



# Math 1050 ~ College Algebra

## 26 Systems of Linear Equations: Determinants

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

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

### Learning Objectives

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

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

- Find the determinant of a  $2 \times 2$  or  $3 \times 3$  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.

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

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

a)  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 5 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$       b)  $\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 5 \\ 2 & 8 \end{bmatrix}$       c)  $\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 \\ -6 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$

### Cramer's Rule

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

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

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

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

Determinant of a 3×3 matrix is more complex.

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

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

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

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

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.

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