

We start from the distance equations, where  $d_N$  is the distance between the landmark  $(x_N, y_N, z_N)$  and the point to localize  $(x, y, z)$ :

$$\begin{aligned}d_A^2 &= (x_A - x)^2 + (y_A - y)^2 + (z_A - z)^2 \\d_B^2 &= (x_B - x)^2 + (y_B - y)^2 + (z_B - z)^2 \\d_C^2 &= (x_C - x)^2 + (y_C - y)^2 + (z_C - z)^2\end{aligned}$$

By expanding the squares,

$$\begin{aligned}d_A^2 &= (x_A^2 - 2x_Ax + x^2) + (y_A^2 - 2y_Ay + y^2) + (z_A^2 - 2z_Az + z^2) \\d_B^2 &= (x_B^2 - 2x_Bx + x^2) + (y_B^2 - 2y_By + y^2) + (z_B^2 - 2z_Bz + z^2) \\d_C^2 &= (x_C^2 - 2x_Cx + x^2) + (y_C^2 - 2y_Cy + y^2) + (z_C^2 - 2z_Cz + z^2)\end{aligned}$$

And by grouping some terms together,

$$\begin{aligned}d_A^2 - (x_A^2 + y_A^2 + z_A^2) &= -2(x_Ax + y_Ay + z_Az) + x^2 + y^2 + z^2 \\d_B^2 - (x_B^2 + y_B^2 + z_B^2) &= -2(x_Bx + y_By + z_Bz) + x^2 + y^2 + z^2 \\d_C^2 - (x_C^2 + y_C^2 + z_C^2) &= -2(x_Cx + y_Cy + z_Cz) + x^2 + y^2 + z^2\end{aligned}$$

The left term of each equation does not depend on the point  $(x, y, z)$ , we can therefore simplify the equation by creating a new notation  $d_N$  :

$$\begin{bmatrix} d'_A \\ d'_B \\ d'_C \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} d_A^2 - (x_A^2 + y_A^2 + z_A^2) \\ d_B^2 - (x_B^2 + y_B^2 + z_B^2) \\ d_C^2 - (x_C^2 + y_C^2 + z_C^2) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$d'_A = -2(x_Ax + y_Ay + z_Az) + x^2 + y^2 + z^2 \quad (1)$$

$$d'_B = -2(x_Bx + y_By + z_Bz) + x^2 + y^2 + z^2 \quad (2)$$

$$d'_C = -2(x_Cx + y_Cy + z_Cz) + x^2 + y^2 + z^2 \quad (3)$$

We want to cancel  $x^2 + y^2 + z^2$  from (1), (2), and (3). For that, we will do the following differences : (1) - (2), (2) - (3), (3) - (1).

$$\begin{aligned}d'_A - d'_B &= -2[(x_Ax + y_Ay + z_Az) - (x_Bx + y_By + z_Bz)] \\d'_B - d'_A &= -2[(x_Bx + y_By + z_Bz) - (x_Ax + y_Ay + z_Az)] \\d'_C - d'_C &= -2[(x_Cx + y_Cy + z_Cz) - (x_Cx + y_Cy + z_Cz)]\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}d'_A - d'_B &= -2[(x_A - x_B)x + (y_A - y_B)y + (z_A - z_B)z] \\d'_B - d'_C &= -2[(x_B - x_C)x + (y_B - y_C)y + (z_B - z_C)z] \\d'_C - d'_A &= -2[(x_C - x_A)x + (y_A - y_B)y + (z_C - z_A)z]\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}-\frac{d'_A - d'_B}{2} &= (x_A - x_B)x + (y_A - y_B)y + (z_A - z_B)z \\-\frac{d'_B - d'_C}{2} &= (x_B - x_C)x + (y_B - y_C)y + (z_B - z_C)z \\-\frac{d'_C - d'_A}{2} &= (x_C - x_A)x + (y_A - y_B)y + (z_C - z_A)z\end{aligned}$$

This notation can be rewritten with matrices:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_A - x_B & y_A - y_B & z_A - z_B \\ x_B - x_C & y_B - y_C & z_B - z_C \\ x_C - x_A & y_A - y_B & z_C - z_A \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \frac{-1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} d'_A - d'_B \\ d'_B - d'_C \\ d'_C - d'_A \end{bmatrix}$$

$\mathbf{A}x = \mathbf{B}$

If the rank of the first matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  is at least 3, we can solve this system of equations with simple matrix solving techniques.