

Some Math Basics

Lecture

Cyrill Stachniss

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5 Minute Preparation for Today



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=giOpcCPHitY>

Photogrammetry & Robotics Lab

Some Math Basics

Cyrill Stachniss

The slides have been created by Cyrill Stachniss.

Motivation

- We use several concepts from math
- **Goal:** Provide a short reminder for few things that we will use on our way

Brief, informal, incomplete, and unordered set of explanations

Motivation

- We use several concepts from math
- **Goal:** Provide a short reminder
- **Topics**
 - Solving $Ax=b$
 - Solving $Ax=0$ using SVD
 - Least squares with Gauss Newton
 - Skew-symmetric matrix
 - Derivative of rotation matrices
 - Homogenous coordinates (own lecture)

System of Linear Equations

$$Ax = b$$

Linear Equation System: $Ax=b$

Three cases:

- A is squared and has full rank
- A is **over**determined
- A is **under**determined

Solving $Ax=b$, w/ Exact Solution

- **A is a square matrix with full rank**
- Best-case situation, unique solution
- Can be solved in many ways...

Solving $Ax=b$, w/ Exact Solution

- **A is a square matrix with full rank**
- Best-case situation, unique solution
- Can be solved through
 - Gauss elimination
 - Inversion of A : $x = A^{-1}b$
 - Cholesky decomposition $\text{chol}(A) = LL^T$
with lower triangular matrix L
and then solving $Ly = b$ and $L^Tx = y$
 - QR decomposition
 - Conjugate gradients

Solving $Ax=b$, A overdetermined

- **Common real-world situation**
- No exact solution exists
- We aim at finding minimizing $\|Ax - b\|$ instead of solving $Ax = b$:

$$x^* = \arg \min_x \|Ax - b\|$$

- Ordinary least squares approach
- Solution can be obtained through

$$x = (A^T A)^{-1} A^T b$$

Solving $Ax=b$, A underdetermined

- **Infinitively many solutions exist**
(or no solution if inconsistent)
- Not enough information available
- Approach: Find x which solves $Ax = b$
and minimizes $\|x\|$
- Solution

$$x = A^T (AA^T)^{-1} b$$

Homogenous System

$$Ax = 0$$

Homogenous System: $Ax=0$

- Find a solution $x \neq 0$ fulfilling $Ax = 0$
- Means system is underdetermined
- There exists a null space of A called $\text{null}(A)$ and all x fulfilling $Ax = 0$ are elements of it
- A 's rank deficiency defines the dimensionality of the null space

Eigenvalues

- For a squared matrix, we have

$$\dim(A) = \dim(\text{null}(A)) + \text{rank}(A)$$

- Which impact does this have on the Eigenvalues of A ?

Eigenvalues

- For a squared matrix, we have

$$\dim(A) = \dim(\text{null}(A)) + \text{rank}(A)$$

- Which impact does this have on the Eigenvalues of A ?
- There are $\text{rank}(A)$ non-zero Eigenvalues
- There are $\dim(\text{null}(A))$ Eigenvalues that are zero

Eigenvector

- For each Eigenvector ν holds $A\nu = \lambda\nu$
- Thus, for those with Eigenvalue 0 we have $A\nu = 0\nu = 0$

Eigenvector

- For each Eigenvector ν holds $A\nu = \lambda\nu$
- Thus, for those with Eigenvalue 0 we have $A\nu = 0\nu = 0$
- **Result:** all Eigenvectors corresponding to an Eigenvalue of 0 solve $Ax = 0$
- The same holds for all linear combinations of these Eigenvectors
- These Eigenvectors form $\text{null}(A)$

Eigenvector & Singular Vectors

- If A is square, real, symmetric and has non-negative Eigenvalues, then Eigenvalues equal to singular values
- Singular vectors and values also defined for non-square matrices
- We can use SVD to compute the singular values and vectors

