



NOTE ON THE HISTORY OF (SQUARE) MATRIX AND DETERMINANT

*1,3,9Babarinsa Olayiwola, 6Jerome Adepoju, 3Azfi Zaidi Mohammad Sofi, 3Asrul Mohd Hery, 1Sunday Imoni, 1Adamu Wakili, 4Benson Onojhjobi, 1Sheidu Momoh, 1Rotimi Kehinde, 1Daniel Lanlege, 4Shobanke Dolapo, 1Helen Olaronke Edogbanya, 1Oyem Anselm, 4Isaac Adeniyi, 4Chinenye Ezenweke, 1Sani Umaru, 1Emmanuel Sabastine, 1Kefas Bitrus, 1Veronica Cyril-Okeme, 4Eunice Upahi, 1Emmanuel Akaligwo, 1Ozioko Luke Arinze, 4Simon Barguma, 1Friday Edibo, 1Mayowa Atteh, 1Alloy Idoko, 5Enoch Opeyemi, 6Adesanmi Alao Mogbademu, 7Olaitan Moses Ojo, 8Akinola Eluwole, 9Akeem B. Disu, 10Adeeko Tajudeen, 11Jeraldine Chibuzor Anukwu, 10Samson Damilola Oluwafemi, 12Kunle Ogunleye, 13Shekh Abdullah-al-Musa Ahmed, 14Zaato Solomon Gbene, 12Koffa Durojaiye Jude, 15Ojonubah James Omaiye, 2,16Edna Manga, 2,16Musa Josiah Marut, 17Niri Martha Choji, 18Emeka Helen Olujemisi, 2,19Adamu Abubakar Umar, 20Mansur Hassan, 21Oluwaseyi Jaiyeoba, 22Sanusi A. Jubril, 23Mamuda Mamman, 24Amiru Sule, 25Godwin Amechi Okeke, 17Garba Gambo Zaku, 11Osagie Abel Uyimwen, 14Samsidine Aidara

- 1Department of Mathematics, Federal University Lokoja, P.M.B 1154, Kogi, Nigeria
2School of Mathematical Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia, 11800 USM, Penang, Malaysia
3Faculty of Bioengineering and Technology, Universiti Malaysia Kelantan, 17600 Jeli, Malaysia
4Department of Statistics, Federal University Lokoja, P.M.B 1154, Kogi, Nigeria
5Department of Mathematics, Federal University Oye-Ekiti, P.M.B 373, Oye, Ekiti, Nigeria
6Department of Mathematics, University of Lagos, Akoka, Lagos, Nigeria
7Pompea College of Business, University of New Haven, 300 Boston Post Road, Connecticut, U.S.A
8Department of Geophysics, Federal University Oye-Ekiti, P.M.B 373, Oye, Ekiti, Nigeria
9Department of Mathematics, National Open University of Nigeria, Abuja, Nigeria
10Department of Physics, University of Abuja, P.M.B 117, Abuja, Nigeria
11Department of Geosciences, University of Lagos, Akoka, Lagos, Nigeria
12Department of Physics, Federal University Lokoja, P.M.B 1154, Kogi, Nigeria
13Computer Sciences and Engineering Department, Bangladesh University of Business and Technology, Rupnagar Mirpur-2, Dhaka-1216, Bangladesh
14Faculty of Entrepreneurship and Business, Universiti Malaysia Kelantan, 16100 Kota Bharu, Malaysia
15Department of Mathematics, Federal College of Education Okene, P.M.B 1026, Kogi, Nigeria
16Department of Mathematics, University of Jos, P.M.B 2084, Jos, Nigeria
17Department of Mathematics, Plateau State University, Bokokos, Jos, Nigeria
18Department of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, Afe Babalola University, Ado, Ekiti, Nigeria
19Department of Statistics, Faculty of Physical Sciences, Ahmadu Bello University, P.M.B 1045, Zaira-Kaduna, Nigeria
20Department of Mathematics, Yusuf Maitama Sule University, P.M.B 3320, Kano, Nigeria
21Department of Computer Graphics Technology, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana USA
22Department of Statistics, Kano University of Science and Technology, Wudil, Kano, Nigeria
23Department of Mathematics, Niger State College of Education, Minna, Niger, Nigeria
24Department of Mathematics, Federal University Gusau, Gusau, Zamfara, Nigeria
25Department of Mathematics, School of Physical Sciences, Federal University of Technology, Owerri, Imo, Nigeria

*Corresponding authors' email: olawiwola.babarinsa@fulokoja.edu.ng; Phone: +2348060032554

ABSTRACT

This paper reviews the theory of matrices and determinants. Matrix and determinant are nowadays considered inseparable to some extent, but the determinant was discovered over two centuries before the term matrix was coined. Our review associate determinant with the matrix as part of linear systems but not with polynomials. Thus, the paper first gives the background on matrix with vast applications in all fields of study and then reviews the history of determinants which is based on its major contributors in chronological order from the sixteenth century to the twenty-first century.

Keywords: Matrix, determinant, linear systems, history of mathematics

INTRODUCTION

Matrices and determinants have been the aesthetic aspect of mathematics that anyone who studies it, not only found interesting but also able to teach the topics or pass the knowledge to others without loss of generalities. Many mathematicians have made contributions to the history of matrices and determinants (Burton, 2003; Eves, 1969). The modern theory of determinants was put forward by German mathematicians in Karl Theodor Wilhelm Weierstrass and Leopold Kronecker's lectures, but the notes were published after their death (Kronecker, 1903). The earliest contributors to determinants associate it with polynomials. Hence, they defined the term determinant without any reference to the

existence of a square matrix. If the square matrix is an essential element of a determinant, then determinants would have been used more than a century after the death of Cramer. Instead, polynomial was considered which brings about the dual meaning of determinant. The early history of determinants focused on a system of n + 1 linear equations in n unknowns to eliminate the unknowns, linear transformations, and the solution of a system of n linear equations in n unknowns (Miller, 1930). These systems were mostly represented in a rectangular form, known as a matrix. A matrix is a rectangular array of entries or elements (numbers, expressions, or symbols) in rows and columns. A matrix is referred to be a square matrix of size n x n if the

number of rows (n) and columns (m) are equal otherwise, it is a non-square matrix of size ($n \times m$). Square matrices (which include Arrowhead matrix, Hadamard matrix, Sylvester matrix, Walsh matrix, Bézout matrix, Hessian matrix, Symplectic matrix, Bernoulli matrix, Hourglass matrix, Adjacency matrix, Edmonds matrix, Hat matrix, and Supnick matrix) are more interesting due to their unique properties than the counterpart non-square matrices (Babarinsa, 2018). In this write-up, basic matrix terminologies will not be defined except where necessary for further discussion and reference. Readers are expected to consult matrix-related books or articles. It is often impossible for an article (if not a book) to cover all the forms of square matrices (sparse or dense), except by devoting the work to a specific square matrix. Hence, we focus our review on the theory of determinants on a finite "square" matrix.

