

### Section 3.3: Cramer's Rule, Volume, and Linear Transformations

**Cramer's Rule** is a method for solving a square system  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  by use of determinants. While it is impractical for large systems, it provides a fast method for some small systems (say  $2 \times 2$  or  $3 \times 3$ ).

**Definition:** For  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$  and  $\mathbf{b}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , let  $A_i(\mathbf{b})$  be the matrix obtained from  $A$  by replacing the  $i^{\text{th}}$  column with the vector  $\mathbf{b}$ . That is

$$A_i(\mathbf{b}) = [\mathbf{a}_1 \cdots \mathbf{a}_{i-1} \ \mathbf{b} \ \mathbf{a}_{i+1} \cdots \mathbf{a}_n]$$

# Cramer's Rule

**Theorem:** Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  nonsingular matrix. Then for any vector  $\mathbf{b}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , the unique solution of the system  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$  is given by  $\mathbf{x}$  where

$$x_i = \frac{\det A_i(\mathbf{b})}{\det A}, \quad i = 1, \dots, n$$

## Example

Determine whether Cramer's rule can be used to solve the system. If so, use it to solve the system.

$$\begin{aligned} 2x_1 + x_2 &= 9 \\ -x_1 + 7x_2 &= -3 \end{aligned}$$

In matrix form

$$\begin{matrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ -1 & 7 \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} & = & \begin{bmatrix} 9 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix} \\ A & \vec{x} & & \vec{b} \end{matrix}$$

$$A_1(\vec{b}) = \begin{bmatrix} 9 & 1 \\ -3 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\det(A) = 14 - (-1) = 15$$

$$A_2(\vec{b}) = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 9 \\ -1 & -3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\det(A) \neq 0$$

A is nonsingular

$$\det(A_1(\vec{b})) = 63 - (-3) = 66$$

$$\det(A_2(\vec{b})) = -6 - (-9) = 3$$

$$\det(A) = 15$$

$$x_1 = \frac{\det(A_1(\vec{b}))}{\det(A)} = \frac{66}{15} = \frac{22}{5}$$

$$x_2 = \frac{\det(A_2(\vec{b}))}{\det(A)} = \frac{3}{15} = \frac{1}{5}$$

## Application

In various engineering applications, electrical or mechanical components are often chosen to try to control the long term behavior of a system (e.g. adding a damper to kill off oscillatory behavior). Using *Laplace Transforms*, differential equations are converted into algebraic equations containing a parameter  $s$ . These give rise to systems of the form

$$\begin{aligned} 3sX - 2Y &= 4 \\ -6X + sY &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

Determine the values of  $s$  for which the system is uniquely solvable. For such  $s$ , find the solution  $(X, Y)$  using Cramer's rule.

$$\begin{aligned} 3sX - 2Y &= 4 \\ -6X + sY &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

In matrix form

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3s & -2 \\ -6 & s \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$A \quad \vec{x} \quad \vec{b}$

$$\det(A) = 3s^2 - 12 = 3(s^2 - 4)$$

$$\det(A) \neq 0 \text{ for } s \neq \pm 2$$

The system has one solution provided  
 $s \neq 2$  or  $s \neq -2$ .

$$A_1(\vec{b}) = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -2 \\ 1 & s \end{bmatrix} \quad A_2(\vec{b}) = \begin{bmatrix} 3s & 4 \\ -6 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\det(A_1(\vec{b})) = 4s + 2 \quad \det(A_2(\vec{b})) = 3s + 24$$