Singular Value Decomposition

- SVD decomposes a matrix A into

$$A = UDV^T$$

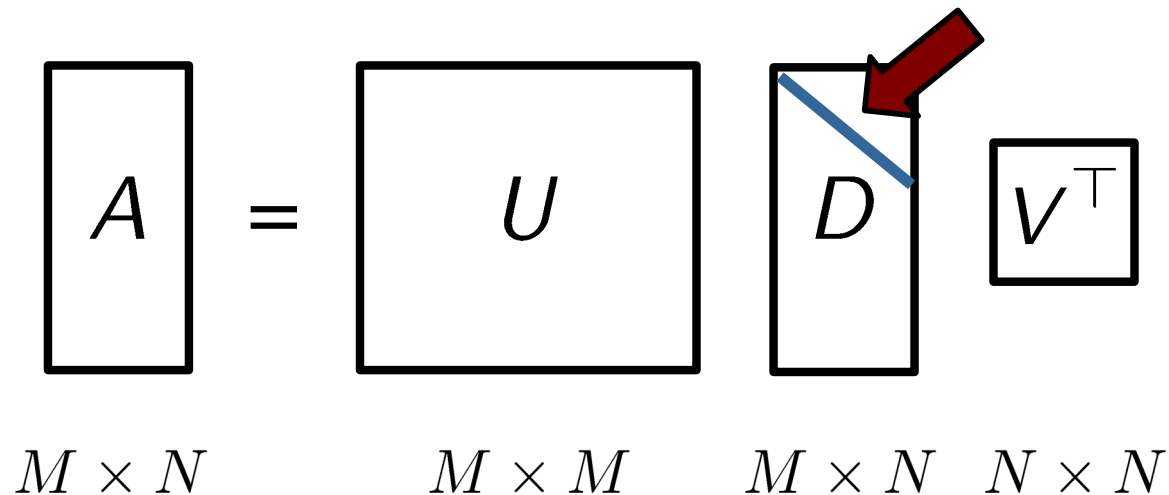
A diagram illustrating the dimensions of the matrices in the SVD decomposition $A = UDV^T$. The matrix A is represented by a tall rectangle with dimensions $M \times N$ below it. An equals sign follows. The matrix U is represented by a square with dimensions $M \times M$ below it. The matrix D is represented by a tall rectangle with dimensions $M \times N$ below it. The matrix V^T is represented by a small square with dimensions $N \times N$ below it.

$$\begin{matrix} \boxed{A} & = & \boxed{U} & \boxed{D} & \boxed{V^T} \\ M \times N & & M \times M & M \times N & N \times N \end{matrix}$$

Singular Values

- SVD decomposes a matrix A into

$$A = UDV^T$$



- D is a diagonal matrix of singular values sorted from large to small
- U, V are orthogonal matrices

Singular Vectors

- SVD decomposes a matrix A into

$$A = UDV^T$$

Diagram illustrating the SVD decomposition $A = UDV^T$. The matrices are represented by boxes with their dimensions below them:

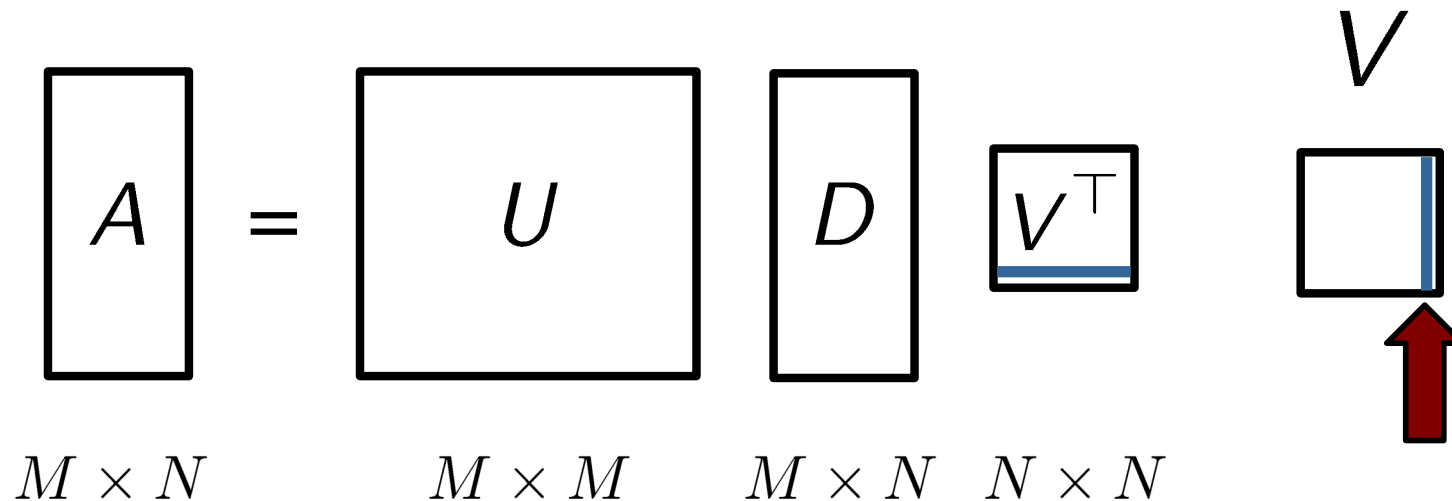
- A is a tall rectangle with dimensions $M \times N$.
- $=$ is the equality symbol.
- U is a square with dimensions $M \times M$.
- D is a tall rectangle with dimensions $M \times N$.
- V^T is a small square with dimensions $N \times N$. A red arrow points to this matrix, which has a blue horizontal line at the bottom.

