

1.3.9

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Question

Find the coordinates of a point on Y axis which is at a distance of $5\sqrt{2}$ from the point $P(3, -2, 5)$.

Solution

Let

$$\mathbf{P} \in \mathbb{R}^3, \quad \mathbf{Q} = y \mathbf{e}_2, \quad \text{where} \quad \mathbf{e}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.1)$$

The required distance condition is

$$\|\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{Q}\| = d \quad (1.2)$$

$$\implies (\mathbf{P} - y\mathbf{e}_2)^T (\mathbf{P} - y\mathbf{e}_2) = d^2 \quad (1.3)$$

Expanding the quadratic form:

$$\mathbf{P}^T \mathbf{P} - 2y \mathbf{e}_2^T \mathbf{P} + y^2 \mathbf{e}_2^T \mathbf{e}_2 = d^2 \quad (1.4)$$

Since $\mathbf{e}_2^T \mathbf{e}_2 = 1$, this leads to the quadratic equation in y :

$$y^2 - 2(\mathbf{e}_2^T \mathbf{P})y + (\mathbf{P}^T \mathbf{P} - d^2) = 0 \quad (1.5)$$

Solution

Applying the quadratic formula, the solution for y is:

$$y = \mathbf{e}_2^T \mathbf{P} \pm \sqrt{(\mathbf{e}_2^T \mathbf{P})^2 - (\mathbf{P}^T \mathbf{P} - d^2)} \quad (1.6)$$

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -2 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}, \quad d = 5\sqrt{2} \quad (1.7)$$

Calculate intermediate terms:

$$\mathbf{e}_2^T \mathbf{P} = -2 \quad (1.8)$$

$$\mathbf{P}^T \mathbf{P} = 3^2 + (-2)^2 + 5^2 = 38 \quad (1.9)$$

$$d^2 = (5\sqrt{2})^2 = 50 \quad (1.10)$$

Substitute into the general formula:

Solution

$$y = -2 \pm \sqrt{(-2)^2 - (38 - 50)} \quad (1.11)$$

$$= -2 \pm \sqrt{4 + 12} \quad (1.12)$$

$$= -2 \pm 4 \quad (1.13)$$

Solutions are:

$$y_1 = 2, \quad y_2 = -6 \quad (1.14)$$

Therefore, the required points on the Y-axis are:

$$\mathbf{Q}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{Q}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -6 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.15)$$

3D Visualization of Point P and Points on Y-axis Q1, Q2

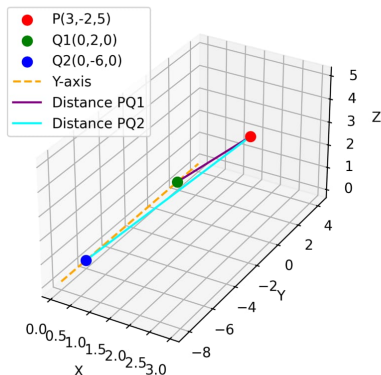


Figure: 3D Visualization of Point P and Points on Y-axis Q1, Q2

C Code

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <math.h>
#include "matfun.h"

int main() {
    double P[3] = {3.0, -2.0, 5.0};
    double distance = 5.0 * sqrt(2.0);

    double roots[2];
    solve_y_coordinate(P, distance, roots);

    if (isnan(roots[0]) || isnan(roots[1])) {
        printf("No real solutions exist for the given distance.\n");
    } else {
        printf("The points on the Y-axis at distance %.2f from P(3, -2, 5) are:\n", distance);
        printf("Q1 = (0, %.2f, 0)\n", roots[0]);
        printf("Q2 = (0, %.2f, 0)\n", roots[1]);
    }
    return 0;
}
```


Python Plot

```
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
from mpl_toolkits.mplot3d import Axes3D

# Points
P = np.array([3, -2, 5])
Q1 = np.array([0, 2, 0])
Q2 = np.array([0, -6, 0])

# Plot
fig = plt.figure()
ax = fig.add_subplot(111, projection='3d')

# Plot points
ax.scatter(*P, color='red', label='P(3,-2,5)', s=50)
ax.scatter(*Q1, color='green', label='Q1(0,2,0)', s=50)
ax.scatter(*Q2, color='blue', label='Q2(0,-6,0)', s=50)
```

Python Plot

```
# Plot Y-axis line for reference
y_axis = np.array([[0, y, 0] for y in np.linspace(-8, 4, 100)])
ax.plot(y_axis[:,0], y_axis[:,1], y_axis[:,2], color='orange', linestyle
        = '--', label='Y-axis')

# Lines from P to Q1 and Q2
ax.plot([P[0], Q1[0]], [P[1], Q1[1]], [P[2], Q1[2]], color='purple',
        linestyle='-', label='Distance PQ1')
ax.plot([P[0], Q2[0]], [P[1], Q2[1]], [P[2], Q2[2]], color='cyan',
        linestyle='-', label='Distance PQ2')

# Labels and legend
ax.set_xlabel('X')
ax.set_ylabel('Y')
ax.set_zlabel('Z')
ax.legend()
```

```
# Set aspect ratio equal for better visualization
ax.set_box_aspect([1,2,1])

plt.title('3D Visualization of Point P and Points on Y-axis Q1, Q2')
plt.savefig('3d_points_plot.png', dpi=300)

plt.show()
```