

## Section 8.5 → Determinants & Cramer's Rule

### Determinants →

**Def.-->** A Determinant is a  $\mathbb{R}$  **number** associated with a square matrix.

- While we find the value of the **det.** of a square matrix, the **symbol** is different.
- **Matrices** are in brackets [a] && **determinants** are inside || lines....

*i.e.*

$A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$  **Operations** w/matrices yield another matrix.

$\det(A) = \begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix}$  To **evaluate** the det. Of a matrix yields a  $\mathbb{R}$  number.

To *evaluate* a **2X2** matrix we use the following procedure/RULE:

$$\det(A) = \begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix} \rightarrow (ad - bc) \text{ [diff. of the cross product of the entries starting with } a_{ij}]$$

$$= (ad - bc)$$

**Ex 1) Evaluate** the determinant of matrix A.  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 3 \\ -5 & -8 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\det(A) = \begin{vmatrix} 4 & 3 \\ -5 & -8 \end{vmatrix} \rightarrow 4(-8) - (-5)(3)$$

$$-32 + 15$$

$$\det(A) = -17$$

A **3X3** matrix is *evaluated* by → 1> **Diagonal Method**

2> **A Calculator**

3> Expansion by minors [p.939—not doing this method]

**Ex 2) Evaluate:**  $\begin{vmatrix} 6 & 4 & 0 \\ -3 & -5 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 \end{vmatrix}$  we will use the **diagonal method** & then the calculator to check.

**Process** → 1 → “take out” [write] first two columns and place outside of determinant. [blue below]

2 → Mult. entries in diagonal and Add the products together [see below]

3 → Subtract sum of products → **Bottom value** – **Top value**

$$\begin{vmatrix} 6 & 4 & 0 \\ -3 & -5 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 \end{vmatrix} \begin{matrix} \text{Top value} \\ \text{Bottom value} \end{matrix}$$

$$\begin{matrix} \underline{0} + \underline{36} + \underline{0} = \underline{36} \\ \underline{0} + \underline{12} + \underline{0} = \underline{12} \end{matrix}$$

$$12 - 36 = -24$$

**Cramer's Rule** → A rule used to solve systems of linear equations using determinants.

- You can use it to solve any type of system. *i.e.* 2X2 or 3X3, etc...
- Since we use **determinants** the “matrix” setup of the equations must be a square matrix.
- There is a Major determinant: set up with the Coeff. Of the variables.
- There are Minor determinants: this depends of the number of vars/eq. in system.

**RULES**→

- 1) Set up & evaluate the **Major det.  $D$**  first. If it equals **0**, there is **no solution**.
- 2) If Major  $\neq 0$ , then set up & evaluate all the **minor det.** *i.e.*  $D_x, D_y, D_z$ , etc...
- 3) Set up for minors-→

- 1<sup>st</sup> col [x-values], 2<sup>nd</sup> col [y-values], etc...
- $D_x \rightarrow$  x-col gets “constants”—the rest of the col get coeff. Of var.
- $D_y \rightarrow$  y-col gets “constants” “
- $D_z \rightarrow$  z-col gets “constants” “

- 4) To find the actual **var** values divide the Minor(s) det. By the Major det.

$$X = \frac{D_x}{D} \quad y = \frac{D_y}{D} \quad z = \frac{D_z}{D} \quad \rightarrow \text{this quotient yields the solution to the system:}$$

(x, y) or (x, y, z), etc...

**Ex 1)** Solve the system Using Cramer's Rule → 
$$\begin{cases} 4x - 7y = -3 \\ 2x - 3y = 1 \end{cases}$$

Coeff →  $D = \begin{vmatrix} 4 & -7 \\ 2 & -3 \end{vmatrix} \rightarrow -12 + 14$

**$D = 2$**

**Sol → (8, 5)**

$$D_x = \begin{vmatrix} -3 & -7 \\ 1 & -3 \end{vmatrix}$$

**$D_x = 16$**

$$X = \frac{16}{2}$$


$$D_y = \begin{vmatrix} 4 & -3 \\ 2 & 1 \end{vmatrix}$$

**$D_y = 10$**

$$y = \frac{10}{2}$$

**Ex 2)** Use Cramer's Rule to solve:

$$\begin{cases} 3x - 2y + z = 16 \\ 2x + 3y - z = -9 \\ x + 4y + 3z = 2 \end{cases}$$

Area of a  with vertices  $\rightarrow (x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \& (x_3, y_3)$  use  $\oplus$  to always yield +Area.

Set up the **determinant** as follows  $\rightarrow A = \pm \frac{1}{2} \begin{vmatrix} x_1 & y_1 & 1 \\ x_2 & y_2 & 1 \\ x_3 & y_3 & 1 \end{vmatrix}$

Example of Using determinants to find the area of a triangle given the 3-vertices.

Use determinants to find the **Area of a Triangle** with vertices (9, 8), (-5, -2), & (1, -6).

$$A = \pm \frac{1}{2} \begin{vmatrix} 9 & 8 & 1 \\ -5 & -2 & 1 \\ 1 & -6 & 1 \end{vmatrix}$$
$$= \pm \frac{1}{2} (116)$$

[[evaluate by *diagonal method* OR a *calculator*  $\rightarrow \det(A) = 116$ ]]

\*\*Show work for *diagonal method* below



**A = 58 square units**