Proof without Words: A 2 × 2 Determinant Is the Area of a Parallelogram

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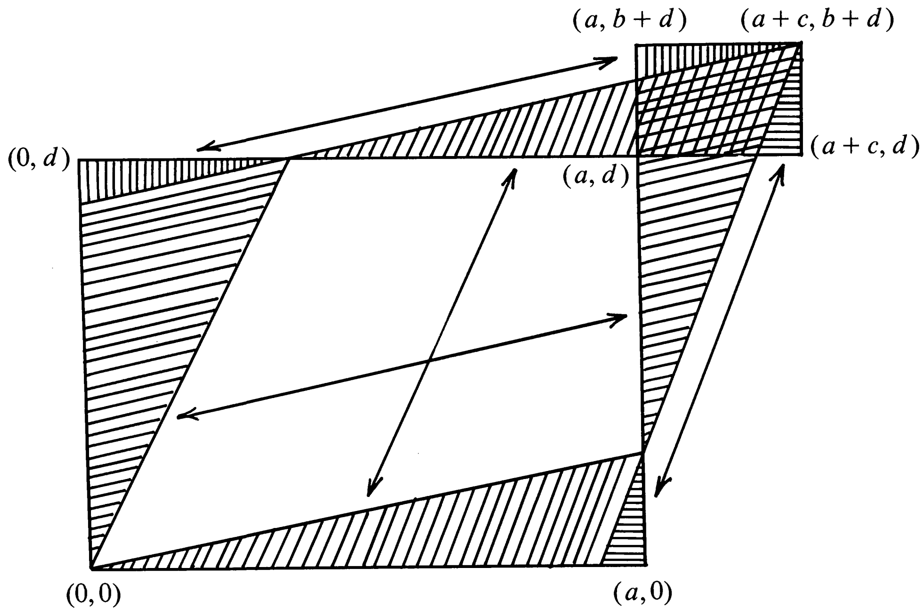
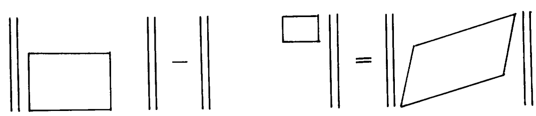
Proof without words: A 2×2 determinant is the area of a parallelogram



$\begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix} = ad - bc =$ 

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Editor's note: This proof is for the case $0 < b < d$, $0 < c < a$. *Professor Golomb has found dissections for the other cases as well, which the reader may seek to rediscover.*