

# Determinants and Cramer's rule

-Every **square matrix** can be associated with a real number called its **determinant**.

-Historically, the use of determinants arose from special number patterns that occur when systems of linear equations are solved.

## Determinant of a 2 x 2 matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & b_1 \\ a_2 & b_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

*a<sub>2</sub>b<sub>1</sub>* (red arrow from a<sub>1</sub> to b<sub>2</sub>)  
*a<sub>1</sub>b<sub>2</sub>* (blue arrow from a<sub>2</sub> to b<sub>1</sub>)

The determinant is defined as:

$$\det(A) = |A| = a_1b_2 - a_2b_1$$

*bottom - top* (cyan highlight)

Find the determinant:

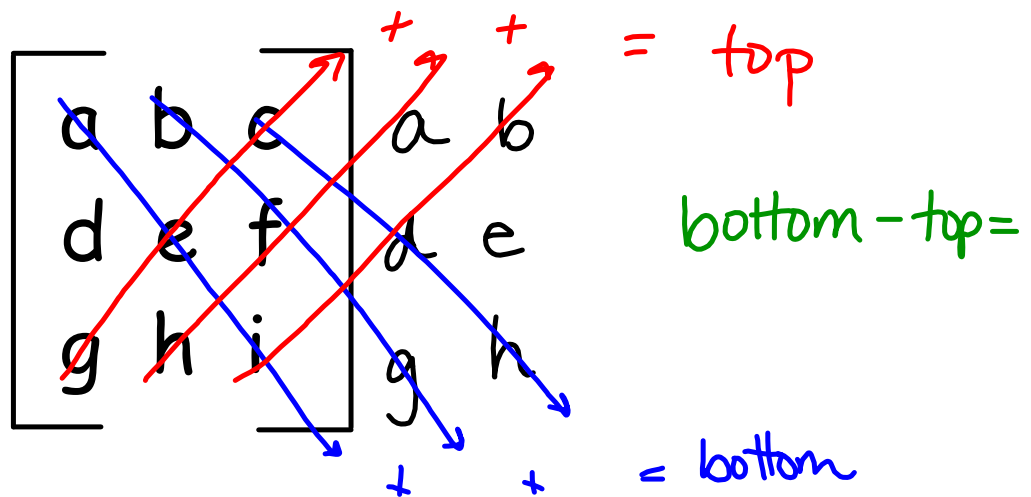
$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -3 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

The matrix is annotated with a red arrow pointing from the top-left element (2) to the bottom-right element (2), and a blue arrow pointing from the top-right element (-3) to the bottom-left element (1). A red "-3" is written above the top-right element, and a blue "4" is written below the bottom-right element.

$$4 - (-3) = 7$$

# Determinant of a 3x3

\*Not the way the book teaches it!



Find the determinant of:

$$\begin{array}{ccc|cc}
 0 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\
 3 & -1 & 2 & 3 & -1 \\
 4 & 0 & 1 & 4 & 0
 \end{array}$$

$-4 \quad 0 \quad 6 = 2$

$0 \quad 16 \quad 0 = 16$

$16 - 2 = 14$

Let's look at:

$$a_1x + b_1y = c_1$$

$$a_2x + b_2y = c_2$$

solve for x

$$\begin{aligned} 3x + 2y &= 7 \\ -5x + 4y &= -9 \end{aligned}$$

## Cramer's Rule

$$x = \frac{\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline c_1 & b_1 \\ \hline c_2 & b_2 \\ \hline \end{array}}{\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline a_1 & b_1 \\ \hline a_2 & b_2 \\ \hline \end{array}}$$

*answers* (pointing to  $c_1, c_2$ )  
*coeff.* (under the denominator)

$$y = \frac{\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline a_1 & c_1 \\ \hline a_2 & c_2 \\ \hline \end{array}}{\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline a_1 & b_1 \\ \hline a_2 & b_2 \\ \hline \end{array}}$$

*answer* (pointing to  $c_1, c_2$ )  
*coeff.* (under the denominator)



Use Cramer's Rule to solve:

$$4x - 2y = 10$$

$$3x - 5y = 11$$

$$x = \frac{\begin{vmatrix} 10 & -2 \\ 11 & -5 \end{vmatrix}}{\begin{vmatrix} 4 & -2 \\ 3 & -5 \end{vmatrix}} = \frac{-28}{-14} = 2 \quad y = \frac{\begin{vmatrix} 4 & 10 \\ 3 & 11 \end{vmatrix}}{-14} = \frac{-14}{-14} = 1$$

$$-2x + 5y = 9$$

$$7x - 2y = 17$$

$$X = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$Y = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

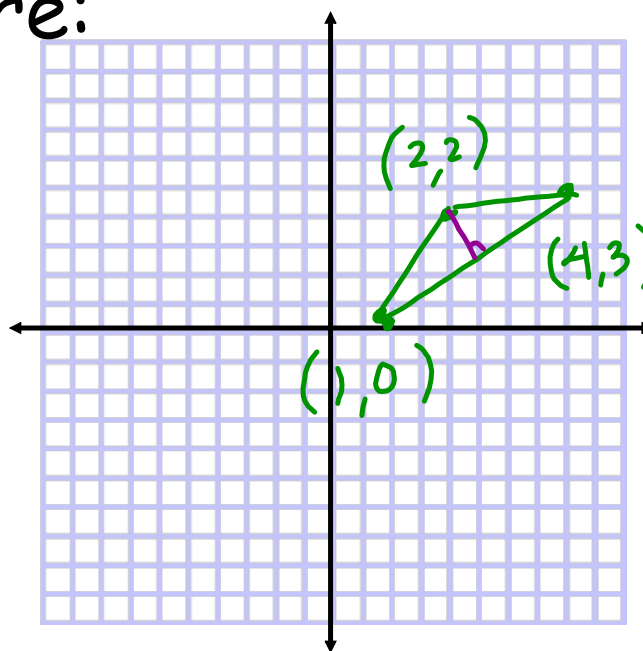
$$-x + y - z = -14$$

$$2x - y + z = 21$$

$$3x - 2y + z = 19$$

Find the area of a triangle  
whose vertices are:  
 $(1,0)$ ,  $(2,2)$ ,  $(4,3)$


$$\frac{1}{2}bh$$



## Area of a Triangle:

The area of a triangle with vertices  $(x_1, y_1)$ ,  $(x_2, y_2)$ , and  $(x_3, y_3)$  is:

$$\text{Area} = \pm \frac{1}{2} \begin{vmatrix} x_1 & y_1 & 1 \\ x_2 & y_2 & 1 \\ x_3 & y_3 & 1 \end{vmatrix}$$



Find the area of a triangle  
 whose vertices are:  
 (1,0), (2,2), (4,3)

$$= \frac{+}{-} \frac{1}{2}$$

1	0	1	8	3	0 = 11
2	2	1	1	0	2
4	3	1	4	3	2
			2	0	6 = 8

-3

$$A = -\frac{1}{2}(-3)$$

$$A = \frac{3}{2}$$