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644. A Problem

Author(s): Edward M. Langley

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$$\begin{vmatrix} y_1 & z_1 & 1 \\ y_2 & z_2 & 1 \\ y_3 & z_3 & 1 \end{vmatrix} \text{ is to } OB \cdot OC. \text{ Thus 6 vol. } OPQR = \begin{vmatrix} y_1 & z_1 & 1 \\ y_2 & z_2 & 1 \\ y_3 & z_3 & 1 \end{vmatrix} \times OA.$$

But writing equation to plane through P, Q, R , and putting $y=0, z=0$, we get

$$\begin{vmatrix} y_1 & z_1 & 1 \\ y_2 & z_2 & 1 \\ y_3 & z_3 & 1 \end{vmatrix} \times OA = \begin{vmatrix} x_1 & y_1 & z_1 \\ x_2 & y_2 & z_2 \\ x_3 & y_3 & z_3 \end{vmatrix} \equiv (x_1y_2z_3), \text{ suppose.}$$

Now, since any tetrahedron $PQRS$ is equal to the algebraic sum of the four tetrahedra whose common vertex is O , and bases the faces of $PQRS$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} 6 \text{ vol. } PQRS &= (x_2y_3z_4) - (x_1y_3z_4) + (x_1y_2z_4) - (x_1y_2z_3) \\ &= \begin{vmatrix} x_1 & y_1 & z_1 & 1 \\ x_2 & y_2 & z_2 & 1 \\ x_3 & y_3 & z_3 & 1 \\ x_4 & y_4 & z_4 & 1 \end{vmatrix}, \text{ the required expression.} \end{aligned}$$

When the axes are oblique, we multiply this expression by $2n$, where

$$4n^2 = 1 - \sum \cos^2 \alpha + 2\Pi \cos \alpha,$$

α, β, γ being the angles between the co-ordinate axes.

Univ. Coll., Cork.

A. H. ANGLIN.

643. [K¹. 9. b.] The following construction in Practical Solid seems worth noting. It has useful applications in Crystallography.

Let $OAMBLCHK$ be a rectangular parallelepiped. It is required to find the point at which the normal through O to the plane ABC meets the face $CHKL$. Draw perprs. from O to CA, CB meeting CH, CL in D, E . Complete the rectangle $DCEF$. Then OF is perpr. to pl. ABC .

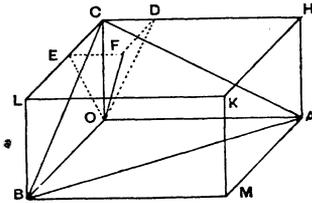


FIG. 1.—The parallelepiped in oblique parallel perspective.

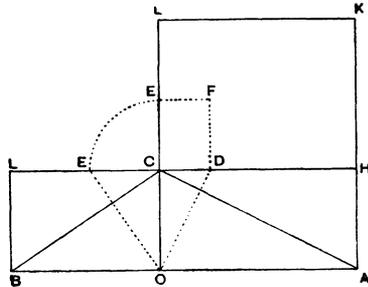


FIG. 2.—The planes $COBL, CLKH$ rabatted into the plane of the paper, that of $OAHC$, round CO, CH .

If OC is the axial unit along OZ , and if OA, OB along OX, OY contain m and n units respectively, then F is the gnomonic projection of the pole of pl. ABC ($\frac{x}{m} + \frac{y}{n} + z = 1$) with respect to the unit sphere with centre O . In this case the construction admits of simplification.

EDWARD M. LANGLEY.

644. [K¹. 1. c.] *A Problem.*

ABC is an isosceles triangle. $B=C=80^\circ$. CF at 30° to AC cuts AB in F . BE at 20° to AB cuts AC in E . Prove $\angle BEF = 30^\circ$.

E. M. LANGLEY.