
GEOMETRY

Through Algebra

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Chapter 1

Triangle

Consider a triangle with vertices

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} -5 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.1)$$

1.1. Altitude

1.1.1. \mathbf{D}_1 is a point on BC such that

$$AD_1 \perp BC \quad (1.1.1.1)$$

and AD_1 is defined to be the altitude. Find the normal vector of AD_1 .

Solution:

Given

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (1.1.1.2)$$

$$\mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (1.1.1.3)$$

$$\mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} -5 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.1.1.4)$$

Normal vector of AD_1 is orthogonal to AD_1 and hence parallel to BC . Direction vector \mathbf{m}_{BC}

$$= \mathbf{C} - \mathbf{B} \quad (1.1.1.5)$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} -5 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.1.1.6)$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.1.1.7)$$

$$\text{Normal vector of } \mathbf{AD}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.1.1.8)$$

1.1.2. Find the equation of AD_1 .

Solution:

The normal vector of

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{n} = \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.1.2.1)$$

The equation of AD_1 is

$$\mathbf{n}^\top (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{A}) = 0 \quad (1.1.2.2)$$

$$\mathbf{n}^\top (\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{n}^\top (\mathbf{A}) \quad (1.1.2.3)$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} -3 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} -3 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.1.2.4)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = 0 \quad (1.1.2.5)$$

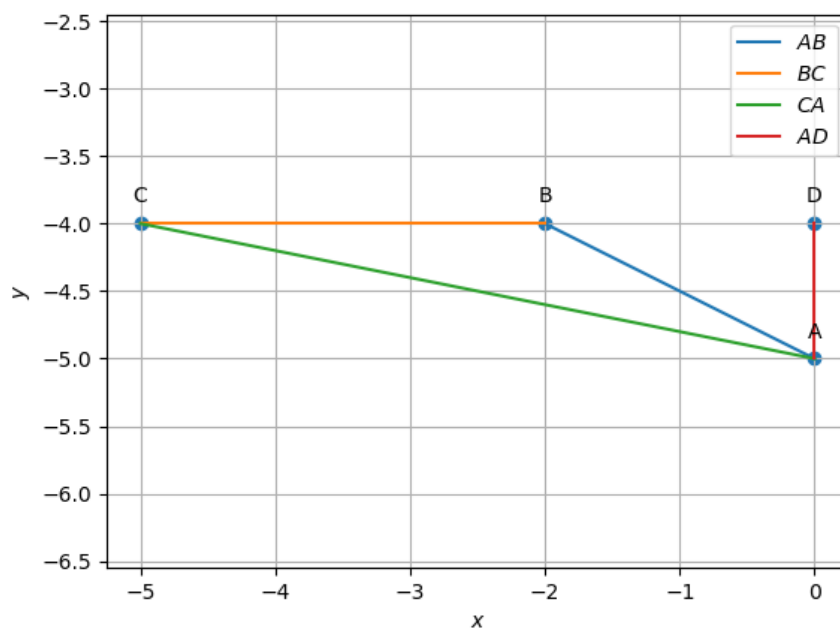


Figure 1.1: Altitude AD_1

1.1.3. Find the equations of the altitudes BE_1 and CF_1 to the sides AC and AB respectively.

Solution:

The normal equation of CF_1 is

$$\mathbf{n} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.1.3.1)$$

$$\mathbf{n}^\top (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{C}) = 0 \quad (1.1.3.2)$$

$$\mathbf{n}^\top (\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{n}^\top (\mathbf{C}) \quad (1.1.3.3)$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -5 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.1.3.4)$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = 6 \quad (1.1.3.5)$$

The normal equation of BE_1 is

$$\mathbf{n} = \begin{pmatrix} -5 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.1.3.6)$$

$$\mathbf{n}^\top (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{B}) = 0 \quad (1.1.3.7)$$

$$\mathbf{n}^\top (\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{n}^\top (\mathbf{B}) \quad (1.1.3.8)$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} -5 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} -5 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.1.3.9)$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} -5 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = 6 \quad (1.1.3.10)$$

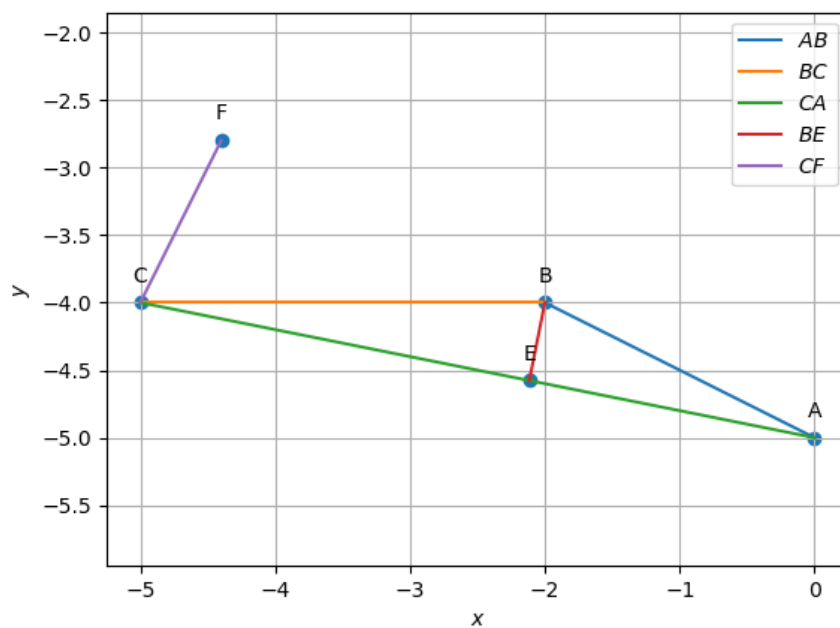


Figure 1.2: Altitudes BE_1 and CF_1

1.1.4. Find the intersection \mathbf{H} of BE_1 and CF_1 .

Solution:

