



Math for the people, by the people.

proof of when is a point inside a triangle

Canonical name	ProofOfWhenIsAPointInsideATriangle
Date of creation	2013-03-22 17:57:08
Last modified on	2013-03-22 17:57:08
Owner	joen235 (18354)
Last modified by	joen235 (18354)
Numerical id	4
Author	joen235 (18354)
Entry type	Proof
Classification	msc 51-00

Let $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^2$, $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^2$ and $\mathbf{0} \in \mathbb{R}^2$. Let's consider the convex hull of the set $T = \{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{0}\}$. By definition, the convex hull of T , noted coT , is the smallest convex set that contains T . Now, the triangle Δ_T spanned by T is convex and contains T . Then $coT \subseteq \Delta_T$. Now, every convex C set containing T must satisfy that $t\mathbf{u} + (1-t)\mathbf{v} \in C$, $t\mathbf{u} \in C$ and $t\mathbf{v} \in C$ for $0 \leq t \leq 1$ (at least the convex combination of the points of T are contained in C). This means that the boundary of Δ_T is contained in C . But then every convex combination of points of $\partial\Delta_T$ must also be contained in C , meaning that $\Delta_T \subseteq C$ for every convex set containing T . In particular, $\Delta_T \subseteq coT$.

Since the convex hull is exactly the set containing all convex combinations of points of T ,

$$\Delta_T = coT = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2 : \mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{u} + \mu\mathbf{v} + (1 - \lambda - \mu)\mathbf{0}, 0 \leq \lambda, \mu, \leq 1, 0 \leq 1 - \lambda - \mu \leq 1\}$$

we conclude that $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2$ is in the triangle spanned by T if and only if $\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{u} + \mu\mathbf{v}$ with $0 \leq \lambda, \mu, \leq 1$ and $0 \leq \lambda + \mu \leq 1$.