MATRICES

History of matrices

The word "matrix" was not coined for over four millennia, yet the history of matrices can be traced to ancient times. According to Debnath (2013a), a lot of evidence from mathematics history suggests the discovery of matrices may have started with the existence of magic squares. About 4000 years ago, magic squares were engraved on stones, metals, or paintings. If M_n is an $n \times n$ magic square which contains each entry $1, 2, 3, \dots, n^2$ exactly one with the same sum of each row, each column, and each of the two diagonals, then the common sum is the weight denoted as $wt(M_n)$ and defined by

$$wt(M_n) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^{n^2} k = \frac{n(n^2 + 1)}{2}$$

Magic squares (not Sagrada Familia magic square or Parker square) are esoteric in ancient times and were used in India, China, and Japan (Yoke, 1991). The study of systems of simultaneous linear equations starts from the origin of mathematical matrices which can be traced to Babylon and were recorded in a tablet dating 300 BC (Shafarevich and Remizov, 2013). Chinese came much closer to matrices methods to solve simultaneous linear equations than the Babylonians through Han Dynasty (200 BC – 100 BC). The author wrote the linear equations in columns rather than rows in modern methods, which is documented in "Nine Chapters of the Mathematical Art". Chapter eight of the book was dedicated to *Fangcheng* - rectangular array, popularly known today as a matrix. *Fangcheng*'s problems are displayed in two dimensions on the counting board (Hart, 2011; Shen, Crossley, Lun, and Liu, 1999). However, the concept of the matrix did not resurface and garner further attention until the end of the 17th century. In 1850, an English mathematician James Joseph Sylvester coined the term "matrix". Matrix is a Latin word for "womb", derived from *mater*—mother, and is defined as an oblong arrangement of terms (Sylvester and Baker, 2012). Sylvester further explains, "I previously described a "Matrix" as a rectangular array of terms from which several determinant systems could emerge as though from a single parent" (Sylvester, 1867). He coined the word womb to treat a matrix as a generator of determinants (Tucker, 1993). Sometimes the understanding of a whole field of science is suddenly advanced by the discovery of an idea (Pickover, 2011).

Contributors to matrix theory

In 1841, British mathematician Arthur Cayley used the letter A (uppercase) to represent matrix and lowercase for its elements (Debnath, 2013b). He released the initial article on

the inverse of a matrix and focused more on the power of square matrices and matrix polynomials. Then, He provided definitions for addition, multiplication, scalar multiplication, and inverse in matrix algebra. In 1844, the combination of a row matrix and a column matrix was first proposed by German mathematician Hermann Günther Grassmann (1809-1877). Almost a century apart, an American mathematical physicist, Josiah Willard Gibbs (1839-1903), published a treatise on vector analysis to represent general matrices, called dyadic. Vector analysis got more improvement when an English physicist Paul Adrien Dirac (1902-1984) introduced the term "bra" (row) vector and "ket" (column) vector. The result from scalar multiplication of "bra-ket" or "ket-bra" form a simple matrix (Tucker, 1993).

In 1855, Cayley successfully established that there is a strong connection between matrices and linear transformations in his memoir on the "theory of linear transformations". In 1858, he published "A memoir on the theory of matrices" and discussed geometric transformation with abstract matrix operations. The problem with Cayley's writing is that he did not have a fixed notation for matrices. MacDuffee (1934) and Wedderburn (1934) used double vertical lines for matrices in their leading English books on matrices. These lines are now recommended for (matrix) norms. A British mathematician named Cuthbert Edmund Cullis (1875-1955) was the first to represent matrices using modern bracket (or parenthesis) notation in his 1913 treatise "Matrices and Determinoids" (Dossey, Otto, Spence, and Eynden, 2001). These days, entire rows or columns in a matrix are indicated by an asterisk. Later, Cayley developed matrix algebra alongside some matrix terminologies and introduced two vertical lines for a determinant on the side of the array (matrix). He used 0 for the zero matrix and 1 for the identity matrix. Though, Bell (2014) attributed Cayley as the founder view of the history of a matrix which is misleading since his paper in 1858 "A memoir on the theory of matrices" was not known due to where he published it. The same work of Cayley was done by a French mathematician, Edmond Nicolas Laguerre (1834-1886), in 1867 but his paper was not known too. Nevertheless, the paper of a German mathematician, Ferdinand Georg Frobenius (1849-1917), was not only known on the theory of matrix due to the world-leading journal (Crelle's journal) of the time he published it but also his paper is more substantial than those by Laguerre and Cayley (Hawkins, 1974).

Jan de Witt (1625-1672), a Dutch mathematician and statesman in 1660, never thought of the term "symmetric matrix" in his book "Elements of Curves" but showed how to transform a Canonical form of a conic given equation in arrays (Descartes, 1886). Later, a German mathematician David Hilbert (1862-1943) coined the Latin word "spectrum" for the set of eigenvalues (latent roots) of a matrix or operator. Eigenvalues and eigenvectors of a matrix are important aspects of engineering. Cayley-Hamilton sole theorem points out in a memoir that a square matrix is a root of its characteristic polynomial. However, in 1878, Frobenius proved the Cayley-Hamilton theorem. He then introduced the concept of the rank of a matrix from the results on Jordan canonical and orthogonal matrices. Frobenius did not use the term matrix, his paper deals with coefficients of forms and bilinear forms. Aitken (1956) and Weyl (1922) discussed the trace "spur" of a matrix is equal to the product of its eigenvalues, and the determinant of the matrix is equal to the sum of its eigenvalues. A German mathematician Ferdinand Gotthold Max Eisenstein (1823 - 1852) showed that matrix products are non-commutative which conformed to be non-abelian and he introduced the algebraic notation for products, inverses, and powers of linear substitutions (Hawkins, 1974).

Richard Dedekind (1831–1916), a German mathematician, in his study of algebraic numbers first discovered the set of $n \times n$ square matrices form an abstract mathematical system called a ring. In 1800, Carl Friedrich Gauss developed the method known as Gaussian elimination in his *Disquisitiones Arithmeticae* (Bernardes and Roque, 2018; Grcar, 2011). He used the method to solve the normal equations associated with the method of least squares. However, some authors consider the Gaussian elimination was already known to a Chinese mathematician, He Chang Tsang, around 200 BC - 263 AD as the author of the method (Degos, 2015). Gauss-Jordan elimination (with reference to Wilhelm Jordan but not Camille Jordan) was considered as part of the development of geodesy (Athloen and McLaughlin, 1987). Russell and Whitehead (1913), in the article "*Principia Mathematica*", proposed the context of the axiom of reducibility for "matrix". The notion of the truth table in mathematical logic in connection with matrix was established in a 1946 paper titled "*Introduction to Logic*" (Tarski, 1946). Alan Turing introduced the LU decomposition of a matrix in 1948 while Roger Penrose developed the theory of generalized inverse matrices (Kyrchei, 2015; Rao and Mitra, 1972).

