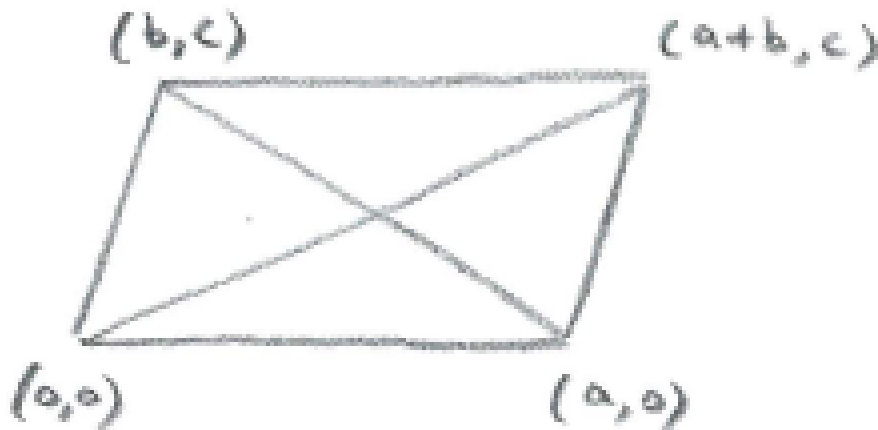


Centre of Mass – Q5 [Problem/M](1/6/21)

Show that the centre of mass of a parallelogram is at the intersection of the diagonals, by finding the centre of mass of two triangles, given the result that the diagonals bisect each other.

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Solution



Let triangle 1 have corners

$(0,0)$, $(a,0)$ & (b,c)

(and triangle 2 be the other half of the parallelogram).

$$COM_1 = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{3}(0 + a + b) \\ \frac{1}{3}(0 + 0 + c) \end{pmatrix} \quad \& \quad COM_2 = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{3}(a + b + [a + b]) \\ \frac{1}{3}(0 + c + c) \end{pmatrix}$$

Then centre of mass of parallelogram = $\frac{1}{2} (COM_1 + COM_2)$

$$= \frac{1}{6} \begin{pmatrix} 3a + 3b \\ 3c \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} a + b \\ c \end{pmatrix}$$

ie the mid-point of the diagonal from $(0,0)$ to $(a+b,c)$