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Matrix Theory: Assignment 3

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Abstract—This problem is to demonstrate the way to prove a triangle as isosceles using matrix algebra.

Download latex and python codes from

https://github.com/Ritesh622/Assignment_EE5609/ tree/master/Assignment_3

1 Problem

ABC is a triangle in which altitudes BE and CF to sides AC and AB, are equal. Show that

1) AB = AC i.e, $\triangle ABC$ is an isosceles triangle.

2 Solution

Let consider we have a triangle $\triangle ABC$. There are two altitudes BE and CF being drawn from the vertices B and C respectively. And we have,

$$\|\mathbf{E} - \mathbf{B}\| = \|\mathbf{F} - \mathbf{C}\| \tag{2.0.1}$$

Let \mathbf{m}_{AB} and \mathbf{m}_{CF} are the direction vectors of AB and CF respectively. Since AB \perp CF hence,

$$\mathbf{m}_{AB}\mathbf{m}_{CF} = 0 \tag{2.0.2}$$

$$(\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{E})^{\mathrm{T}} (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C}) = \mathbf{0}$$
 (2.0.3)

$$(B - A + A - C + C - E)^{T} (A - C) = 0$$
 (2.0.4)

$$(\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A})^{\mathrm{T}} (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C}) + ||\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C}||^{2} + (\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{F})^{\mathrm{T}} (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C}) = \mathbf{0}$$
(2.0.5)

Similarly, AC \perp BE hence,

$$\mathbf{m}_{AC}\mathbf{m}_{BE} = 0 \tag{2.0.6}$$

$$(\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{F})^{\mathbf{T}} (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}) = \mathbf{0}$$
 (2.0.7)

$$(\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{B} - \mathbf{F})^{\mathrm{T}} (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}) = \mathbf{0} \quad (2.0.8)$$

$$(\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{A})^{\mathrm{T}} (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}) + ||\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}||^{2} + (\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{F})^{\mathrm{T}} (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}) = \mathbf{0}$$
(2.0.9)

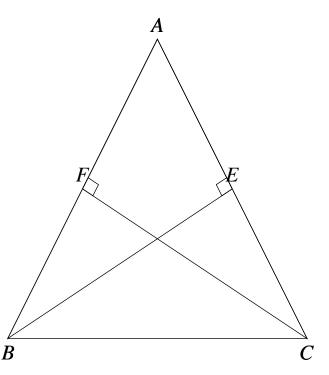


Fig. 1: Isosceles triangle ABC

In $\triangle ABC$, taking inner product of sides AB and AC we can write :

$$\implies \cos \angle BAC = \frac{(\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A})^T (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C})}{\|\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A}\| \|\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C}\|} \qquad (2.0.10)$$

and,

$$(\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{A})^{T} (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}) = \|\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{A}\| \|\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}\| \cos \angle ABC$$
(2.0.11)

From equation 2.0.10, and 2.0.11, we have,

$$(\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A})^T (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C}) = (\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{A})^T (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B})$$
 (2.0.12)

using equation 2.0.12 in 2.0.5 and 2.0.9 we can

write,

$$\|\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C}\|^2 + (\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{E})^T (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C}) =$$
$$\|\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}\|^2 + (\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{F})^T (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}) \quad (2.0.13)$$

$$\|\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C}\|^2 + (\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{E})^T (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C}) =$$
$$\|\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}\|^2 + (\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{F})^T (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}) \quad (2.0.14)$$

$$\|\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C}\|^2 + (\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{B} - \mathbf{E})^T (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C}) =$$

 $\|\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}\|^2 + (\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C} + \mathbf{C} - \mathbf{F})^T (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B})$
(2.0.15)

$$||\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C}||^2 + ||\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C}||^2 + (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B})^T (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C}) + (\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{E})^T$$

$$(\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C}) = ||\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}||^2 + ||\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}||^2 + (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C})^T (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B})$$

$$+ (\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{F})^T (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}) \quad (2.0.16)$$

since BE \perp AC and CF \perp AB, hence :

$$(\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{E})^T (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C}) = \mathbf{0}$$
 (2.0.17)

and,

$$(\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{F})^{\mathrm{T}} (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}) = \mathbf{0}$$
 (2.0.18)

Now equation 2.0.16 become:

$$2 \|\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C}\|^2 + (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B})^T (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C}) =$$

$$2 \|\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}\|^2 + (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C})^T (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}) \quad (2.0.19)$$

Using equation 2.0.12 in equation 2.0.19,

$$\|\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C}\| = \|\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}\|$$
 (2.0.20)