

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:

Let $\mathbf{A} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$ $\mathbf{B} \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -5 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ $\mathbf{C} \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 11 \\ 9 \end{pmatrix}$ be vectors

Points $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}$ are defined to be collinear if

$$\text{rank}(\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A} \quad \mathbf{C} - \mathbf{A}) = 1 \quad (0.1)$$

$$\text{Let } (\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A} \quad \mathbf{C} - \mathbf{A}) = \mathbf{D} \quad (0.2)$$

$$\text{rank} \mathbf{D} = \text{rank} \mathbf{D}^T \quad (0.3)$$

$$\mathbf{D}^T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -4 & -2 \\ -3 & 12 & 6 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.4)$$

$$R_2 = R_2 + 3R_1 \quad (0.5)$$

$$\mathbf{D}^T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -4 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.6)$$

which has rank 1. So we can conclude that the given points are collinear.

Collinearity of Points A, B, C in 3D

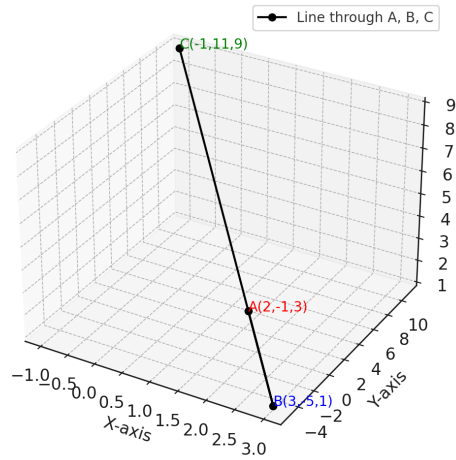


Fig. 0.1