

# 4.8.14

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## Question:

Find the position vector of the foot of perpendicular and the perpendicular distance from the point  $\mathbf{P}$  with position vector  $2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} + \hat{k}$  to the plane  $\mathbf{r} \cdot (2\hat{i} + \hat{j} + 3\hat{k}) - 26 = 0$ . Also find image of  $\mathbf{P}$  in the plane.

## Solution:

$$\text{The position vector of point } \mathbf{P} \text{ is } \mathbf{p} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.1)$$

The normal vector of the plane is

$$\mathbf{n} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.2)$$

The plane equation is

$$\mathbf{p}^T \cdot \mathbf{n} - 26 = 0 \quad (0.3)$$

### 1. Perpendicular Distance

The dot product  $\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{n}$  is given by the matrix multiplication  $\mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{n}$ .

$$\mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{n} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = (2)(2) + (3)(1) + (1)(3) = 10 \quad (0.4)$$

$$|\mathbf{n}| = \sqrt{\mathbf{n}^T \mathbf{n}} = \sqrt{\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}} = \sqrt{4 + 1 + 9} = \sqrt{14} \quad (0.5)$$

The perpendicular distance  $d$  is:

$$d = \frac{|\mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{n} - 26|}{|\mathbf{n}|} = \frac{|10 - 26|}{\sqrt{14}} = \frac{16}{\sqrt{14}} \quad (0.6)$$

## 2. Foot of Perpendicular

The position vector of the foot of the perpendicular  $\mathbf{q}$  is:

$$\mathbf{q} = \mathbf{p} - \frac{(\mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{n} - 26)}{|\mathbf{n}|^2} \mathbf{n} \quad (0.7)$$

$$\mathbf{q} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} - \frac{10 - 26}{14} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{16}{14} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.8)$$

$$\mathbf{q} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{8}{7} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 + 16/7 \\ 3 + 8/7 \\ 1 + 24/7 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 30/7 \\ 29/7 \\ 31/7 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.9)$$

So the position vector of the foot of the perpendicular is  $\frac{30}{7}\hat{i} + \frac{29}{7}\hat{j} + \frac{31}{7}\hat{k}$ .

## 3. Image of $\mathbf{P}$

The position vector of the image  $\mathbf{P}'$ , is:

$$\mathbf{P}' = 2\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{P} = 2 \begin{pmatrix} 30/7 \\ 29/7 \\ 31/7 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 60/7 - 14/7 \\ 58/7 - 21/7 \\ 62/7 - 7/7 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 46/7 \\ 37/7 \\ 55/7 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.10)$$

So the position vector of the image is  $\frac{46}{7}\hat{i} + \frac{37}{7}\hat{j} + \frac{55}{7}\hat{k}$ .

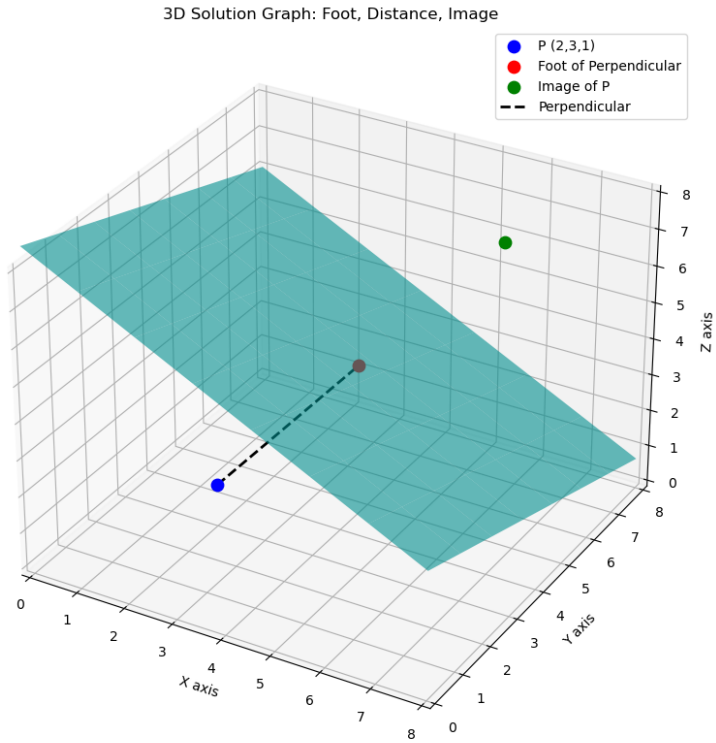


Fig. 0.1