

G V V Sharma*

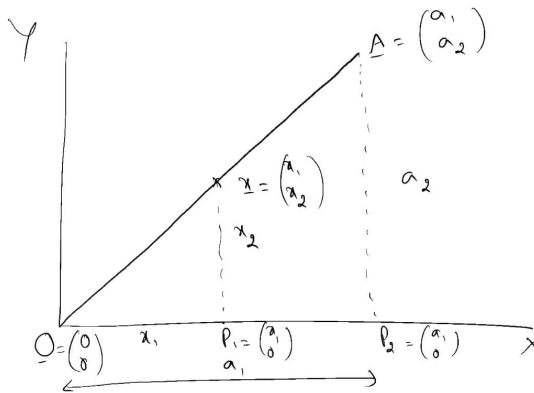


Fig. 1.1

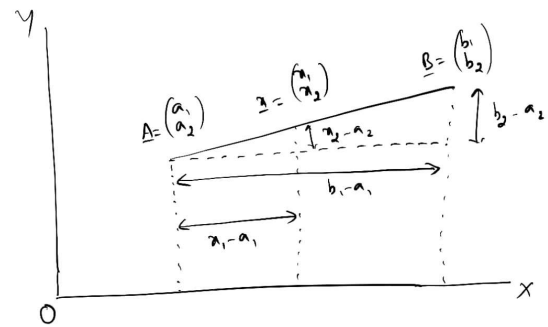


Fig. 1.2

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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. 1.1. 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,

$$\frac{x_2}{x_1} = \frac{a_2}{a_1} = m \quad (1.1)$$

$$\Rightarrow x_2 = mx_1 \quad (1.2)$$

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

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ mx_1 \end{pmatrix} = x_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ m \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.3)$$

In general, the above equation is written as

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

1.2 Find the equation of AB in Fig. 1.2

Solution: From Fig. 1.2,

$$\frac{x_2 - a_2}{x_1 - a_1} = \frac{b_2 - a_2}{b_1 - a_1} = m \quad (1.5)$$

$$\Rightarrow x_2 = mx_1 + a_2 - ma_1 \quad (1.6)$$

From (1.6),

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ mx_1 + a_2 - ma_1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.7)$$

$$= \mathbf{A} + (x_1 - a_1) \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ m \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.8)$$

$$= \mathbf{A} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ m \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.9)$$

1.3 Find the length of \mathbf{A} in Fig. 1.1

Solution: Using Baudhayana's theorem, the

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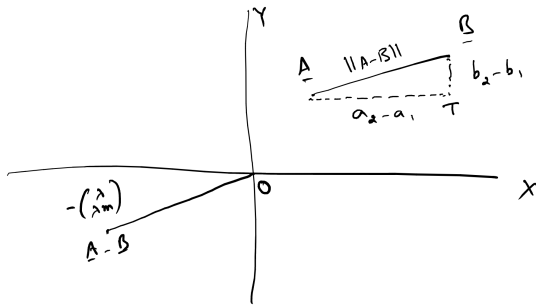


Fig. 1.4

length of the vector \mathbf{A} is defined as

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

Also, from (1.4),

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

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. 1.4. From (1.9), for some λ ,

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

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B} = -\lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ m \end{pmatrix}, \quad (1.13)$$

$\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}$ is marked in Fig. 1.4.

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

2 ORTHOGONALITY

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

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

Solution: Using Baudhayana's theorem,

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}\|^2 + \|\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{C}\|^2 &= \|\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{A}\|^2 \quad (2.2) \\ \Rightarrow (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B})^T (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}) + (\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{C})^T (\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{C}) &= (\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{A})^T (\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{A}) \\ \Rightarrow 2\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{B} - 2\mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{B} + 2\mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{C} - 2\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{C} &= 0 \quad (2.3) \end{aligned}$$

which can be simplified to obtain (2.1).

