

## 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.

$$2x_1 + x_2 = 9$$

$$-x_1 + 7x_2 = -3$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ -1 & 7 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 9 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}$$

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

$$\det(A) = 2 \cdot 7 - (-1) \cdot 1 = 15$$

$$\det(A) = 15 \neq 0$$

*A is nonsingular*

$$A_1(\vec{b}) = \begin{bmatrix} 9 & 1 \\ -3 & 7 \end{bmatrix}, A_2(\vec{b}) = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 9 \\ -1 & -3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\det(A_1(\vec{b})) = 9 \cdot 7 - (-3) \cdot 1 = 63 + 3 = 66$$

$$\det(A_2(\vec{b})) = 2 \cdot (-3) - (-1) \cdot 9 = -6 + 9 = 3$$

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

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

$$\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{22}{5} \\ \frac{1}{5} \end{bmatrix}$$

## Example

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

$$\begin{aligned}x_1 + 2x_2 + 3x_3 &= 3 \\x_2 + 4x_3 &= 3 \\5x_1 + 6x_2 &= 4\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 \\ 5 & 6 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

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

$$\det(A) = 1$$

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

$$A_1(\vec{b}) = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 4 \\ 4 & 6 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, A_2(\vec{b}) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 3 \\ 0 & 3 & 4 \\ 5 & 4 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, A_3(\vec{b}) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 5 & 6 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\det(A_1(\vec{b})) = 2, \quad \det(A_2(\vec{b})) = -1, \quad \det(A_3(\vec{b})) = 1$$

$$x_1 = \frac{\det(A_1(\vec{b}))}{\det(A)} = \frac{2}{1} = 2$$

$$x_2 = \frac{\det(A_2(\vec{b}))}{\det(A)} = \frac{-1}{1} = -1$$

$$x_3 = \frac{\det(A_3(\vec{b}))}{\det(A)} = \frac{1}{1} = 1$$

$$\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

## 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.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 3s & -2 \\ -6 & s \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\det(A) = 3s(s) - (-6)(-2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} 3sX - 2Y &= 4 & \det(A) &= 3s^2 - 12 = 3(s^2 - 4) \\ -6X + sY &= 1 & \det(A) &\neq 0 \text{ if } s \neq \pm 2. \end{aligned}$$

For  $s \neq \pm 2$ ,  $A_1(\vec{b}) = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -2 \\ 1 & s \end{bmatrix}$   $\det(A_1(\vec{b})) = 4s + 2$

$$A_2(\vec{b}) = \begin{bmatrix} 3s & 4 \\ -6 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \det(A_2(\vec{b})) = 3s + 24$$

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

$$Y = \frac{\det(A_2(\vec{b}))}{\det(A)} = \frac{3s + 24}{3(s^2 - 4)}$$

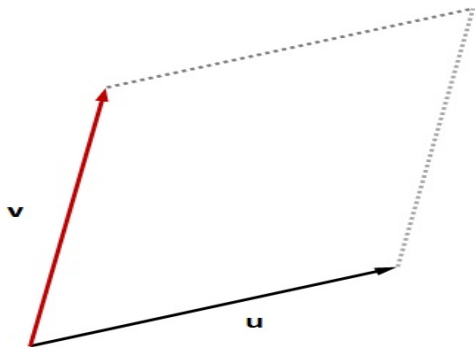


We can write this as

$$X = \frac{\frac{4}{3}s + \frac{2}{3}}{(s-2)(s+2)}$$

$$Y = \frac{s+8}{(s-2)(s+2)}$$

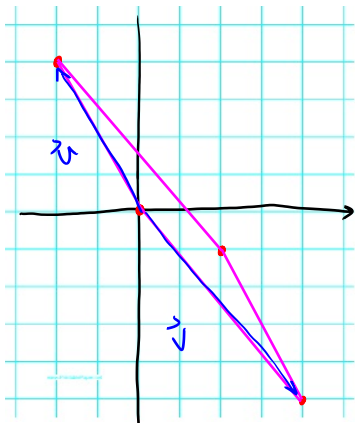
## Area of a Parallelogram



**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  $(2, -1)$ .



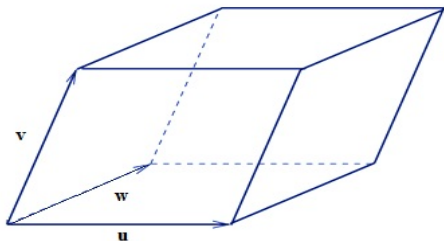
$$\vec{u} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} \quad \vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 4 \\ 4 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

