

Homework-1

Problem 2

Due : 16-Jan-2025

Time Spent : 2.5 Hours

Given :  $\vec{r}_A, \vec{r}_B, \vec{r}_C, \vec{r}_D, \vec{F}$

(a) To Find : Shortest Distance between AB and CD.

$$d = \vec{r}_{C/A} \cdot \frac{(\vec{r}_{B/A} \times \vec{r}_{C/D})}{|\vec{r}_{B/A} \times \vec{r}_{C/D}|}$$

Reference : Ruina-Pratap Sample 1.23

(b) To Find : End Points of shortest line segment

In the calculation of  $d$ ,  $\vec{r}_{C/A}$  was "dotted" with the normal vector,

i.e., the line from AC was projected to the normal vector, which would start somewhere on line AB, and end at C.

This makes C one of the end points.

For the other point, say some distance "a" from A,

$$d \frac{(\vec{r}_{B/A} \times \vec{r}_{C/D})}{|\vec{r}_{B/A} \times \vec{r}_{C/D}|} + a \frac{\vec{r}_{B/A}}{|\vec{r}_{B/A}|} = \vec{r}_{C/A}$$

$$\Rightarrow a \frac{\vec{r}_{B/A}}{|\vec{r}_{B/A}|} = \vec{r}_{C/A} - d \frac{(\vec{r}_{B/A} \times \vec{r}_{C/D})}{|\vec{r}_{B/A} \times \vec{r}_{C/D}|}$$

where,  $a \frac{\vec{r}_{B/A}}{|\vec{r}_{B/A}|}$  is the other end point of the line segment.

(c) To Find : Volume of tetrahedron ABCD

$$\text{Volume of a parallelepiped} = \vec{r}_{AD} \cdot (\vec{r}_{BD} \times \vec{r}_{CD}) = 6 \times \text{Volume of Tetrahedron}$$

[Reference: Rina-Parap  
13: mixed  
Triple Product]

$$\Rightarrow \text{Volume of ABCD} = \frac{1}{6} \vec{r}_{AD} \cdot (\vec{r}_{BD} \times \vec{r}_{CD})$$

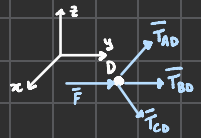
(d) To Find: Tension in bar AD

Assume static equilibrium,

$$\sum \vec{F} = \vec{0}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\vec{T}_{AD} (\vec{r}_{AD})}{|\vec{r}_{AD}|} = \vec{F} + T_{BD} \frac{\vec{r}_{BD}}{|\vec{r}_{BD}|} + T_{CD} \frac{\vec{r}_{CD}}{|\vec{r}_{CD}|}$$

FBD : Joint D



From the above equation, 3 scalar equations are obtained. When solved simultaneously,

the three unknowns:  $T_{AD}$ ,  $T_{BD}$ ,  $T_{CD}$  can be found.