Question:

Show that (-1, 2, 1), (1, -2, 5), (4, -7, 8) and (2, -3, 4) are the vertices of a parallelogram.

Solution:

Let

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} -1\\2\\1 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 1\\-2\\5 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} 4\\-7\\8 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{D} = \begin{pmatrix} 2\\-3\\4 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{1}$$

Now,

$$\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 - (-1) \\ -2 - 2 \\ 5 - 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -4 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix},\tag{2}$$

$$\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{D} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 - 2 \\ -7 - (-3) \\ 8 - 4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -4 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{3}$$

Hence,

$$\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{C} - \mathbf{D} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -4 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{4}$$

Hence,

$$B - A||C - D$$

Also,

$$\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 - 1 \\ -7 - (-2) \\ 8 - 5 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -5 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix},\tag{5}$$

$$\mathbf{D} - \mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 - (-1) \\ -3 - 2 \\ 4 - 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -5 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{6}$$

Thus,

$$\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{D} - \mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -5 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{7}$$

Hence,

$$C - B||D - A$$

Therefore, A, B, C, D are the vertices of a parallelogram.

Parallelogram in 3D

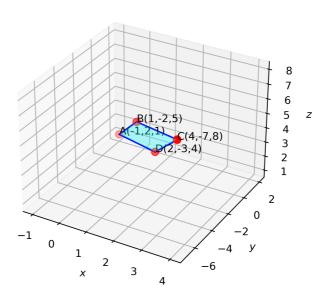


Fig. 0