- V^T stores the corresponding singular vectors to the values

Singular Vectors

- SVD decomposes a matrix A into

$$A = UDV^T$$



- Math libraries often returns V not V^T
- The last column of V stores the vector corresponding to the smallest value

Solution to $Ax=0$ via SVD

- Decompose A using SVD: $A = UDV^T$
- Check if the smallest singular value in D is zero: $D_{NN} \stackrel{?}{=} 0$
- **If so, the last column of V is a non-trivial solution x to $Ax = 0$**

Solution to $Ax=0$ via SVD

- Decompose A using SVD: $A = UDV^T$
- Check if the smallest singular value in D is zero: $D_{NN} \stackrel{?}{=} 0$
- If so, the last column of V is a non-trivial solution x to $Ax = 0$
- **If not**, there is **no non-trivial solution** (i.e., only the trivial exists)
- **However**, the last column of V represents the vector that minimizes $\|Ax\|$ under the constraint $\|x\| = 1$

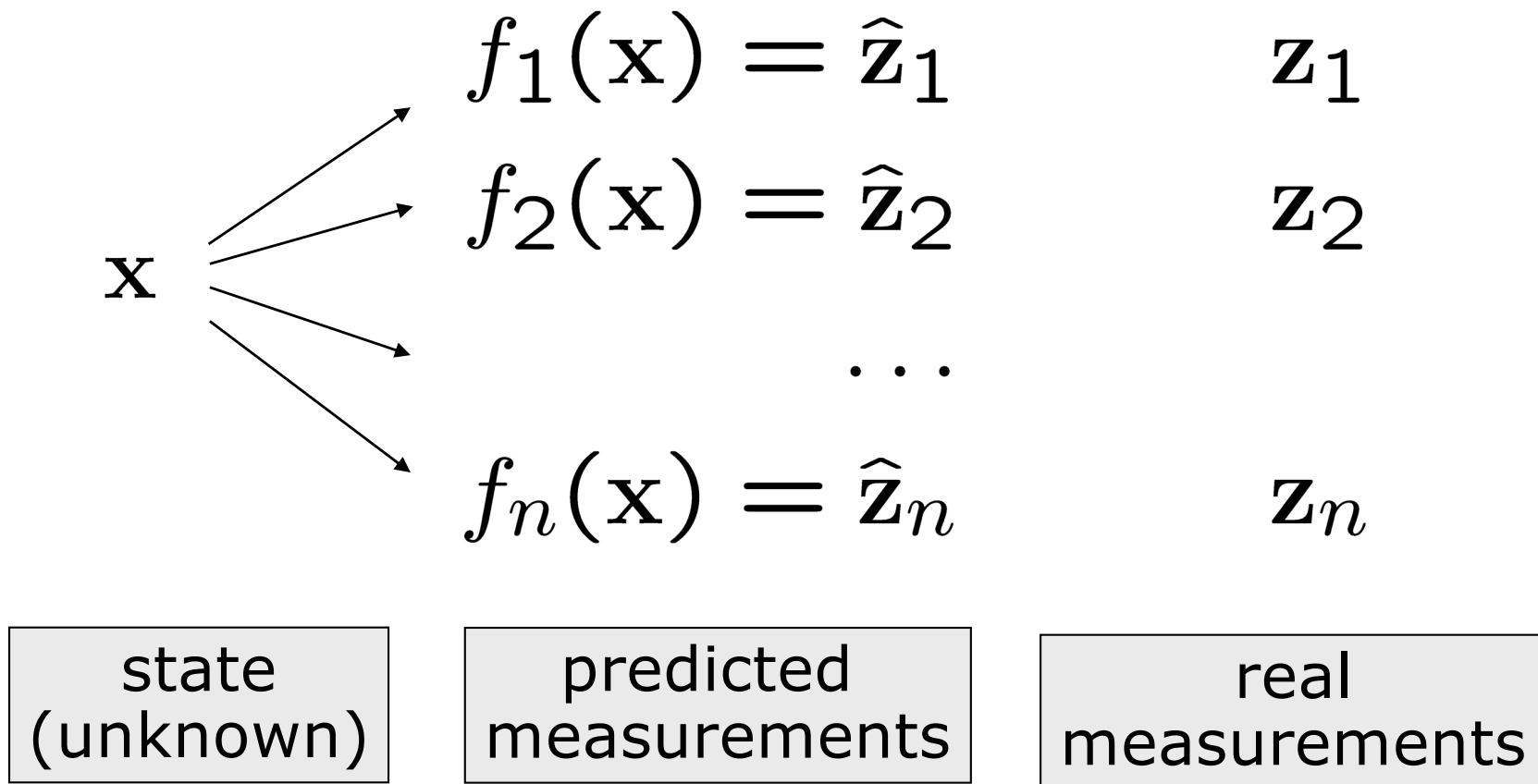
Least Squares (an non-Geodetic view)

