

2.6.37

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Question

The vector from origin to the points A and B are

$$\mathbf{a} = 2\hat{i} - 3\hat{j} + 2\hat{k} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{b} = 2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} + \hat{k}, \quad (1)$$

respectively, then the area of $\triangle OAB$ is _____.

Theoretical Solution

Solution:

Given

The area of the triangle OAB is given by

$$\text{Area}(OAB) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}\|. \quad (2)$$

We have

$$\mathbf{a} = (2, -3, 2), \quad \mathbf{b} = (2, 3, 1). \quad (3)$$

Using the cross product definition,

Theoretical Solution

Solution:

Using the cross product definition,

$$\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = \begin{vmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a_2 & b_2 \\ a_3 & b_3 \end{pmatrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} a_3 & b_3 \\ a_1 & b_1 \end{pmatrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & b_1 \\ a_2 & b_2 \end{pmatrix} \end{vmatrix} \quad (4)$$

Theoretical Solution

Solution:

Substituting values:

$$\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -3 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ -3 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} (-3)(1) - (3)(2) \\ (2)(2) - (1)(2) \\ (2)(3) - (2)(-3) \end{pmatrix}. \quad (5)$$

Theoretical Solution

Solution:

$$\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = (-9, 2, 12). \quad (6)$$

Now, its magnitude is

$$\|\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}\| = \sqrt{(-9)^2 + (2)^2 + (12)^2} = \sqrt{81 + 4 + 144} = \sqrt{229}. \quad (7)$$

Therefore, the required area is

$$\text{Area}(OAB) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}\| = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{229}. \quad (8)$$

$$\boxed{\text{Area}(OAB) = \frac{\sqrt{229}}{2}} \quad (9)$$

C Code

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <math.h>

int main() {
    // Vectors a and b
    double ax = 2, ay = -3, az = 2;
    double bx = 2, by = 3, bz = 1;

    // Cross product a * b
    double cx = ay*bz - az*by;
    double cy = az*bx - ax*bz;
    double cz = ax*by - ay*bx;

    // Magnitude of cross product
    double magnitude = sqrt(cx*cx + cy*cy + cz*cz);
}
```

```
// Area of triangle OAB
double area = 0.5 * magnitude;

printf("The area of triangle OAB is: %.2f\n", area);

return 0;
}
```


Python Code

```
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
from mpl_toolkits.mplot3d.art3d import Poly3DCollection

# Vectors
a = np.array([2, -3, 2])
b = np.array([2, 3, 1])

# Cross product and area
cross = np.cross(a, b)
area = 0.5 * np.linalg.norm(cross)
print("Area of triangle OAB:", area)

# Points
origin = np.array([0, 0, 0])
A = a
B = b
```

Python Code

```
# Create 3D plot
fig = plt.figure()
ax = fig.add_subplot(111, projection='3d')
# Plot vectors a and b
ax.quiver(0, 0, 0, a[0], a[1], a[2], color='r', label='a =
(2,-3,2)')
ax.quiver(0, 0, 0, b[0], b[1], b[2], color='b', label='b =
(2,3,1)')

# Draw triangle OAB
verts = [[origin, A, B]]
ax.add_collection3d(Poly3DCollection(verts, alpha=0.3, facecolor=
'cyan'))

# Labels and legend
ax.set_xlabel('X')
ax.set_ylabel('Y')
ax.set_zlabel('Z')
```

```
ax.legend()  
# Set equal aspect ratio  
ax.set_box_aspect([1,1,1])  
  
# Save figure as image  
plt.savefig("triangle_OAB.png", dpi=300)  
plt.show()
```

Plot

Triangle OAB, Area = 7.57