Applications of matrices

Matrix notations and computations have had a profound influence on all branches of mathematics: linear algebra, number theory, differential equation, numerical analysis, abstract algebra, modeling, operations research, and graph theory (Bôcher and Duval, 1922). Applications of matrices have spread like a wildfire in almost all fields of education such as engineering, computer science, statistics, economics, chemistry, physics, biology, geology, accounting, business, and industry to mention but a few (Jaffe, 1984). One of the great qualities of a matrix is the ability to create code in a situation where you need to send a private message to an ally (Babarinsa, Arif, and Kamarulhaili, 2019; Kippenhahn, 1999). The concept of matrix militarization was back to Julius Ceasar in 49 BC (Churchhouse, 2002). In the early 20th century, militaries of the world began to take advantage of the great ability of the matrix to create code in enigma machine during World War I by German engineer Arthur Scherbius (Kruh and Deavours, 2002), work of ballistic tables by Mauro Picone in World War I (Benzi, a), and to plane vibrations analysis – flutter - during World War II by female mathematician [Olga Taussky Todd](#) (Channell, 1977).

Nowadays, not only militaries of the world cannot survive without the application of matrices but also individuals and groups for handling large amounts of data. We depends on matrices in designing computer [game graphics](#) (Eberly, 2001; Lengyel, 2012), cyberspace internet (D'Andrea, Ferri, and Grifoni, 2010; Vaishnav, Choucri, and Clark, 2013), space communication (Tarokh, Seshadri, and Calderbank, 1998; Tirkkonen and Hottinen, 2002), facial recognition (Mangal, Malik, and Aggarwal, 2020; Rohil and Kaushik, 2014), PageRank algorithm for Google search engine (Djungu and Manneback, 2020), analyzing [relationships](#) (Henry and Fekete, 2007), choreographers plotting complicated [dance steps](#) (Raptis, Kirovski, and Hoppe, 2011), network analysis (Hawe, Webster, and Shiell, 2004), sound analysis (Sueur, Aubin, and Simonis, 2008), health and safety (Kariuki and Löwe, 2007; Lenhart and Travis, 1986), quantum theory (Mehra and Rechenberg, 1982), Markov chains (Bylina and Bylina, 2009; Searle, 2000), seismic survey (Berkhout, 2008; MacBeth and Li, 1996), chemical analysis (Gutman, 1977), decision making (Feng and Zhou, 2014; Saaty, 2003), population growth (Kendall, 1949; Lefkovich, 1965),

accounting game (Vysotskaya, 2018), robotic and automation (Ivanov, Ivanova, and Meleshkova, 2020; Stocco, Salscudean, and Sassani, 1999) and gene expression analysis (Shiflet and Shiflet, 2011).

NOTE ON HISTORY OF DETERMINANT THEORY

Determinant (resultant) was discovered over two centuries before the term "matrix" was coined, which is the backbone of Linear algebra (Bernstein, 2009). A determinant is a scalar value that represents certain aspects of a square matrix's linear transformation and is derived by computing its members, which can be denoted as $\det(A)$ or $|A|$. Determinant provides information about a matrix (its eigenvalues and eigenvectors): Geometrically, it provides the absolute value of area and volume in n -dimensional space, preserving transformation and can be used to create equations for curves, planes, and other geometric figures; and algebraically, it determines whether the system of n -linear equations in n -unknowns has a unique solution and a good indicator whether a square matrix has an inverse, see (Karim, 2013; Muir, 1911a; Rice and Torrence, 2006). The properties of determinants come from the characteristics of the matrices (Browne, 2018). Thus, setting prerequisites for linear equations' nontrivial solutions is the leading application of determinants (Weber and Arfken, 2003).

The determinant is famously known for square matrices. Some methods of computing determinants are fast and simple for lesser dimensions, especially for 2×2 and 3×3 matrices. However, for larger dimensions, Chio's condensations, Dodgson's condensation method, Laplace expansion method, triangle's rule, Gaussian elimination procedure, LU decomposition, QR decomposition, Bareiss algorithm, and Cholesky decomposition are considered. Nowadays, there is an extension of determinant to rectangular matrices, using Laplace expansion, called determinoids. Other less known types or forms of a determinant are the Dieudonné determinant, Fredholm determinant, Slater determinant, immanant, and functional determinant (Sobamowo, 2016). Based on history, the theory of determinant started in 16th century, but we give the chronological order of the contributions till the 21st century. General methods/formulas for evaluating determinants are not new, as they can be attributed to the 18th century. They are, in fact, the modification of the old methods, perhaps except for a few special matrices. Contributors to determinants (and its theory) are many but not all contribute immersive to the subject matter. It is either they reiterated what others have done without a new (or less) contribution or their contributions have been debunked due to a lack of mathematical evidence.

16th century: Gerolamo Cardano (1501-1576), an Italian mathematician provided a rule called *regula de modo* - mother of rules - for resolving a system of two linear equations, in his "*ars magna*" (Cardano, 1993). The rule later gave what we are essentially known as Cramer's rule (Cardano and Spon, 1968). His determinants were practically for 2×2 matrices and larger ones were discussed by Leibniz (Babarinsa, 2020; Eves, 1969).

17th century: Determinants emerged from two simultaneous quadratic equations in the theory of equations, matrix algebra, geometry, and differential equations, among other fields of mathematics (Kline, 1990). Let

$$\begin{aligned} a_{11}x^2 + a_{12}x + c_{12} &= 0 \\ a_{21}x^2 + a_{22}x + c_{22} &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

Seki Takakazu who is popularly known as Seki Kōwa (1642-1708) initially introduced the concept of determinant to Japan. In 1683, he published his findings in a book titled “*Method of Solving the Dissimulated Problems*” in the absence of a word that describes the determinant (Martzloff, 2008). He gave the solution to Equation (1) by eliminating x^2 as well as a constant term c_{12} and c_{22} . Thus, he arrived at the determinant as

$$(a_{11}a_{22} - a_{21}a_{12})$$

Seki still introduced the concept of determinants and provided broad guidelines for calculating them in accordance with his 2×2 determinant through a process he called *tatamni* (folding). Instead of using them to solve systems of linear equations, he applied them to equations (Rothman and Fukagawa, 1998). In the same year of 1683, the European counterpart to work on determinants independently was a German mathematician and logician, Leibniz Gottfried Wilhelm (1646-1716). Leibniz referred to specific combinatorial sums of words of a determinant as “*resultants*” (Muir, 1906). He presented a few results on the outcome and used number pairs as coefficients to serve the same purpose of double subscript for rows and columns in the square matrix of a determinant (Miller, 1930). Leibniz and Seki knew the properties of determinants and that determinants can be expanded using any column which we now called Laplace expansion – though both did not publish the findings (Debnath, 2013a).

