

$\det A_n = (-1) \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & A_{n-2} \end{pmatrix}$ , by performing cofactor expansion down the first column of  $A_n$ .

Note that  $\det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & A_{n-2} \end{pmatrix} = \det A_{n-2}$

If  $n$  is odd, then the base case is  $A_1 = (0)$ , and  $\det A_1 = 0$ .

Thus  $\det A_3 = (-1) \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & A_1 \end{pmatrix} = (-1) \det A_1 = 0$ . Continuing in this manner, we see that  $\boxed{\det A_n = 0}$ .

If  $n$  is even, then the base case is  $A_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ , and  $\det A_2 = -1$ .

Thus  $\det A_4 = (-1) \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & A_2 \end{pmatrix} = 1$

and  $\det A_6 = (-1) \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & A_4 \end{pmatrix} = -1$ .

Continuing in this manner, we see that the determinants alternate sign, but always have absolute value 1. Thus  $\boxed{\det A_n = (-1)^{n/2}}$ .

Note: There are many solutions to this problem; if you want to know if your solution is correct, I'd be happy to discuss it with you.