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Indian Institute of Technology
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Geometry through Linear Algebra

Teaching Learning Center
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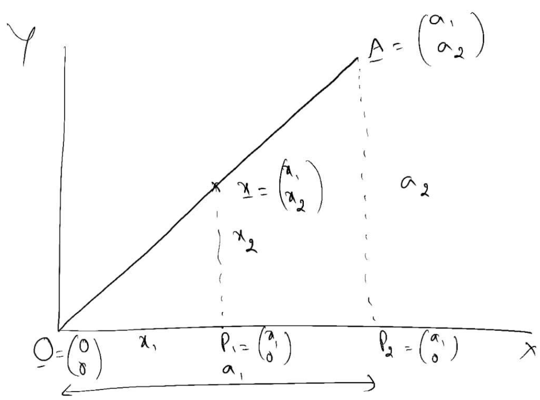

Fig. 1.1

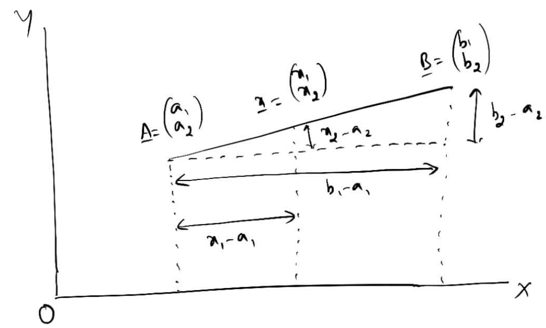

Fig. 1.2

Contents

***Abstract*—This textbook introduces linear algebra by exploring Euclidean geometry.**

1 The Straight Line

1.1 The points $\mathbf{O} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \end{pmatrix}$ are as shown in Fig. **??**. Find the equation of OA.
Solution: Let $\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix}$ be any point on OA. Then, using similar triangles,

$$\frac{x_2}{x_1} = \frac{a_2}{a_1} = m \tag{1.1}$$
$$\implies x_2 = mx_1 \tag{1.2}$$

where m is known as the slope of the line. Thus, the equation of the line is

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ mx_1 \end{pmatrix} = x_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ m \end{pmatrix} \tag{1.3}$$

In general, the above equation is written as

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ mx_1 \end{pmatrix} = \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ m \end{pmatrix} \tag{1.4}$$

1.2 Find the equation of AB in Fig. **??**
Solution: From Fig. **??**,

$$\frac{x_2 - a_2}{x_1 - a_1} = \frac{b_2 - a_2}{b_1 - a_1} = m \tag{1.5}$$
$$\implies x_2 = mx_1 + a_2 - ma_1 \tag{1.6}$$

From (**??**),

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ mx_1 + a_2 - ma_1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{1.7}$$
$$= \mathbf{A} + (x_1 - a_1) \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ m \end{pmatrix} \tag{1.8}$$
$$= \mathbf{A} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ m \end{pmatrix} \tag{1.9}$$

1.3 Find the length of $\mathbf{A}$ in Fig. **??**
Solution: Using Baudhayana's theorem, the length of the vector $\mathbf{A}$ is defined as

$$\|\mathbf{A}\| = OA = \sqrt{a_1^2 + a_2^2} = \sqrt{\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{A}}. \tag{1.10}$$

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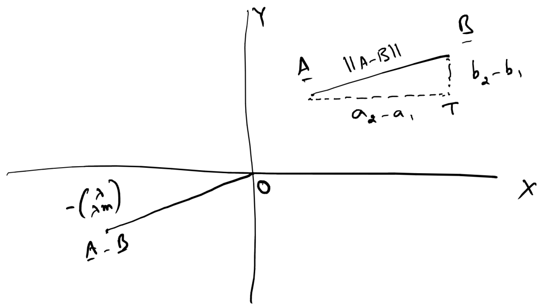

Fig. 1.4

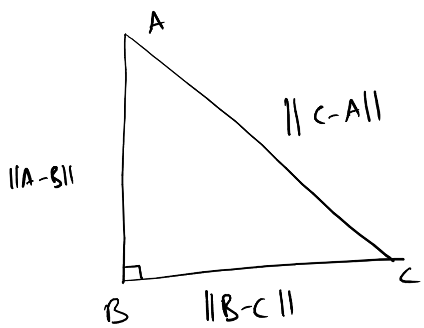

Fig. 2.1

Also, from (**??**),

$$\|\mathbf{A}\| = \lambda\sqrt{1+m^2} \tag{1.11}$$

Note that λ is the variable that determines the length of $\mathbf{A}$, since m is constant for all points on the line.

1.4 Find $\mathbf{A}-\mathbf{B}$.
Solution: See Fig. **??**. From (**??**), for some λ,

$$\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{A} + \lambda\begin{pmatrix}1\\ m\end{pmatrix} \tag{1.12}$$

$$\implies \mathbf{A}-\mathbf{B} = -\lambda\begin{pmatrix}1\\ m\end{pmatrix}, \tag{1.13}$$

$\mathbf{A}-\mathbf{B}$ is marked in Fig. **??**.

