

1.2.14 Find the area of the parallelogram using vector notation. Compare your result with that found graphically. *Note: Diagram not shown.*

The magnitude of the vector product of two vectors is equal to the area of the parallelogram formed by those vectors. Let the two vectors $\mathbf{A} = (2 \ 4 \ 0)$ and $\mathbf{B} = (6 \ 0 \ 0)$ be the two adjacent sides of the parallelogram that start at the origin. Note that both vectors have a \mathbf{u}_z component that is equal to zero because the vector product is defined in three dimensions, and \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} lie in the xy plane.

$$\begin{aligned}\|\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B}\| &= \|(2\mathbf{u}_x + 4\mathbf{u}_y + 0\mathbf{u}_z) \times (6\mathbf{u}_x + 0\mathbf{u}_y + 0\mathbf{u}_z)\| \\ &= \|0\mathbf{u}_x + 0\mathbf{u}_y - 24\mathbf{u}_z\| \\ &= \sqrt{0^2 + 0^2 + (-24)^2} \\ &= 24\end{aligned}$$

This value matches the result obtained when counting the area graphically. The parallelogram may be split into a central square with side length 4 and two triangles that together form a rectangle of 2 by 4 units. This gives an area of $4 \cdot 4 + 2 \cdot 4 = 24$.