Linear Algebra: 3D geometry

Mitaxi Mehta: Lectures 3 and 4



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• To solve multiply by A^{-1} to get $\vec{x} = A^{-1}\vec{b}$.

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- This means I am inviting a trouble for myself in formatting my document, but the hope is that the notation will lead to more sensible equations.
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- The row and column vector are called dual to each other.

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- Jainam: The reason for that is that A^{-1} calculation requires division by Det(A).
- Preet: Two columns or two rows being the same would make the determinant zero.

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- The 3D analogue of the above will be parallel planes.
- When Det(A) = 0, A is called a singular matrix.



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$$4x + 10y = 18$$

Consider two lines,

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• What can you say about the slopes of the two lines?



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- Write the matrix equation and check if Det(A) = 0. How many solutions are there?



$$2x + 5y = 8$$

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Answer all the questions on the previous slide.



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- Reading suggestions: "The blind watchmaker" and "The selfish gene" by Richard Dawkins.

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- Milind: A plane parallel to the y-z plane passing through x = 3

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- On real line, x = 3 describes a point.
- On 2D plane, it is a line parallel to the y axis.
- In 3D space, it is a plane parallel to the yz plane.

$$x+2y+z = 9$$

$$2x+y-z = 3$$

$$x-y+z = 1$$

Consider the following set of equations.

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- Anurag: Coefficients give a point in the plane.
- The solution gives the intersection points of the three planes.



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- It turns out that $1 + 2 * 2 + 1 = 6 \neq 9$, hence the coefficients don't describe a point in the plane.
- Tangent: When needed, always check your answer for correctness.

• How can we find a point on the plane x + 2y + z = 9?

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- Arya: Trial and error gives one point as (3, 1, 4), check it out.
- Is there a better way for finding points on a plane?