1.5 Show that $AB = \|\mathbf{A}-\mathbf{B}\|$

2 Orthogonality

2.1 See Fig. **??**. In $\triangle ABC, AB \perp BC$. Show that

$$(\mathbf{A}-\mathbf{B})^T(\mathbf{B}-\mathbf{C}) = 0 \tag{2.1}$$

Solution: Using Baudhayana's theorem,

$$\|\mathbf{A}-\mathbf{B}\|^2 + \|\mathbf{B}-\mathbf{C}\|^2 = \|\mathbf{C}-\mathbf{A}\|^2 \tag{2.2}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\implies (\mathbf{A}-\mathbf{B})^T(\mathbf{A}-\mathbf{B}) + (\mathbf{B}-\mathbf{C})^T(\mathbf{B}-\mathbf{C})\\ = (\mathbf{C}-\mathbf{A})^T(\mathbf{C}-\mathbf{A})\\ \implies 2\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{B} - 2\mathbf{B}^T\mathbf{B} + 2\mathbf{B}^T\mathbf{C} - 2\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{C} = 0\end{aligned} \tag{2.3}$$

which can be simplified to obtain (**??**).

2.2 Let $\mathbf{x}$ be any point on AB in Fi.g **??**. Show that

$$(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{A})^T(\mathbf{B}-\mathbf{C}) = 0 \tag{2.4}$$

2.3 If $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}$ are any two points on AB, show that

$$(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{y})^T(\mathbf{B}-\mathbf{C}) = 0 \tag{2.5}$$

2.4 In Fig. **??**, $BE \perp AC, CF \perp AB$. Show that $AD \perp BC$.

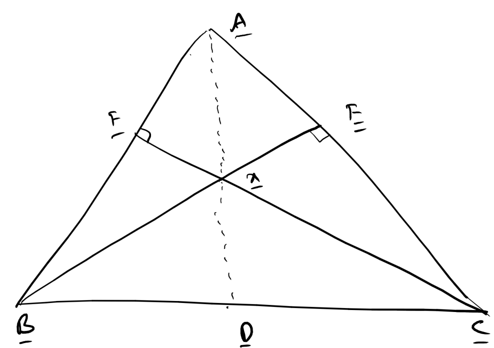

Fig. 2.4

Solution: Let $\mathbf{x}$ be the intersection of BE and CF. Then, using (**??**),

$$\begin{aligned}(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{B})^T(\mathbf{A}-\mathbf{C}) = 0\\ (\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{C})^T(\mathbf{A}-\mathbf{B}) = 0\end{aligned} \tag{2.6}$$

$$\implies \mathbf{x}^T(\mathbf{A}-\mathbf{C}) - \mathbf{B}^T(\mathbf{A}-\mathbf{C}) = 0 \tag{2.7}$$

$$\text{and } \mathbf{x}^T(\mathbf{A}-\mathbf{B}) - \mathbf{C}^T(\mathbf{A}-\mathbf{B}) = 0 \tag{2.8}$$

Subtracting (**??**) from (**??**),

$$\mathbf{x}^T(\mathbf{B}-\mathbf{C}) + \mathbf{A}^T(\mathbf{C}-\mathbf{B}) = 0 \tag{2.9}$$

$$\implies \left(\mathbf{x}^T - \mathbf{A}^T\right)(\mathbf{B}-\mathbf{C}) = 0 \tag{2.10}$$

$$\implies (\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{A})^T(\mathbf{B}-\mathbf{C}) = 0 \tag{2.11}$$

which completes the proof.

3 Medians of a triangle

3.1 In Fig. **??**,

$$\frac{AB}{BC} = \frac{\|\mathbf{A}-\mathbf{B}\|}{\|\mathbf{B}-\mathbf{C}\|} = k. \tag{3.1}$$

Show that

$$\frac{\mathbf{A}+k\mathbf{C}}{k+1}=\mathbf{B}. \tag{3.2}$$

Solution: From (**??**),

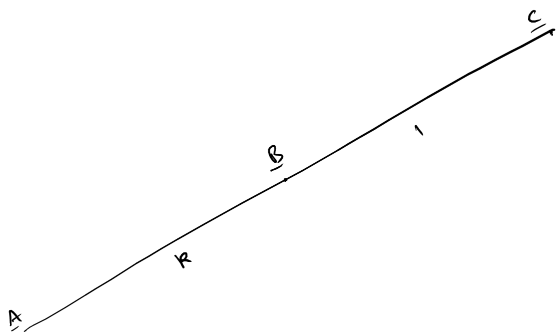

Fig. 3.1

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{B}&=\mathbf{A}+\lambda_1\begin{pmatrix}1\\m\end{pmatrix},\\ \mathbf{B}&=\mathbf{C}-\lambda_2\begin{pmatrix}1\\m\end{pmatrix}.\end{aligned} \tag{3.3}$$

$$\implies \frac{\|\mathbf{A}-\mathbf{B}\|}{\|\mathbf{B}-\mathbf{C}\|}=\frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_2}=k \tag{3.4}$$

$$\text{and } \frac{\mathbf{B}-\mathbf{A}}{\lambda_1}=\frac{\mathbf{C}-\mathbf{B}}{\lambda_2}=\begin{pmatrix}1\\m\end{pmatrix}, \tag{3.5}$$

from (**??**). Using (**??**) and (**??**),

$$\mathbf{A}-\mathbf{B}=k\left(\mathbf{B}-\mathbf{C}\right) \tag{3.6}$$

resulting in (**??**).

