Question:

Let PS be the median of the triangle with vertices P(2,2), Q(6,-1) and R(7,3). The equation of the line passing through (1,-1) and parallel to PS is

1)
$$4x + 7y + 3 = 0$$

3)
$$4x - 7y - 11 = 0$$

1

2)
$$2x - 9y - 11 = 0$$

4)
$$2x + 9y + 7 = 0$$

Solution:

Given the points,

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{pmatrix} 2\\2 \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{Q} = \begin{pmatrix} 6\\-1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{R} = \begin{pmatrix} 7\\3 \end{pmatrix} \tag{1}$$

S is the midpoint of the line segment joining points **Q** and **R**. If **S** divides QR in the ratio k:1,

$$\mathbf{S} = \frac{k\mathbf{R} + \mathbf{Q}}{k+1} \tag{2}$$

where,

$$k = 1 \tag{3}$$

$$\mathbf{S} = \frac{\mathbf{R} + \mathbf{Q}}{2} \tag{4}$$

$$\implies \mathbf{S} = \begin{pmatrix} 13/2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{5}$$

The direction vector of line PS is given by,

$$\mathbf{d} = \mathbf{S} - \mathbf{P} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} 9/2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{6}$$

The slope of the line is given by,

$$\mathbf{m} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \mathbf{d} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 9/2 \end{pmatrix} \tag{7}$$

Therefore, the normal vector of the desired line is given by,

$$\mathbf{n} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{m} \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{8}$$

$$\implies \mathbf{n} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 9/2 \end{pmatrix} \tag{9}$$

 \therefore The equation of the line passing through $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$ and parallel to PS is given by

$$\mathbf{n}^{\mathsf{T}} \left(\mathbf{x} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \right) = 0 \tag{10}$$

$$(1 9/2) \binom{x-1}{y+1} = 0 (11)$$

$$\implies x - 1 + \frac{9}{2}(y + 1) = 0 \tag{12}$$

$$\implies 2x + 9y + 7 = 0 \tag{13}$$

