

4.13.34

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Question:

The equations to a pair of opposite sides of a parallelogram are $x^2 - 5x + 6 = 0$ and $y^2 - 6y + 5 = 0$. Find the equations to its diagonals.

$$1) x + 4y = 13, y = 4x - 7$$

$$2) 4x + y = 13, y = 4x - 7$$

$$3) 4x + y = 13, 4y = x - 7$$

$$4) y - 4x = 13, y + 4x = 7$$

Solution:

We can solve this problem by treating a pair of parallel lines as a degenerate conic section and finding where a line (the diagonal) intersects it. The general equation for a conic is given by $g(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^T (V) \mathbf{x} + 2\mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{x} + f = 0$, and a parametric line is given by $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{h} + \kappa \mathbf{m}$. The intersection points are found using the formula:

$$\kappa_{1,2} = \frac{-\mathbf{m}^T ((V) \mathbf{h} + \mathbf{u}) \pm \sqrt{(\mathbf{m}^T ((V) \mathbf{h} + \mathbf{u}))^2 - (\mathbf{m}^T (V) \mathbf{m}) g(\mathbf{h})}}{\mathbf{m}^T (V) \mathbf{m}} \quad (1)$$

Let's represent the pair of vertical lines $x^2 - (x_1 + x_2)x + x_1x_2 = 0$ as our conic section.

$$\mathbf{V} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{x_1+x_2}{2} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad f = x_1x_2 \quad (2)$$

The diagonal is a line starting from the parallelogram's center \mathbf{h} with a direction vector \mathbf{m} .

$$\mathbf{h} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{x_1+x_2}{2} \\ \frac{y_1+y_2}{2} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{m} = \begin{pmatrix} x_2 - x_1 \\ y_2 - y_1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (3)$$

First, we evaluate the term $\mathbf{V}\mathbf{h} + \mathbf{u}$:

$$\mathbf{V}\mathbf{h} + \mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{x_1+x_2}{2} \\ \frac{y_1+y_2}{2} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{x_1+x_2}{2} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{x_1+x_2}{2} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} \frac{x_1+x_2}{2} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{0} \quad (4)$$

Since $\mathbf{V}\mathbf{h} + \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}$, the formula for κ simplifies dramatically:

$$\kappa_{1,2} = \frac{\pm \sqrt{-(\mathbf{m}^T (V) \mathbf{m}) g(\mathbf{h})}}{\mathbf{m}^T (V) \mathbf{m}} \quad (5)$$

Next, we evaluate the remaining terms in the general case:

$$\mathbf{m}^T (V) \mathbf{m} = (x_2 - x_1)^2 \quad (6)$$

$$g(\mathbf{h}) = \left(\frac{x_1 + x_2}{2} \right)^2 - (x_1 + x_2) \left(\frac{x_1 + x_2}{2} \right) + x_1x_2 = -\frac{(x_2 - x_1)^2}{4} \quad (7)$$

Substituting these back into the simplified formula for κ :

$$\kappa_{1,2} = \frac{\pm \sqrt{-(x_2 - x_1)^2 \left(-\frac{(x_2 - x_1)^2}{4} \right)}}{(x_2 - x_1)^2} = \frac{\pm \sqrt{\frac{(x_2 - x_1)^4}{4}}}{(x_2 - x_1)^2} = \frac{\pm \frac{(x_2 - x_1)^2}{2}}{(x_2 - x_1)^2} = \pm \frac{1}{2} \quad (8)$$

This shows that the vertices are located at $\kappa = \pm 1/2$ from the center along the direction vector \mathbf{m} .

Applying to the specific problem:

From $x^2 - 5x + 6 = 0$, we have $x_1 = 2, x_2 = 3$.

From $y^2 - 6y + 5 = 0$, we have $y_1 = 1, y_2 = 5$.

The center point \mathbf{h} and diagonal direction vectors $\mathbf{m}_1, \mathbf{m}_2$ are:

$$\mathbf{h} = \begin{pmatrix} 2.5 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{m}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 3-2 \\ 5-1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{m}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 2-3 \\ 5-1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \quad (9)$$

The vertices are $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{h} \pm \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{m}$.

Diagonal 1 (using \mathbf{m}_1):

$$\mathbf{v}_C = \begin{pmatrix} 2.5 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{v}_A = \begin{pmatrix} 2.5 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} - \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

The line passing through $\mathbf{A}(2, 1)$ and $\mathbf{C}(3, 5)$ is $y - 1 = 4(x - 2) \implies \mathbf{y} = 4\mathbf{x} - 7$.

Diagonal 2 (using \mathbf{m}_2):

$$\mathbf{v}_D = \begin{pmatrix} 2.5 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{v}_B = \begin{pmatrix} 2.5 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} - \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

The line passing through $\mathbf{B}(3, 1)$ and $\mathbf{D}(2, 5)$ is $y - 1 = -4(x - 3) \implies \mathbf{4x} + \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{13}$.