Least Squares in 5 Minutes



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87S82fh4rI4>

Graphical Explanation



Error Function

- Error \mathbf{e}_i is typically the **difference** between the **predicted and actual** measurement

$$\mathbf{e}_i(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{z}_i - f_i(\mathbf{x})$$

- We assume that the error has **zero mean** and is **normally distributed**
- Gaussian error with information matrix Λ_i
- The squared error of a measurement depends only on the state and is a scalar

$$e_i(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{e}_i(\mathbf{x})^T \Lambda_i \mathbf{e}_i(\mathbf{x})$$

Linearizing the Error Function

- Approximate the error functions around an initial guess \mathbf{x} via Taylor expansion

$$e_i(\mathbf{x} + \Delta\mathbf{x}) \simeq \underbrace{e_i(\mathbf{x})}_{e_i} + \mathbf{J}_i(\mathbf{x}) \Delta\mathbf{x}$$

- \mathbf{J} is the Jacobian

$$\mathbf{J}_f(x) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1(x)}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f_1(x)}{\partial x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_1(x)}{\partial x_n} \\ \frac{\partial f_2(x)}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f_2(x)}{\partial x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_2(x)}{\partial x_n} \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ \frac{\partial f_m(x)}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f_m(x)}{\partial x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_m(x)}{\partial x_n} \end{pmatrix}$$

Gauss-Newton

Iterate the following steps:

- Linearize around \mathbf{x} and compute for each measurement

$$e_i(\mathbf{x} + \Delta\mathbf{x}) \simeq e_i(\mathbf{x}) + \mathbf{J}_i \Delta\mathbf{x}$$

- Compute the terms for the linear system $\mathbf{b}^\top = \sum_i \mathbf{e}_i^\top \Lambda_i \mathbf{J}_i$ $\mathbf{H} = \sum_i \mathbf{J}_i^\top \Lambda_i \mathbf{J}_i$

- Solve the linear system

$$\Delta\mathbf{x}^* = -\mathbf{H}^{-1}\mathbf{b}$$

- Updating state $\mathbf{x} \leftarrow \mathbf{x} + \Delta\mathbf{x}^*$

Skew-Symmetric Matrices

Skew-Symmetric Matrices

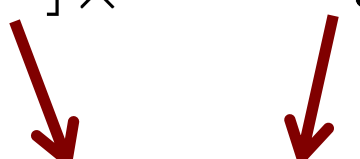
- A skew-symmetric matrix is a matrix S for which holds $S^T = -S$

Skew-Symmetric Matrices

- A skew-symmetric matrix is a matrix S for which holds $S^T = -S$
- S has zeros on the main diagonal
- $\forall S \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3} : \det(S) = 0$
- $\det(S) = 0$ if $\dim(S)$ odd.


Skew-Symmetric Matrices in 3D

- In \mathbb{R}^3 we can express the cross product through a skew-symmetric matrix

$$a \times b = [a]_{\times} b = S_a b$$

$$[a]_{\times} = S_a = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -a_3 & a_2 \\ a_3 & 0 & -a_1 \\ -a_2 & a_1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Skew-Symmetric Matrices in 3D

- In \mathbb{R}^3 we can express the cross product through a skew-symmetric matrix

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$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ a_3 \end{bmatrix}}_a \times \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{bmatrix}}_b = \begin{bmatrix} -a_3b_2 + a_2b_3 \\ a_3b_1 - a_1b_3 \\ -a_2b_1 + a_1b_2 \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 0 & -a_3 & a_2 \\ a_3 & 0 & -a_1 \\ -a_2 & a_1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{S_a} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{bmatrix}}_b$$

Derivative of a Rotation Matrix

Derivative of a Rotation Matrix

- Skew-symmetric matrices are useful to formulate the derivative of a rotation matrix

