

2.10.23

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September 23, 2025

# Question

Show that four points **A**(4, 5, 1), **B**(0, −1, −1), **C**(3, 9, 4), **D**(−4, 4, 4) are coplanar.

# Theory

If  $N$  points in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  are given as

$$X_i = (x_i, y_i, z_i), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N,$$

Let equation of the given plane be  
all four point must satisfy the equation of plane

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{B} & \mathbf{C} & \mathbf{D} \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{K} \quad (1)$$

Now equation will be

$$\mathbf{K}^T \mathbf{n} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (2)$$

# Theory

making augment matrix which is

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} x_1 & y_1 & z_1 & 1 \\ x_2 & y_2 & z_2 & 1 \\ x_3 & y_3 & z_3 & 1 \\ x_4 & y_4 & z_4 & 1 \end{array} \right) \quad (3)$$

then the condition for coplanarity is that the augmented matrix

$$A = \left( \begin{array}{cccc} x_1 & y_1 & z_1 & 1 \\ x_2 & y_2 & z_2 & 1 \\ x_3 & y_3 & z_3 & 1 \\ x_4 & y_4 & z_4 & 1 \end{array} \right) \quad (4)$$

satisfies

$$\text{rank}(A) \leq 3. \quad (5)$$

# Solution

Equation of plane:

$$\mathbf{n}^T \mathbf{x} = 1 \quad (6)$$

Now we have: Four point which satisfy the plane can be expressed as:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 4 & 5 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & -1 \\ 3 & 9 & 4 \\ -4 & 4 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{n} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (7)$$

Given augment matrix is :

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 4 & 5 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & -1 & 1 \\ 3 & 9 & 4 & 1 \\ -4 & 4 & 4 & 1 \end{array} \right) \quad (8)$$

# Solution

For the given four points to be coplanar, the rank of the following matrix must be less than 4:

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 5 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & -1 & 1 \\ 3 & 9 & 4 & 1 \\ -4 & 4 & 4 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (9)$$

$$\xrightarrow{R_3 \rightarrow R_3 - \frac{3}{4}R_1, R_4 \rightarrow R_4 + R_1} \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 5 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & \frac{21}{4} & \frac{13}{4} & \frac{1}{4} \\ 0 & 9 & 5 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (10)$$

$$\xrightarrow{R_1 \rightarrow \frac{1}{4}R_1} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{5}{4} & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{4} \\ 0 & -1 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & \frac{21}{4} & \frac{13}{4} & \frac{1}{4} \\ 0 & 9 & 5 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (11)$$

$$\xrightarrow{R_2 \rightarrow -R_2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{5}{4} & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{4} \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & \frac{21}{4} & \frac{13}{4} & \frac{1}{4} \\ 0 & 9 & 5 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (12)$$

$$\xrightarrow{R_3 \rightarrow R_3 - \frac{21}{4}R_2, R_4 \rightarrow R_4 - 9R_2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{5}{4} & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{4} \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 & \frac{22}{4} \\ 0 & 0 & -4 & 11 \end{pmatrix} \quad (13)$$

# Solution

$$\xrightarrow{R_3 \rightarrow -\frac{1}{2}R_3} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{5}{4} & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{4} \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -\frac{11}{4} \\ 0 & 0 & -4 & 11 \end{pmatrix} \quad (14)$$

$$\xrightarrow{R_4 \rightarrow R_4 + 4R_3} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{5}{4} & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{4} \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -\frac{11}{4} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (15)$$

Thus,

$$\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) = 3 < 4 \implies \text{The given points are coplanar.} \quad (16)$$



4 points in 3D — coplanarity test (augmented-rank method)

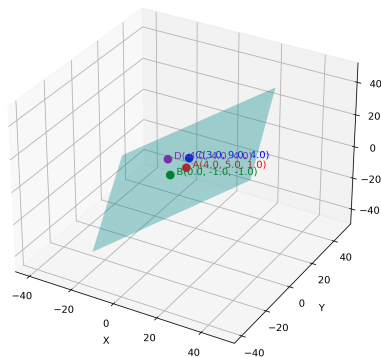


Figure: Geometric visualization of points  $A, B, C, D$  lying on the same plane.