EE25BTECH11009 - Anshu kumar ram

Question:

Find the position vector of a point R which divides the line joining two points P and Q whose position vectors are $2\vec{a} + \vec{b}$ and $\vec{a} - 3\vec{b}$ externally in the ratio 1:2.

Solution:

$$P = 2\vec{a} + \vec{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 2\\1 \end{pmatrix},\tag{0.1}$$

$$Q = \vec{a} - 3\vec{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{0.2}$$

For external division of PQ in ratio 1:2, the point R is given by

$$R = \frac{1 \cdot Q - 2 \cdot P}{1 - 2} \tag{0.3}$$

$$R = \frac{1}{-1} \left(\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} - 2 \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right) \tag{0.4}$$

$$= - \begin{pmatrix} 1 - 4 \\ -3 - 2 \end{pmatrix} \tag{0.5}$$

$$= -\begin{pmatrix} -3\\ -5 \end{pmatrix} \tag{0.6}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{0.7}$$

So the position vector is

$$R = 3\vec{a} + 5\vec{b} \tag{0.8}$$

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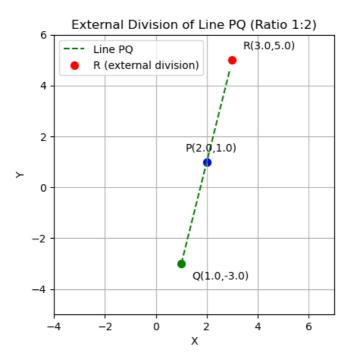


Fig. 0.1: plot