Equation of BE_1

$$\begin{pmatrix} -5 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = 6 \quad (1.1.4.1)$$

Equation of CF_1

$$\begin{pmatrix} -2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = 6 \quad (1.1.4.2)$$

Therefore, we need to solve the following equation to get \mathbf{H} :

$$\begin{pmatrix} -5 & 1 \\ -2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.1.4.3)$$

Solving the above equation by Gauss-Jordan method

$$\begin{pmatrix} -5 & 1 & 6 \\ -2 & 1 & 6 \end{pmatrix} \xleftrightarrow{R_1 \leftarrow \frac{R_1}{-5}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -\frac{1}{5} & -\frac{6}{5} \\ -2 & 1 & 6 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.1.4.4)$$

$$\xleftrightarrow{R_2 \leftarrow R_2 + 2R_1} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -\frac{1}{5} & -\frac{6}{5} \\ 0 & \frac{3}{5} & \frac{18}{5} \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.1.4.5)$$

$$\xleftrightarrow{R_2 \leftarrow \frac{5R_2}{3}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -\frac{1}{5} & -\frac{6}{5} \\ 0 & 1 & 6 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.1.4.6)$$

$$\xleftrightarrow{R_1 \leftarrow R_1 + \frac{R_2}{5}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 6 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.1.4.7)$$

Therefore point of intersection \mathbf{H} is

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.1.4.8)$$

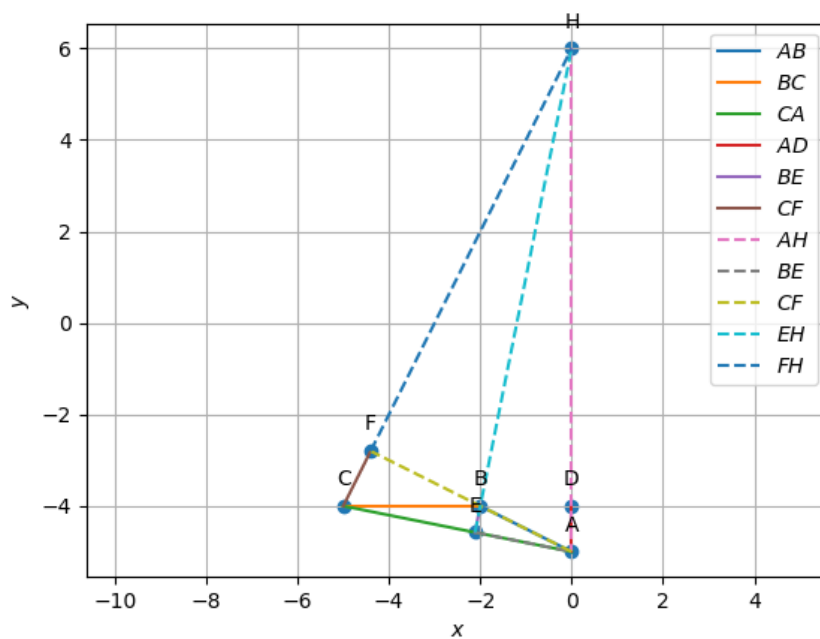


Figure 1.3: Intersection point \mathbf{H} of altitudes BE_1 and CF_1

1.1.5. Verify that

$$(\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{H})^\top (\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{C}) = 0 \quad (1.1.5.1)$$

Solution:

Given

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.1.5.2)$$

$$\mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} -5 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{H} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.1.5.3)$$

To solve the equation

$$\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{H} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.1.5.4)$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -11 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.1.5.5)$$

$$\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} -5 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.1.5.6)$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.1.5.7)$$

$$\implies (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{H})^\top (\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{C}) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -11 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.1.5.8)$$

$$= 0 \quad (1.1.5.9)$$

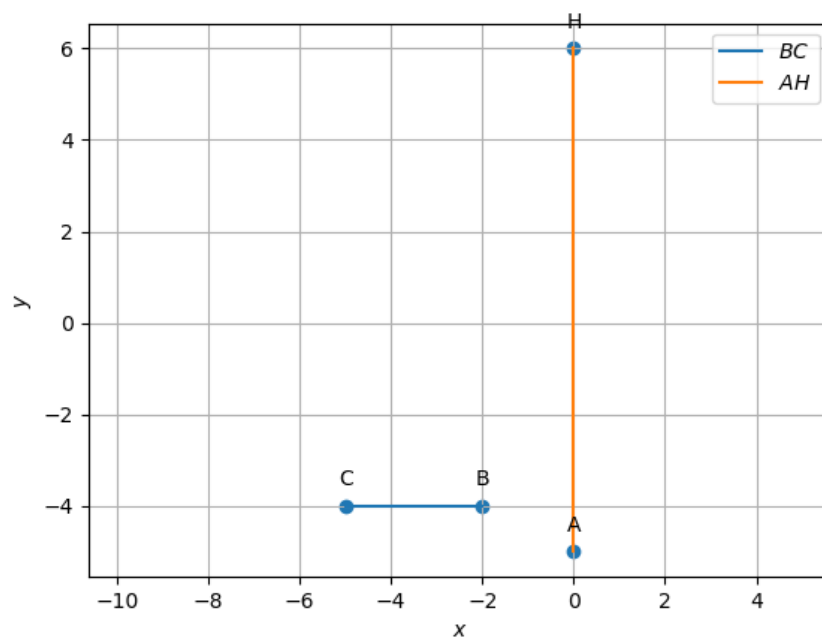


Figure 1.4: Plot of points A, B, C and H