- For any rotation matrix R holds

$$RR^{\top} = I$$

- Consider a rotation by θ around x-axis

$$R_x(\theta)$$

- Then, we have $R_x(\theta)R_x^{\top}(\theta) = I$

Derivative of a Rotation Matrix

- Compute derivative (chain rule)

$$R_x(\theta)R_x^\top(\theta) = I$$

$$\frac{d}{d\theta} \left(R_x(\theta)R_x^\top(\theta) \right) = \frac{d}{d\theta} I$$

$$\frac{d}{d\theta} R_x(\theta)R_x^\top(\theta) + R_x(\theta)\frac{d}{d\theta} R_x^\top(\theta) = 0$$

Derivative of a Rotation Matrix

- Compute derivative (chain rule)

$$R_x(\theta)R_x^\top(\theta) = I$$


$$\frac{d}{d\theta} \left(R_x(\theta)R_x^\top(\theta) \right) = \frac{d}{d\theta} I$$

$$\frac{d}{d\theta} R_x(\theta)R_x^\top(\theta) + R_x(\theta)\frac{d}{d\theta} R_x^\top(\theta) = 0$$

- Exploiting $(AB)^\top = B^\top A^\top$ leads us to

$$\frac{d}{d\theta} R_x(\theta)R_x^\top(\theta) + \left(\frac{d}{d\theta} R_x(\theta)R_x^\top(\theta) \right)^\top = 0$$

Derivative of a Rotation Matrix

- Rewrite $\frac{d}{d\theta} R_x(\theta) R_x^\top(\theta) + \left(\frac{d}{d\theta} R_x(\theta) R_x^\top(\theta) \right)^\top = 0$ 
- as $S + S^\top = 0$
- This directly leads to $S^\top = -S$, which is a skew-symmetric matrix
- We can now exploit the fact that $\frac{d}{d\theta} R_x(\theta) R_x^\top(\theta)$ is a skew-symmetric matrix

Derivative of a Rotation Matrix

- We have $S = \frac{d}{d\theta} R_x(\theta) R_x^\top(\theta)$

$$R_x = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ 0 & \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$$

Remember:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{d\theta} \sin(\theta) &= \cos(\theta) \\ \frac{d}{d\theta} \cos(\theta) &= -\sin(\theta) \end{aligned}$$

- So

$$S = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\sin \theta & -\cos \theta \\ 0 & \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \end{bmatrix}}_{\frac{d}{d\theta} R_x(\theta)} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ 0 & -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}}_{R_x^\top(\theta)}$$

Derivative of a Rotation Matrix

$$\begin{aligned} S &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\sin \theta & -\cos \theta \\ 0 & \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ 0 & -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= S e_x \end{aligned}$$

with the unit vector $e_x = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

Derivative of a Rotation Matrix

- This means $\frac{d}{d\theta} R_x(\theta) R_x^\top(\theta) = S e_x$
- and thus

$$\frac{d}{d\theta} R_x(\theta) = \frac{d}{d\theta} R_x(\theta) \underbrace{R_x^\top(\theta) R_x(\theta)}_I = S e_x R_x(\theta)$$

- The derivative of a rotation matrix $R_x(\theta)$ is the skew-symmetric matrix $S e_x$ times the rotation matrix itself

$$\frac{d}{d\theta} R_x(\theta) = S e_x R_x(\theta)$$

The Same for x, y, z Axes

- We can repeat the same to x, y, z and obtain

$$\frac{d}{d\theta} R_x(\theta) = S_{e_x} R_x(\theta)$$

$$\frac{d}{d\theta} R_y(\theta) = S_{e_y} R_y(\theta)$$

$$\frac{d}{d\theta} R_z(\theta) = S_{e_z} R_z(\theta)$$

- and even for an arbitrary rot. axis r

$$\frac{d}{d\theta} R_r(\theta) = S_r R_r(\theta)$$

Infinitesimal Small Rotations

- Similarly, we can also approximate an infinitesimally small rotation by

$$R \approx I + dR = I + S_{dr} = I + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -d\kappa & d\phi \\ d\kappa & 0 & -d\omega \\ -d\phi & d\omega & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Thus,

$$dR = S_{dr} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -d\kappa & d\phi \\ d\kappa & 0 & -d\omega \\ -d\phi & d\omega & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Summary

This lecture was a **brief and informal reminder** of concepts we will need

- Solving $Ax=b$
- Solving $Ax=0$ using SVD
- Least squares with Gauss Newton
- Skew-symmetric matrix
- Derivative of a rotation matrix
- Own lecture: Homogenous coordinates