

Greg Friedman
Linear Algebra Proof

Given expression: $tA + (1-t)B$

parameters: $0 \leq t \leq 1$, A and B are each distinct points on the x-y plane.

Let $A = (x_1, y_1)$ and $B = (x_2, y_2)$

My Claim: Given expression = C = line segment with endpoints A and B.

Proof: The given expression is a set of linear combinations of points A and B which will result in a set of points. C is defined as this set of points.

$$tA + (1-t)B = \{x, y\} = C$$

Where any one point in C is calculated as (x, y) where:

$$x = t(x_1) + (1-t)x_2$$

$$y = t(y_1) + (1-t)y_2$$

In the above expression x_1, x_2, y_1 and y_2 are constants.

Notice that the variable, t, has the same relationship with x as it does with y. The only difference between calculating x and y are the given constants. Furthermore, t has a linear relationship with its constants.

With any two points in C labeled (x', y') and (x'', y'') :

$$(y'' - y') / (x'' - x') = \text{constant}$$

Thus there is a constant slope for the set of points in C and C must be a line. More specifically, C must be a line segment because t has parameters.

The endpoints of C are the extremes of the parameters of t.

$$\text{For } t = 0: C = B$$

$$\text{For } t = 1: C = A$$

Therefore C is a line segment connecting points A and B.