18th century: The development of resultant (determinant) was out of sight to mathematicians for over a century until a Scottish mathematician, Colin Maclaurin (1698-1746) in 1748, offered the first results on two, three, and four simultaneous equations that had been published in a book titled “*Treatise of Algebra*” (MacLaurin, 1748). Although the publication of his findings was made two years after his death which gave Cramer the edge to introduce the method (Tweedie, 1915). Nevertheless, Boyer (1966) showed that Cramer’s rule was published two years earlier in Colin Maclaurin’s posthumous. Hedman (1999) analyzed a document that offers convincing proof that Maclaurin was imparting “Cramer’s rule” to his pupils more than 20 years before Cramer published it. While asserting the “opposite” coefficient, Kosinski (2001) contended that the rule he chose to assign the appropriate sign to each summand was incorrect. Cramer remedied this by counting the number of transpositions, or *dérangements*, in the permutation. Maclaurin missed the general rule for solving linear equations, according to Günther (1908), because of poor notation.

In 1750, Swiss mathematician Gabriel Cramer (1704-1752) hinted that resultants are useful in analytical geometry (Habgood and Arel, 2010). Cramer gave the general rule for solving n linear simultaneous equations in n unknowns $x_1, x_2, x_3 \dots x_n$ defined by

$$\left. \begin{aligned} a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + a_{13}x_3 + \dots + a_{1n}x_n &= c_1 \\ a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + a_{23}x_3 + \dots + a_{2n}x_n &= c_2 \\ a_{31}x_1 + a_{32}x_2 + a_{33}x_3 + \dots + a_{3n}x_n &= c_3 \\ \vdots + \vdots + \vdots + \dots + \vdots &= \vdots \\ a_{n1}x_1 + a_{n2}x_2 + a_{n3}x_3 + \dots + a_{nn}x_n &= c_n \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (2)$$

$$Ax = c$$

where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} & \dots & a_{3n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & a_{n3} & \dots & a_{nn} \end{bmatrix}, \quad x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad c = \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ c_3 \\ \vdots \\ c_n \end{bmatrix}$$

the $n \times n$ matrix A (coefficient matrix) has a nonzero determinant, c the constant term (nonhomogeneous term), and the vector $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)^T$ is the column vector of the variables; $\forall A, c \in \mathbb{F}$

Theorem 1 (Cramer’s rule) *Let $Ax = c$ be an $n \times n$ linear system with A an $n \times n$ matrix, if $|A| \neq 0$ and the column (constant) vector c replaces the i th column vector a_i of A , then the i th entry x_i of the unique solution $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ is given by*

$$x_i = \frac{|A_i|}{|A|} \quad (3)$$

where $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$, $|A| = |a_{ij}|$ is the n th - order determinant with a_{ij} as its elements and $|A_i|$ is the n th - order determinant obtained from $|A|$ by replacing its i th column with the column containing the non-homogeneous terms $c_1, c_2, c_3, \dots, c_n$. In his work “*Introduction to the Analysis of Algebraic Curves*,” Cramer went on to further describe how to calculate the terms using his formula for figuring out the sign and getting the numerator. (Cramer, 1750; Robinson, 1970).

Although Swiss scientist Leonhard Euler (1707–1783) demonstrated that a system of linear equations need not have a solution, researchers have linked the solution of a system of linear equations to Cardano (Tucker, 1993). Cardano’s methods were practically based on 2×2 resultants, the rule later gave what we knew as Cramer’s rule (Cardano, Witmer, and Ore, 2007). At least three drawbacks of Cramer’s rule include its failure when the coefficient matrix’s determinant is 0, the number of determinant calculations it necessitates (if determinant values are calculated through minors), and is also numerically unstable (Chapra and Canale, 1998; Debnath, 2013a; Higham, 2002; Vein and Dale, 1999). Therefore, Cramer’s rule has asymptotic complexity of $O(n \cdot n!)$ via minors, but it has been shown that it is possible to apply Cramer’s rule in $O(n^3)$ time (Habgood and Arel, 2012; Shores, 2007). Cramer’s rule for solving systems of linear equations has historical and theoretical significance despite its high processing cost (Brunetti and Renato, 2014). Due to roundoff error, Moler (1974) claimed that Cramer’s rule is insufficient even for 2×2 linear systems; however, Dunham (1980) provided an example to refute this claim. Other efficient iterative and numerical techniques which include the Gauss–Jordan elimination have replaced Cramer’s rule for solving linear systems of equations (Hoffman and Frankel, 2001; Watkins, 2004). Nowadays, much advancement has been made on Cramer’s rule to solve simple and large-scale linear systems, Quaternionic systems, minimum-norm least-squares solution of linear equations, matrix iteration, condensed Cramer’s rule for the solution of restricted matrix equation where inverse was not employed as well as integrating Dodgson condensation and Sylvester’s determinant identity with Cramer’s rule, see (Benzi, 2009b; Gu and Xu, 2008; Ji, 2012; Kyrchei, 2008; Ufuoma, 2013).

A French mathematician Étienne Bézout (1730-1783) in 1764 gave methods of calculating resultants (determinants) by combining his rule of term formation and his rule of signs into one. He requires the permutations, unlike Cramer and Leibniz finding the permutations in any way, to be found by a process, and contributed to the recurrent law of formation of the new functions. Then he proved that the nontrivial solutions of a system exist provided the determinant of the coefficient matrix is zero, in his *Théorie des équations algébriques* (Bézout, 1779; Godin, Demours, and Cotte, 1774). He stated a reframed theorem of Vandermonde that determinant of a matrix is zero if two rows are identical. According to Bézout, solving simultaneous equations by elimination is similar to

solving n th degree equations in one unknown since "it is known that a determinate equation may always be interpreted as the outcome of two equations in two unknowns when one of the unknowns is eliminated". Bézout saw that he could determine the form of its solution. Conversely, if the coefficients of a given n th degree equation in one unknown had the form built up from such a special solution, that n th degree equation could be solved. In his treatise "Sur plusieurs classes d'équations de tous les degrés qui admettent une solution algébrique". Bézout stated that the degree of the final equation resulting from any number of complete equations in the same number of unknowns, and of any degrees, is equal to the product of the degrees of the equations. Then he discussed another method of finding the resultant equation by finding polynomials, which we may write Q_1, \dots, Q_n such that $P_1Q_1 + P_2Q_2 + \dots + P_nQ_n = 0$ is the resultant equation. Each $Q_k (k = 1, 2, \dots, n)$ has indeterminate coefficients, which Bézout explicitly determined for many systems of equations by comparing powers of the unknowns x, y, z, \dots (Bézout, 1762). This theorem brought about the development of the Bézout matrix, the theory of determinants, and resultants (Muir, 1911b). The widely extended concept known as the theorem for expressing a determinant as an aggregate of products of complementary minors was first published in 1771 by French mathematician and chemist Alexandre-Théophile Vandermonde (1735–1796) in his "Mémoires sur l'élimination" (Vandermonde, 1772). His method can evaluate the determinant of order n (Hadamard, 1897). Thus, the only one fit to be viewed as the founder of the theory of determinants is Vandermonde since he was the first to recognize determinants as independent functions (Campbell, 1980). Vandermonde's matrix is a matrix where each row's terms correspond to a geometric progression. The n th-order Vandermonde determinant is

$$|V_n| = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ x_1 & x_2 & x_3 & \dots & x_n \\ x_1^2 & x_2^2 & x_3^2 & \dots & x_n^2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ x_1^{n-1} & x_2^{n-1} & x_3^{n-1} & \dots & x_n^{n-1} \end{vmatrix} = (x_2 - x_1)(x_3 - x_2)(x_4 - x_3) \dots (x_j - x_i)$$

