Points and Vectors

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***Abstract*—This book provides a computational approach to school geometry based on the NCERT textbooks from Class 6-12. Links to sample Python codes are available in the text.**

Download python codes using

```
svn co https://github.com/gadepall/school/trunk/
    ncert/computation/codes
```

1 Definitions

1.1 2×1 *vectors*

1.1.1. Let

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \end{pmatrix} \equiv a_1 \overrightarrow{i} + a_2 \overrightarrow{j}, \tag{1.1.1.1}$$

$$\mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \end{pmatrix}, \tag{1.1.1.2}$$

be 2×1 vectors. Then, the determinant of the 2×2 matrix

$$\mathbf{M} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{B} \end{pmatrix} \tag{1.1.1.3}$$

is defined as

$$\left|\mathbf{M}\right| = \left|\mathbf{A} \quad \mathbf{B}\right| \tag{1.1.1.4}$$

$$= \begin{vmatrix} a_1 & b_1 \\ a_2 & b_2 \end{vmatrix} = a_1 b_2 - a_2 b_1 \tag{1.1.1.5}$$

1.1.2. The area of the triangle with vertices $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}$ is given by the absolute value of

$$\frac{1}{2} \left|\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B} \quad \mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C}\right| \tag{1.1.2.1}$$

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1.2 3×1 *vectors*

1.2.1. Let

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ a_3 \end{pmatrix} \equiv a_1 \overrightarrow{i} + a_2 \overrightarrow{j} + a_3 \overrightarrow{j}, \tag{1.2.1.1}$$

$$\mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{pmatrix}, \tag{1.2.1.2}$$

and

$$\mathbf{A}_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} a_i \\ a_j \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{B}_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} b_i \\ b_j \end{pmatrix}, \tag{1.2.1.3}$$

1.2.2. The transpose of $\mathbf{A}$ is defined as

$$\mathbf{A}^\top = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \end{pmatrix} \tag{1.2.2.1}$$

1.2.3. The *inner product* or *dot product* is defined as

$$\mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{B} \equiv \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{pmatrix} = a_1 b_1 + a_2 b_2 + a \tag{1.2.3.1}$$

1.2.4. *norm* of $\mathbf{A}$ is defined as

$$\|A\| = \sqrt{\mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{A}} = \sqrt{a_1^2 + a_2^2 + a_3^2} \tag{1.2.4.1}$$

1.2.5. The *cross product* or *vector product* of $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}$ is defined as

$$\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{A}_{23} \times \mathbf{B}_{23} \\ \mathbf{A}_{31} \times \mathbf{B}_{31} \\ \mathbf{A}_{12} \times \mathbf{B}_{12} \end{pmatrix} \tag{1.2.5.1}$$

1.2.6. Verify that

$$\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B} = -\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{A} \tag{1.2.6.1}$$

1.2.7. The area of a triangle with vertices $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}$ is given by

$$\frac{1}{2} \left\|(\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}) \times (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C})\right\| \tag{1.2.7.1}$$

2 Examples

2.1. Find the area of a triangle whose vertices are $\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix}$.
Solution:

$$\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -7 \end{pmatrix} \tag{2.1.1}$$

$$\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 11 \end{pmatrix} \tag{2.1.2}$$

Hence, the desired area is

$$\frac{1}{2}\begin{vmatrix} 5 & -1 \\ -7 & 11 \end{vmatrix} = \frac{1}{2}(55 - 7) = 24 \tag{2.1.3}$$

2.2. Find the area of a triangle formed by the vertices $\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix}$.
Solution:

$$\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix} \tag{2.2.1}$$

$$\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix} \tag{2.2.2}$$

Hence, the desired area is

$$\frac{1}{2}\begin{vmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ -5 & 6 \end{vmatrix} = \frac{1}{2}(6 - 10) = 2 \tag{2.2.3}$$

after taking the absolute value.

2.3. Find the area of a triangle formed by the points $\mathbf{P} = \begin{pmatrix} -1.5 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{Q} = \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{R} = \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$.
Solution:

$$\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{Q} = \begin{pmatrix} -7.5 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} \tag{2.3.1}$$

$$\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{R} = \begin{pmatrix} 1.5 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{2.3.2}$$

Hence, the desired area is the absolute value of

$$\frac{1}{2}\begin{vmatrix} -7.5 & 1.5 \\ 5 & -1 \end{vmatrix} = \frac{1}{2}(7.5 - 7.5) = 0 \tag{2.3.3}$$

This means that the points are on a straight line.

2.4. Find the area of a triangle having the points

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{2.4.1}$$

as its vertices.
Solution:

$$\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \tag{2.4.2}$$

and

$$\begin{vmatrix} -1 & -2 \\ -2 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = -4 \tag{2.4.3}$$

$$\begin{vmatrix} -2 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{vmatrix} = 2 \tag{2.4.4}$$

$$\begin{vmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ -1 & -2 \end{vmatrix} = -1 \tag{2.4.5}$$

$$\tag{2.4.6}$$

From (1.2.5.1),

$$\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}) \times (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C}) = \frac{1}{2}\begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{2.4.7}$$

and from (1.2.5.1), the area of the triangle is

$$\frac{1}{2}\left\|\begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}\right\| = \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{4^2 + 2^2 + 1^2} = \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{21} \tag{2.4.8}$$