3$  and applying  $C_1 \rightarrow C_3 - \sqrt{3} C_2$ , we get the desired result.