Thus,

$$|V_n| = \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (x_j - x_i) \tag{4}$$

Where $|V_n|$ is Vandermonde determinant or alternant, the right-hand side is the continued product of all the differences that can be formed from the $\frac{n(n-1)}{2}$ pairs of numbers taken from x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n with the order of the differences taken in the reversed order of the suffixes that are involved. The matrix can be transposed and has applications in Cryptography, polynomial interpolation, and signal processing (Klinger, 1967; Sobczyk, 2002). Pierre-Simon marquis de Laplace (1749-1827), a French polymath in 1772, gave a notation for a resultant or determinant (Sobczyk, 2002). He created a method to determine the number of terms in this aggregate and provided a rule for how to describe a resultant as an aggregate of terms made up of components (minors) that are also resultants. In addition, he named the new functions and provided proof of the theorem on the impact of transposing two adjacent letters in any of the new functions. His theorem may be described as giving an expression of a resultant in the form of an aggregate of terms each of which is a product of a lower degree (Brualdi and Schneider, 1983). Laplace later claimed that the methods employed by Cramer and Bézout were impractical. Laplace

expansion is the best for computing determinants as it works for all forms of square matrices except it has a high time of complexity (Bronson, 1988; Cormen, 2009; Franklin, 1968). However, the disadvantage of Laplace expansion is that nowhere does a determinant of order greater than two have to be computed except by expressing it in numerous minors and thus leading to time wastage (Wexler, 1969). Let A be $n \times n$ matrix. A minor is any $(n - m) \times (n - m)$ matrix formed by deleting m rows and m column from A . A complementary minor is the $m \times m$ matrix diagonally adjacent to the minor matrix A . A consecutive minor is a matrix in which the remaining rows and columns in the minor were adjacent to the original matrix (Rice and Torrence, 2007).

Theorem 2 (Laplace expansion) Suppose $A = [a_{ij}]$ is an $n \times n$ matrix such that any $i, j \in (1, 2, \dots, n)$. Then its determinant of A is given by $\det(A) = \sum_{j=1}^n (-1)^{i+j} a_{ij} M_{ij}$ (5) where

$$(-1)^{i+j} = \begin{cases} + & \text{when } i = j \text{ or } i + j \text{ is even} \\ - & \text{when } i \neq j \text{ or } i + j \text{ is odd} \end{cases}$$

for $i, j \in \mathbb{Z}^+$.

The minor M_{ij} is defined to be the determinant of the $(n - 1) \times (n - 1)$ matrix that results from the matrix by removing the i th row and the j th column and $(-1)^{i+j}$ the checkerboard sign, for $i, j = 1, 2, \dots, n$. The expression $(-1)^{i+j} M_{ij}$ is known as a cofactor, see (Afriat, 2000; Horn and Johnson, 2012; Lancaster and Tismenetsky, 1985). Thus, $(-1)^{i+j}$ can be represented in the checkerboard sign below

$$\begin{bmatrix} (-1)^{i+i} & (-1)^{i+j} & (-1)^{i+j} & (-1)^{i+j} & \dots & (-1)^{i+j} \\ (-1)^{i+j} & (-1)^{i+i} & (-1)^{i+j} & (-1)^{i+j} & \dots & (-1)^{i+j} \\ (-1)^{i+j} & (-1)^{i+j} & (-1)^{i+i} & (-1)^{i+j} & \dots & (-1)^{i+j} \\ (-1)^{i+j} & (-1)^{i+j} & (-1)^{i+j} & (-1)^{i+i} & \dots & (-1)^{i+j} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ (-1)^{i+j} & (-1)^{i+j} & (-1)^{i+j} & (-1)^{i+j} & \dots & (-1)^{i+i} \end{bmatrix}$$

According to Jeffrey (2010) when evaluating a determinant, the amount of calculation required can be estimated by giving the determinant's order, while not indicating the value of the determinant. In the quest to make determinants more computable, Almalki, Alzahrani, and Alabdullatif (2013) designed a Laplace expansion-based sequential and parallel technique for finding determinants. Janjia (2005) stated that one of the most significant characteristics of determinants is Laplace expansion theorem. This theorem can be obtained by a proper rearrangement of summands when determinants are stated in terms of permutations.

In 1773, an Italian mathematician and astronomer Joseph Louis Lagrange also known as Giuseppe Luigi Lagrange (1736-1813) for the first time gave a volume interpretation of a determinant. He treated determinants and applied them to elimination theory – bilinear forms. While other contributors focus on the problem of elimination, Lagrange work, on the other hand, consists of several incidentally obtained algebraic identities. Lagrange's identity and the modern-looking identities are essentially the same and he proved many special cases of general identities. He further gave a theorem in his "Recherches d'arithmétique" that a minor determinant adjugates to another determinant (Lagrange, 1775; Weld, 1893).

A German mathematician Carl Friedrich Hindenburg (1741-1808) worked on Cramer and Bezout's point of view in 1784. He wrote his permutation, calculating determinants, in a definite order regarding the sequence of signs by successfully

combining the rule of term formation and the rule of signs (Muir, 1911a).

19th century: In 1800, a German mathematician Heinrich August Rothe (1773-1842), made an ill-advised and pointless modification of Cramer's idea of the rule of signs. Though, he made remarkable contributions from the theorems he gave. He claimed that by counting the interchanges required to convert one permutation into the other, it is possible to discover the sign of any single permutation when the sign of any other is known – conjugate permutations has the same sign. Rothe further went and stated a theorem that depending on whether m is even or odd, the sign of the new permutation is the same as, or different from, that of the original if one element of a permutation is forced to take up a new position by being passed over m additional elements. (Studnička, 1876).

