

## 1.7.4

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**Question:**

Using vectors, prove that the points  $(2, -1, 3)$ ,  $(3, -5, 1)$  and  $(-1, 11, 9)$  are collinear.

**Solution:**

First, we find the vectors  $\overrightarrow{B-A}$  and  $\overrightarrow{C-A}$ :

$$\overrightarrow{B-A} = B - A = (3 - 2, -5 - (-1), 1 - 3) = (1, -4, -2)$$

$$\overrightarrow{C-A} = C - A = (-1 - 2, 11 - (-1), 9 - 3) = (-3, 12, 6)$$

Next, we construct the matrix using these vectors:

$$\text{Matrix} = \left( \overrightarrow{B-A} \quad \overrightarrow{C-A} \right) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3 \\ -4 & 12 \\ -2 & 6 \end{pmatrix}$$

Now, we perform row reduction:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3 \\ -4 & 12 \\ -2 & 6 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Since the matrix has rank 1 (only one non-zero row), the points are collinear.

Thus, the points  $A(2, -1, 3)$ ,  $B(3, -5, 1)$ , and  $C(-1, 11, 9)$  are collinear.

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