

Cramer's Rule uses determinants to solve systems and was named after the wacky guy on Seinfeld. (OK, I made that last part up.)

Let's just do one and I'll show you how it works:

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

First, we'll get the determinant of the coefficient matrix -- we'll call it **D**:

$$D = \begin{vmatrix} 3 & -1 \\ -5 & 4 \end{vmatrix} = (3)(4) - (-5)(-1) = 7$$

Now, we're going to find two more determinants.

The first one we'll call **D_x** -- here's how it goes:

Take **D**...

$$\begin{vmatrix} 3 & -1 \\ -5 & 4 \end{vmatrix} \quad \text{and delete the column for the } x \text{ guys...} \quad \begin{matrix} x \text{ guys} \\ \downarrow \\ \begin{vmatrix} -1 \\ 4 \end{vmatrix} \\ y \text{ guys} \\ \downarrow \end{matrix}$$

Replace that column with the "**= guys**" (the **7** and the **-2**) and you get

$$D_x = \begin{vmatrix} 7 & -1 \\ -2 & 4 \end{vmatrix} = (7)(4) - (-2)(-1) = 26$$

To get the **x** part of our **(x, y)** solution, we take

$$x = \frac{D_x}{D} = \frac{26}{7}$$

Now, to get the **y** part...

Take **D** again...

$$\begin{vmatrix} 3 & -1 \\ -5 & 4 \end{vmatrix} \quad \text{and delete the} \\ \text{column for} \\ \text{the } y \text{ guys...} \quad \begin{matrix} x \text{ guys} \\ \downarrow \\ 3 \\ -5 \end{matrix} \quad \begin{matrix} y \text{ guys} \\ \downarrow \\ | \end{matrix}$$

Replace that column with the "**=** guys":

$$D_y = \begin{vmatrix} 3 & 7 \\ -5 & -2 \end{vmatrix} = (3)(-2) - (-5)(7) = 29$$

So, our **y** part is

$$y = \frac{D_y}{D} = \frac{29}{7}$$

and our final answer is $\left(\frac{26}{7}, \frac{29}{7}\right)$. That's it!