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# THE CAUCHY DOUBLE ALTERNANT AND DIVIDED DIFFERENCES*

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*Dedicated to my friend Pier Vittorio Ceccherini on the occasion of his 65th birthday*

**Abstract.** As an extension of Cauchy's double alternant, a general determinant evaluation formula is established. Several interesting determinant identities are derived as consequences by means of divided differences.

**Key words.** Cauchy's double alternant, Divided differences, Symmetric functions.

**AMS subject classifications.** 15A15, 15A18.

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