2.6.14

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Question

Find the area of the parallelogram whose diagonals are

$$\mathbf{d_1} = 2\hat{i} - \hat{j} + \hat{k}, \quad \mathbf{d_2} = \hat{i} + 3\hat{j} - \hat{k}.$$

Diagonals

The diagonals are

$$\mathbf{d_1} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{d_2} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The area of the parallelogram is given by

$$A = \frac{1}{2} \| \mathbf{d_1} \times \mathbf{d_2} \|. \tag{1}$$

Cross Product

Computing the cross product:

$$\mathbf{d_1} \times \mathbf{d_2} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ 2 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 3 & -1 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}. \tag{2}$$

Magnitude

The magnitude is

$$\|\mathbf{d_1} \times \mathbf{d_2}\| = \sqrt{(-2)^2 + 3^2 + 7^2} = \sqrt{62}.$$
 (3)

Hence,

$$A = \frac{\sqrt{62}}{2}.\tag{4}$$

C Code

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <math.h>
int main() {
   // Define diagonals as vectors
    int d1[3] = \{2, -1, 1\};
    int d2[3] = \{1, 3, -1\};
   // Cross product d1 x d2
   int cross[3];
   cross[0] = d1[1]*d2[2] - d1[2]*d2[1]; // y1*z2 - z1*y2
   cross[1] = d1[2]*d2[0] - d1[0]*d2[2]; // z1*x2 - x1*z2
   cross[2] = d1[0]*d2[1] - d1[1]*d2[0]; // x1*y2 - y1*x2
   // Magnitude of cross product
   double mag = sqrt(cross[0]*cross[0] + cross[1]*cross[1] +
       cross[2]*cross[2]):
```

C Code

```
// Area of parallelogram
double area = 0.5 * mag;

// Output result
printf(Area of the parallelogram = %lf\n, area);

return 0;
}
```

Python Code

```
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
# Define diagonals as numpy arrays
d1 = np.array([2, -1, 1])
d2 = np.array([1, 3, -1])
# Diagonal endpoints (parallelogram diagonals intersect at the
    origin)
A = -0.5 * d1
B = 0.5 * d1
C = -0.5 * d2
D = 0.5 * d2
```

Python Code

```
# Parallelogram vertices: A+C, A+D, B+D, B+C
P1 = A + C
P2 = A + D
P3 = B + D
P4 = B + C
# Collect vertices for plotting closed shape
parallelogram = np.array([P1, P2, P3, P4, P1])
# 3D plot
fig = plt.figure(figsize=(6,6))
ax = fig.add_subplot(111, projection='3d')
# Plot parallelogram edges
ax.plot(parallelogram[:,0], parallelogram[:,1], parallelogram
    [:,2], 'b-', label=Parallelogram)
```

Python Code

```
# Fill parallelogram face
ax.plot_trisurf(parallelogram[:,0], parallelogram[:,1],
    parallelogram[:,2], color='cyan', alpha=0.5)
# Plot diagonals
ax.plot([A[0], B[0]], [A[1], B[1]], [A[2], B[2]], 'r--', label=d1
[ax.plot([C[0], D[0]], [C[1], D[1]], [C[2], D[2]], 'g--', label=d2]
# Labels and legend
ax.set_xlabel('X')
ax.set ylabel('Y')
ax.set zlabel('Z')
ax.set title('Parallelogram with diagonals d1 and d2')
ax.legend()
plt.show()
```

Plot

beamer/figs/fig1.jpg