

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:

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.

