

The Cinetal Line

Linear Algebra through Coordinate Geometry



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Abstract—This manual introduces linear algebra through coordinate geometry using a problem solving approach.

1 The Straight Line

1.1 The equation of the line between two points **A** and **B** is given by

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{A} + \lambda \left(\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B} \right) \tag{1.1}$$

Alternatively, it can be expressed as

$$\mathbf{n}^{T}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{A}) = 0 \tag{1.2}$$

where \mathbf{n} is the solution of

$$(\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B})^T \mathbf{n} = 0 \tag{1.3}$$

1.2 In $\triangle ABC$,

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JEE

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \tag{1.4}$$

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and the equations of the medians through ${\bf B}$ and ${\bf C}$ are respectively

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = 5 \tag{1.5}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = 4 \tag{1.6}$$

Find the area of $\triangle ABC$.

Solution: The centroid O is the solution of (1.5),(1.6) and is obtained as the solution of the matrix equation

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \tag{1.7}$$

which can be solved using the augmented matrix as follows.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 5 \\ 1 & 0 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.8)$$

Thus,

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$$\mathbf{O} = \begin{pmatrix} 4\\1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{1.9}$$

Let AD be the median through **A**. Then,

$$\frac{\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{C}}{3} = \mathbf{O} \tag{1.10}$$

$$\implies \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{C} = 3\mathbf{O} - \mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 11 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \qquad (1.11)$$

$$\implies \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{B} + \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 11 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{1.12}$$

From (1.6) and (1.12),

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{B} = 5 \tag{1.13}$$

$$\implies 5 + \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{C} = 12 \tag{1.14}$$

$$\implies (1 \quad 1) \mathbf{C} = 7 \tag{1.15}$$

From (1.15) and (1.6), C can be obtained by

solving

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \tag{1.16}$$

using the augmented matrix as

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 7 \\ 1 & 0 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 7 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.17)$$

$$\implies \mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \tag{1.18}$$

From (1.11),

$$\mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 11\\1 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 4\\3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 7\\-2 \end{pmatrix} \tag{1.19}$$

Thus,

$$\frac{1}{2} \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{B} & \mathbf{C} \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 7 & 4 \\ 2 & -2 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 9 \quad (1.20)$$

2 ORTHOGONALITY

2.1 $\mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{x} = 0 \implies \mathbf{u} \perp \mathbf{x}$. Show that

$$\mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{P}^T \mathbf{x} = 0 \implies \mathbf{P} = \alpha \mathbf{u} \tag{2.1}$$

2.2 The foot of the perpendicular drawn from the origin on the line

$$AB: \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{x} = \lambda \tag{2.2}$$

where

$$\mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{2.3}$$

is **P**. The line meets the x-axis at **A** and y-axis at **B**. Show that $\mathbf{P} = \alpha \mathbf{u}$ and find α .

Solution: From (2.2),

$$\mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{B} = \lambda \tag{2.4}$$

$$\implies \mathbf{u}^T (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}) = 0 \tag{2.5}$$

Since $OP \perp AB$,

$$\mathbf{P}^T (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}) = 0 \tag{2.6}$$

Thus, from (2.1),

$$\mathbf{P} = \alpha \mathbf{u} \tag{2.7}$$

Since \mathbf{P} lies on (2.2),

$$\mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{P} = \alpha \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{u} = \lambda \tag{2.8}$$

$$\implies \alpha = \frac{\lambda}{\mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{u}} = \frac{\lambda}{10}.$$
 (2.9)

2.3 Find **A**.

Solution: Let

$$\mathbf{A} = a \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \tag{2.10}$$

From (2.2),

$$\mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{A} = a \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \lambda \tag{2.11}$$

$$\implies a = \frac{\lambda}{3} \tag{2.12}$$

and
$$\mathbf{A} = \frac{\lambda}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$
 (2.13)

