

# 2.4.16

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## Question

given points are

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 7 \\ -10 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 6 \\ -6 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 9 \\ -6 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- a) prove the given points forms isosceles triangle
- b) prove the given points forms right angled triangle

## solution

We consider the vectors

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 7 \\ -10 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 6 \\ -6 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 9 \\ -6 \end{pmatrix}.$$

PROOF OF:  $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}$  ARE NOT COLLINEAR (RANK METHOD)

Form the difference vectors  $\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{A}$ .

$$\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 - 0 \\ 6 - 7 \\ -6 - (-10) \end{pmatrix} \tag{0.1}$$

$$\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \tag{0.2}$$

$$\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 - 0 \\ 9 - 7 \\ -6 - (-10) \end{pmatrix} \tag{0.3}$$

$$\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \tag{0.4}$$

Place these as columns in the  $3 \times 2$  matrix  $M$ .

$$M = (\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A} \quad \mathbf{C} - \mathbf{A}) \tag{0.5}$$

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 4 \\ -1 & 2 \\ 4 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.6)$$

Compute the  $2 \times 2$  minor using rows 1 and 2.

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 4 \\ -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = 1 \cdot 2 - 4 \cdot (-1) \quad (0.7)$$

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 4 \\ -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = 2 + 4 = 6 \neq 0 \quad (0.8)$$

Hence  $\text{rank}(M) = 2$ , so  $\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{A}$  are linearly independent. Therefore  $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}$  are not collinear and determine a triangle.

#### A) VERIFICATION FOR ISOSCELES TRIANGLES

$$\mathbf{AB} = \mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (0.9)$$

$$\mathbf{BC} = \mathbf{C} - \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 - 1 \\ 9 - 6 \\ -6 - (-6) \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.10)$$

$$\mathbf{BC} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (0.11)$$

$$\mathbf{CA} = \mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 - 4 \\ 7 - 9 \\ -10 - (-6) \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.12)$$

$$\mathbf{CA} = \begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ -2 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (0.13)$$

$$\|\mathbf{AB}\|^2 = (\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A})^T (\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A}) \quad (0.14)$$

$$\|\mathbf{AB}\|^2 = 1^2 + (-1)^2 + 4^2 \quad (0.15)$$

$$\|\mathbf{AB}\|^2 = 18 \quad (0.16)$$

$$\|\mathbf{BC}\|^2 = (\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{B})^T (\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{B}) \quad (0.17)$$

$$\|\mathbf{BC}\|^2 = 3^2 + 3^2 + 0^2 \quad (0.18)$$

$$\|\mathbf{BC}\|^2 = 18 \quad (0.19)$$

$$\|\mathbf{CA}\|^2 = (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C})^T (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C}) \quad (0.20)$$

$$\|\mathbf{CA}\|^2 = (-4)^2 + (-2)^2 + (-4)^2 \quad (0.21)$$

$$\|\mathbf{CA}\|^2 = 36 \quad (0.22)$$

$$\|\mathbf{AB}\| = \|\mathbf{BC}\| = 3\sqrt{2}, \quad (0.23)$$

$$\|\mathbf{CA}\| = 6 \quad (0.24)$$

Therefore the non-collinear vectors  $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}$  determine a triangle, and since two sides are equal, that triangle is **isosceles** (with equal sides  $\mathbf{AB}$  and  $\mathbf{BC}$ ).

B) VERIFICATION FOR RIGHT ANGLED TRIANGLE (MATRIX / INNER-PRODUCT TEST)

To show the triangle is right-angled, compute the inner product of two adjacent side vectors  $\mathbf{AB}$  and  $\mathbf{BC}$ .

$$(\mathbf{AB})^T (\mathbf{BC}) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.25)$$

$$(\mathbf{AB})^T (\mathbf{BC}) = 1 \cdot 3 + (-1) \cdot 3 + 4 \cdot 0 \quad (0.26)$$

$$(\mathbf{AB})^T (\mathbf{BC}) = 3 - 3 + 0 = 0. \quad (0.27)$$

Since the inner product is zero,  $\mathbf{AB} \perp \mathbf{BC}$  and therefore the angle  $\angle ABC$  is a right angle; the triangle is **right-angled at B**.

**Final statement:** The non-collinear vectors  $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}$  determine a triangle which is both **isosceles** (with  $\|\mathbf{AB}\| = \|\mathbf{BC}\|$ ) and **right-angled** (with  $\mathbf{AB} \perp \mathbf{BC}$ ); hence the triangle is a *right isosceles* triangle with the right angle at vertex  $B$ .

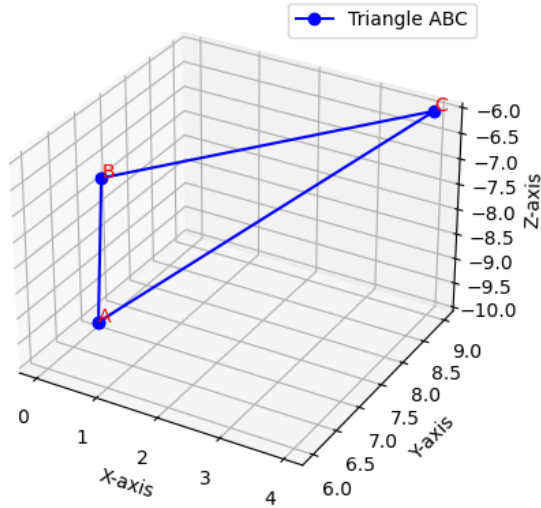


Fig. 0.1