

LECTURE-26

4.4 APPLICATIONS OF DETERMINANTS

This section follows four major applications: inverse of A, solving $Ax = 0$ using Cramer's Rule, Area or Volume and pivots.

■ AN INVERSE FORMULA

Let A be invertible $n \times n$ matrix. Then

$$A^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det A} \text{adj} A$$

EXAMPLE 1. Compute of A^{-1} of 2×2 matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$$

Solution: Since $\det A = 2$. Therefore inverse is exist. We know that, $\text{adj} A =$ transpose of the cofactor matrix of the matrix A.

$$\therefore \text{adj} A = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & -3 \\ -4 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Hence

$$A^{-1} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 7 & -3 \\ -4 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

■ CARMER'S RULE

Let A be an invertible $n \times n$ matrix. For any b in R^n , the unique solution x of $Ax = b$ has entries given by

$$x_i = \frac{\det A_i}{\det A}, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots$$

EXAMPLE 2. (Text Q. 14) Use Cramer's rule to solve the system

(a) $2x_1 + 5x_2 = 1$

$$x_1 + 4x_2 = 2$$

(b) $2x_1 + x_2 = 1$

$$x_1 + 2x_2 + x_3 = 0$$

$$x_2 + 2x_3 = 0$$

Solution (a): Given the system as $Ax = b$ where

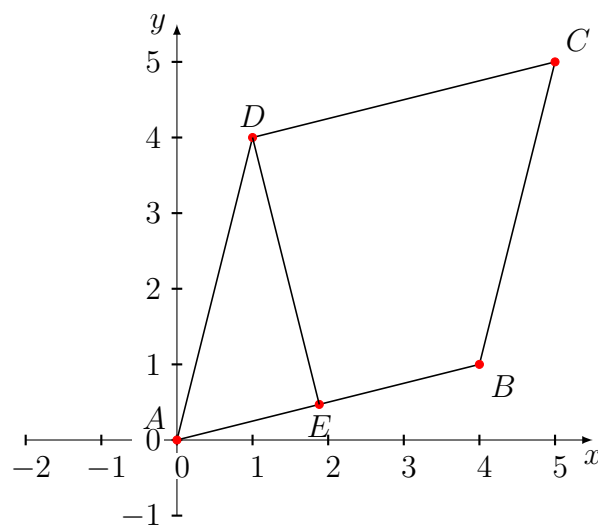
$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 5 \\ 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}, A_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 5 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}, A_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Since $\det A = 3$, the system has a unique solution. By Cramer's rule,

$$x_1 = \frac{\det A_1}{\det A} = \frac{-6}{3} = -2 \quad (1)$$

$$x_2 = \frac{\det A_2}{\det A} = \frac{3}{3} = 1 \quad (2)$$

■ AREA AND VOLUME



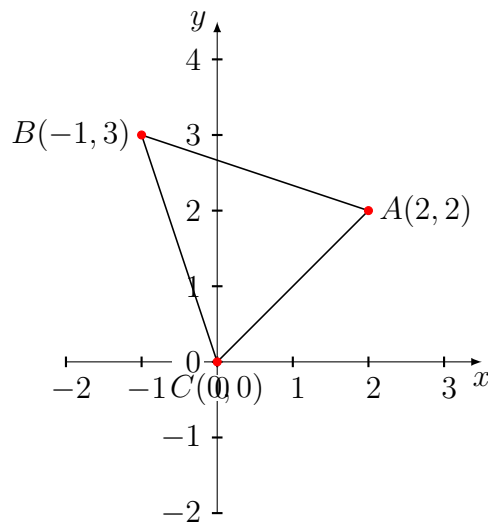
From the figure $OA = l(\text{length})$ and $DE = h(\text{height})$ where $h = |E - D|$

The area (Volume) of the parallelogram is $l \times h = |\det A|$ (determine by the columns of A)

The area of the triangle determine by the columns of A is $\frac{1}{2}\text{parallelogram} = \frac{1}{2}\det A$

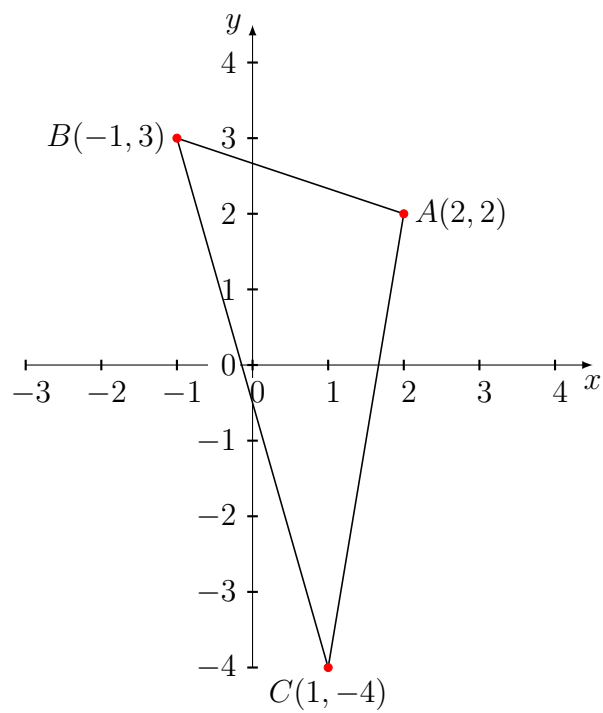
EXAMPLE 3(a)(TEXT Q. 2) Draw the triangle with vertices $A = (2, 2)$, $B = (-1, 3)$ and $C = (0, 0)$. By regarding it as half of a parallelogram, explain why its area equal

$$\text{area}(ABC) = \frac{1}{2} \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ -1 & 3 \end{vmatrix} = 4$$



