

4. [2 points] Find a vector orthogonal to both $\langle 1, -2, 4 \rangle$ and $\langle 3, 1, -1 \rangle$.

Find cross product:

$$\vec{a} \times \vec{b} = \begin{vmatrix} \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ 1 & -2 & 4 \\ 3 & 1 & -1 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} -2 & 4 \\ 1 & -1 \end{vmatrix} \vec{i} - \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 4 \\ 3 & -1 \end{vmatrix} \vec{j} + \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ 3 & 1 \end{vmatrix} \vec{k}$$

$$= (2-4)\vec{i} - (-1-12)\vec{j} + (1-(-6))\vec{k}$$

$$= \boxed{-2\vec{i} + 13\vec{j} + 7\vec{k} = \langle -2, 13, 7 \rangle}$$

5. [2 points] Find the area of the triangle PQR with vertices $P(2,0,4)$, $Q(1,-1,-2)$, and $R(3,1,5)$.

$$\vec{a} = \vec{PQ} = \langle 1-2, -1-0, -2-4 \rangle = \langle -1, -1, -6 \rangle$$

$$\vec{b} = \vec{PR} = \langle 3-2, 1-0, 5-4 \rangle = \langle 1, 1, 1 \rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Area} &= \frac{1}{2} |\vec{a} \times \vec{b}| & \vec{a} \times \vec{b} &= \begin{vmatrix} \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ -1 & -1 & -6 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = (-1-(-6))\vec{i} - (-1-(-6))\vec{j} \\ & & & + ((-1)-(-1))\vec{k} \\ & & & = 5\vec{i} - 5\vec{j} + 0\vec{k} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{So Area} &= \frac{1}{2} |\langle 5, -5, 0 \rangle| = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{25+25+0} = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{2 \cdot 5^2} \\ &= \boxed{\frac{5\sqrt{2}}{2}} \end{aligned}$$