



# Math 1050 ~ College Algebra

## 26 Systems of Linear Equations: Determinants

### Learning Objectives

$$\begin{aligned} -3x + 4y &= 5 \\ 2x - y &= -10 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -3 & 4 \\ 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -10 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^m k = \frac{m(m+1)}{2}$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^n z^k = \frac{1 - z^{n+1}}{1 - z}$$

- Find the determinant of a 2×2 or 3×3 matrix.
- Solve a system of linear equations using Cramer's Rule.

## Determinant of a Matrix

Every square matrix has a number associated with it, called the determinant of  $A$ . It may be written  $\det(A)$  or  $|A|$ .

For a  $2 \times 2$  matrix,  $\det(A)$  is given by this formula.

$$\text{Det} \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix} = ad - bc.$$

**NOTE**  $\det(A)$  is a scalar, not a matrix.

Ex 1: Find the determinant of each of these matrices.

a)  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 5 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\begin{vmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 5 & 3 \end{vmatrix} = 2(3) - 5(1) = 1$$

b)  $\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 5 \\ 2 & 8 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\begin{vmatrix} 3 & 5 \\ 2 & 8 \end{vmatrix} = 3(8) - 2(5) = 14$$

c)  $\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 \\ -6 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\begin{vmatrix} 3 & -1 \\ -6 & 2 \end{vmatrix} = 6 - (6) = 0$$

this matrix has no inverse

Cramer's Rule

For a set of two equations in two unknowns, Cramer's Rule says that

$$\begin{cases} ax + by = c \\ dx + ey = f \end{cases} \text{ has solutions } x = \frac{ce - bf}{ae - bd}, \quad y = \frac{af - cd}{ae - bd}$$

Notice:

$$ae - bd = \begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ d & e \end{vmatrix}$$

to have solution,  $ae - bd \neq 0$ .

Ex 2: Use the rule above to determine the solution.

$$2x + y = 4$$

$$5x + 3y = -1$$

$$x = \frac{\begin{vmatrix} 4 & 1 \\ -1 & 3 \end{vmatrix}}{\begin{vmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 5 & 3 \end{vmatrix}}$$

$$y = \frac{\begin{vmatrix} 2 & 4 \\ 5 & -1 \end{vmatrix}}{\begin{vmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 5 & 3 \end{vmatrix}}$$

$$x = \frac{12 - (-1)}{6 - 5}$$

$$y = \frac{-2 - 20}{6 - 5}$$

$$x = 13$$

$$y = -22$$

pt of intersectn (solution) is  $(13, -22)$

determinant of coefficient matrix for the system of eqns.

Determinant of a  $3 \times 3$  matrix is more complex.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \det(A) = |A| = a \begin{vmatrix} e & f \\ h & i \end{vmatrix} - b \begin{vmatrix} d & f \\ g & i \end{vmatrix} + c \begin{vmatrix} d & e \\ g & h \end{vmatrix}$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{bmatrix}$$

Subscripts on a tell the location of that element in the matrix, with row first and column second

Given the square  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$  where  $n > 1$ , and  $a_{ij}$  represents the entry in the  $i^{\text{th}}$  row and  $j^{\text{th}}$  column:

- the minor,  $M_{ij}$  of the entry  $a_{ij}$  is the determinant of the  $(n-1) \times (n-1)$  matrix left after deleting row  $i$  and column  $j$  from the matrix  $A$ .
- the cofactor,  $C_{ij}$  of entry  $a_{ij}$  is  $C_{ij} = (-1)^{i+j} M_{ij}$ .

