1

Assignment 1

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Problem 3b, ICSE 10 2019:

M and N are two points on the X axis and Y axis respectively. P (3, 2) divides the line segment MN in the ratio 2:3. Find:

- 1) The coordinates of M and N
- 2) Slope of the line MN

Solution:

let P be the position vector of point P (3)

so,
$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

M and N be the position vector of point M and N respectively

Since M and N are points on x and y axis respectively

So, let
$$\mathbf{M} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$
 and $\mathbf{N} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ y \end{pmatrix}$

from section formula in vector form, we know that

$$\mathbf{P} = \frac{b \times \mathbf{M} + a \times \mathbf{N}}{a + b} \tag{1}$$

where a:b is ratio in which point P divides the line joining M and N $\,$

Since P(3,2) divides M and N in ratio 2:3 So, a=2,b=3

Now,by applying section formula given in equation (1) to P on line MN, we get

$$\mathbf{P} = \frac{3 \times \mathbf{M} + 2 \times \mathbf{N}}{3+2}$$

$$\rightarrow {3 \choose 2} = \frac{3 \times {x \choose 0} + 2 \times {0 \choose y}}{5}$$

$$\rightarrow 5 \times {3 \choose 2} = {3x \choose 0} + {0 \choose 2y}$$

$$\rightarrow {15 \choose 10} = {3x \choose 2y}$$

So,

$$3x = 15 \quad 2y = 10$$
$$\rightarrow x = 5 \quad \rightarrow y = 5$$

So, the points M and N would be (5,0) and (0,5) respectively.

Now, we know that the slope of any line AB is

$$slope = \frac{y_A - y_B}{x_A - x_B} \tag{2}$$

So, using equation (2) , slope of line MN is

$$slope = \frac{0-5}{5-0}$$
$$= -1$$