

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

**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

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

**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

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

## 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.

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

Write this in matrix format

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

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

$$\det(A) = 3s(s) - (-2)(-6) = 3s^2 - 12 = 3(s^2 - 4)$$

A is nonsingular when  $\det(A) \neq 0$ . The system has a unique solution for all  $s \neq \pm 2$ .

For  $s \neq \pm 2$

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

$$\det(A_1(\vec{b})) = 4s + 2$$

$$\det(A_2(\vec{b})) = 3s + 24$$

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

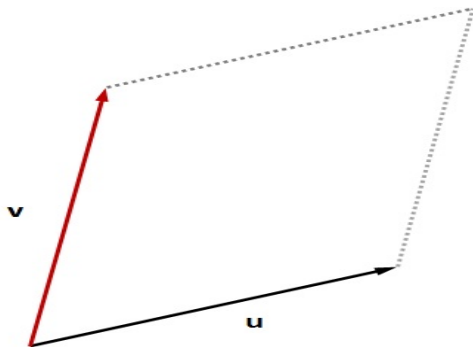
The solution.

$$X = \frac{\det(A_1(\vec{b}))}{\det(A)} = \frac{2(2s+1)}{3(s^2-4)}$$

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

$$X = \frac{2(2s+1)}{3(s^2-4)}, \quad Y = \frac{s+8}{s^2-4}$$

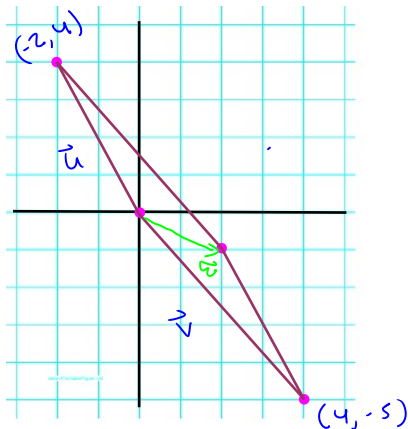
## Area of a Parallelogram



**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  $(2, -1)$ .



$$\text{let } \vec{u} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

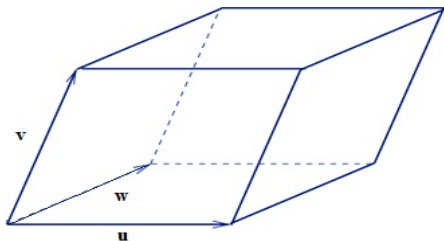
$$\begin{aligned} \text{set } A &= [\vec{u} \ \vec{v}] \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 4 \\ 4 & -5 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{The area} &= |\det(A)| \\ &= |(-2)(-5) - 4 \cdot 4| \\ &= |10 - 16| = 6 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Let } \vec{w} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\vec{w} - \vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2+2 \\ -1-4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

# 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

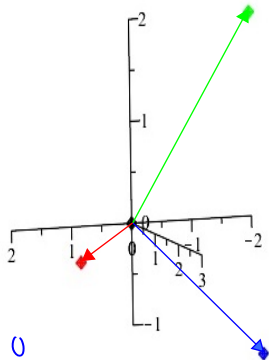
Find the volume of the parallelepiped with one vertex at the origin and adjacent vertices at  $(2, 3, 0)$ ,  $(-2, 0, 2)$  and  $(-1, 3, -1)$ .

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

and set

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \vec{u} & \vec{v} & \vec{w} \end{bmatrix}$$

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



$$\det(A) = a_{11} C_{11} + a_{21} C_{21} + a_{31} C_{31}$$

$$(-1)^2 M_{11} \quad \rightarrow \quad (-1)^3 M_{21} \quad \rightarrow \quad (-1)^4 M_{31}$$

Down Column 1

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

$$= 2(0 - 6) - 3(2 + 2)$$

$$= -12 - 12$$

$$= -24$$

The volume  $V = |\det(A)| = |-24| = 24$