2.4 Find the ratio BP : PA.

Solution: Let

$$\frac{BP}{PA} = k \tag{2.14}$$

Then,

$$k\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B} = (k+1)\mathbf{P} \tag{2.15}$$

$$\implies k\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{B} = (k+1)\mathbf{P}^T\mathbf{A}$$
 (2.16)

$$\implies ka^2 = \alpha (k+1) \lambda$$
 (2.17)

using (2.7), (2.10), (2.2) and $\mathbf{A} \perp \mathbf{B}$. Substituting from (2.9) and (2.12),

$$\implies k\frac{\lambda^2}{9} = (k+1)\frac{\lambda^2}{10} \tag{2.18}$$

$$\implies k = 9 \tag{2.19}$$

3 Locus

3.1 The line through

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 2\\3 \end{pmatrix} \tag{3.1}$$

intersects the coordinate axes at **P** and **Q**. **O** is the origin and rectangle *OPRQ* is completed as shown in Fig. (3.1),

3.2 Show that

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{R} \tag{3.2}$$

$$\mathbf{Q} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{R} \tag{3.3}$$

$$\mathbf{P} + \mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{R} \tag{3.4}$$

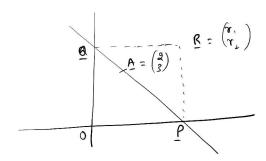


Fig. 3.1

3.3 Show that

$$(\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{P})^T \mathbf{n} = 0$$

$$(\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{Q})^T \mathbf{n} = 0$$

$$(\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{Q})^T \mathbf{n} = 0$$
(3.5)

Solution: Trivial using (1.2) and (1.3).

3.4 Show that

$$(2\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{R})^T \mathbf{n} = 0 \tag{3.6}$$

$$\mathbf{R}^T \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{n} = 0 \tag{3.7}$$

Solution: From (3.5) and (3.4)

$$[2\mathbf{A} - (\mathbf{P} + \mathbf{Q})]^T \mathbf{n} = 0 \tag{3.8}$$

resulting in (3.6). From (3.5) and (3.2),(3.3), (3.7) is obtained.

3.5 Show that

$$\mathbf{R}^T \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{R} = 0. \tag{3.9}$$

3.6 Find the locus of \mathbf{R} .

Solution: For **n** to be unique in (3.6),(3.7),

$$(2\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{R}) = k \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{R}$$

$$\implies \mathbf{R}^T \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} (2\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{R})$$

$$= k \mathbf{R}^T \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{R}$$

$$= k \mathbf{R}^T \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{R} = 0 \quad (3.10)$$

where k is some constant. Thus, the desired

locus is

$$\mathbf{R}^T \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} (2\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{R}) = 0 \tag{3.11}$$

$$\implies \mathbf{R}^T \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{R} - 2\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{R} = 0 \qquad (3.12)$$

4 Conics

4.1 The equation of a quadratic curve is given by

$$Ax_1^2 + Bx_1x_2 + Cx_2^2 + Dx_1 + Ex_2 + F = 0$$
 (4.1)

Show that (4.1) can be expressed as

$$\mathbf{x}^T V \mathbf{x} + 2\mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{x} + F = 0 \tag{4.2}$$

Find the matrix V and vector \mathbf{u} .

4.2 The tangent to (4.1) at a point **p** on the curve is given by

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{p}^T & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} V & \mathbf{u} \\ \mathbf{u}^T & F \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 0 \tag{4.3}$$

Show that (4.3) can be expressed as

$$(\mathbf{p}^T V + \mathbf{u}^T) \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{u} + F = 0$$
 (4.4)

4.3 Classify the various conic sections based on (4.2).

Solution:

Curve	Property	
Circle	V = kI	
Parabola	$\det(V) = 0$	
Ellipse	det(V) > 0	
Hyperbola	det(V) < 0	

TABLE 4.3

5 Circle

5.1 The tangent to the circle

$$C_1: \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x} - (2 \quad 0) \mathbf{x} + -1 = 0$$
 (5.1)

at the point $\binom{2}{1}$, cuts off a chord of length 4 from a circle C_2 whose centre is $\binom{3}{-2}$. Find the radius of C_2 .

