

For each of the three circles,  $i$ :

$$(x - x_i)^2 + (y - y_i)^2 + (z - z_i)^2 = r_i^2$$

Subtracting circle 1 from circle 3:

$$(x_3 - x_1)x + (y_3 - y_1)y + (z_3 - z_1)z = f_1$$

where:

$$f_1 = \frac{(x_3^2 + y_3^2 + z_3^2 - r_3^2) - (x_1^2 + y_1^2 + z_1^2 - r_1^2)}{2}$$

Subtracting circle 2 from circle 3:

$$(x_3 - x_2)x + (y_3 - y_2)y + (z_3 - z_2)z = f_2$$

where:

$$f_2 = \frac{(x_3^2 + y_3^2 + z_3^2 - r_3^2) - (x_2^2 + y_2^2 + z_2^2 - r_2^2)}{2}$$

Subtracting circle 1 from circle 2:

$$(x_2 - x_1)x + (y_2 - y_1)y + (z_2 - z_1)z = f_3$$

where:

$$f_3 = \frac{(x_2^2 + y_2^2 + z_2^2 - r_2^2) - (x_1^2 + y_1^2 + z_1^2 - r_1^2)}{2}$$

We can rewrite these three equations as:

$$a_1x + b_1y + c_1z = f_1$$

$$a_2x + b_2y + c_2z = f_2$$

$$a_3x + b_3y + c_3z = f_3$$

where:

$$a_1 = (x_3 - x_1); b_1 = (y_3 - y_1); c_1 = (z_3 - z_1)$$

$$a_2 = (x_3 - x_2); b_2 = (y_3 - y_2); c_2 = (z_3 - z_2)$$

$$a_3 = (x_2 - x_1); b_3 = (y_2 - y_1); c_3 = (z_2 - z_1)$$

In matrix notation, we can write:

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & b_1 & c_1 \\ a_2 & b_2 & c_2 \\ a_3 & b_3 & c_3 \end{bmatrix}; \quad \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}; \quad \mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} f_1 \\ f_2 \\ f_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Given that  $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$ , we can write:

$$\mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{b}$$

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{b}$$

i.e. we take the inverse of the matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  and multiply it by the vector  $\mathbf{b}$  to obtain values for  $x, y, z$