

3.6.2 Similarity for the Analytic Euclidean Plane Model

I believe the geometric proportion served the creator as an idea when He introduces the continuous generation of similar objects from similar objects.

—  [Johannes Kepler \(1571–1630\)](#)

The matrix of an affine similarity may be found by a method that is analogous to the method used in determining the matrix of an [affine isometry](#).

Proposition 3.16. *An affine transformation of the Euclidean plane is a [similarity](#) with ratio r if and only if the matrix representation is*

$$\begin{bmatrix} r \cos \theta & -r \sin \theta & a \\ r \sin \theta & r \cos \theta & b \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ (direct similarity)}$$

or

$$\begin{bmatrix} r \cos \theta & r \sin \theta & a \\ r \sin \theta & -r \cos \theta & b \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ (indirect similarity).}$$

Corollary to Proposition 3.16. *The determinant of a direct similarity is r^2 and the determinant of an indirect isometry is $-r^2$.*

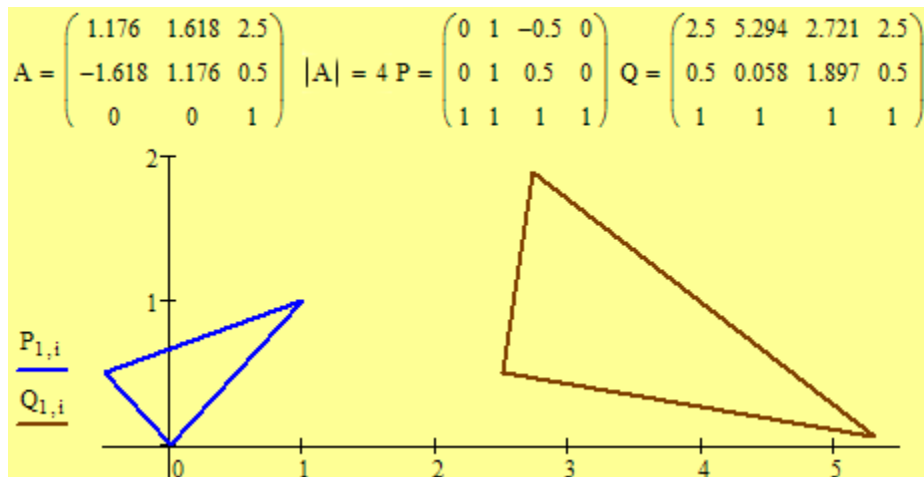
Examples. Which is a direct similarity? Which is an indirect similarity? Note the positions of the triangles.

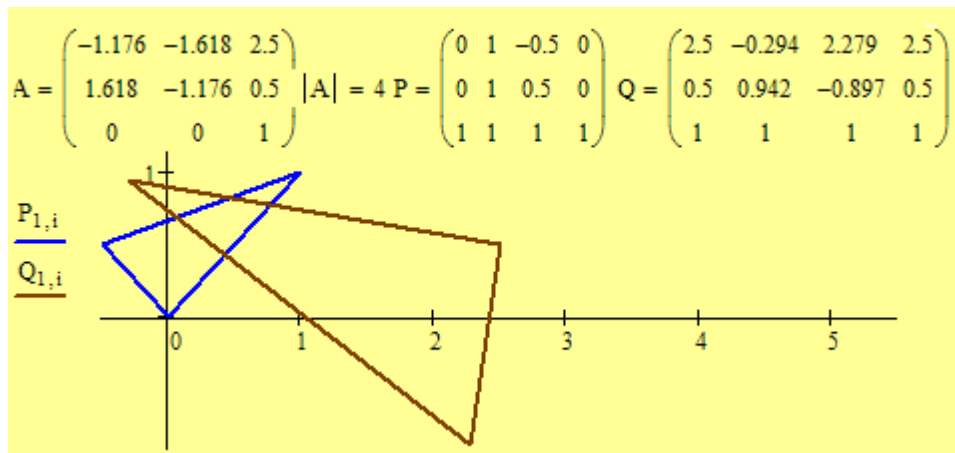
Matrix A is the similarity matrix.