Ex 3: Find all  $M_{ij}$  and  $C_{ij}$  for this matrix.  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 6 & -2 & -3 \end{bmatrix}$

$$M_{11} = \begin{vmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ -2 & -3 \end{vmatrix} = 0 - (-2) = -2$$

$$M_{21} = \begin{vmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ -2 & -3 \end{vmatrix} = 3 - 0 = 3$$

$$M_{12} = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 6 & -3 \end{vmatrix} = -3 - (-6) = 3$$

$$M_{22} = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 6 & -3 \end{vmatrix} = -3 - 0 = -3$$

$$M_{13} = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 6 & -2 \end{vmatrix} = -2 - 0 = -2$$

$$M_{23} = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 6 & -2 \end{vmatrix} = -2 - (-6) = 4$$

$$M_{31} = \begin{vmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{vmatrix} = 1$$

$$M_{32} = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 \end{vmatrix} = -1$$

$$M_{33} = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = 1$$

$$C_{11} = (-1)^2 (-2) = -2, \quad C_{12} = (-1)^3 (3) = -3, \quad C_{13} = (-1)^4 (-2) = -2$$

$$C_{21} = (-1)^3 (3) = -3, \quad C_{22} = (-1)^4 (-3) = -3, \quad C_{23} = (-1)^5 (4) = -4$$

$$C_{31} = (-1)^4 (1) = 1, \quad C_{32} = (-1)^5 (-1) = 1, \quad C_{33} = (-1)^6 (1) = 1$$

The determinant of an  $n \times n$  matrix, where  $n > 1$ , is the sum of the entries in any row or column multiplied by each entry's respective cofactor. ≡

Ex 4: Find the determinant of  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 6 & -2 & -3 \end{bmatrix}$ .

way 1: (row 1) <sup>choose</sup>

$$|A| = 1 \begin{vmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ -2 & -3 \end{vmatrix} - (-1) \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 6 & -3 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$+ 0 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 6 & -2 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= 1(0-2) + 1(-3-(-6))$$

$$= 1(-2) + 3 = \textcircled{1}$$

way 2: (column 2) <sup>choose</sup>

$$|A| = (-1) \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 6 & -3 \end{vmatrix} + (0) \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 6 & -3 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$+ (-1) \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= 1(-3-(-6)) + 0(-3-0) + 2(-1-0)$$

$$= 3 + 0 + -2 = \textcircled{1}$$

To use Cramer's Rule to solve a set of 3 equations, let  $D = \det A$ .  $D_x$  is found by replacing the first column of  $A$  by the constants.  $D_y$  is found by replacing the second column of  $A$  by the constants, and  $D_z$  is found by replacing the third column of  $A$  by the constants.

$$x = \frac{D_x}{D}, \quad y = \frac{D_y}{D}, \quad z = \frac{D_z}{D}$$

Ex 5: Use Cramer's Rule to solve.

$$\begin{aligned} x - y &= 1 \\ x - z &= -2 \\ 6x - 2y - 3z &= -4 \end{aligned}$$

const. matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ -4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 6 & -2 & -3 \end{bmatrix}$$

*note: this is same matrix as last example.*

$$x = \frac{\begin{vmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ -2 & 0 & -1 \\ -4 & -2 & -3 \end{vmatrix}}{\begin{vmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 6 & -2 & -3 \end{vmatrix}} = \frac{1 \begin{vmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ -2 & -3 \end{vmatrix} - (-1) \begin{vmatrix} -2 & -1 \\ -4 & -3 \end{vmatrix} + 0}{1} = \frac{1(-2) + 1(2)}{1} = 0$$

$$y = \frac{\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & -2 & -1 \\ 6 & -4 & -3 \end{vmatrix}}{1} = \frac{+0 - (-1) \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 6 & -4 \end{vmatrix} + (-3) \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -2 \end{vmatrix}}{1} = 1(-4-6) - 3(-2-1) = -10 + 9 = -1$$

$$z = \frac{\begin{vmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & -2 \\ 6 & -2 & -4 \end{vmatrix}}{1} = \frac{-1 \begin{vmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ -2 & -4 \end{vmatrix} + 0 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 6 & -4 \end{vmatrix} - (-2) \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 6 & -2 \end{vmatrix}}{1} = -1(4+2) + 0 + 2(-2+6) = -6 + 8 = 2$$

⇒ solution (pt of intersection) is  $(0, -1, 2)$