

1.11.3

AI25BTECH11001 - ABHISEK MOHAPATRA

Question:

If a line makes 60° and 45° angles with the positive directions of the X axis and Z axis respectively, then find the angle that it makes with the positive direction of the Y-axis. Hence, write the direction cosines of the lines.

Solution: From the given information, angles made with positive direction of X and Z axis are 45° and 60° respectively.

So, as we know,

$$\cos^2(\alpha) + \cos^2(\beta) + \cos^2(\gamma) = 1 \quad (1)$$

Where α, β, γ are angles with the positive direction of X, Y, Z axes respectively.

Putting the values,

$$\cos^2(45^\circ) + \cos^2(60^\circ) + \cos^2(\gamma) = 1 \quad (2)$$

$$\Rightarrow \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 + \cos^2(\gamma) = 1 \quad (3)$$

$$\Rightarrow \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{4}\right) + \cos^2(\gamma) = 1 \quad (4)$$

$$\Rightarrow \cos^2(\gamma) = \frac{1}{4} \quad (5)$$

Rejecting the negative values as we want the smaller angle,

$$\Rightarrow \cos(\gamma) = \frac{1}{2} \quad (6)$$

$$\Rightarrow \gamma = 60^\circ \quad (7)$$

Therefore the angle with Y axis is 60° . And the direction cosines of the line is

$$\frac{1}{2} : \frac{1}{2} : \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \quad (8)$$