

**Theorem: Cramer's Rule**

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If a system of  $n$  linear equations in  $n$  variables has a coefficient matrix  $A$  with a nonzero determinant  $|A|$ , then the solution of the system is

$$x_1 = \frac{\det(A_1)}{\det(A)}, x_2 = \frac{\det(A_2)}{\det(A)}, \dots, x_n = \frac{\det(A_n)}{\det(A)}$$

where the  $i^{th}$  column of  $A_i$  is the column of constants in the system of equations.

**Proof**

Let the system be represented by  $AX = B$ . The determinant of  $A$  is nonzero, so you can write

$$X = A^{-1}B = \frac{1}{|A|} \text{adj}(A)B = [x_1 \ x_2 \ \dots \ x_n]^T$$

If the entries of  $B$  are  $b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n$ , then  $x_1 = \frac{1}{|A|}(b_1 C_{11} + b_2 C_{21} + \dots + b_n C_{n1})$ , but the sum (in parentheses) is precisely the cofactor expansion of  $A_1$ , which means that  $x_i = |A_i|/|A|$ , and the proof is complete.