2.2 Let \mathbf{x} be any point on AB in Fig. 2.1. Show that

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

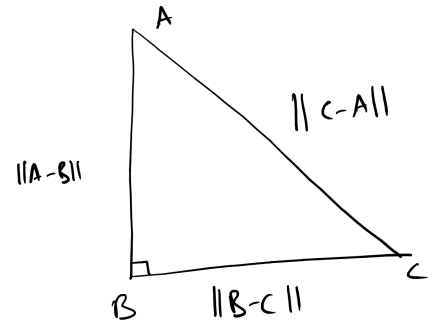


Fig. 2.1

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

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

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

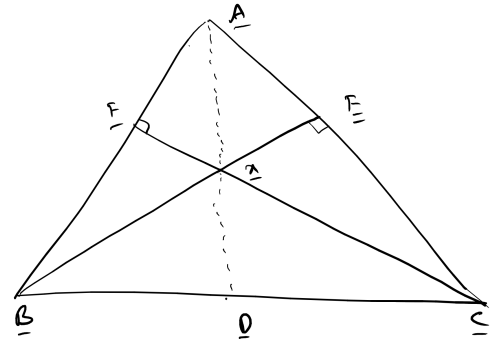


Fig. 2.4

Solution: Let \mathbf{x} be the intersection of BE and CF . Then, using (2.5),

$$(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{B})^T (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C}) = 0 \quad (2.6)$$

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

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

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

Subtracting (2.8) from ,

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

$$\Rightarrow (\mathbf{x}^T - \mathbf{A}^T) (\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{C}) = 0 \quad (2.10)$$

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

which completes the proof.

3 MEDIANS OF A TRIANGLE

3.1 In Fig. 3.1,

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

Show that

$$\frac{\mathbf{A} + k\mathbf{C}}{k + 1} = \mathbf{B}. \quad (3.2)$$

Solution: From (1.9),

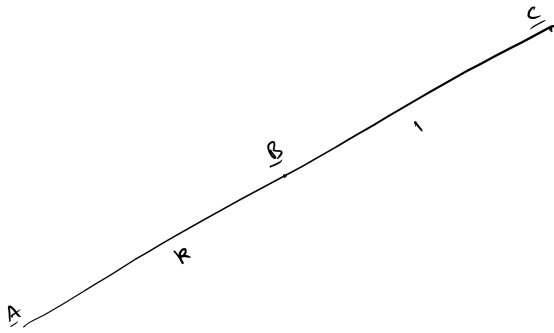


Fig. 3.1

$$\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{A} + \lambda_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ m \end{pmatrix}, \quad (3.3)$$

$$\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{C} - \lambda_2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ m \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\|\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}\|}{\|\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{C}\|} = \frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_2} = k \quad (3.4)$$

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

from (3.1). Using (3.4) and (3.4),

$$\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B} = k(\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{C}) \quad (3.6)$$

resulting in (3.2).

3.2 If \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} are linearly independent,

$$k_1\mathbf{A} + k_2\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{0} \Rightarrow k_1 = k_2 = 0 \quad (3.7)$$

3.3 BE and CF are medians of $\triangle ABC$ intersecting at O as shown in Fig. ?? . AD passes through O . Show that AD is a median.

Solution: Let

$$\frac{CO}{OF} = k_1 \quad (3.8)$$

$$\frac{BO}{OE} = k_2 \quad (3.9)$$

Using (3.2),

$$\mathbf{E} = \frac{\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{C}}{2} \quad (3.10)$$

$$\mathbf{F} = \frac{\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B}}{2} \quad (3.11)$$

and

$$\mathbf{O} = \frac{k_1\mathbf{F} + \mathbf{C}}{k_1 + 1} = \frac{k_1\frac{\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B}}{2} + \mathbf{C}}{k_1 + 1} \quad (3.12)$$

$$\mathbf{O} = \frac{k_2\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{B}}{k_2 + 1} = \frac{k_2\frac{\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{C}}{2} + \mathbf{B}}{k_2 + 1} \quad (3.13)$$

From (3.12) and (3.13),

$$\frac{k_1\frac{\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B}}{2} + \mathbf{C}}{k_1 + 1} = \frac{k_2\frac{\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{C}}{2} + \mathbf{B}}{k_2 + 1} \quad (3.14)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow & \left[\frac{k_1(k_2 + 1)}{2} - \frac{k_2(k_1 + 1)}{2} \right] \mathbf{A} \\ & + \left[\frac{k_1(k_2 + 1)}{2} - (k_1 + 1) \right] \mathbf{B} \\ & + \left[(k_2 + 1) - \frac{k_2(k_1 + 1)}{2} \right] \mathbf{C} = \mathbf{0} \end{aligned} \quad (3.15)$$

resulting in $k_1 = k_2$,

$$k_1^2 - k_1 - 2 = 0 \Rightarrow k_1 = k_2 = 2. \quad (3.16)$$