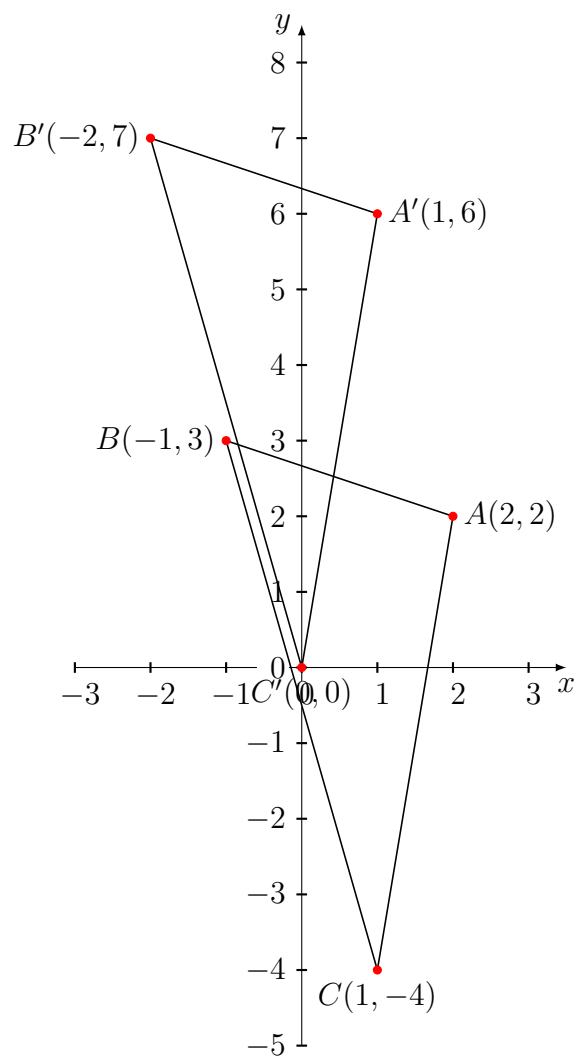
EXAMPLE 3(b) Move the third vertex to $C = (1, -4)$ and justify the formula

$$\text{area}(ABC) = \frac{1}{2} \det \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & y_1 & 1 \\ x_2 & y_2 & 1 \\ x_3 & y_3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \det \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 & 1 \\ -1 & 3 & 1 \\ 1 & -4 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{19}{2}$$



EXAMPLE 3(c) Sketch $A' = (1, 6)$, $B' = (-2, 7)$, and $C' = (0, 0)$ and their relation to A , B , C .

$$\text{area}(A'B'C') = \frac{1}{2} \det \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 6 & 1 \\ -2 & 7 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \det \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 6 \\ -2 & 7 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{19}{2}$$

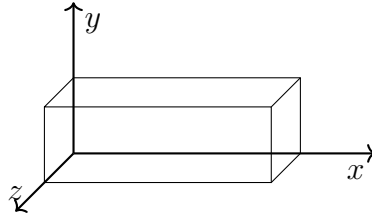


The formula is justified because $A' = (1, 6)$, $B' = (-2, 7)$, and $C' = (0, 0)$ are translations of the vertices $A = (2, 2)$, $B = (-1, 3)$ and $C = (1, -4)$.

EXAMPLE 4 (Text Q.29) A box has edges from $(0, 0, 0)$ to $(3, 1, 1)$ and $(1, 1, 3)$.

Find its volume and also find the area of each parallelogram face?

Solution:(First Part)



$$\overrightarrow{OA} = \vec{u} = (3, 1, 1)$$

$$\overrightarrow{OB} = \vec{v} = (1, 3, 1)$$

$$\overrightarrow{OC} = \vec{w} = (1, 1, 3)$$

$$\text{Volume of the box is } V = (\vec{u} \times \vec{v} \cdot \vec{u}) = \begin{vmatrix} 3 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 3 \end{vmatrix} = 20$$

(Second Part) Area of the face

$$OAEB = \|(\overrightarrow{OA} \times \overrightarrow{OB})\| = \|(\vec{u} \times \vec{v})\|$$

Now,

$$(\vec{u} \times \vec{v}) = \begin{bmatrix} i & j & k \\ 3 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = -2i - 2j + 8k$$

Hence,

$$\|(\vec{u} \times \vec{v})\| = \sqrt{(-2)^2 + (-2)^2 + 8^2} = \sqrt{72} = 6\sqrt{2}$$

Similarly,

$$OBGC = \|(\overrightarrow{OB} \times \overrightarrow{OC})\| = \|(\vec{v} \times \vec{w})\|$$

Now,

$$(\vec{v} \times \vec{w}) = \begin{bmatrix} i & j & k \\ 1 & 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} = 8i - 2j - 2k$$

Hence,

$$\|(\vec{v} \times \vec{w})\| = \sqrt{8^2 + (-2)^2 + (-2)^2} = \sqrt{72} = 6\sqrt{2}$$

$$OADC = \|(\vec{OA} \times \vec{OC})\| = \|(\vec{v} \times \vec{w})\|$$

Now,

$$(\vec{u} \times \vec{w}) = \begin{bmatrix} i & j & k \\ 3 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} = 2i - 8j + 2k$$

Hence,

$$\|(\vec{u} \times \vec{w})\| = \sqrt{2^2 + (-8)^2 + (2)^2} = \sqrt{72} = 6\sqrt{2}$$

Q.27 The Parallelogram with sides $(2, 1)$ and $(2, 3)$ has the same area as the parallelogram with sides $(2, 2)$ and $(1, 3)$. Find those areas from 2 by 2 determinants and say why they must be equal.