

Exemplar Problem with Solution :

Q)

If the co-ordinates of the vertices of an equilateral triangle with sides of

length 'a' are (x_1, y_1) , (x_2, y_2) , (x_3, y_3) , then prove that
$$\begin{vmatrix} x_1 & y_1 & 1 \\ x_2 & y_2 & 1 \\ x_3 & y_3 & 1 \end{vmatrix}^2 = \frac{3a^4}{4}.$$

Soln :

The area of a triangle with vertices (x_1, y_1) , (x_2, y_2) and (x_3, y_3) is given by

$$\Delta = \frac{1}{2} \begin{vmatrix} x_1 & y_1 & 1 \\ x_2 & y_2 & 1 \\ x_3 & y_3 & 1 \end{vmatrix}$$

Also, area of an equilateral triangle with side a is given by

$$\Delta = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{4} a^2$$

$$\therefore \frac{1}{2} \begin{vmatrix} x_1 & y_1 & 1 \\ x_2 & y_2 & 1 \\ x_3 & y_3 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{4} a^2$$

Squaring both sides, we get

$$\Rightarrow \Delta^2 = \frac{1}{4} \begin{vmatrix} x_1 & y_1 & 1 \\ x_2 & y_2 & 1 \\ x_3 & y_3 & 1 \end{vmatrix}^2 = \frac{3}{16} a^4$$

$$\text{or } \begin{vmatrix} x_1 & y_1 & 1 \\ x_2 & y_2 & 1 \\ x_3 & y_3 & 1 \end{vmatrix}^2 = \frac{3a^4}{4}$$