

Assignment 9: 4.13.59

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Question:

Determine all values of α for which the point (α, α^2) lies inside the triangle formed by the lines. (1992)

$$2x + 3y - 1 = 0 \quad (1)$$

$$x + 2y - 3 = 0 \quad (2)$$

$$5x - 6y - 1 = 0 \quad (3)$$

Solution:

Given:

$$\mathbf{n}_1^\top \mathbf{x} = c_1 \quad \mathbf{n}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} c_1 = 1 \quad (4)$$

$$\mathbf{n}_2^\top \mathbf{x} = c_2 \quad \mathbf{n}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} c_2 = 3 \quad (5)$$

$$\mathbf{n}_3^\top \mathbf{x} = c_3 \quad \mathbf{n}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -6 \end{pmatrix} c_3 = 1 \quad (6)$$

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \alpha^2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (7)$$

For finding vertices:

$$\begin{pmatrix} n_1 & n_2 \end{pmatrix}^\top \mathbf{V}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (8)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} n_3 & n_1 \end{pmatrix}^\top \mathbf{V}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} c_3 \\ c_1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (9)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} n_2 & n_3 \end{pmatrix}^\top \mathbf{V}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} c_2 \\ c_3 \end{pmatrix} \quad (10)$$

Let us define $d_i = \mathbf{n}_i^\top \mathbf{V}_i - c_i$ as the sign denoting which side of the line the vertex opposite to it lies on.

Also define matrix $\mathbf{D} = \text{diag}(d_1, d_2, d_3)$

For point to lie inside triangle, we need $d_i \cdot (\mathbf{n}_i^\top \mathbf{P} - c_i) > 0$. In matrix form, this is written as:

$$\mathbf{D} = \begin{pmatrix} d_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & d_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & d_3 \end{pmatrix} \quad (11)$$

$$\mathbf{D} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{n}_1^\top \mathbf{P} - c_1 \\ \mathbf{n}_2^\top \mathbf{P} - c_2 \\ \mathbf{n}_3^\top \mathbf{P} - c_3 \end{pmatrix} > \mathbf{0} \quad (12)$$

Let

$$\mathbf{N} = \begin{pmatrix} n_1 & n_2 & n_3 \end{pmatrix}^\top \quad (13)$$

$$\mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ c_3 \end{pmatrix} \quad (14)$$

Thus representing everything in terms of matrices,

$$\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{NP} - \mathbf{C}) > \mathbf{0} \quad (15)$$

is the required inequality. On substituting values,

First, we find the vertices of the triangle using Gaussian elimination:

$$\mathbf{V}_1 : \left(\begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 5 & -6 & 1 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{R_2 \rightarrow R_2 - 5R_1} \left(\begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & -16 & -14 \end{array} \right) \Rightarrow \mathbf{V}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 5/4 \\ 7/8 \end{pmatrix} \quad (16)$$

$$\mathbf{V}_2 : \left(\begin{array}{cc|c} 2 & 3 & 1 \\ 5 & -6 & 1 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{R_2 \rightarrow R_2 - \frac{5}{2}R_1} \left(\begin{array}{cc|c} 2 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & -27/2 & -3/2 \end{array} \right) \Rightarrow \mathbf{V}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1/3 \\ 1/9 \end{pmatrix} \quad (17)$$

$$\mathbf{V}_3 : \left(\begin{array}{cc|c} 2 & 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{R_2 \rightarrow R_2 - \frac{1}{2}R_1} \left(\begin{array}{cc|c} 2 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 1/2 & 5/2 \end{array} \right) \Rightarrow \mathbf{V}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} -7 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} \quad (18)$$

Next, we determine the signs $d_i = \mathbf{n}_i^\top \mathbf{V}_i - c_i$ for each line evaluated at its opposite vertex:

$$d_1 = \mathbf{n}_1^\top \mathbf{V}_1 - c_1 = 2(5/4) + 3(7/8) - 1 = 33/8 \quad (19)$$

$$d_2 = \mathbf{n}_2^\top \mathbf{V}_2 - c_2 = (1/3) + 2(1/9) - 3 = -22/9 \quad (20)$$

$$d_3 = \mathbf{n}_3^\top \mathbf{V}_3 - c_3 = 5(-7) - 6(5) - 1 = -66 \quad (21)$$

For the point $\mathbf{P} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \alpha^2 \end{pmatrix}$ to be inside, the condition $\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{NP} - \mathbf{C}) > \mathbf{0}$ must hold.

$$\mathbf{NP} - \mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 \\ 5 & -6 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \alpha^2 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3\alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1 \\ 2\alpha^2 + \alpha - 3 \\ -6\alpha^2 + 5\alpha - 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (22)$$

Multiplying by the diagonal matrix \mathbf{D} :

$$\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{NP} - \mathbf{C}) = \begin{pmatrix} 33/8 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -22/9 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -66 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 3\alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1 \\ 2\alpha^2 + \alpha - 3 \\ -6\alpha^2 + 5\alpha - 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (23)$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} (33/8)(3\alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1) \\ (-22/9)(2\alpha^2 + \alpha - 3) \\ (-66)(-6\alpha^2 + 5\alpha - 1) \end{pmatrix} > \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (24)$$

This yields the system of inequalities:

$$3\alpha^2 + 2\alpha - 1 > 0 \Rightarrow \alpha \in (-\infty, -1) \cup (1/3, \infty) \quad (25)$$

$$2\alpha^2 + \alpha - 3 < 0 \Rightarrow \alpha \in (-3/2, 1) \quad (26)$$

$$6\alpha^2 - 5\alpha + 1 > 0 \Rightarrow \alpha \in (-\infty, 1/3) \cup (1/2, \infty) \quad (27)$$

The value of α must satisfy all three conditions. Taking the intersection of the solution sets:

$$\alpha \in (-3/2, -1) \cup (1/2, 1) \quad (28)$$