Matrix P is the matrix of the three endpoints of the original triangle.

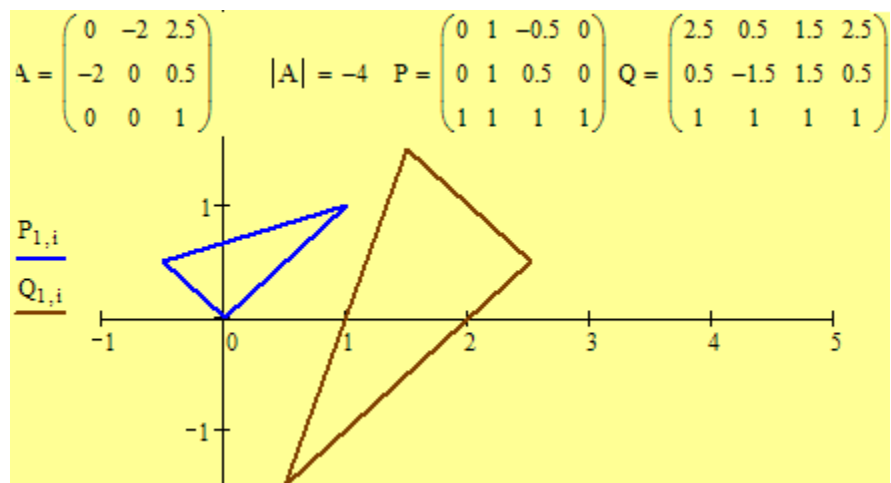
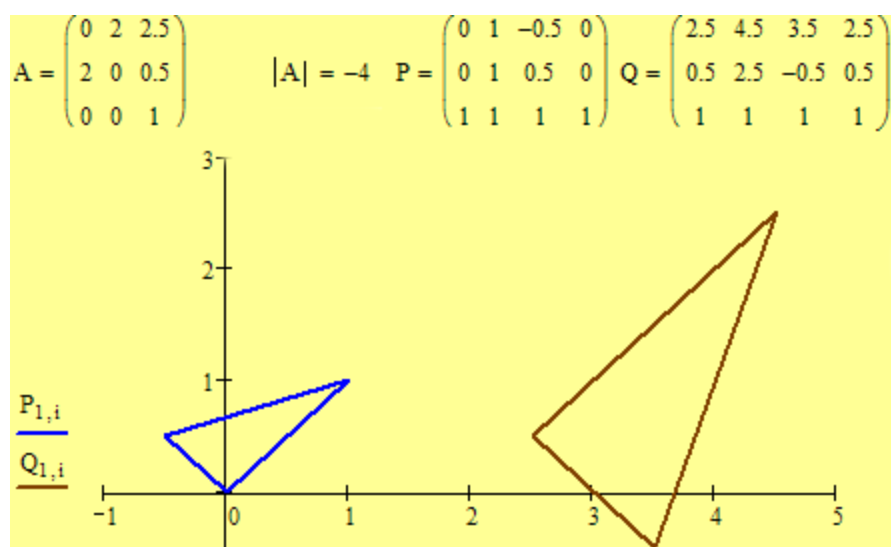
Matrix $Q = AP$ is the matrix of the transformed endpoints.

Click here to view [an animation of the following two examples.](#)





Click here to view [an animation of the following two examples.](#)



The matrix for an affine dilation may be found by following the procedures as with the other matrix derivations.

