

Mathematics 1350H – Linear algebra I: matrix algebra

TRENT UNIVERSITY, Fall 2009

Assignment #3

Due on Friday, 13 November, 2009.

Circular reasoning?

1. In two dimensions, the equation of a circle of radius r and with centre at (a, b) is $(x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2 = r^2$. Using algebra — including linear algebra! — find the radius and centre of the circle passing through the points $(1, 0)$, $(4, 3)$, and $(5, 2)$. [4]
2. In general, do three points in two-dimensional space specify a circle passing through all three? If so, why? If not, why not? (You do not need to give a formal proof here, just a convincing argument.) [4]
3. How many points does one need in three-dimensional space to specify a sphere? What restriction(s) must there be on these points? [2]

Maternity

There once was a Square, such a square little Square,
And he loved a trim Triangle;
But she was a flirt and around her skirt
Vainly she made him dangle.
Oh he wanted to wed and he had no dread
Of domestic woes and wrangles;
For he thought that his fate was to procreate
Cute little Squares and Triangles.
Now it happened one day on that geometric way
There swaggered a big bold Cube,
With haughty stare and he made that Square
Have the air of a perfect boob;
To his solid spell the Triangle fell,
And she thrilled with love's sweet sickness,
For she took delight in his breadth and height—
But how she adored his thickness!
So that poor little Square just died of despair,
For his love he could not strangle;
While the bold Cube led to the bridal bed
That cute and acute Triangle.
The square's sad lot she has long forgot,
And his passionate pretensions . . .
For she dotes on her kids— Oh such cute *Pyramids*
In a world of three dimensions.

Robert Service