

2.6.9

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Question

The area of a triangle with vertices $A(3,0)$, $B(7,0)$ and $C(8,4)$ is?

Theoretical Solution

Given: $A(3,0)$, $B(7,0)$, $C(8,4)$.

$$\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 7-3 \\ 0-0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{C} - \mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 8-3 \\ 4-0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$\|(\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A}) \times (\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{A})\| = \left\| \begin{pmatrix} |\mathbf{A}_{23} & \mathbf{B}_{23}| \\ |\mathbf{A}_{31} & \mathbf{B}_{31}| \\ |\mathbf{A}_{12} & \mathbf{B}_{12}| \end{pmatrix} \right\| = 16$$

$$\text{Area} = \frac{1}{2} \|(\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A}) \times (\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{A})\| = 8$$

$\text{Area of Triangle } ABC = 8 \text{ sq. units}$

(1)

Python + C Code

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

#ifndef M_PI
#define M_PI 3.14159265358979323846
#endif

#include "matfun.h"
#include "geofun.h"

int main(void) {
    // Allocate 2x1 matrices for points
    double **A = createMat(2,1);
    double **B = createMat(2,1);
    double **C = createMat(2,1);
```

```
// A(3,0), B(7,0), C(8,4) - correct matrix indexing
A[0][0] = 3.0; A[1][0] = 0.0;
B[0][0] = 7.0; B[1][0] = 0.0;
C[0][0] = 8.0; C[1][0] = 4.0;

// Vectors B-A and C-A as 2x1 matrices
double **BA = Matsub(B, A, 2, 1);
double **CA = Matsub(C, A, 2, 1);

// Extract components for clarity - correct matrix indexing
double BAx = BA[0][0], BAy = BA[1][0];
double CAx = CA[0][0], CAy = CA[1][0];
```

```
// 2D cross product magnitude  $|(B-A) \times (C-A)| = |B_Ax \cdot C_Ay - B_Ay \cdot C_Ax|$ 
double cp = fabs(BAx*CAy - BAy*CAx);
double area = 0.5 * cp;

// Save to points.dat
FILE *fp = fopen("points.dat", "w");
if (!fp) {
    perror("points.dat");
    // Clean up on error
    freeMat(BA, 2); freeMat(CA, 2);
    freeMat(A, 2); freeMat(B, 2); freeMat(C, 2);
    return 1;
}
```

```
fprintf(fp, "# Point_Name X Y\n");
fprintf(fp, "A %.1f %.1f\n", A[0][0], A[1][0]);
fprintf(fp, "B %.1f %.1f\n", B[0][0], B[1][0]);
fprintf(fp, "C %.1f %.1f\n", C[0][0], C[1][0]);
fclose(fp);
printf("Wrote points.dat\n");

// Free memory
freeMat(BA, 2); freeMat(CA, 2);
freeMat(A, 2); freeMat(B, 2); freeMat(C, 2);

return 0;
}
```

```
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import sys
import os
# Add the triangle folder to the path to import funcs.py
sys.path.append('triangle')
try:
    from funcs import *
except ImportError:
    print("Warning: Could not import from triangle/funcs.py.
          Using local functions.")
# Define basic functions if funcs.py is not available
def tri_sides(A, B, C):
    a = np.linalg.norm(B - C)
    b = np.linalg.norm(C - A)
    c = np.linalg.norm(A - B)
    return c, a, b
```



```
def read_points_from_file(filename="points.dat"):
    """Read triangle vertices from points.dat file"""
    points = {}

    try:
        with open(filename, 'r') as file:
            for line in file:
                # Skip comments and empty lines
                if line.startswith('#') or line.strip() == '':
                    continue

                # Parse point data: Point_Name X Y
                parts = line.strip().split()
                if len(parts) == 3:
                    point_name = parts[0]
                    x = float(parts[1])
                    y = float(parts[2])
                    points[point_name] = np.array([x, y])
```

```
except FileNotFoundError:
    print(f"Error: {filename} not found!")
    return None

return points

def calculate_triangle_area(A, B, C):
    """Calculate triangle area using cross product method"""
    BA = B - A
    CA = C - A

    # Cross product magnitude for 2D vectors
    cross_product = abs(BA[0] * CA[1] - BA[1] * CA[0])
    area = 0.5 * cross_product

    return area
```

```
def plot_triangle(A, B, C, area):  
    """Plot the triangle with vertices and area annotation"""  
    fig, ax = plt.subplots(1, 1, figsize=(10, 8))  
  
