

Assignment 1

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- 1) Show that the vectors $2\hat{i} - \hat{j} + \hat{k}$, $\hat{i} - 3\hat{j} - 5\hat{k}$ and $3\hat{i} - 4\hat{j} - 4\hat{k}$ form the vertices of a right angled triangle.

Solution: For a right angled triangle ABC which is right angled at A

$$(\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A})^T(\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{A}) = 0 \quad (0.0.1)$$

Let us consider,

$$\mathbf{A} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{B} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -3 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{C} \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -4 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.0.2)$$

We check whether the triangle is right angled at any of the vertices - $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}$

- a) checking whether the triangle is right angled at \mathbf{A}

$$\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -2 \\ -6 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.0.3)$$

$$\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -3 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.0.4)$$

$$(\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A})^T(\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{A}) = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -2 & -6 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -3 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix} = 35 \quad (0.0.5)$$

$$(\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A})^T(\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{A}) \neq 0 \quad (0.0.6)$$

The triangle is not right angled at \mathbf{A} .

- b) checking whether the triangle is right angled at \mathbf{B}

$$\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.0.7)$$

$$\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.0.8)$$

$$(\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B})^T(\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{B}) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 6 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 6 \quad (0.0.9)$$

$$(\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B})^T(\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{B}) \neq 0 \quad (0.0.10)$$

The triangle is not right angled at \mathbf{B} .

- c) checking whether the triangle is right angled at \mathbf{C}

$$\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 3 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.0.11)$$

$$\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.0.12)$$

$$(\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C})^T(\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{C}) = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 3 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = 0 \quad (0.0.13)$$

$$(\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A})^T(\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{A}) = 0 \quad (0.0.14)$$

Hence the triangle is right angled at \mathbf{C} .