6 Parabola

6.1 Find the tangent at $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix}$ to the parabola

$$\mathbf{x}^T \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} + 6 = 0 \tag{6.1}$$

Solution: Substituting

$$\mathbf{p} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix}, V = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{u} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$
 (6.2)

in (4.4), the desired equation is

$$\begin{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 7 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}
+ \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 7 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} + 6 = 0 \quad (6.3)$$

resulting in

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = 5 \tag{6.4}$$

6.2 The line in (6.4) touches the circle

$$\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x} + 4 \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} + c = 0 \tag{6.5}$$

Find *c*.

Solution: Comparing (4.2) and (6.5),

$$V = I,$$

$$\mathbf{u} = 2 \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$
(6.6)

Comparing (4.4) and (6.4),

$$\mathbf{p} + 2 \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{6.7}$$

$$\implies \mathbf{p} = -\begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix} \tag{6.8}$$

and

$$c + \mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{u} = 5 \tag{6.9}$$

$$\implies c = 5 + 2\left(6 \quad 7\right)\left(\frac{4}{3}\right) \tag{6.10}$$

$$= 95$$
 (6.11)

7 Hyperbola

7.1 Tangents are drawn to the hyperbola

$$\mathbf{x}^T V \mathbf{x} = 36 \tag{7.1}$$

where

$$V = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{7.2}$$

at points P and Q. If these tangents intersect at

$$\mathbf{T} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}, \tag{7.3}$$

find the equation of PQ.

Solution: The equations of the two tangents are obtained using (4.4) as

$$\mathbf{P}^T V \mathbf{x} = 36 \tag{7.4}$$

$$\mathbf{Q}^T V \mathbf{x} = 36. \tag{7.5}$$

Since both pass through **T**

$$\mathbf{P}^T V \mathbf{T} = 36 \implies \mathbf{P}^T \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} = 36 \tag{7.6}$$

$$\mathbf{Q}^T V \mathbf{T} = 36 \implies \mathbf{Q}^T \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} = 36 \tag{7.7}$$

Thus, P, Q satisfy

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & -3 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = -36 \tag{7.8}$$

$$\implies (0 \quad 1)\mathbf{x} = -12 \tag{7.9}$$

which is the equation of PQ.

7.2 In $\triangle PTQ$, find the equation of the altitude $TD \perp PO$.

Solution: Since

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 0 \tag{7.10}$$

using (1.2) and (7.9), the equation of TD is

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{T}) = 0 \tag{7.11}$$

$$\implies \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = 0 \tag{7.12}$$

7.3 Find *D*.

Solution: From (7.9) and (7.12),

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{D} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -12 \end{pmatrix} \tag{7.13}$$

$$\implies \mathbf{D} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -12 \end{pmatrix} \tag{7.14}$$

7.4 Show that the equation of PQ can also be expressed as

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{D} + \lambda \mathbf{m} \tag{7.15}$$

where

$$\mathbf{m} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \tag{7.16}$$

7.5 Show that for $V^T = V$,

$$(\mathbf{D} + \lambda \mathbf{m})^T V (\mathbf{D} + \lambda \mathbf{m}) + F = 0 \qquad (7.17)$$

can be expressd as

$$\lambda^2 \mathbf{m}^T V \mathbf{m} + 2\lambda \mathbf{m}^T V \mathbf{D} + \mathbf{D}^T V \mathbf{D} + F = 0 \quad (7.18)$$

7.6 Find **P** and **Q**.

Solution: From (7.15) and (7.1) (7.18) is obtained. Substituting from (7.16), (7.2) and (7.14)

$$\mathbf{m}^T V \mathbf{m} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = 4 \tag{7.19}$$

$$\mathbf{m}^T V \mathbf{D} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -12 \end{pmatrix} = 0 \quad (7.20)$$

$$\mathbf{D}^T V \mathbf{D} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -12 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -12 \end{pmatrix} = -144$$
(7.21)