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

$$\text{Area} = |\det(A)| = 6$$

## 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  $A = [\mathbf{u} \ \mathbf{v} \ \mathbf{w}]$ .

## Section 4.1: Vector Spaces and Subspaces

**Definition** A **vector space** is a nonempty set  $V$  of objects called *vectors* together with two operations called *vector addition* and *scalar multiplication* that satisfy the following ten axioms: For all  $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}$ , and  $\mathbf{w}$  in  $V$ , and for any scalars  $c$  and  $d$

1. The sum  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}$  of  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  is in  $V$ .
2.  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{u}$ .
3.  $(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) + \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w})$ .
4. There exists a **zero** vector  $\mathbf{0}$  in  $V$  such that  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{0} = \mathbf{u}$ .
5. For each vector  $\mathbf{u}$  there exists a vector  $-\mathbf{u}$  such that  $\mathbf{u} + (-\mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{0}$ .
6. For each scalar  $c$ ,  $c\mathbf{u}$  is in  $V$ .
7.  $c(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) = c\mathbf{u} + c\mathbf{v}$ .
8.  $(c + d)\mathbf{u} = c\mathbf{u} + d\mathbf{u}$ .
9.  $c(d\mathbf{u}) = d(c\mathbf{u}) = (cd)\mathbf{u}$ .
10.  $1\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}$

## Remarks

- ▶  $V$  is more accurately called a *real vector space* when we assume that the relevant scalars are the real numbers.
- ▶ Property 1. is that  $V$  is **closed** under (a.k.a. with respect to) **vector addition**.
- ▶ Property 6. is that  $V$  is **closed** under **scalar multiplication**.
- ▶ A vector space has the same basic *structure* as  $\mathbb{R}^n$
- ▶ These are **axioms**. We assume (not "prove") that they hold for vector space  $V$ . However, they can be used to **prove or disprove** that a given set (with operations) is actually a vector space.

## Examples of Vector Spaces

For an integer  $n \geq 0$ ,  $\mathbb{P}_n$  denotes the set of all polynomials with real coefficients of degree at most  $n$ . That is

$$\mathbb{P}_n = \{\mathbf{p}(t) = p_0 + p_1 t + \cdots + p_n t^n \mid p_0, p_1, \dots, p_n \in \mathbb{R}\},$$

where addition<sup>1</sup> and scalar multiplication are defined by

$$(\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q})(t) = \mathbf{p}(t) + \mathbf{q}(t) = (p_0 + q_0) + (p_1 + q_1)t + \cdots + (p_n + q_n)t^n,$$

$$(c\mathbf{p})(t) = c\mathbf{p}(t) = cp_0 + cp_1 t + \cdots + cp_n t^n.$$

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<sup>1</sup> $\mathbf{q}(t) = q_0 + q_1 t + \cdots + q_n t^n$

## Example

What is the zero vector  $\vec{0}$  in  $\mathbb{P}_n$ ?

Let  $\vec{0}(t) = a_0 + a_1 t + \dots + a_n t^n$ . We require for each  $\vec{p}$  in

$$\mathbb{P}_n, \quad (\vec{p} + \vec{0})(t) = \vec{p}(t).$$

$$\begin{aligned} (\vec{p} + \vec{0})(t) &= \vec{p}(t) + \vec{0}(t) = (p_0 + a_0) + (p_1 + a_1)t + \dots + (p_n + a_n)t^n \\ &= p_0 + p_1 t + \dots + p_n t^n \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow a_0 = 0, a_1 = 0, \dots, a_n = 0$$

$$\text{so } \vec{0}(t) = 0 + 0t + 0t^2 + \dots + 0t^n$$