

1.7.3

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Question:

Show that the points $A(-2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} + 5\hat{k})$, $B(\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k})$, and $C(7\hat{i} - \hat{k})$ are collinear.

Solution:

Let us solve the given equation theoretically and then verify the solution computationally

According to the question,

Given position vectors,

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.1)$$

To show that these are points are collinear, we show that echolon matrix \mathbf{S} Rank=1

$$\mathbf{S} = (\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A} \quad \mathbf{C} - \mathbf{A})^T \quad (0.2)$$

$$\mathbf{S} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & -1 & -2 \\ 9 & -3 & -6 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.3)$$

By doing $R_2 = R_2 - 3R_1$ we get

$$\mathbf{S} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & -1 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.4)$$

So the Rank of matrix \mathbf{S} is 1

\therefore The points are collinear.

From the figure it is clearly verified that the theoretical solution matches with the computational solution.