A year after, the term “determinant” was first introduced in 1801 by German mathematician Johann Carl Friedrich Gauss (1777-1855) in his book titled “*Disquisitiones Arithmeticae*” while discussing quadratic forms (Gauss, 1966; Knobloch, 2013). Gauss used the term because the determinant determines the properties of quadratic forms. The new term introduced by Gauss was not ‘determinant’ but “determinant of a form”. Nowadays, the determinant of a form is referring to the discriminant of a quantic. In the theory of numbers, he frequently used determinants. The idea of reciprocal (inverse) determinants was also developed by Gauss (Kani, 2011). In the modern sense, the association of a square matrix and the corresponding polynomial in connection with linear transformation is due to Gauss.

In 1809, a French mathematician Gaspard Monge (1746-1818) used a process of elimination to compute the determinant. His method was quite general because the method possesses numerous other identities of the same kind. In 1811, a French mathematician and physicist Jacques Philippe Marie Binet (1786-1856) gave an extension of a theorem of Lagrange on determinant which expressed that a sum of products of resultants as a single resultant (Knobloch, 1994; Shallit, 1994). He gave a modern notation for the formula

$$\sum_{k=1}^{k=s} \sum_{h=1}^{h=s} \begin{vmatrix} y_h^1 & y_h^2 & \dots & y_h^n \\ z_k^1 & z_k^2 & \dots & z_k^n \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} v_h^1 & v_h^2 & \dots & v_h^n \\ \zeta_k^1 & \zeta_k^2 & \dots & \zeta_k^n \end{vmatrix}$$

A French mathematician and engineer Augustin-Louis Cauchy (1789-1857) in 1812 used “determinant” in its modern sense as was the most complete work on determinant. He published a paper in which he used determinants to compute the volume of several solid polyhedral (Vein and Dale, 1999). He gave a multiplication theorem for determinants and new results on minors and adjoints. He introduced the idea of similar matrices (but not the term) and pointed out that the eigenvalues of symmetric matrices are real. He introduced certain matrix terminologies such as terms, characteristics, principal terms, symmetric products, principal product, conjugate, conjugate system, and complementary derived systems. In 1826, Cauchy referred to the coefficients matrix as a “*tableau*” while discussing quadratic forms in n variables. His method produced eigenvalues and eigenvectors, which offered a fresh way to handle quadratic expressions with n variables (Knobloch, 1994). He viewed determinant as a special class of alternating symmetric functions and gave the method as

$$D_n = S(\pm a_{1,1} a_{2,2} \dots a_{n,n}) \tag{6}$$

His method produced eigenvalues and eigenvectors, which offered a fresh way to handle quadratic expressions with n variables (Knobloch, 1994). However, the eigenvalue

problem to solve systems of ordinary differential equations was generalized by French mathematician Jacques Sturm. Later, Cauchy introduced the 2×2 determinant involving partial derivatives – known today as the Jacobian determinant. The Jacobian matrix is an $n \times n$ matrix, usually defined and arranged as follows

$$J = \frac{df}{dx} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x_n} \end{bmatrix} \tag{7}$$

Jacobian determinant has application in polar coordinates, cylindrical polar coordinates, and spherical polar coordinates. In this, he used the word “determinant” in its present sense after considering Laplace, Vandermonde, Gauss, and Bezout's work. He modernized the notation, streamlined what was then known about the subject, and provided a more convincing demonstration for the multiplication theorem than Binet did. With him begins the theory in its generality (Cauchy, 1812).

In 1841, a German mathematician Carl Gustav Jacob Jacobi (1804-1851) gave the definition of determinant which was made algorithmically. Jacobi gave the adjugate determinant of matrix A given as

$$|adjA| = |A|^{n-1} \quad \text{and} \quad adjA = (A_{ij})^T = (A_{ji})$$

where adjugate matrix of A is $adjA$ and A_{ij} are the cofactors of elements a_{ij} (Jacobi, 1896). In the same year (1841), Cayley introduced hyperdeterminant. He published for the first time on the inverse of a matrix. He proposed a theorem which is now known as the Cayley-Hamilton theorem that a matrix must satisfy its characteristic equation (Cayley, 1858). In his memoir, he successfully discovered that there is a close relationship between matrices and linear transformations (Cayley, 1845). Peter Guthrie Tait once said, “*Cayley is forging the weapons for future generations of physicists*” (Bonolis and de Laplace, 2004).

Pierre Frédéric Sarrus (1798–1861), a French mathematician in 1842, gave a memorization scheme to compute only the determinant of a 3×3 matrix, $A = a_{i,j}, \forall i, j = 1, 2, 3$. Sarrus rule or basketweave method can be derived from the case of the Leibniz formula, and Laplace expansion. The method considers one to write out the first two columns of the matrix to the right of the third column to yield five columns in a row. Then, add the top-to-bottom diagonal's products and deduct the bottom-to-top diagonal's products (Ahmed and Bondar, 2014; Karim, Ibrahim, and Omar, 2016) to yield

$$\det(A) = a_{11}a_{22}a_{33} + a_{12}a_{23}a_{31} + a_{13}a_{21}a_{32} - a_{31}a_{22}a_{13} - a_{32}a_{23}a_{11} - a_{33}a_{21}a_{12} \tag{8}$$

In 1866, an English writer Charles Lutwidge Dodgson popularly known as Lewis Carroll (1832-1898) gave a method of computing the determinant of a square matrix by condensation. The method proves to be effective as well as minimizes errors before arriving at the solution (Leggett, Perry, and Torrence, 2009). Dodgson condensation reduces the matrix into 2×2 submatrices for easy computation of determinants. The method reduces the risk of miscalculation as it is bound to divide the determinant of the submatrices by interior elements (Abeles, 1986). The fatal of Dodgson's condensation defect is that the determinant of an interior matrix must not be zero because dividing the determinant of the minors by zero makes the solution indeterminate (Abeles, 1994). The advantage of Dodgson condensation is that the determinant of a square matrix is a rational function of all its

connected minors of any two consecutive sizes (Schmidt and Greene, 2011). The fatal defect of Dodgson condensation has a remedy like row (column) permutations, though it may not always work if there are many zero entries in the matrix or the determinant of interior matrix zero - this can happen even if no zeroes appear in the interior of the matrix (Abeles, 2008; Robbins, 2005). In Dodgson's condensation, each smaller matrix contains the 2×2 connected minors of the previous iteration's matrix. The 2×2 connected minors are the determinants of each 2×2 submatrices consisting of adjacent elements of the larger matrix. Beginning with the second stage of iteration, each of these minors is divided by their central element from two stages previous. In this case, Dodgson suggested replacing the zero element with a nonzero element of the matrix by rotating columns or rows and then

$$A^{(n-k)} = \begin{pmatrix} |A_{1\dots k+1,1\dots k+1}| & |A_{1\dots k+1,2\dots k+2}| & \cdots & |A_{1\dots k+1,n-k\dots n}| \\ |A_{2\dots k+2,1\dots k+1}| & |A_{2\dots k+2,2\dots k+2}| & \cdots & |A_{2\dots k+2,n-k\dots n}| \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ |A_{n-k\dots n,1\dots k+1}| & |A_{n-k\dots n,2\dots k+2}| & \cdots & |A_{n-k\dots n,n-k\dots n}| \end{pmatrix}$$

Whose entries are the determinants of all $(k + 1) \times (k + 1)$ contiguous submatrices of A .

