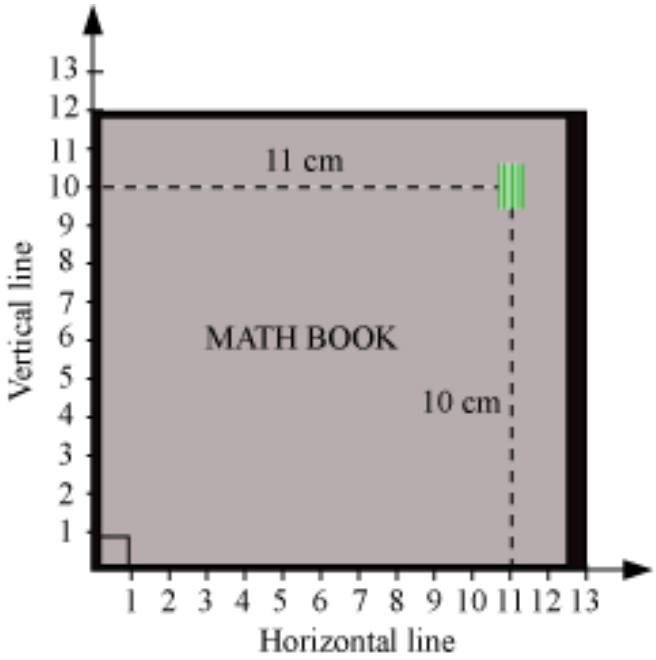
Coordinate Geometry

- **Cartesian plane and the terms associated with it**

  To identify the position of an object or a point in a plane, we require two perpendicular lines: one of them is horizontal and the other is vertical.

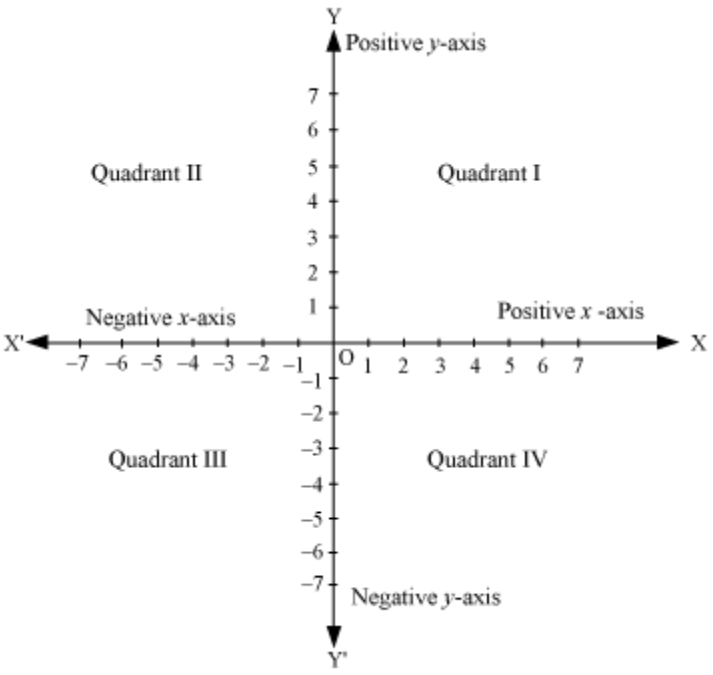
  Example: Put an eraser on a book and then describe the position of the eraser.

  Solution: In order to identify the position of the eraser on the book, we take the adjacent edges as perpendicular lines. Take 1 unit = 1 cm along the vertical and horizontal lines. Now, it is seen that the eraser is at a distance of 11 cm from the vertical line and 10 cm from the horizontal line.



  Thus, conventionally, the position of the eraser can be written as (11, 10).

- **Cartesian system**
  A Cartesian system consists of two perpendicular lines: one of them is horizontal and the other is vertical. The horizontal line is called the *x*- axis and the vertical line is called the *y* - axis. The point of intersection of the two lines is called origin, and is denoted by O.



- XOX' is called the *x*-axis; YOY' is called the *y*-axis; the point O is called the origin.
- Positive numbers lie on the directions of OX and OY.
- Negative numbers lie on the directions of OX' and OY'.
- OX and OY are respectively called positive *x*-axis and positive *y*-axis.
- OX' and OY' are respectively called negative *x*-axis and negative *y*-axis. The axes divide the plane into four equal parts. The four parts are called quadrants, numbered I, II, III and IV, in anticlockwise from positive *x*-axis, OX.
- The plane is also called co-ordinate plane or Cartesian plane or *xy* -plane.

- **Coordinate Geometry**

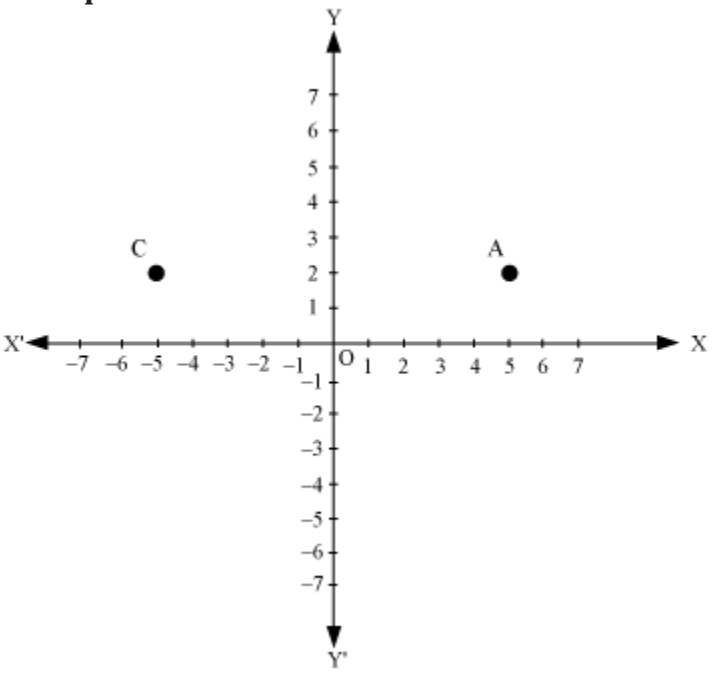
  Example: Name the quadrant or the axis in which the points (5, –4), (2, 7) and (0, –9) lie?

