Assignment 2

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Question:
A(2,5), B(-1,2) and C(5,8) are the vertices of the triangle $\mathbf{ABC}$, $\mathbf{M}$ is a point on $\mathbf{AB}$ such that AM:MB = 1:2. Find the co-ordinates of $\mathbf{M}$. Hence find the equation of line passing through the points $\mathbf{C}$ and $\mathbf{M}$.

Solution: Given, $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}$ form a triangle ABC.

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix} \tag{1}$$

When the line segment $\mathbf{AB}$, where the points are $\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} x_2 \\ y_2 \end{pmatrix}$, is divided internally by $\mathbf{C}$ in the ratio $m : n$, from Section formula, we get the Coordinates of point $\mathbf{C}$ as,

$$\mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{mx_2+nx_1}{m+n} \\ \\ \frac{my_2+ny_1}{m+n} \end{pmatrix}, \tag{2}$$

Given, $\mathbf{M}$ is a point on side $\mathbf{AB}$ such that $AM : MB = 1 : 2$. Using Section Formula, we get

$$\mathbf{M} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1(-1)+2(2)}{1+2} \\ \\ \frac{1(2)+2(5)}{1+2} \end{pmatrix} \tag{3}$$

$$\implies \mathbf{M} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{-1+4}{1+2} \\ \\ \frac{2+10}{1+2} \end{pmatrix} \tag{4}$$

$$\implies \mathbf{M} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \tag{5}$$

Let L be the line that passes through points $\mathbf{C}\begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{M}\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$. The direction vector of CM is,

$$\mathbf{m} = \mathbf{C} - \mathbf{M} \tag{6}$$

$$\implies \mathbf{m} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \tag{7}$$

$$\implies \mathbf{m} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \tag{8}$$

Normal vector of the line is $\mathbf{n}$, such that

$$\mathbf{m}^\top \mathbf{n} = 0 \tag{9}$$

$$\implies \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{n} = 0 \tag{10}$$

$$\implies \mathbf{n} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{11}$$

$$\implies \mathbf{n}^\top = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{12}$$

The normal equation of the line L is given by,

$$\mathbf{n}^\top (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{M}) = 0 \tag{13}$$

$$\implies \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \left(\mathbf{x} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \right) = 0 \tag{14}$$

$$\implies \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = -3 \tag{15}$$

Thus, the equation of line $\mathbf{L}$ passing through $\mathbf{C}\begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{M}\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$ is

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} + 3 = 0 \tag{16}$$

which can also be represented as

$$x - y + 3 = 0 \tag{17}$$

But, However, We get

1) The equation of the line joining $\mathbf{A}\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{B}\begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$ as $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = -3$ and
2) The equation of the line joining $\mathbf{B}\begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{C}\begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix}$ as $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} = -3$ too.

Let's find the area of triangle to verify: Given,

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix} \tag{18}$$

are the vertices of triangle.

$$\mathbf{A}-\mathbf{B}=\begin{pmatrix}3\\3\end{pmatrix}, \tag{19}$$

$$\mathbf{A}-\mathbf{C}=\begin{pmatrix}-3\\-3\end{pmatrix}, \tag{20}$$

The desired area is the magnitude of

$$\begin{vmatrix}3 & -3\\3 & -3\end{vmatrix} \tag{21}$$

Thus the desired area is 0 units.

Hence, Given points $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}$ don't form a triangle.

Also Verified by plotting the graph of $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}$ and $\mathbf{M}$ points :

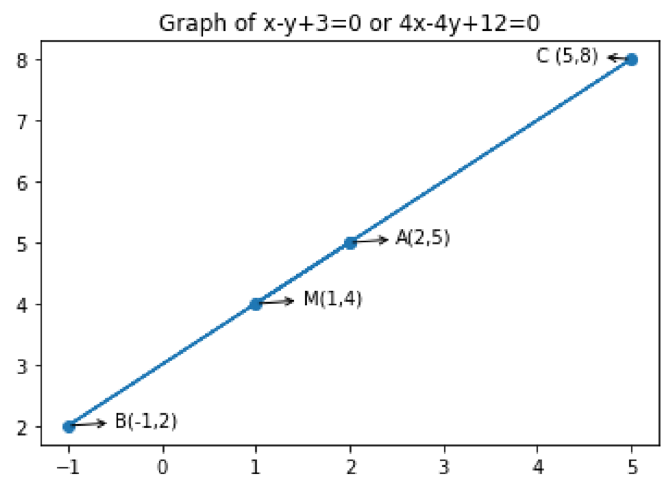

Fig. 1. Graph showing that the points $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}$, $\mathbf{M}$ lie on the same line.