Then

$$A_n(1,1)A_{n-2}(2,2) = A_{n-1}(1,1)A_{n-1}(2,2) - A_{n-1}(2,1)A_{n-1}(1,2)$$

more precisely,

$$\det(A) = \det A_n(1,1) = \frac{\det A_{n-1}(1,1) \det A_{n-1}(2,2) - \det A_{n-1}(1,2) \det A_{n-1}(2,1)}{\det A_{n-2}(2,2)} \tag{9}$$

For an $n \times n$ matrix A , let $A_r(i, j)$ denote the r by r minor consisting of r contiguous rows and columns of A , beginning with row i , column j (Amdeberhan and Ekhad, 1997). Note that $A_{n-2}(2,2)$ is the central minor or interior elements; $A_{n-1}(1,1)$, $A_{n-1}(2,2)$, $A_{n-1}(1,2)$ and $A_{n-1}(2,1)$ are the respective northwest, southwest, southeast, northeast, and southwest minors, see (Abeles, 2014; Amdeberhan, 2001; Muir, 1881) and the references therein. According to Bressoud and Propp (1999), "Although the use of division in Dodgson condensation may appear to be a drawback, it serves as a useful form of error checking for calculations done by hand using integer matrices. When the algorithm is carried out correctly, all the entries of all the intervening matrices are integers, making it impossible to know that a mistake has been made when a division does not come out evenly. The approach is helpful for computer calculations as well, particularly".

Theorem 4 (Chio's method) For an $n \times n$ matrix $A = (a_{ij})$ with $a_{nn} \neq 0$, let $F = (f_{ij})$ be the $(n - 1) \times (n - 1)$ matrix defined by

$$f_{ij} = \begin{vmatrix} a_{ij} & a_{in} \\ a_{nj} & a_{nn} \end{vmatrix} = a_{ij}a_{nn} - a_{in}a_{nj} \tag{10}$$

Then,
$$\det(A) = \frac{1}{a_{nn}^2} \det F$$

For $i, j = 1, \dots, n - 1$.

The process in Equation (10) substitutes every element in the matrix with a 2×2 determinant comprises the a_{ii} element, the highest value in the element's column, the first value in the element's row, and the element being replaced. The computed values of 2×2 determinant replace the $a_{i,j}$ with $a_{i,j}'$. The i th row and the i th column are deleted, therefore decreasing the initial $n \times n$ matrix to an $(n - 1) \times (n - 1)$ matrix with the equivalent determinant, see (Brualdi and Schneider, 1983; Eves, 1980; Habgood and Arel, 2012). Chio's method will not work if the pivotal element is zero because dividing the determinant of the minors by zero makes the solution indeterminate and the method fail to compute over a small finite field (Robbins, 2005).

proceeding with condensation. If all elements of the matrix are zero, then the matrix is trivial, and its determinant is zero. For a given $n \times n$ matrix, a *minor* is any $(n - m) \times (n - m)$ matrix formed by deleting m rows and m columns from A . A *complementary minor* is the resulting $m \times m$ matrix diagonally adjacent to the minor matrix while a *consecutive minor* is one in which the remaining rows and columns in the minor were adjacent in the original matrix. *interior* of A is the $(n - 2) \times (n - 2)$ consecutive minor that results when the first and last rows and columns of matrix A are deleted, see (Abeles, 1986; Rice and Torrence, 2006, 2007).

Theorem 3 (Dodgson's condensation theorem) Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix. After k successful condensation, Dodgson produces the matrix

A German mathematician, Karl Theodor Wilhelm Weierstrass (1815-1897), gave the axiomatic definition of a determinant.

20th century: During the 20th century, the matrix begins to have tentacles due to its applications in different fields which emerged a new field in mathematics called matrix theory. Since Laplace expansion is a building block for other methods of determinant, only a few of the contributors to the determinant of a matrix in mathematics will be discussed. Bareiss (1968) worked on improving the computation of determinants by minimizing the complexity time of the condensation. Although Bareiss algorithm or Montante's method is based on row reduction, it can also be proven using Sylvester's identity (Yap, 2000). The Chinese remainder theorem has been used to compute some cases of determinants (Pan, Yu, and Stewart, 1997). Robbins and Rumsey (1986) made important studies on the iteration of the Dodgson's Determinantal Identity (DDI) to the discovery of Alternating Sign Matrix Conjecture (ASM). The iteration was from the recurrence of the Laurent polynomials (when $\lambda = -1$) to form lambda determinant of matrix (Mills, Robbins, and Rumsey, 1986). An Alternating Sign Matrix has $+1, -1, 0$ as an element in every row and column and thus, the ASM conjecture is given as

$$A_n = \prod_{j=0}^{n-1} \frac{(3j+1)!}{(n+j)!} \tag{11}$$

Within a decade Zeilberger (1997) published a combinatorial proof of DDI. A better algorithm than simple Dodgson's condensation is the recurrence of DDI. Though DDI requires more calculation yet the computational complexity of DDI and Dodgson condensation remain the same (Francisco Neto, 2015). Grcar (2012) asserted that several authors including Charles Dodgson reinvented Chio's method of evaluating the determinant. However, Abeles (2014) stated that Dodgson's identity was a result of a theorem of Jacobi while Chio's identity was from a theorem of Sylvester.

Theorem 5 (Jacobi's theorem on adjoint determinant) *Let A be an n × n matrix, let [A_{ij}] be an m × m matrix of A, where m < n, let [A'_{ij}] be the corresponding m × m minor of A' and let [A*_{ij}] be the complementary (n - m) × (n - m) minor A. Then.*

$$\det[A'_{ij}] = (\det A)^{m-1} \cdot \det[A^*_{ij}] \tag{12}$$

By Laplace expansion $A \cdot A' = \det(A) \cdot I$

Thus,

$$\det(A \cdot A') = \det(A) \det(A') = (\det A)^n$$

Likewise, Dodgson's method is a unique case for both Desanot and Muir's law of extensible minors and Jacobi adjoint matrix theorem. More precisely for Dodgson/Muir determinantal identity is

$$\det A = \frac{\sum_{\sigma \in S_k} (-1)^{l(\sigma)} \prod_{j=1}^k \det A[\{j, k+1, \dots, n\}, \{\sigma(j), k+1, \dots, n\}]}{\det A[\{k+1, \dots, n\}, \{k+1, \dots, n\}]^{k-1}} \tag{13}$$

