

Points and Vectors

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Abstract - This document contains solution of finding the coordinates of a point which divides a line segment internally and Externally.

Vector

Question 21 : Find the coordinates of the points which divide, internally and externally, the line joining the point $(a+b, a-b)$ to the point $(a-b, a+b)$ in the ratio $a : b$.

Solution :

Let us consider C be the point which divides the AB line segment in the ratio $a : b$ internally and externally. Given that the coordinates of A point = $(a+b, a-b)$ and coordinates of B point = $(a-b, a+b)$.
Let

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} \quad (1)$$

Let us consider \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} as,

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{P}u, \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{Q}u \quad (2)$$

1. For Internal Section Coordinates:

$$\mathbf{C} = \frac{m\mathbf{B} + n\mathbf{A}}{m + n} \quad (3)$$

For the given problem, \mathbf{C} divides AB in the ratio $a:b$.

So, here

$$\frac{m}{n} = \frac{a}{b} \quad (4)$$

Putting the values of \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} in equation (3), we get,

$$\mathbf{C} = \frac{a\mathbf{Q}u + b\mathbf{P}u}{a + b} \quad (5)$$

Solving this we get,

$$\mathbf{C} = \left(\frac{a\mathbf{Q}}{a + b} + \frac{b\mathbf{P}}{a + b} \right) u \quad (6)$$

Putting the values of \mathbf{P} , \mathbf{Q} and u in equation (5) we get,

$$\mathbf{C} = \frac{1}{a + b} \left[\begin{pmatrix} a & -a \\ a & a \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} b & b \\ b & -b \end{pmatrix} \right] \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} \quad (7)$$

So, internal section coordinates of \mathbf{C} ,

$$\mathbf{C} = \frac{1}{a + b} \begin{pmatrix} a + b & b - a \\ a + b & a - b \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} \quad (8)$$

2. For External Section Coordinates:

$$\mathbf{C} = \frac{m\mathbf{B} - n\mathbf{A}}{m - n} \quad (9)$$

Putting the values of \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} in equation (8), we get,

$$\mathbf{C} = \frac{a\mathbf{Q}u - b\mathbf{P}u}{a - b} \quad (10)$$

Solving this we get,

$$\mathbf{C} = \left(\frac{a\mathbf{Q}}{a - b} - \frac{b\mathbf{P}}{a - b} \right) u \quad (11)$$

Putting the values of \mathbf{P} , \mathbf{Q} and u in equation (10) we get,

$$\mathbf{C} = \frac{1}{a - b} \left[\begin{pmatrix} a & -a \\ a & a \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} b & b \\ b & -b \end{pmatrix} \right] \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} \quad (12)$$

So, external section coordinates of \mathbf{C} ,

$$\mathbf{C} = \frac{1}{a - b} \begin{pmatrix} a - b & -a - b \\ a - b & a + b \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} \quad (13)$$

Result

Plot of coordinates of the points obtained from Python code considering $a=6$, $b=3$ is shown below.

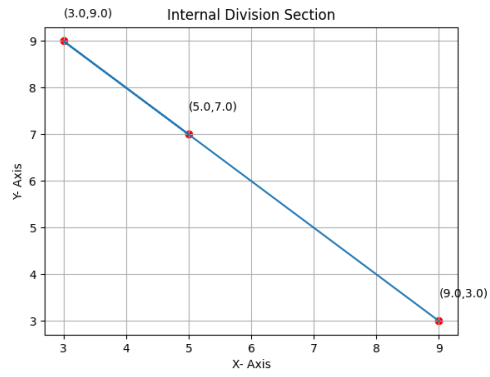


Figure 1: Internal Division Section

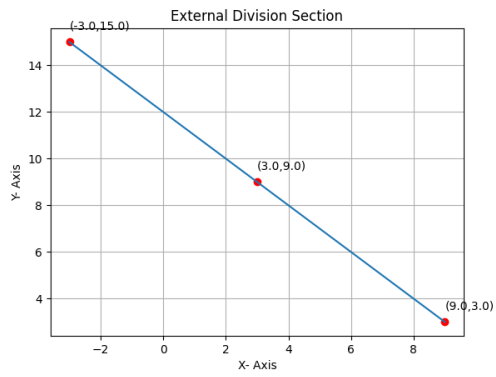


Figure 2: External Division Section