

# 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:

### Step 1: Calculate the Vectors

The vectors  $\vec{AB}$  and  $\vec{AC}$  are defined as follows:

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

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

### Step 2: Check for Parallelism

Two vectors are parallel if one is a scalar multiple of the other. We need to determine if there exists a scalar  $k$  such that:

$$\vec{AC} = k \cdot \vec{AB}$$

This gives us the following system of equations:

$$(-3, 12, 6) = k(1, -4, -2)$$

From the first component, we have:

$$-3 = k \cdot 1 \Rightarrow k = -3$$

From the second component:

$$12 = k \cdot -4 \Rightarrow k = -3$$

From the third component:

$$6 = k \cdot -2 \Rightarrow k = -3$$

Since we have  $k = -3$  for all components, we conclude that:

$$\vec{AC} = -3 \cdot \vec{AB}$$

## Conclusion

Since  $\vec{AC}$  is a scalar multiple of  $\vec{AB}$ , the vectors are parallel. Therefore, the points  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are collinear.

Thus, the points  $(2, -1, 3)$ ,  $(3, -5, 1)$ , and  $(-1, 11, 9)$  are indeed collinear. article graphicx

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