

Given:  $(x_1, y_1)$   $(x_2, y_2)$   $(x_3, y_3)$

Find:  $(x_c, y_c)$  ... The center of a circle passing through all 3 points

Solution: For a circle

$$(x - x_c)^2 + (y - y_c)^2 = r^2$$

So

$$x^2 - 2xx_c + x_c^2 + y^2 - 2yy_c + y_c^2 = r^2$$

1 equation with 3 unknowns

Rewrite as

$$x_c^2 + y_c^2 - r^2 = 2xx_c + 2yy_c \quad \text{---} (x^2 + y^2)$$

For point 1

$$x_c^2 + y_c^2 - r^2 = 2x_1x_c + 2y_1y_c \quad \text{---} (x_1^2 + y_1^2)$$

So, for points 2 & 3

$$2x_2x_c + 2y_2y_c \quad \text{---} r_{02}^2 = 2x_1x_c + 2y_1y_c \quad \text{---} r_{01}^2$$

From origin to 1

or

$$(2)(x_2 - x_1)x_c + (2)(y_2 - y_1)y_c = r_{02}^2 - r_{01}^2$$

and similarly

$$(2)(x_3 - x_1)x_c + (2)(y_3 - y_1)y_c = r_{03}^2 - r_{01}^2$$

so

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} (x_2 - x_1) & (y_2 - y_1) \\ (x_3 - x_1) & (y_3 - y_1) \end{bmatrix}}_A \begin{bmatrix} x_c \\ y_c \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} r_{02}^2 - r_{01}^2 \\ r_{03}^2 - r_{01}^2 \end{bmatrix}}_b$$

$$\boxed{\begin{bmatrix} x_c \\ y_c \end{bmatrix} = A^{-1}b}$$

# Format For vectors

