Assignment 2 : Question 15 (b)

Abhay Shankar K : cs21btech11001

Question:

Find the length of the perpendicular from the origin to the plane

$$\mathbf{r} \cdot (3i - 4j - 12k) + 39 = 0 \tag{1}$$

Solution:

Clearly, the length of the perpendicular from a plane passing through some point is the distance of that point from the plane. The normal form of a plane is an equation of the form:

$$\mathbf{n}^\top \mathbf{x} = c \tag{2}$$

Where :

$$\mathbf{n} = \begin{pmatrix} p \\ q \\ r \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} \tag{3}$$

We can represent the given plane $(equation\ (1))$ using normal form $(equation\ (2))$ thus :

$$\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -4 \\ -12 \end{pmatrix}^\top \mathbf{x} = -39 \tag{4}$$

The formula for the distance of a point from a plane is :

$$Distance = \frac{\left|\mathbf{n}^\top \mathbf{x} - D\right|}{\|\mathbf{n}\|} \tag{5}$$

The input parameters are :

$$\mathbf{n} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -4 \\ -12 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, c = -39 \tag{6}$$

Substituting (6) in (5),

$$Distance = \frac{\left|\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -4 \\ -12 \end{pmatrix}^\top \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + 39\right|}{\left\|\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -4 \\ -12 \end{pmatrix}\right\|} \tag{7}$$

$$= \frac{39}{13} \tag{8}$$

$$= 3 \tag{9}$$

$\therefore$ The length of the perpendicular from the origin to the plane $(equation\ (1))$ is $\underline{3}$ units.

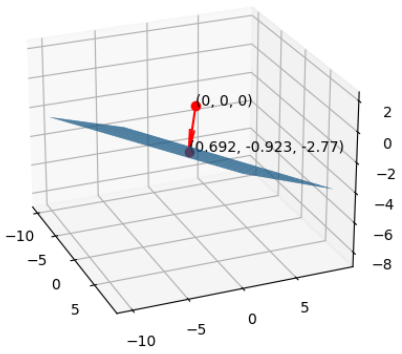

Fig. 1. Graph of the given plane