

Question: Find the value of x if the distance between points $\mathbf{A} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$, and $\mathbf{B} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$ is 5 units.

Solution:

Symbol	Value	Description
A	$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$	Point A
B	$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ -4 \end{pmatrix}$	Point B
d	5	Distance between points A and B

TABLE 0: Given Values

Given,

$$\|AB\| = d \quad (0.1)$$

$$\|AB\|^2 = d^2 \quad (0.2)$$

$$AB^t AB = d^2 \quad (0.3)$$

$$(x - x_A)^2 + (y_B - y_A)^2 = d^2 \quad (0.4)$$

Solving,

$$x = x_A \pm \sqrt{d^2 - (y_B - y_A)^2} \quad (0.5)$$

$$x = 3 \text{ (or) } x = -3 \quad (0.6)$$

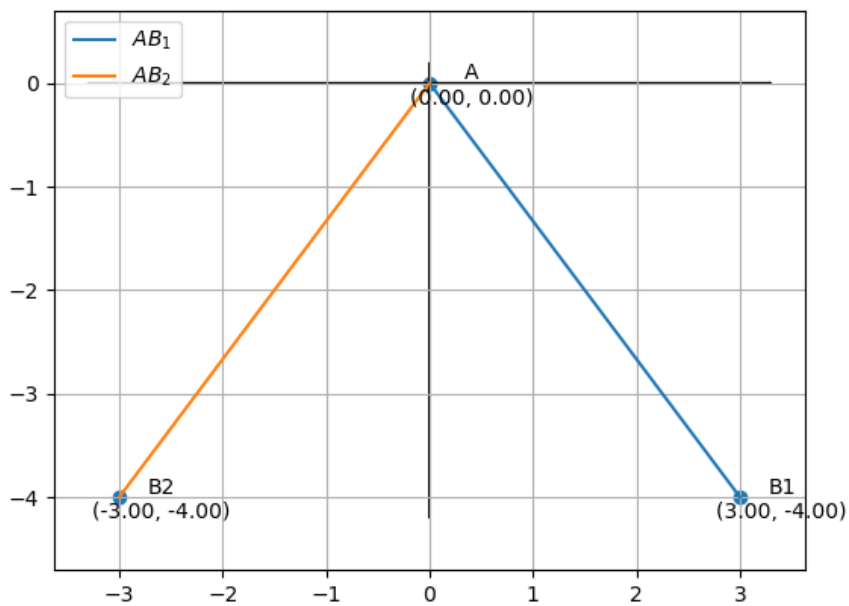


Fig. 0.1: Points **A**, **B**, **C** and **D**