

Detection of straight lines in images

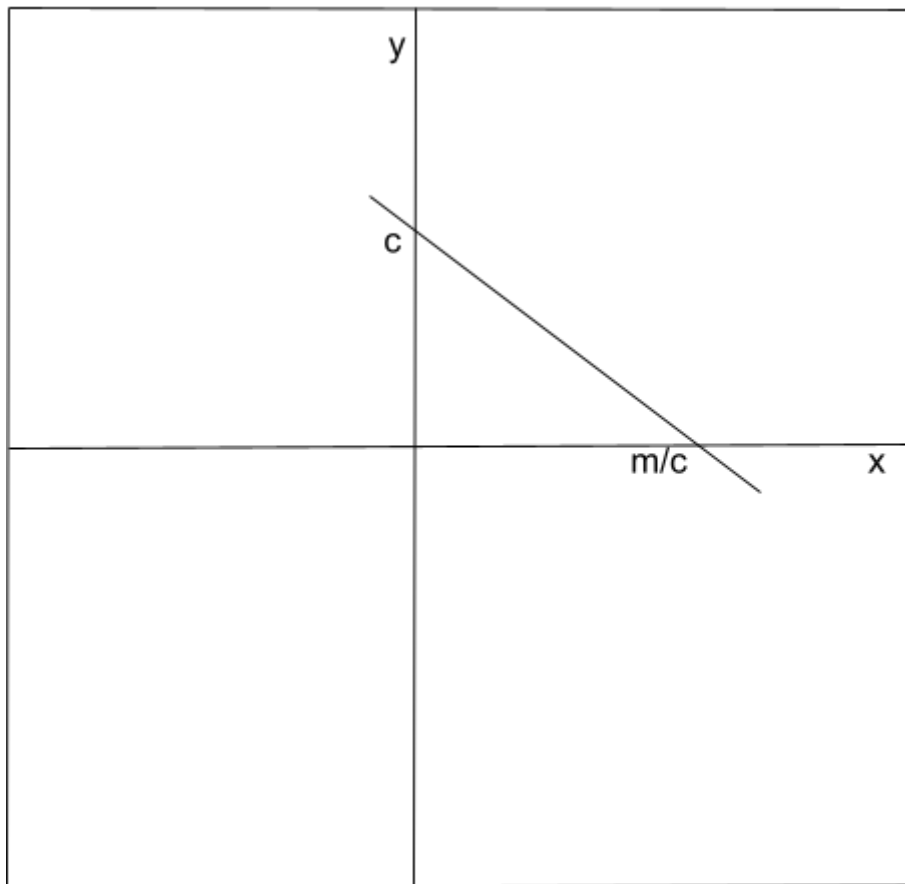
Reference :- <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/line-detection-python-opencv-houghline-method/>

Drawing different shapes like lines, rectangles, ellipses etc in an image is quite a straightforward task once the analytic expression for the curve is available. One can generate a set of foreground pixels using the expression and then render it. However, detecting lines, and curves in images is a more involved task.

Analytical expression for a line in x-y plane is given by

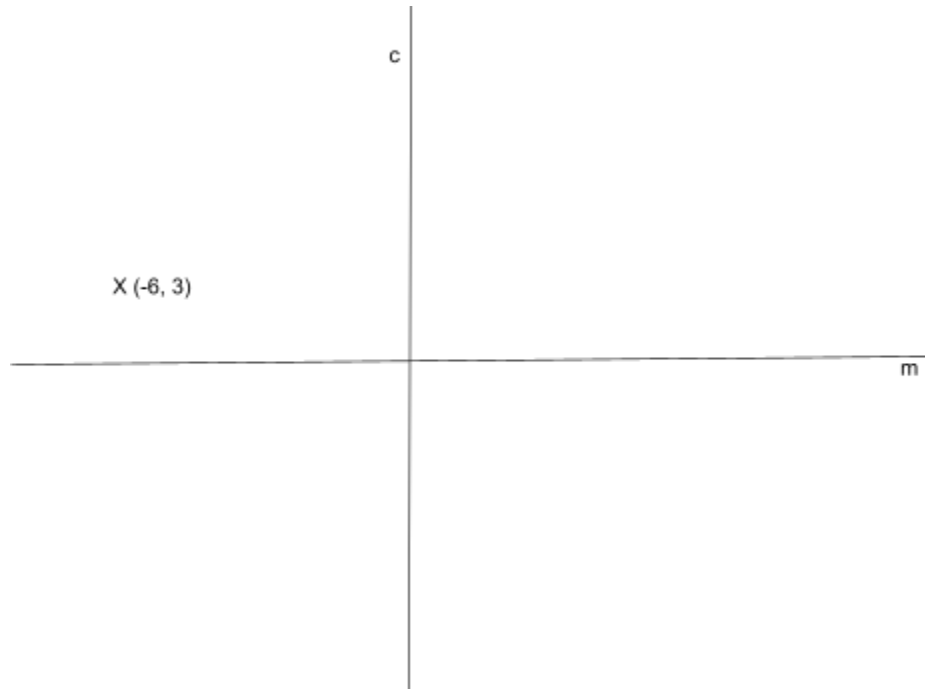
$$y = mx + c$$

Where m is the slope and c is y-intercept. For a given m and c , the set of all (x, y) pairs satisfying the above expression lies on the line.



Parametric Representation of Line

Slope Intercept form



A line in (x,y) space, where x and y are horizontal and vertical coordinates in the image, corresponds to a single point in the parameter space (m,c).

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p6_TXNUvQtc)

Hessel Normal form

The parameter space of y-intercept and slope (m, c) mentioned above has the issue that the slope m is infinity for vertical lines. Hence the Hough transform algorithm is implemented in another parameter space called Hessel normal form. The parameters in this system, r and θ are defined as below

$$r = x \cdot \cos(\theta) + y \cdot \sin(\theta)$$

where

r - Distance from origin to the closest point on the line

θ - Angle between x axis and the line from origin to closest point on the line

Just like (m,c) space, a point in (r, θ) space represents a line in (x, y) space.

