

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

SP.606 Let be $A(2, 1, 0)$; $B(0, 1, 2)$; $C(3, 0, 1)$; $D(4, 4, 4)$. Find the volume of the tetrahedron $ABCD$.

Proposed by Daniel Sitaru – Romania

Solution 1 by proposer

$$\begin{aligned}\overrightarrow{AB} &= (x_B - x_A)\vec{i} + (y_B - y_A)\vec{j} + (z_B - z_A)\vec{k} \\ \overrightarrow{AB} &= (0 - 2)\vec{i} + (1 - 1)\vec{j} + (2 - 0)\vec{k} = -2\vec{i} + 2\vec{k} \\ \overrightarrow{AC} &= (x_C - x_A)\vec{i} + (y_C - y_A)\vec{j} + (z_C - z_A)\vec{k} \\ \overrightarrow{AC} &= (3 - 2)\vec{i} + (0 - 1)\vec{j} + (1 - 0)\vec{k} = \vec{i} - \vec{j} + \vec{k} \\ \overrightarrow{AD} &= (x_D - x_A)\vec{i} + (y_D - y_A)\vec{j} + (z_D - z_A)\vec{k} \\ \overrightarrow{AD} &= (4 - 2)\vec{i} + (4 - 1)\vec{j} + (4 - 0)\vec{k} = 2\vec{i} + 3\vec{j} + 4\vec{k} \\ \overrightarrow{AB} \times \overrightarrow{AC} &= \begin{vmatrix} \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ -2 & 0 & 2 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 2\vec{j} + 2\vec{k} + 2\vec{i} + 2\vec{j} \\ \overrightarrow{AB} \times \overrightarrow{AC} &= 2\vec{i} + 4\vec{j} + 2\vec{k} \\ \overrightarrow{AD} \cdot (\overrightarrow{AB} \times \overrightarrow{AC}) &= 2 \cdot 2 + 3 \cdot 4 + 4 \cdot 2 = 4 + 12 + 8 = 24 \\ V[ABCD] &= \frac{1}{6} |\overrightarrow{AD} \cdot (\overrightarrow{AB} \times \overrightarrow{AC})| = \frac{24}{6} = 4\end{aligned}$$

Solution 2 by Marin Chirciu-Romania

$$\begin{aligned}V[ABCD] &= \frac{1}{6} |\Delta|, \quad \Delta = \begin{vmatrix} x_A & y_A & z_A & 1 \\ x_B & y_B & z_B & 1 \\ x_C & y_C & z_C & 1 \\ x_D & y_D & z_D & 1 \end{vmatrix} \\ \Delta &= \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 3 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 4 & 4 & 4 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ -2 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 3 & 4 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = - \begin{vmatrix} -2 & 0 & 2 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 4 \end{vmatrix} = 2 \begin{vmatrix} -1 & 2 \\ 3 & 6 \end{vmatrix} = -24. \\ V[ABCD] &= \frac{1}{6} |\Delta| = \frac{1}{6} |-24| = 4.\end{aligned}$$