Question:

Vertices of a $\triangle ABC$ are A(4,6), B(1,5) and C(7,2). A line segment DE is drawn intersecting AB and AC at D and E respectively such that $\frac{AD}{AB} = \frac{AE}{AC} = \frac{1}{3}$. Calculate the area of $\triangle ADE$ and compare it with the area of $\triangle ABC$.

Solution:

Let

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \tag{1}$$

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Point **D** divides AB in ratio 1 : 2:

$$\mathbf{D} = \frac{2\mathbf{A} + 1\mathbf{B}}{3} = \frac{2\binom{4}{6} + \binom{1}{5}}{3} = \binom{3}{\frac{17}{3}}$$
 (2)

Point E divides AC in ratio 1:2:

$$\mathbf{E} = \frac{2\mathbf{A} + 1\mathbf{C}}{3} = \frac{2\binom{4}{6} + \binom{7}{2}}{3} = \binom{5}{\frac{14}{3}}$$
(3)

Area of a triangle with vertices P, Q, R is

$$\Delta = \frac{1}{2} \left| \det \begin{pmatrix} x_Q - x_P & x_R - x_P \\ y_Q - y_P & y_R - y_P \end{pmatrix} \right| \tag{4}$$

So,

$$\Delta_{ABC} = \frac{1}{2} \left| \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 - 4 & 7 - 4 \\ 5 - 6 & 2 - 6 \end{pmatrix} \right| \tag{5}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left| \det \begin{pmatrix} -3 & 3 \\ -1 & -4 \end{pmatrix} \right| \tag{6}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2}(12+3) \tag{7}$$

$$=\frac{15}{2}\tag{8}$$

Similarly,

$$\Delta_{ADE} = \frac{1}{2} \left| \det \begin{pmatrix} 3 - 4 & 5 - 4 \\ \frac{17}{3} - 6 & \frac{14}{3} - 6 \end{pmatrix} \right| \tag{9}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left| \det \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{4}{3} \end{pmatrix} \right| \tag{10}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{4}{3} + \frac{1}{3} \right) \tag{11}$$

$$=\frac{5}{6}\tag{12}$$

Thus,

$$\frac{\Delta_{ADE}}{\Delta_{ABC}} = \frac{\frac{5}{6}}{\frac{15}{2}} = \frac{1}{9} \tag{13}$$

Therefore,

Area of
$$\triangle ADE = \frac{1}{9}$$
 of area of $\triangle ABC$. (14)

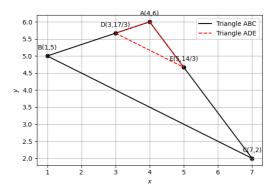


Fig. 1: Triangle ABC with inner triangle ADE