Let $\mathbf{M} = \begin{pmatrix} M_{11} & M_{12} \\ M_{21} & M_{22} \end{pmatrix}$. Let \mathbf{M} be such that $\mathbf{M}\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{p}$ and $\mathbf{M}\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{q}$. Let $\mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \end{pmatrix}$, and likewise for \mathbf{b} , \mathbf{c} , \mathbf{p} , \mathbf{q} , and \mathbf{r} . Multiplying out, we obtain a system of four equations:

$$\begin{cases} M_{11}a_1 + M_{12}a_2 &= p_1 \\ M_{11}b_1 + M_{12}b_2 &= q_1 \\ M_{21}a_1 + M_{22}a_2 &= p_2 \\ M_{21}b_1 + M_{22}b_2 &= q_2 \end{cases}$$

We may express this system in matrix form:

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & 0 & 0\\ b_1 & b_2 & 0 & 0\\ 0 & 0 & a_1 & a_2\\ 0 & 0 & b_1 & b_2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} M_{11}\\ M_{12}\\ M_{21}\\ M_{22} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} p_1\\ q_1\\ p_2\\ q_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Let the 4×4 matrix be denoted by **T**.

$$\det \mathbf{T} = a_1 \begin{vmatrix} b_2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & a_1 & a_2 \\ 0 & b_1 & b_2 \end{vmatrix} - a_2 \begin{vmatrix} b_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & a_1 & a_2 \\ 0 & b_1 & b_2 \end{vmatrix} = a_1 b_2 (a_1 b_2 - a_2 b_1) - a_2 b_1 (a_1 b_2 - a_2 b_1)$$

$$\det \mathbf{T} = (a_1b_2 - a_2b_1)^2 = \Delta(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})^2$$

Suppose $\mathbf{b} = \lambda \mathbf{a}$ for some scalar λ . Consider $\Delta(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$:

$$\Delta(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) = a_1 b_2 - a_2 b_1 = a_1(\lambda a_2) - a_2(\lambda a_1) = \lambda(a_1 a_2 - a_2 a_1) = 0$$

Hence, if **a** and **b** are both non-zero vectors, then $\Delta(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) = 0$ if and only if **a** and **b** are scalar multiples of each other. But **a** and **b** are non-zero and not parallel, hence $\Delta(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) \neq 0$. Thus det $\mathbf{T} \neq 0$, hence, **T** is invertible, so M_{ij} can be found given **a**, **b**, **p**, and **q**; i.e. **M** exists.

$$\Delta(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})\mathbf{c} + \Delta(\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{a})\mathbf{b} + \Delta(\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c})\mathbf{a}$$

= $(a_1b_2 - a_2b_1)\mathbf{c} + (c_1a_2 - c_2a_1)\mathbf{b} + (b_1c_2 - b_2c_1)\mathbf{a}$
= $\begin{pmatrix} a_1b_2c_1 - a_2b_1c_1 + a_2b_1c_1 - a_1b_1c_2 + a_1b_1c_2 - a_1b_2c_1\\ a_1b_2c_2 - a_2b_1c_2 + a_2b_2c_1 - a_1b_2c_2 + a_2b_1c_2 - a_2b_2c_1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0\\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$

Hence,

$$\Delta(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})\mathbf{c} + \Delta(\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{a})\mathbf{b} + \Delta(\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c})\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{0}$$
(1)

for all vectors \mathbf{a} , \mathbf{b} , and \mathbf{c} . Consider $\Delta(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) = \Delta(\mathbf{M}\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{M}\mathbf{b})$:

