

Assignment-2

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Abstract—This document explain the concept of finding the shortest distance between lines.

Download all python codes from

<https://github.com/vipulmalik8569/MT-EE5609>

and latex-tikz codes from

<https://github.com/vipulmalik8569/MT-EE5609>

Using Gaussian elimination method:

$$E = E_{32}E_{31}E_{21} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & 1 & 0 \\ -\frac{1}{2} & 1 & \frac{3}{4} \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.0.6)$$

$$E \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 & : & 0 \\ -2 & 1 & : & 1 \\ 2 & -2 & : & -4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 & : & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & : & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & : & -2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.0.7)$$

1 PROBLEM

Find the shortest distance between the lines :

$$L_1 : \mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} 1-t \\ t-2 \\ 3-2t \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.0.1)$$

$$L_2 : \mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} s+1 \\ 2s-1 \\ -2s-1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} + s \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.0.2)$$

2 SOLUTION

We have,

$$L_1 : \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{a}_1 + t\mathbf{b}_1 \quad (2.0.1)$$

$$L_2 : \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{a}_2 + s\mathbf{b}_2 \quad (2.0.2)$$

where, \mathbf{a}_i , \mathbf{b}_i are positional and slope vectors of line L_i respectively.

As $\mathbf{b}_1 \neq \lambda\mathbf{b}_2$, lines L_1 and L_2 are not parallel to each other.

Now, let us assume that L_1 and L_2 are intersecting at a point. Therefore,

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} + s \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.0.3)$$

$$s \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.0.4)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 \\ -2 & 1 \\ 2 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} s \\ t \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.0.5)$$

From (2.0.7) it is clear that the system of linear equations are inconsistent. Therefore L_1 and L_2 are not intersecting at any point.

Hence our assumption was wrong, L_1 , L_2 are **skew lines**.

Let d be the shortest distance between L_1 , L_2 and \mathbf{p}_1 , \mathbf{p}_2 be the positional vectors of its end points.

For d to be the shortest, we know that,

$$\mathbf{b}_1^T(\mathbf{p}_2 - \mathbf{p}_1) = 0 \quad (2.0.8)$$

$$\mathbf{b}_2^T(\mathbf{p}_2 - \mathbf{p}_1) = 0 \quad (2.0.9)$$

$$\mathbf{b}_1^T \left((\mathbf{a}_2 - \mathbf{a}_1) + (\mathbf{b}_2 \ \mathbf{b}_1) \begin{pmatrix} s \\ -t \end{pmatrix} \right) = 0 \quad (2.0.10)$$

$$\mathbf{b}_2^T \left((\mathbf{a}_2 - \mathbf{a}_1) + (\mathbf{b}_2 \ \mathbf{b}_1) \begin{pmatrix} s \\ -t \end{pmatrix} \right) = 0 \quad (2.0.11)$$

$$\mathbf{B} = (\mathbf{b}_2 \ \mathbf{b}_1), \mathbf{B}^T = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{b}_2^T \\ \mathbf{b}_1^T \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.0.12)$$

By combining equation (2.0.10) and (2.0.11) and writing in terms of \mathbf{B} and \mathbf{B}^T using (2.0.12) we get:

$$\mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{B} \begin{pmatrix} s \\ -t \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{B}^T(\mathbf{a}_1 - \mathbf{a}_2) \quad (2.0.13)$$

By putting the values of \mathbf{a}_1 , \mathbf{a}_2 , \mathbf{b}_1 and \mathbf{b}_2 in equation (2.0.13) we get:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 5 & 6 \\ 9 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} s \\ -t \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -9 \\ -10 \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.0.14)$$

Solving equation (2.0.14) we get:

$$s = \frac{-15}{29}, t = \frac{31}{29} \quad (2.0.15)$$

By putting the values of t and s in equation (2.0.1) and (2.0.2) respectively we get:

$$\mathbf{p}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{-17}{250} \\ \frac{-93}{100} \\ \frac{43}{50} \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{p}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{12}{25} \\ -2 \\ \frac{17}{500} \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.0.16)$$

Hence the shortest distance d between the two skew lines is :

$$d = \|\mathbf{p}_2 - \mathbf{p}_1\| = 1.4855 \quad (2.0.17)$$

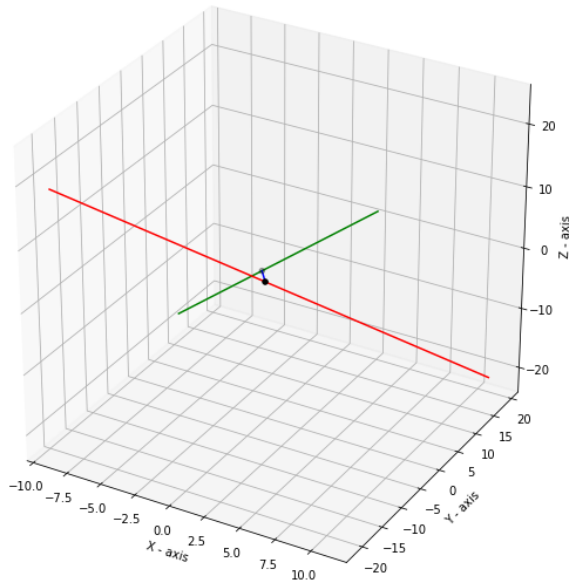


Fig. 0: 3-D plot for the skew lines and the shortest distance between them.