

2.10.1 Matgeo

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Question

Consider 3 points :

$$\mathbf{P} = (-\sin(\beta - \alpha), -\cos \beta), \mathbf{Q} = (\cos(\beta - \alpha), \sin \beta)$$

$$\mathbf{R} = (\cos(\beta - \alpha + \theta), \sin(\beta - \theta))$$

where $\theta < \alpha, \beta, \theta < \frac{\pi}{4}$ Then,

- ① P lies on the line segment RQ
- ② Q lies on the line segment PR
- ③ R lies on the line segment QP
- ④ P,Q,R are non-collinear

Solution

First we have to check if points can be collinear for the values satisfying the given conditions :

The equation for collinearity of the given points are :

$$\text{Rank} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{P} - \mathbf{Q} \\ \mathbf{R} - \mathbf{Q} \end{bmatrix} = 1 \quad (1)$$

$$\text{Rank} \begin{bmatrix} -\sin(\beta - \alpha) - \cos(\beta - \alpha) & -\cos \beta - \sin \beta \\ \cos(\beta - \alpha + \theta) - \cos(\beta - \alpha) & \sin(\beta - \theta) - \sin \beta \end{bmatrix} = 1 \quad (2)$$

$$R_2 = R_2 - R_1 \quad (3)$$

$$\text{Rank} \begin{bmatrix} -\sin(\beta - \alpha) - \cos(\beta - \alpha) & -\cos \beta - \sin \beta \\ \cos(\beta - \alpha + \theta) - \sin(\beta - \alpha) & \sin(\beta - \theta) - \cos \beta \end{bmatrix} = 1 \quad (4)$$

Solution

For the rank to be 1 R_2 must be zero :

$$\cos(\beta - \alpha + \theta) - \sin(\beta - \alpha) = 0 \quad (5)$$

$$(6)$$

This will only be satisfied if :

$$\theta = \frac{\pi}{2} + 2\pi K \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{\pi}{2} - 2\pi K \quad (7)$$

But ,given that :

$$0 < \theta < \frac{\pi}{4} \quad (8)$$

Which is contradictory :

Hence the points P,Q,R are not collinear .