

Theorem:

Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix, and suppose the matrix B is obtained from A by performing a single elementary row operation. Then

- (i) If B is obtained by adding a multiple of a row of A to another row of A (row replacement), then

$$\det(B) = \det(A).$$

- (ii) If B is obtained from A by swapping any pair of rows (row swap), then

$$\det(B) = -\det(A).$$

- (iii) If B is obtained from A by scaling any row by the constant k (scaling), then

$$\det(B) = k\det(A).$$

Results on Determinants

Theorem

The $n \times n$ matrix A is invertible if and only if $\det(A) \neq 0$.

Theorem

For $n \times n$ matrix A , $\det(A^T) = \det(A)$.

Theorem

For $n \times n$ matrices A and B , $\det(AB) = \det(A) \det(B)$.

Remark: We showed last time that this last theorem implies $\det(A^{-1}) = (\det(A))^{-1}$ for any invertible matrix A .

Example

Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix, and suppose there exists invertible matrix P such that¹

$$B = P^{-1}AP.$$

Show that

$$\det(B) = \det(A).$$

$$\begin{aligned}\det(B) &= \det(P^{-1}AP) \\ &= \det(P^{-1}) \det(A) \det(P) \\ &= \det(A) \det(P^{-1}) \det(P) \\ &= \det(A) (\det(P^{-1}))^{-1} \det(P)\end{aligned}$$

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¹The process of multiplying by P^{-1} on the left and P on the right is called a *similarly transform*. The matrices A and B are said to be *similar*.

$$= \det(A) (1)$$

$$= \det(A)$$

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

Cramer's Rule is a method for solving some small linear systems of equations.

Notation:

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^{th} column with the vector \mathbf{b} . That is

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

Example Suppose $A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{bmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{bmatrix}$, then

$$A_3(\mathbf{b}) = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & b_1 \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & b_2 \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & b_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

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

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

Remark: The condition $\det(A) \neq 0$ is necessary for Cramer's rule to be a viable method. This allows for the solution to be given in terms of ratios of determinants.

Remark: If $\det(A) = 0$, the system may be consistent, but another method is required to make a determination.

Example

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

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

State in matrix format

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

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

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

$$\det(A) = 2(7) - (1)(-1) = 15 \quad \det(A) \neq 0$$

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

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

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

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

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

$$x_1 = \frac{22}{5}, \quad x_2 = \frac{1}{5}$$

Example

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

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

State in the form
 $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$.

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

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

first column

$$\begin{aligned} \det(A) &= a_{11}c_{11} + a_{21}c_{21} + a_{31}c_{31} \\ &= 1(-1)^{1+1} \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 4 \\ 6 & 0 \end{vmatrix} + 0 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 5 & 0 \end{vmatrix} + 5(-1)^{1+3} \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 4 \end{vmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

$$= (0 - 24) + 5(8 - 3) = -24 + 25 = 1$$

$$A_1(\vec{b}) = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 4 \\ 4 & 6 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \det(A_1(\vec{b})) = 4 \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 4 \end{vmatrix} - 6 \begin{vmatrix} 3 & 3 \\ 3 & 4 \end{vmatrix}$$
$$= 4(8 - 3) - 6(12 - 9) = 2$$

$$A_2(\vec{b}) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 3 \\ 0 & 3 & 4 \\ 5 & 4 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \det(A_2(\vec{b})) = 1 \begin{vmatrix} 3 & 4 \\ 4 & 0 \end{vmatrix} + 5 \begin{vmatrix} 3 & 3 \\ 3 & 4 \end{vmatrix}$$
$$= 1(-16) + 5(3) = -1$$

$$A_3(\vec{b}) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 5 & 6 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \quad \det(A_3(\vec{b})) = 1 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 6 & 4 \end{vmatrix} + 5 \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 \end{vmatrix}$$
$$= (4 - 18) + 5(6 - 3) = 1$$

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

$$x_2 = \frac{dA(A, \vec{b})}{dA(A)} = \frac{-1}{1}$$

$$x_3 = \frac{dA(A, \vec{b})}{dA(A)} = \frac{1}{1}$$

$$(x_1, x_2, x_3) = (2, -1, 1)$$

Application: Laplace Transforms

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.

$$\begin{aligned} 3sX - 2Y &= 4 \\ -6X + sY &= 1 \end{aligned} \quad \text{write as } A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$$

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

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

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

$$\text{Note, } \det(A) = 0 \Rightarrow 3(s^2 - 4) = 0$$

$$3(s-2)(s+2) = 0 \Rightarrow s = 2 \text{ or } s = -2.$$

The system is uniquely solvable for all
 $s \neq \pm 2$.

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

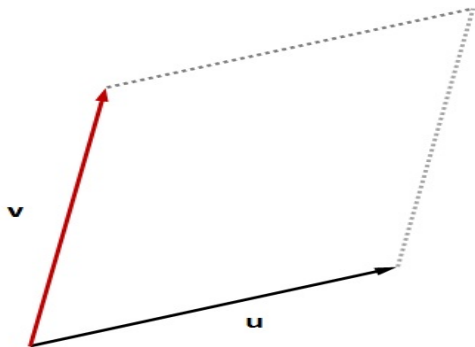
$$A_1(\vec{b}) = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -2 \\ 1 & s \end{bmatrix} \quad \det(A_1(\vec{b})) = 4s + 2$$

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

For $s \neq \pm 2$,

$$X = \frac{4s+2}{3(s^2-4)} \quad \text{and} \quad Y = \frac{3s+24}{3(s^2-4)}$$

Area & Volume [▶ \(Video\)](#)

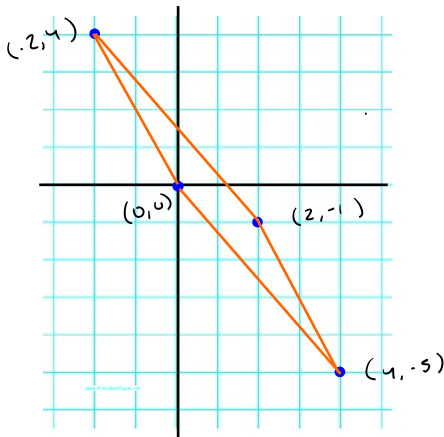


Theorem:

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 $(2, -1)$.



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

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

$$\text{If } A = [\vec{u} \ \vec{v}],$$

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

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

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

The area is 6.