1

Matrices in Geometry 5.2.40

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Question: Solve

$$\frac{4}{x} + 3y = 14$$
$$\frac{3}{x} - 4y = 23$$

Solution: We have the following two equations as:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 4 & 3 \\ 3 & -4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{x} \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 14 \\ 23 \end{pmatrix} \tag{1}$$

Writing the augmented matrix for these equations,

$$\begin{pmatrix} 4 & 3 & | & 14 \\ 3 & -4 & | & 23 \end{pmatrix} \stackrel{R_1 \to R_1/4}{\longleftrightarrow} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3/4 & | & 7/2 \\ 3 & -4 & | & 23 \end{pmatrix} \stackrel{R_2 \to R_2 - 3R_1}{\longleftrightarrow} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3/4 & | & 7/2 \\ 0 & -25/4 & | & 25/2 \end{pmatrix} \stackrel{R_2 \to \frac{-4}{25}R_2}{\longleftrightarrow}$$
(2)

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3/4 & | & 7/2 \\ 0 & 1 & | & -2 \end{pmatrix} \stackrel{R_1 \to R_1 - \frac{3}{4}R_2}{\longleftrightarrow} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & | & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & | & -2 \end{pmatrix}$$
 (3)

This implies that

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{x} \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \implies x = \frac{1}{5} , y = -2$$
 (4)

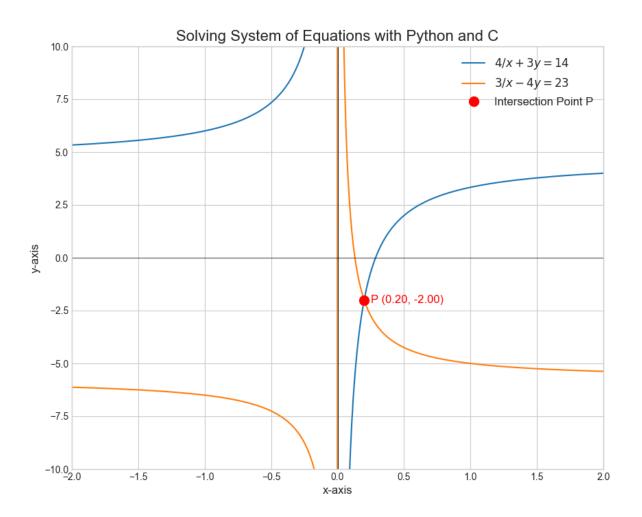


Fig. 1: Graph for 5.2.40