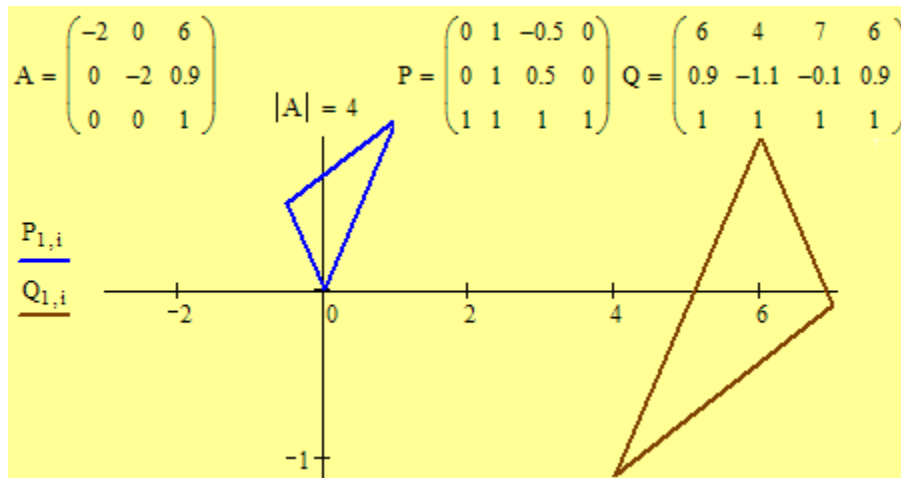
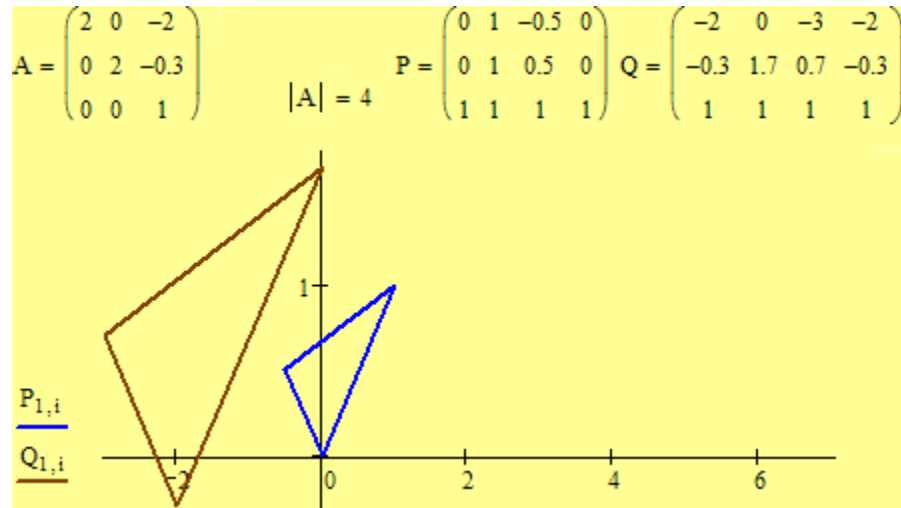
Proposition 3.17. An affine transformation of the Euclidean plane is a [dilation](#) with ratio r and center

$C(c_1, c_2)$ if and only if the matrix representation is

$$\begin{bmatrix} r & 0 & c_1(1-r) \\ 0 & r & c_2(1-r) \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Examples. Are the following dilations direct or indirect similarities?

[Click here to view an animation of the following two examples.](#)



Exercise 3.103. Let $C(-2, -3, 1)$, $X(1, 3, 1)$, and $X'(2, 5, 1)$. (a) Show the three points are collinear. (b) Find the matrix of a dilation with center C that maps X to X' . (c) Find the image of $(-4, 7, 1)$ under this dilation. (d) Find the image of the line $l[1, 1, 1]$ and $m[1, 1, -1]$ under this dilation.

Exercise 3.104. Find a matrix of a similarity that maps $X(1, 2, 1)$ to $X'(2, 4, 1)$ and $Y(0, 0, 1)$ to $Y'(-4, 2, 1)$, then find the image of $Z(3, 10, 1)$.

Exercise 3.105. Find a matrix of a similarity that maps $X(0, 0, 1)$ to $X'(5, 0, 1)$ and $Y(1, 0, 1)$ to $Y'(5, 8, 1)$, and $Z(1, 1, 1)$ to $Z'(-3, 0, 1)$, then find the image of $P(4, -3, 1)$.

Exercise 3.106. Show a derivation for Proposition 3.16.

Exercise 3.107. Show a derivation for Proposition 3.17.

[3.6.1 Similarity Transformations](#)



[3.7 Other Affine Transformations of the Euclidean](#)

[Plane](#)

[Ch. 3 Transformational TOC](#)

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