

## 2.9.20

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**Question:**

**X** and **Y** are two points with position vectors  $3\mathbf{a}+\mathbf{b}$  and  $\mathbf{a}-3\mathbf{b}$ , respectively. Write the position vector of a point **Z** which divides the line segment **XY** in the ratio 2:1 externally.

**Solution:**

$$\mathbf{X} = 3\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b} \quad (0.1)$$

$$\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{a} - 3\mathbf{b} \quad (0.2)$$

Now, the matrix form for **Y** and **X** is:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{Y} & \mathbf{X} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{a} & \mathbf{b} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ -3 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.3)$$

Using the section formula, the point **Z** dividing **Y – X** in ratio 2 : 1 externally is:

$$\mathbf{Z} = \frac{2\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{X}}{2 - 1} \quad (0.4)$$

$$\mathbf{Z} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{Y} & \mathbf{X} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.5)$$

$$\mathbf{Z} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{a} & \mathbf{b} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ -3 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.6)$$

$$\mathbf{Z} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{a} & \mathbf{b} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -7 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.7)$$

$$\mathbf{Z} = -\mathbf{a} - 7\mathbf{b} \quad (0.8)$$

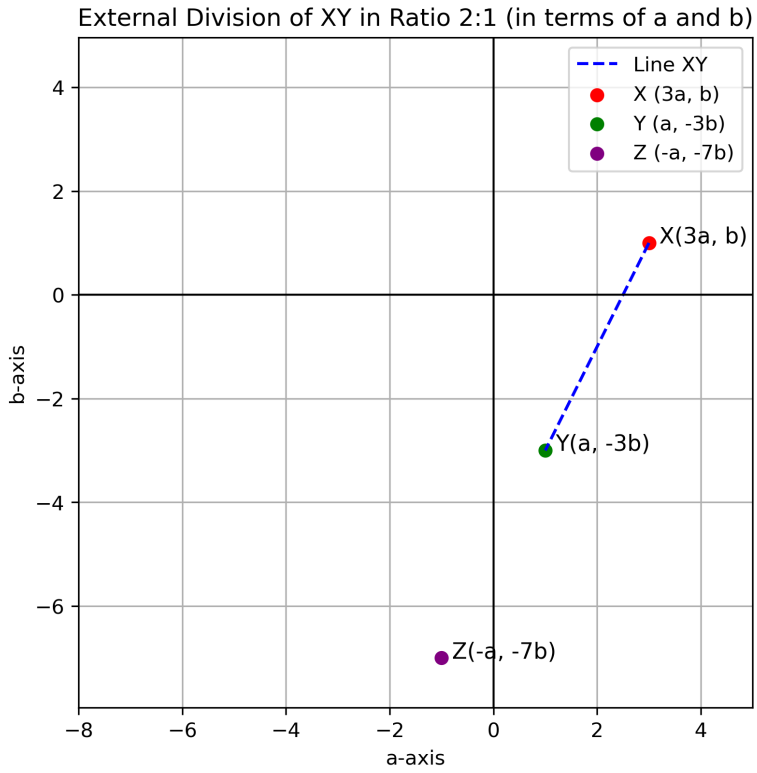


Fig. 0: Caption