
Subject: Re: find a plane in a 3D plot
Posted by [Brian Larsen](#) on Fri, 12 Sep 2008 13:59:50 GMT
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Nicola,

One way this is done (maybe the way) is to do an eigenvector decomposition of the data. One answer you get from this analysis is the maximum, minimum, and intermediate variance directions. For your data the maximum should be along the long axis of the ellipse, intermediate along the short axis, and minimum should be the third direction assuming things are really moving in a plane (or close to it).

The particulars of how to actually do this depend on the data, format, and all that jazz but its not generally too hard. Have a look on wikipedia for eigenvectors and maybe even principal component analysis (this is useful but not always comprehensible, at least for me).

Cheers,

Brian

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