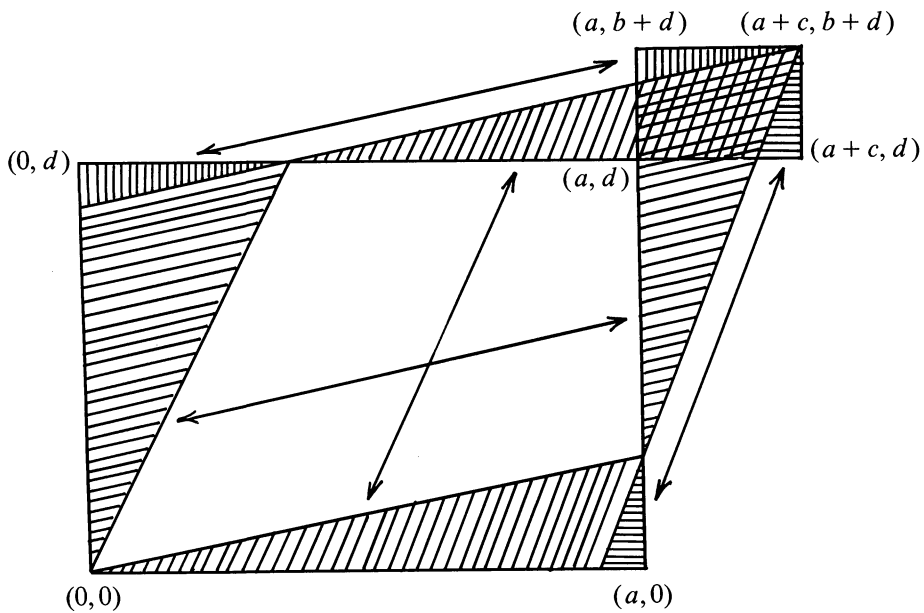


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Proof without words:

A 2×2 determinant is the area of a parallelogram



$$\begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix} = ad - bc = \left\| \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array} \right\| - \left\| \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array} \right\| = \left\| \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array} \right\| = \left\| \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array} \right\|$$

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Editor's note: This proof is for the case $0 < b < d, 0 < c < a$. Professor Golomb has found dissections for the other cases as well, which the reader may seek to rediscover.