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INDHIRESH S- EE25BTECH11027

Question. A plane contains the following three points: $\mathbf{P}(2, 1, 5)$, $\mathbf{Q}(-1, 3, 4)$ and $\mathbf{R}(3, 0, 6)$. The vector perpendicular to the above plane can be represented as

Solution:

Let us solve the given equation theoretically and then verify the solution computationally.

Given points are:

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{Q} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \mathbf{R} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1)$$

Now finding two vectors in the plane:

$$\mathbf{PQ} = \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (2)$$

$$\mathbf{PR} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (3)$$

Now the required vector be \mathbf{n}

$$\mathbf{n} = \mathbf{PQ} \times \mathbf{PR} \quad (4)$$

Let

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{PQ} \text{ and } \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{PR} \quad (5)$$

Then

$$\mathbf{n} = \mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B} \quad (6)$$

$$\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} |\mathbf{A}_{23}\mathbf{B}_{23}| \\ |\mathbf{A}_{31}\mathbf{B}_{31}| \\ |\mathbf{A}_{12}\mathbf{B}_{12}| \end{pmatrix} \quad (7)$$

$$|\mathbf{A}_{23}\mathbf{B}_{23}| = \begin{vmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 1 \quad (8)$$

$$|\mathbf{A}_{31}\mathbf{B}_{31}| = -\begin{vmatrix} -3 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 2 \quad (9)$$

$$|\mathbf{A}_{12}\mathbf{B}_{12}| = \begin{vmatrix} -3 & 2 \\ 1 & -1 \end{vmatrix} = 1 \quad (10)$$

$$\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (11)$$

$$\mathbf{n} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (12)$$

From the figure it is clearly verified that the theoretical solution matches with the computational solution.