$$\begin{split} \Delta(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) &= \Delta(\mathbf{Ma}, \mathbf{Mb}) \\ &= p_1 q_1 - p_2 q_2 \\ &= (M_{11} a_1 + M_{12} a_2)(M_{21} b_1 + M_{22} b_2) \\ &- (M_{21} a_1 + M_{22} a_2)(M_{11} b_1 + M_{12} b_2) \\ &= (M_{11} M_{21} a_1 b_1 + M_{12} M_{22} a_2 b_2 + M_{11} M_{22} a_1 b_2 + M_{12} M_{21} a_2 b_1) \\ &- (M_{21} M_{11} a_1 b_1 + M_{22} M_{12} a_2 b_2 + M_{21} M_{12} a_1 b_2 + M_{22} M_{11} a_2 b_1) \\ &= (M_{11} M_{22} - M_{12} M_{21}) a_1 b_2 - (M_{11} M_{22} - M_{12} M_{21}) a_2 b_1 \\ &= (M_{11} M_{22} - M_{12} M_{21}) (a_1 b_2 - a_2 b_1) \end{split}$$

Hence,

$$\Delta(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) = \Delta(\mathbf{M}\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{M}\mathbf{b}) = \det \mathbf{M} \cdot \Delta(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$$
(2)

Suppose that $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{M}\mathbf{c}$. Then:

$$\frac{\Delta(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})}{\Delta(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})} = \frac{\Delta(\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c})}{\Delta(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{r})} = \frac{\Delta(\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{a})}{\Delta(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p})} = \frac{\Delta(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})}{\Delta(\mathbf{M}\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{M}\mathbf{b})} = \frac{\Delta(\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c})}{\Delta(\mathbf{M}\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{M}\mathbf{c})} = \frac{\Delta(\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{a})}{\Delta(\mathbf{M}\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{M}\mathbf{a})} = \det \mathbf{M}$$

Therefore,

$$\Delta(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) : \Delta(\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c}) : \Delta(\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{a}) = \Delta(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) : \Delta(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{r}) : \Delta(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p})$$

given that $\mathbf{Mc} = \mathbf{r}$. Now, suppose that the ratios were equal. Let $\frac{\Delta(\mathbf{a},\mathbf{b})}{\Delta(\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q})} = \frac{\Delta(\mathbf{b},\mathbf{c})}{\Delta(\mathbf{q},\mathbf{r})} = \frac{\Delta(\mathbf{c},\mathbf{a})}{\Delta(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{p})} = \mu$. From (1),

$$\Delta(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})\mathbf{c} + \Delta(\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{a})\mathbf{b} + \Delta(\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c})\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{0}$$

Multiplying throughout by μ :

$$\Delta(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})\mathbf{c} + \Delta(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p})\mathbf{b} + \Delta(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{r})\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{0}$$

Multiplying throughout by **M**:

$$\Delta(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})\mathbf{M}\mathbf{c} + \Delta(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p})\mathbf{M}\mathbf{b} + \Delta(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{r})\mathbf{M}\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{0}$$

Ma = p and Mb = q, so:

$$\Delta(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})\mathbf{M}\mathbf{c} + \Delta(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p})\mathbf{q} + \Delta(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{r})\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{0}$$

But from (1) we also know that

$$\Delta(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})\mathbf{r} + \Delta(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p})\mathbf{q} + \Delta(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{r})\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{0}$$

Hence,

$$\Delta(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})\mathbf{M}\mathbf{c} + \Delta(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p})\mathbf{q} + \Delta(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{r})\mathbf{p} = \Delta(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})\mathbf{r} + \Delta(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p})\mathbf{q} + \Delta(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{r})\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{0}$$

Eliminating common terms on both sides:

$$\Delta(\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q})\mathbf{M}\mathbf{c} = \Delta(\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q})\mathbf{r}$$

Since $\Delta(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})$ is a scalar, we may eliminate it as a common factor, hence,

$$Mc = r$$

Therefore, the condition $\Delta(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) : \Delta(\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c}) : \Delta(\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{a}) = \Delta(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) : \Delta(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{r}) : \Delta(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p})$ is necessary and sufficient for PQR to be the image of ABC under the transformation \mathbf{M} .