3.2 If **A** and **B** are linearly independent,

$$k_1\mathbf{A}+k_2\mathbf{B}=0 \implies k_1=k_2=0 \tag{3.7}$$

3.3 BE and CF are medians of $\triangle ABC$ intersecting at O as shown in Fig. **??**. Show that

$$\frac{CO}{OF}=\frac{BO}{OE}=2 \tag{3.8}$$

Solution: Let

$$\frac{CO}{OF}=k_1 \tag{3.9}$$

$$\frac{BO}{OE}=k_2 \tag{3.10}$$

Using (**??**),

$$\mathbf{E}=\frac{\mathbf{A}+\mathbf{C}}{2} \tag{3.11}$$

$$\mathbf{F}=\frac{\mathbf{A}+\mathbf{B}}{2} \tag{3.12}$$

and

$$\mathbf{O}=\frac{k_1\mathbf{F}+\mathbf{C}}{k_1+1}=\frac{k_1\frac{\mathbf{A}+\mathbf{B}}{2}+\mathbf{C}}{k_1+1} \tag{3.13}$$

$$\mathbf{O}=\frac{k_2\mathbf{E}+\mathbf{B}}{k_2+1}=\frac{k_2\frac{\mathbf{A}+\mathbf{C}}{2}+\mathbf{B}}{k_2+1} \tag{3.14}$$

From (**??**) and (**??**),

$$\frac{k_1\frac{\mathbf{A}+\mathbf{B}}{2}+\mathbf{C}}{k_1+1}=\frac{k_2\frac{\mathbf{A}+\mathbf{C}}{2}+\mathbf{B}}{k_2+1} \tag{3.15}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\implies &\left[\frac{k_1\left(k_2+1\right)}{2}-\frac{k_2\left(k_1+1\right)}{2}\right]\mathbf{A}\\ &+\left[\frac{k_1\left(k_2+1\right)}{2}-\left(k_1+1\right)\right]\mathbf{B}\\ &+\left[\left(k_2+1\right)-\frac{k_2\left(k_1+1\right)}{2}\right]\mathbf{C}=0\end{aligned} \tag{3.16}$$

resulting in $k_1=k_2$,

$$k_1^2-k_1-2=0 \implies k_1=k_2=2, \tag{3.17}$$

provided $\mathbf{A},\mathbf{B},\mathbf{C}$ are linearly independent. Thus, substituting $k_1=2$ in (**??**),

$$\mathbf{O}=\frac{\mathbf{A}+\mathbf{B}+\mathbf{C}}{3} \tag{3.18}$$

If $\mathbf{A},\mathbf{B},\mathbf{C}$ are linearly dependent,

$$\mathbf{A}=\alpha\mathbf{B}+\beta\mathbf{C} \tag{3.19}$$

Note that $\mathbf{B},\mathbf{C}$ are linearly independent. Sub-

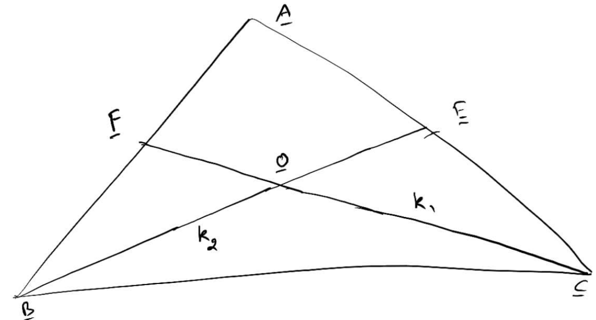

Fig. 3.3

stituting (**??**) in (**??**),

$$\left[\frac{k_1(k_2+1)}{2} - \frac{k_2(k_1+1)}{2}\right][\alpha\mathbf{B} + \beta\mathbf{C}] + \left[\frac{k_1(k_2+1)}{2} - (k_1+1)\right]\mathbf{B} + \left[(k_2+1) - \frac{k_2(k_1+1)}{2}\right]\mathbf{C} = 0 \quad (3.20)$$

$$\implies \begin{array}{c} (k_1 - k_2)\,\alpha + k_1 k_2 - k_1 - 2 = 0 \\ (k_1 - k_2)\beta - k_1 k_2 + k_2 + 2 = 0 \end{array} \quad (3.21)$$

$$\implies (k_1 - k_2)(\alpha + \beta - 1) = 0 \quad (3.22)$$

If $\alpha + \beta = 1, \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}$ are collinear according to (**??**) resulting in a contradiction. Hence, $k_1 = k_2$, which, upon substitution in (**??**), yields

$$k_1^2 - k_1 - 2 = 0 \implies k_1 = 2. \quad (3.23)$$