Length & Classification of Triangle

7–8 Find the lengths of the sides of the triangle PQR. Is it a right triangle? Is it an isosceles triangle?

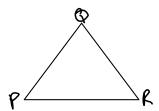
7.
$$P(3, -2, -3)$$
, $Q(7, 0, 1)$, $R(1, 2, 1)$

8.
$$P(2, -1, 0)$$
, $Q(4, 1, 1)$, $R(4, -5, 4)$

Q12.1-8 from Calculus: Early Transcendentals 7e by Stewart

Why: Want to calculate the length of each side of the triangle given coordinates of the vertices and classify the type of triangle. **Steps:**

- 1. Calculate the magnitude of each side length.
- 2. Classify the triangle.



(1)

$$|\overrightarrow{PQ}| = \sqrt{(4-2)^2 + (1-1)^2 + (1-0)^2} = \sqrt{4+4+1} = \sqrt{9} = 3$$

$$|\overrightarrow{QR}| = \sqrt{(4-4)^2 + (-5-1)^2 + (4-1)^2} = \sqrt{0+36+9} = \sqrt{45} = 3\sqrt{5}$$

$$|\overrightarrow{RP}| = \sqrt{(2-4)^2 + (-1-5)^2 + (0-4)} = \sqrt{4+16+16} = \sqrt{36} = 6$$

$$\begin{vmatrix} \overrightarrow{PQ} & = 3 \\ |\overrightarrow{QR}| & = 3\sqrt{5} \\ |\overrightarrow{RP}| & = 6 \end{vmatrix}$$

(2)

All three lengths are different, thus the triangle is scalene. \overrightarrow{QR} is the largest side lenth (hypotenues). Check if $a^2+b^2=c^2$

$$|\overrightarrow{PQ}|^2 + |\overrightarrow{RP}|^2 = |\overrightarrow{QR}|^2$$
$$3^2 + 6^2 = (3\sqrt{5})^2$$
$$45 = 45$$

Thus, ΔPQR is a right triangle.

Solution to 12.1-7:

$$\begin{split} |\overrightarrow{PQ}| &= \sqrt{(7-3)^2 + (0--2)^2 + (1--3)^2} = \sqrt{16+4+16} = \sqrt{36} = 6 \\ |\overrightarrow{QR}| &= \sqrt{(1-7)^2 + (2-0)^2 + (1-1)^2} = \sqrt{36+4+0} = \sqrt{40} = 2\sqrt{10} \\ |\overrightarrow{RP}| &= \sqrt{(1-3)^2 + (2--2)^2 + (1--3)} = \sqrt{4+16+16} = \sqrt{36} = 6 \end{split}$$

Since
$$\left|\overrightarrow{PQ}\right| = \left|\overrightarrow{RP}\right| \neq \left|\overrightarrow{QR}\right|$$
, and $\left|\overrightarrow{PQ}\right|^2 + \left|\overrightarrow{RP}\right|^2 \neq \left|\overrightarrow{QR}\right|^2$,

 ΔPQR is an isosceles triange.

Check if it's a right triangle:

$$|\overrightarrow{PQ}|^2 + |\overrightarrow{RP}|^2 = |\overrightarrow{QR}|^2$$
$$6^2 + 6^2 = (2\sqrt{10})^2$$
$$36 \neq 40$$

$$|\overrightarrow{PQ}| = 6$$

$$|\overrightarrow{QR}| = 2\sqrt{10}$$

$$|\overrightarrow{RP}| = 6$$