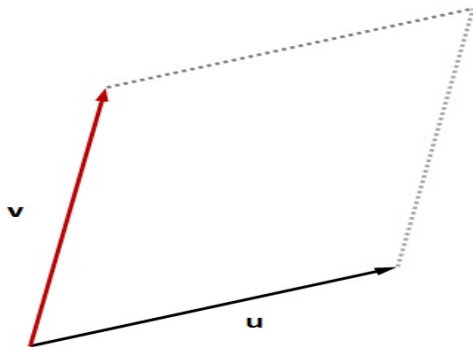
$$\det(A) = 3(s^2 - 4)$$

For  $s \neq \pm 2$

$$X = \frac{\det(A_1(\vec{b}))}{\det(A)} = \frac{4s + 2}{3(s^2 - 4)}$$

$$Y = \frac{\det(A_2(\vec{b}))}{\det(A)} = \frac{3(s + 8)}{3(s^2 - 4)} = \frac{s + 8}{s^2 - 4}$$

## Area of a Parallelogram

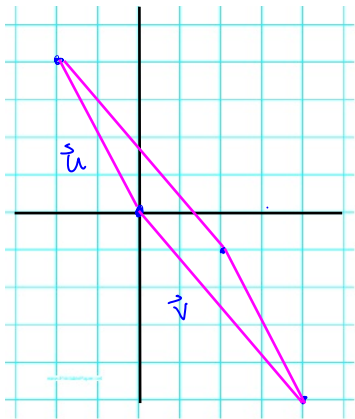


**Theorem:** If  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  are nonzero, nonparallel vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ , then the area of the parallelogram determined by these vectors is  $|\det(A)|$  where  $A = [\mathbf{u} \ \mathbf{v}]$ .



## Example

Find the area of the parallelogram with vertices  $(0, 0)$ ,  $(-2, 4)$ ,  $(4, -5)$ , and  $(2, -1)$ .



$$\vec{u} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

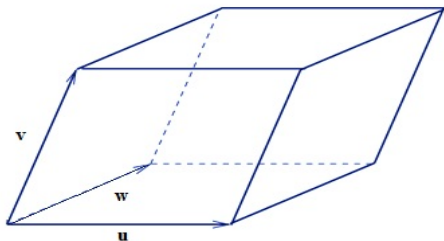
$$\vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A = [\vec{u} \ \vec{v}] = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 4 \\ 4 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\det(A) = 10 - 16 = -6$$

The area  $\text{Area} = |\det(A_0)| = 6$

# Volume of a Parallelepiped



**Theorem:** If  $\mathbf{u}$ ,  $\mathbf{v}$ , and  $\mathbf{w}$  are nonzero, non-collinear vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , then the volume of the parallelepiped determined by these vectors is  $|\det(A)|$  where  $A = [\mathbf{u} \ \mathbf{v} \ \mathbf{w}]$ .

## Example

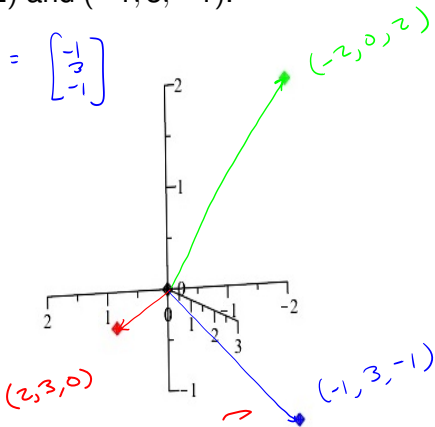
Find the volume of the parallelepiped with one vertex at the origin and adjacent vertices at  $(2, 3, 0)$ ,  $(-2, 0, 2)$  and  $(-1, 3, -1)$ .

$$\vec{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \vec{w} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 3 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

let

$$A = [\vec{u} \quad \vec{v} \quad \vec{w}]$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -2 & -1 \\ 3 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$



$$\begin{aligned}\det(A) &= a_{12} C_{12} + a_{22} C_{22} + a_{32} C_{32} \\ &= -2 \begin{vmatrix} 3 & 3 \\ 0 & -1 \end{vmatrix} + 2 \begin{vmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 3 & 3 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= 2(-3 - 0) - 2(6 + 3) \\ &= -6 - 18 = -24\end{aligned}$$

The Volume

$$V = |\det(A)| = 24$$