From the above equation, if $k = 2$ then it turns out to be DDI. Other special cases where Dodgson's identity was derived are Lagrange, Cauchy and Minding, and Sylvester's identity (Amdeberhan and Ekhad, 1997). It was Brualdi and Schneider (1983) that successfully linked Chio and Sylvester's identity by considering Schur's identity as follows:

Let $A = (a_{ij})$ be a square matrix. If A is partition using block triangularization, then we can factor A into

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & 0 \\ A_{21} & I \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} I & A_{11}^{-1}A_{12} \\ 0 & A_{22} - A_{21}A_{11}^{-1}A_{12} \end{bmatrix} \tag{14}$$

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} x & x & x & x \\ x & x & x & x \\ x & x & x & x \\ x & x & x & x \end{bmatrix}, M_{nn} = \begin{bmatrix} x & x & x \\ x & x & x \\ x & x & x \end{bmatrix}, M_{11,nn} = \begin{bmatrix} x & x \\ x & x \end{bmatrix}$$

$$M_{n1} = \begin{bmatrix} x & x & x \\ x & x & x \\ x & x & x \end{bmatrix}, M_{11} = \begin{bmatrix} x & x & x \\ x & x & x \\ x & x & x \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } M_{1n} = \begin{bmatrix} x & x & x \\ x & x & x \\ x & x & x \end{bmatrix}$$

Salihu (2012) gave a method that is based on Dodgson-Chio's condensation. By calculating four unique determinants of $(n - 1) \times (n - 1)$ order, which can be derived from determinants of nn order, we can resolve Salihu's method. If we remove the first row and first column, first row and last column, last row and first column, or last row and last column, we should refer to these elements as unique elements, and one determinant of $(n - 2) \times (n - 2)$ the order, which is formed from $n \times n$ order determinant with elements $a_{i,j}$ with $i, j \neq 1$, on the condition that the determinant of $(n - 2) \times (n - 2) \neq 0$. However, Salihu's method is not different from Rezaifar and Rezaee's method. Though Rezaifar and Rezaee first published the new method and gave comprehensive proof as well as the algorithm using MATLAB and FORTRAN, they failed to formulate a theorem. Salihu went further to coin a new term called "unique elements" for $M_{11,nn}$. He got his idea from Chio's condensation and Dodgson condensation method, while Rezaifar and Rezaee got theirs from inverting matrices in a linear equation. It may be noted that Salihu was unaware of Rezaifar and Rezaee's article as he did not cite it in his paper. The common thing among the findings of Salihu and, Rezaifar and Rezaee is that

$$\text{Let } S_1 = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & \dots & a_{1n} & b_1 & a_{11} & \dots & a_{1(n-1)} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & \dots & a_{nn} & b_n & a_{n1} & \dots & a_{n(n-1)} \end{bmatrix}. \text{ That is, } S_1 = [D \quad b \quad D']$$

Where D' is the array of numbers that remains after removing the last column of D . Thus,

Where $A_{11} \neq 0$ is of order K . Multiplying both sides by their respective determinants $|A_{11}|^{n-k-1}$, we therefore have $|A_{11}|^{n-k-1}|A| = ||A_{11}(A_{22} - A_{21}A_{11}^{-1}A_{12})|$ (15)

When $k = 1$ the expression becomes Chio's identity, see (Akritas, Akritas, and Malaschonok, 1996; Eves, 1980).

Chang and Su (1998) devised a method, to reduce the cumbersome method of evaluating determinant, known as the order-reduction formula through condensation which is

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} w_{11} & v_1 & w_{12} \\ u_1 & r & u_2 \\ w_{21} & v_2 & w_{22} \end{bmatrix} = r \det \left[\begin{bmatrix} w_{11} & -w_{12} \\ -w_{21} & w_{22} \end{bmatrix} - \frac{1}{r} \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ -v_2 \end{bmatrix} [u_1 \quad -u_2] \right] \tag{16}$$

Provided that $r \neq 0$. Where $W (w_{11} \dots w_{22})$, r v and u are a square matrix, a scalar (pivot element), a column matrix and a row matrix respectively.

21st century: In the early 21st century, Rezaifar and Rezaee (2007) discussed a new method of computing determinants. They compute the determinant as the result of submatrices derived by discarding row and column in a specific direction or way and resulting in the formula given as

$$|M| = \frac{1}{|M_{11,nn}|} \begin{vmatrix} |M_{11}| & |M_{1n}| \\ |M_{n1}| & |M_{nn}| \end{vmatrix} \tag{17}$$

where

their method reduces $n \times n$ matrix into four $(n - 1) \times (n - 1)$ matrices and one $(n - 2) \times (n - 2)$ matrix.

Furthermore, Taheri, Boostanpour, and Mohammadi (2013) claimed to have gotten a novel algorithm for the determinant calculation of $n \times n$ matrix, called *TabE*. They were, in fact, unaware of Salihu nor Rezaifar and Rezaee's work, because their work is termed to be a reinvention of Rezaifar and Rezaee's method.

Urbańska (2008) devised faster combinatorial algorithms for determinants and Pfaffian. Improvements are made on a fast algorithm to compute determinants of special matrices such as circulant matrix, Pentadiagonal matrix, Divisor matrix, Bezout matrix, and Toeplitz matrix, see (Chen, 2014; Cinkir, 2014; El-Mikkawy, 2008).

Over a century of discovering Cramer's rule and Dodgson's condensation, no one has successfully linked the two methods together until recently when Ufuoma (2013) described the relationship between Cramer's rule and Dodgson's condensation with lucid understanding. She, as well, gave proof of her new method is the same as classical Cramer's rule. Without loss of generality, this method is used for the system of the linear equation of the form $Dx = b$.

$$|D_n| = \begin{vmatrix} b_1 & a_{11} & \cdots & a_{1(n-1)} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ b_n & a_{n1} & \cdots & a_{n(n-1)} \end{vmatrix} = (-1)^{n-1} \begin{vmatrix} a_{11} & \cdots & a_{1(n-1)} & b_1 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & \cdots & a_{n(n-1)} & b_n \end{vmatrix}$$

Therefore,

$$x_n = (-1)^{n-1} \frac{|D_n|}{|D|} \quad (18)$$

Chang (2014) discussed an integrated method of condensation in his "determinant of a matrix by order condensation". The method was easy for hand calculation by reducing the number of steps in the calculation. He provided the MATLAB code for the method; however, he did not prove his acclaimed method but rather gave examples.

In 2016, Sobamowo (2016) gave an extension of the Sarrus rule to 4×4 matrices. His method is the most successful of the Sarrus rule to 4×4 matrices.

CONCLUSION

The theory of determinant came into existence from the contributions of different authors, most of which have roles in the establishment of matrix theory since determinant provides information about the matrix. Nowadays, it is almost impossible to discuss determinant without considering its matrix. Evidently, determinant and matrix have played an important role beyond the field of mathematics.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

We, authors, have no potential conflicts of interest to disclose.

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