    # Create triangle vertices array for plotting  
    triangle_x = [A[0], B[0], C[0], A[0]] # Close the triangle  
    triangle_y = [A[1], B[1], C[1], A[1]]  
  
    # Plot the triangle with orange color  
    ax.plot(triangle_x, triangle_y, 'orange', linewidth=2)  
    ax.fill(triangle_x, triangle_y, alpha=0.3, color='orange')  
  
    # Plot and label vertices  
    ax.plot(A[0], A[1], 'ro', markersize=8)  
    ax.plot(B[0], B[1], 'go', markersize=8)  
    ax.plot(C[0], C[1], 'mo', markersize=8)
```

```
# Add vertex labels
ax.annotate(f'A({A[0]:.0f}, {A[1]:.0f})', (A[0], A[1]),
            xytext=(5, 5), textcoords='offset points',
            fontsize=12, fontweight='bold')
ax.annotate(f'B({B[0]:.0f}, {B[1]:.0f})', (B[0], B[1]),
            xytext=(5, -15), textcoords='offset points',
            fontsize=12, fontweight='bold')
ax.annotate(f'C({C[0]:.0f}, {C[1]:.0f})', (C[0], C[1]),
            xytext=(5, 5), textcoords='offset points',
            fontsize=12, fontweight='bold')

# Set grid and labels
ax.grid(True, alpha=0.3)
ax.set_xlabel('X', fontsize=12)
ax.set_ylabel('Y', fontsize=12)
ax.set_title('Triangle ABC', fontsize=14, fontweight='bold')
```

```
# Set axis limits with some padding
x_min, x_max = min(A[0], B[0], C[0]) - 1, max(A[0], B[0], C
    [0]) + 1
y_min, y_max = min(A[1], B[1], C[1]) - 1, max(A[1], B[1], C
    [1]) + 1
ax.set_xlim(x_min, x_max)
ax.set_ylim(y_min, y_max)

# Equal aspect ratio
ax.set_aspect('equal', adjustable='box')

# Save the plot
plt.tight_layout()
plt.savefig('triangle_plot.png', dpi=300, bbox_inches='tight'
    )
plt.show()
```

```
def main():
    print("Triangle Area Calculator and Plotter")
    print("=" * 40)

    # Read points from file
    points = read_points_from_file("points.dat")

    if points is None:
        print("Failed to read points from file.")
        return

    # Extract vertices
    try:
        A = points['A']
        B = points['B']
        C = points['C']
```

```
print(f"Points read from file:")
print(f"A = ({A[0]:.1f}, {A[1]:.1f})")
print(f"B = ({B[0]:.1f}, {B[1]:.1f})")
print(f"C = ({C[0]:.1f}, {C[1]:.1f})")
print()
```

```
except KeyError as e:
    print(f"Error: Missing point {e} in points.dat")
    return
```

```
# Calculate area using the cross product method
area = calculate_triangle_area(A, B, C)
```

```
# Display calculation steps (similar to the image)
BA = B - A
CA = C - A
```

```
print("Solution:")
print(f"Given: A({A[0]:.0f},{A[1]:.0f}), B({B[0]:.0f},{B[1]:.0f}), C({C[0]:.0f},{C[1]:.0f})")
print()
print(f"B - A = ({BA[0]:.0f}, {BA[1]:.0f})")
print(f"C - A = ({CA[0]:.0f}, {CA[1]:.0f})")
print()

cross_product = abs(BA[0] * CA[1] - BA[1] * CA[0])
print(f"| (B - A) * (C - A) | = | {BA[0]:.0f} * {CA[1]:.0f} - {BA[1]:.0f} * {CA[0]:.0f} | = {cross_product:.0f}")
print()
print(f"Area = (1/2) * | (B - A) * (C - A) | = (1/2) * {cross_product:.0f} = {area:.0f}")
print()
print(f"Area of Triangle ABC = {area:.2f} sq.units")
print()
```



```
# Try to calculate side lengths if funcs.py is available
try:
    sides = tri_sides(A, B, C)
    print(f"Triangle side lengths:")
    print(f"AB (c) = {sides[0]:.2f}")
    print(f"BC (a) = {sides[1]:.2f}")
    print(f"CA (b) = {sides[2]:.2f}")
    print()
except NameError:
    print("tri_sides function not available")

# Plot the triangle
plot_triangle(A, B, C, area)

print("Triangle plot saved as 'triangle_plot.png'")

if __name__ == "__main__":
    main()
```

Graph