  Solution The coordinates of the point (5, –4) are of the form (+, –).
  (5, –4) lie in quadrant IV
  The coordinates of the point (2, 7) are of the form (+, +).
  (2, 7) lie in quadrant I.
  The coordinates of the point (0, –9) are of the form (0, *b*).
  (0, –9) lie on the *y*-axis

  The coordinates of a point on the coordinate plane can be determined by the following conventions.

The *x*-coordinate of a point is its perpendicular distance from the *y*-axis, measured along the *x*-axis (positive along the positive *x*-axis and negative along the negative *x*-axis).
The *x*-coordinate is also called the abscissa.
The *y*-coordinate of a point is its perpendicular distance from the *x*-axis, measured along the *y*-axis (positive along the positive *y*-axis and negative along the negative *y* -axis)
The *y*-coordinate is also called the ordinate.
In stating the coordinates of a point in the coordinate plane, the *x*-coordinate comes first and then the *y*-coordinate. The coordinates are placed in brackets.

Example:



What are the coordinates of points A, B and C in the given figure?

Solution: It is observed that
x-coordinate of point A is 5
y-coordinate of point A is 2
Coordinates of point A are (5, 2).
x-coordinate of point C is –5
y-coordinate of point C is 2
Coordinates of point C are (–5, 2).

Note: The coordinates of the origin are (0, 0). Since the origin has zero distance from both the axes, its abscissa and ordinate are both zero.

- **Relationship between the signs of the coordinates of a point and the quadrant of the point in which it lies:**

The 1st quadrant is enclosed by the positive x-axis and positive y-axis. So, a point in the 1st quadrant is in the form (+, +).The 2nd quadrant is enclosed by the negative x-axis and positive y-axis. So, a point in the 2nd quadrant is in the form (–, +).The 3rd quadrant is enclosed by the negative x-axis and the negative y-axis. So, the point in the 3rd quadrant is in the form (–, –).
The 4th quadrant is enclosed by the positive x-axis and the negative y-axis. So, the point in the 4th quadrant is in the form (+, –).

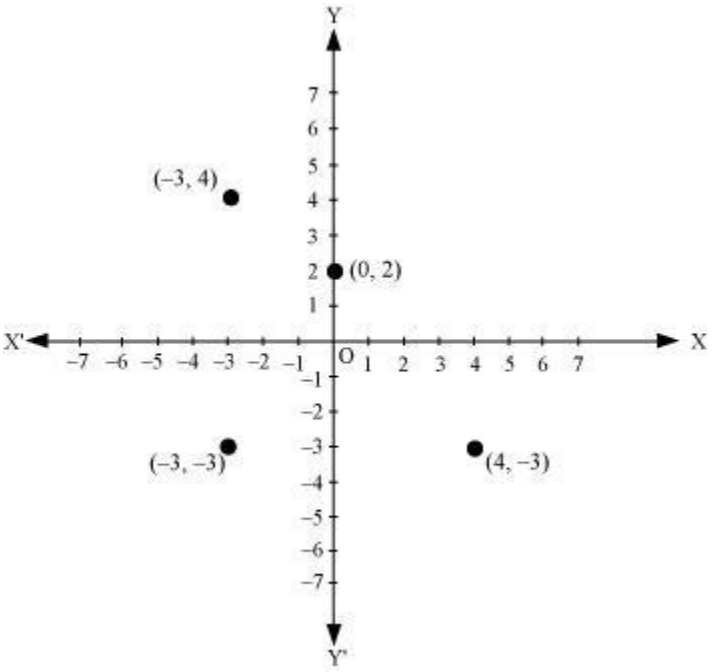
- **Location of a point in the plane when its coordinates are given**
  Example: Plot the following ordered pairs of numbers (x, y) as points in the coordinate plane.
  [Use the scale 1 cm = 1 unit]

x	–3	4	–3	0
y	4	–3	–3	2

Solution:

x	–3	4	–3	0
y	4	–3	–3	2

Taking 1 cm = 1 unit, we draw the x-axis and y-axis.
The pairs of numbers in the given table can be represented as (–3, 4), (4, –3) and (–3, –3), (0, 2).
These points can be located in the coordinate plane as:



NB: The coordinates of the point on the x-axis are of the form $(a, 0)$ and the coordinates of the point on the y-axis are of the form $(0, b)$, where a, b are real numbers.

- We can plot a point in the Cartesian plane, if the coordinates of the points are given.

Example: Plot the points A (5, –3) and B (–2, 5) on the Cartesian plane.

Solution: To plot A (5, –3):

(1) Move 5 units along OX and mark the endpoint as M.

(2) From M and perpendicular to the x-axis, move 3 units along OY'. Mark the endpoint as A.
This is the location of the point (5, –3) on the Cartesian plane.

To plot B (–2, 5):

(1) Move 2 units along OX' and mark the endpoint as N.

(2) From N and perpendicular to the x-axis, move 5 units along OY. Mark the endpoint as B.
This is the location of the point (–2, 5) on the Cartesian plane.

Points A and B are plotted in the following graph.