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Question

The area of the triangle formed by the intersection of line parallel to X axis and passing through $\mathbf{p}(h,k)$ with the lines $y=x$ and $x+y=2$ is $4h^2$. Find the locus of point \mathbf{p}

Solution:

line parallel to X axis is of the form

$$y = c. \quad (1)$$

which can be expressed in the form of

$$\mathbf{n}^T \mathbf{x} = c. \quad (2)$$

$$\Rightarrow (0 \quad 1) \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = c. \quad (3)$$

As the above line passes through $\mathbf{p}(h,k)$

$$(0 \quad 1) \begin{pmatrix} h \\ k \end{pmatrix} = c. \Rightarrow c = k. \quad (4)$$

The three lines are as follows

$$y = k \Rightarrow (0 \quad 1) \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = k. \quad (5)$$

$$-x + y = 0 \Rightarrow (-1 \quad 1) \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = 0. \quad (6)$$

$$x + y = 2 \Rightarrow (1 \quad 1) \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = 2. \quad (7)$$

Let $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}$ be the point of intersection of above 3 lines

By solving equation (5) and (6) we get

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} k \\ k \end{pmatrix}. \quad (8)$$

By solving equation (6) and (7) we get

$$\mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (9)$$

By solving equation (5) and (7) we get

$$\mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} 2-k \\ k \end{pmatrix}. \quad (10)$$

$$\text{area of } \triangle ABC = \frac{1}{2} \|(\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}) \times (\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{C})\| \quad (11)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left\| \begin{pmatrix} k-1 \\ k-1 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} k-1 \\ 1-k \end{pmatrix} \right\| \quad (12)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} (2(k-1)^2) = (k-1)^2. \quad (13)$$

Given area of the triangle formed by the intersection of above 3 lines is $4h^2$.

$$\Rightarrow (k-1)^2 = 4h^2. \quad (14)$$

$$\Rightarrow (y-1)^2 = 4x^2 \quad (15)$$

$$\Rightarrow (y-1-2x)(y-1+2x) = 0 \quad (16)$$

\Rightarrow The locus of \mathbf{p} is union of 2 straight lines

$$y-1-2x=0. \Rightarrow (-2 \quad 1) \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = 1. \quad (17)$$

$$y-1+2x=0. \Rightarrow (2 \quad 1) \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = 1. \quad (18)$$

