

1.9.30

EE25BTECH11042 - Nipun Dasari

Question:

If the distances of $\mathbf{P} = (x, y)$ from $\mathbf{A} = (5, 1)$ and $\mathbf{B} = (1, 5)$ are equal, then prove that $3x = 2y$.

Solution:

Consider the matrices \mathbf{A} , \mathbf{B} and \mathbf{P} as follows:

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{P} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$$

The condition for distances from \mathbf{B} to \mathbf{P} and \mathbf{A} to \mathbf{P} to be equal is

$$\|\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{A}\| = \|\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{B}\| \implies \|\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{A}\|^2 = \|\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{B}\|^2$$

Using inner products:

$$(\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{A})^T (\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{A}) = (\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{B})^T (\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{B})$$

Expanding on both sides:

$$\mathbf{P}\mathbf{P}^T - 2\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{P} + \mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{P}\mathbf{P}^T - 2\mathbf{B}^T\mathbf{P} + \mathbf{B}^T\mathbf{B}$$

On simplification:

$$(-2\mathbf{A}^T + 2\mathbf{B}^T)\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{B}^T\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{A}$$

LHS constant matrix:

$$2(\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A})^T = 2 \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -5 \\ 5 & -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -12 & 8 \end{pmatrix}$$

RHS constant matrix:

$$\mathbf{B}^T\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{A} = ((-1)^2 + 5^2) - (1^2 + 5^2) = 0$$

From the above:

$$\begin{pmatrix} -12 & 8 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = 0 \implies -12x + 8y = 0 \implies 3x = 2y$$

From the plot we can infer that the locus is perpendicular bisector of the line joining the 2 vectors