Substituting in (7.18)

$$4\lambda^2 - 144 = 36 \tag{7.22}$$

$$\implies \lambda = \pm 3\sqrt{5} \tag{7.23}$$

Substituting in (7.15),

$$\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{D} + 3\sqrt{5}\mathbf{m} = 3\begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{5} \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} \tag{7.24}$$

$$\mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{D} - 3\sqrt{5}\mathbf{m} = -3\begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{5} \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \tag{7.25}$$

7.7 Find the area of $\triangle PTQ$.

Solution: Since

$$PQ = ||\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{Q}|| = 6\sqrt{5}$$
 (7.26)

$$TD = ||\mathbf{T} - \mathbf{D}|| = 15,$$
 (7.27)

the desired area is

$$\frac{1}{2}PQ \times TD = 45\sqrt{5} \tag{7.28}$$

7.8 Repeat the previous exercise using determinants.

8 JEE

8.1 Tangent and normal are drawn at

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{pmatrix} 16\\16 \end{pmatrix} \tag{8.1}$$

on the parabola

$$\mathbf{x}^{T} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} + \begin{pmatrix} 16 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = 0 \tag{8.2}$$

which intersect the axis of the parabola at **A** and **B** respectively. If **C** is the centre of the circle through the ponts **P A** and **B**, find tan *CPB*.

8.2 A circle passes through the points $\binom{2}{3}$ and $\binom{4}{5}$. If its centre lies on the line

$$(-1 \quad 4)\mathbf{x} + 3 = 0 \tag{8.3}$$

find its radius.

- 8.3 Two parabolas with a common vertex and with axes along *x*-axis and *y*-axis, respectively, intersect each other in the first quadrant. If the length of the latus rectum of each parabola is 3, find the equation of the common tangent to the two parabolas.
- 8.4 If the tangents drawn to the hyperbola

$$\mathbf{x}^T V \mathbf{x} + 1 = 0 \tag{8.4}$$

where

$$V = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -4 \end{pmatrix} \tag{8.5}$$

intersect the coordinate axes at the distinct points A and B, find the locus of the mid point of AB.

8.5 β is one of the angles between the normals to the ellipse

$$\mathbf{x}^T V \mathbf{x} = 9 \tag{8.6}$$

where

$$V = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \tag{8.7}$$

at the points

$$\begin{pmatrix} 3\cos\theta\\ \sqrt{3}\sin\theta \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -3\sin\theta\\ \sqrt{3}\cos\theta \end{pmatrix}, \quad \theta \in \left(0, \frac{\pi}{2}\right), \quad (8.8)$$

then find $\frac{2 \cot \beta}{\sin 2\theta}$.

8.6 The sides of a rhombus *ABC* are parallel to the lines

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} + 2 = 0 \tag{8.9}$$

$$(7 -1)\mathbf{x} + 3 = 0.$$
 (8.10)

If the diagonals of the rhombus intersect at

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \tag{8.11}$$

and the vertex A (different) from the origin is on the y-axis, then find the ordinate of A.

8.7 Tangents drawn from the point $\begin{pmatrix} -8\\0 \end{pmatrix}$ to the parabola

$$\mathbf{x}^{T} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} + \begin{pmatrix} -8 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = 0 \tag{8.12}$$

touch the parabola at **P** and **Q**. If **F** is the focus of the parabola, then find the area of $\triangle PFQ$.

8.8 A normal to the hyperbola

$$\mathbf{x}^T \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 0 \\ 0 & -9 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = 36 \tag{8.13}$$

meets the coordinate axes x and y at A and B respectively. If the parallelogram OABP is formed, find the locus of P.

8.9 Find the locus of the point of intersection of the lines

$$(\sqrt{2} -1)\mathbf{x} + 4\sqrt{2}k = 0 (8.14)$$

$$\left(\sqrt{2}k \quad k\right)\mathbf{x} - 4\sqrt{2} = 0 \tag{8.15}$$

8.10 If a circle *C*, whose radius is 3, touches externally the circle

$$\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x} + \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -4 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = 4 \tag{8.16}$$

at the point $\binom{2}{2}$, then find the length of the intercept cut by this circle C on the x-axis.