

CONTENTS

Prologue	1
1. Functional determinants	9
1.1 Linear dependence in functional spaces	9
1.2 The Wronski determinant	10
1.3 The Gram determinant	21
1.4 The Casorati determinant	23
2. Basic decomposition theorems for functions of two variables	29
2.1 The Wronski determinant of a function of two variables	29
2.2 The Casorati determinant of a function of two variables	35
2.3 Minimal decompositions	38
2.4 Matrix factorizations	44
3. Decompositions of functions of several variables	49
3.1 Method of reduction	50
3.2 Minimal and diagonal decompositions	53
3.3 Differential criteria	58
3.4 Matrix factorizations	64
4. Finite-dimensional spaces of smooth functions	75
4.1 General Wronski matrices	76
4.2 Special systems of PDE's	78
4.3 Selection of derivatives for Wronskians	83
4.4 Generating and reducibility properties	88
5. Decompositions of smooth functions on manifolds	95
5.1 Differential conditions	96
5.2 Global decompositions	99

6. Approximate decompositions of smooth functions	103
6.1 Two types of approximating sums	104
6.2 Error representation	106
6.3 Error estimation	111
6.4 Bounds for functional determinants	114
6.5 Proof of approximation theorems	117
7. The best L^2-approximations of two-place functions	119
7.1 Existence theory for best approximations	121
7.2 Integral equations for best approximations	125
7.3 Spectral properties	127
7.4 Best approximations and Hilbert–Schmidt decompositions	130
8. Geometry of the d'Alembert equation	133
8.1 Basic background from geometry of PDE's	134
8.2 Solutions of the d'Alembert equation	142
Open problems	157
References	161
General notation	165
Symbol index	167
Subject index	169