

DESCRIPTION

Students position a Logifaces block in a 3-dimensional rectangular coordinate system so that one vertex of the base is at the origin and another vertex of the base is at (4, 0, 0), then calculate the coordinates of the other vertices of the block.

SOLUTIONS / EXAMPLES

The coordinates of the bases are the same for all blocks:

(0, 0, 0), (4, 0, 0), (2, $2\sqrt{3}$, 0), since in an equilateral triangle the altitude is: $altitude = \frac{base \times \sqrt{3}}{2} = \frac{4 \times \sqrt{3}}{2} = 2\sqrt{3}$

The x and y coordinates of the top vertices are the same as the x and y coordinates of the corresponding base vertices. The values of the z coordinates (a, b, and c in the figure) depend on the lengths of the vertical edges of the block.



The coordinates of the top vertices of the blocks 111, 222 and 333 are uniquely determined:

- 111: (0, 0, 1), (4, 0, 1), (2, $2\sqrt{3}$, 1)

- **222**: (0, 0, 2), (4, 0, 2), (2, 2 $\sqrt{3}$, 2)

- 333: (0, 0, 3), (4, 0, 3), (2, $2\sqrt{3}$, 3)

The vertex coordinates of the remaining blocks are not uniquely determined, because rotation of the vertical edges rotates the z coordinates of the top vertices. There are three possible rotations for each block. All three possibilities of the coordinates of the top vertices are listed in the table below:

112 (0, 0, 1), (4, 0, 1), (2, $2\sqrt{3}$, 2) (0, 0, 1), (4, 0, 2), (2, $2\sqrt{3}$, 1) (0, 0, 2), (4, 0, 1), (2, $2\sqrt{3}$,	L)
122 (0, 0, 1), (4, 0, 2), (2, $2\sqrt{3}$, 2) (0, 0, 2), (4, 0, 2), (2, $2\sqrt{3}$, 1) (0, 0, 2), (4, 0, 1), (2, $2\sqrt{3}$,	2)
223 (0, 0, 2), (4, 0, 2), (2, $2\sqrt{3}$, 3) (0, 0, 2), (4, 0, 3), (2, $2\sqrt{3}$, 2) (0, 0, 3), (4, 0, 2), (2, $2\sqrt{3}$,	2)
233 (0, 0, 2), (4, 0, 3), (2, $2\sqrt{3}$, 3) (0, 0, 3), (4, 0, 3), (2, $2\sqrt{3}$, 2) (0, 0, 3), (4, 0, 2), (2, $2\sqrt{3}$,	3)
113 $(0, 0, 1), (4, 0, 1), (2, 2\sqrt{3}, 3)$ $(0, 0, 1), (4, 0, 3), (2, 2\sqrt{3}, 1)$ $(0, 0, 3), (4, 0, 1), (2, 2\sqrt{3}, 3)$	L)
133 $(0, 0, 1), (4, 0, 3), (2, 2\sqrt{3}, 3)$ $(0, 0, 3), (4, 0, 3), (2, 2\sqrt{3}, 1)$ $(0, 0, 3), (4, 0, 1), (2, 2\sqrt{3}, 1)$	3)
123 (0, 0, 1), (4, 0, 2), (2, $2\sqrt{3}$, 3) (0, 0, 2), (4, 0, 3), (2, $2\sqrt{3}$, 1) (0, 0, 3), (4, 0, 1), (2, $2\sqrt{3}$,	2)
132 $(0, 0, 1), (4, 0, 3), (2, 2\sqrt{3}, 2)$ $(0, 0, 3), (4, 0, 2), (2, 2\sqrt{3}, 1)$ $(0, 0, 2), (4, 0, 1), (2, 2\sqrt{3}, 2)$	3)

Coordinates of points in the 3 dimensional coordinate system, Pythagorean theorem

RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS