

VECTORS

AIHL 3.11 - 3.13

Vector Equations of a line

Vector equation of a line

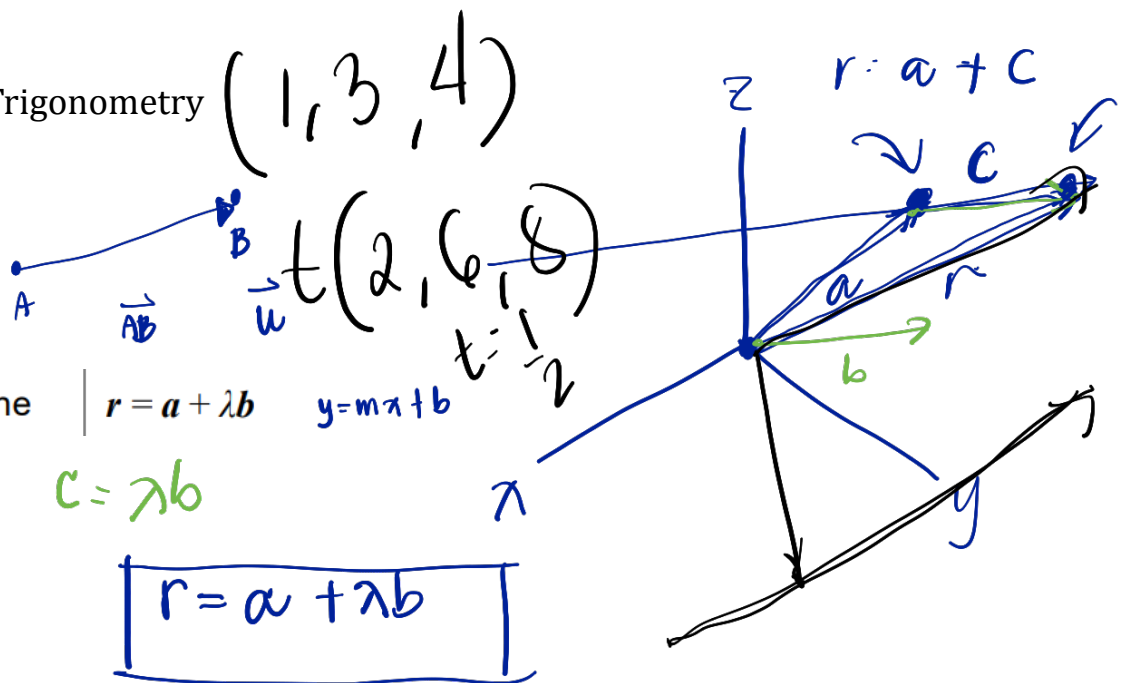
 a : position vector b : direction vector λ : scalar value

$$r = a + \lambda b$$

$$y = mx + b$$

$$c = \lambda b$$

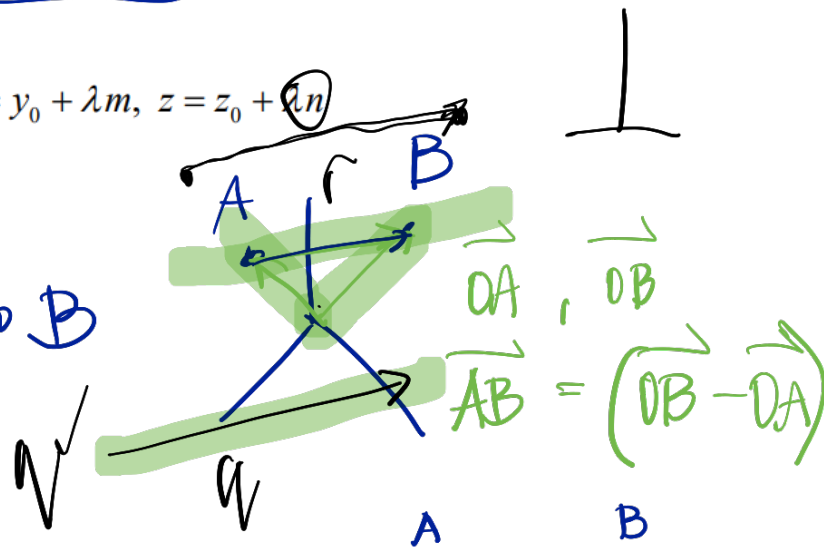
$$r = a + \lambda b$$



Parametric form of the equation of a line

$$x = x_0 + \lambda l, y = y_0 + \lambda m, z = z_0 + \lambda n$$

Direction Vector
is the vector from A to B



Example 1. Write down the equation of the line that passes through the points $(2, -1, 3)$ and $(1, 4, -3)$.
Write all the three forms of the equation of the line.

$$r = a + \lambda b$$

$$r = (2, -1, 3) + \lambda (1-2, 4+1, -3-3)$$

$$r = (2, -1, 3) + \lambda (-1, 5, -6)$$

$$r = (2i - j + 3k) + \lambda (-i + 5j - 6k)$$

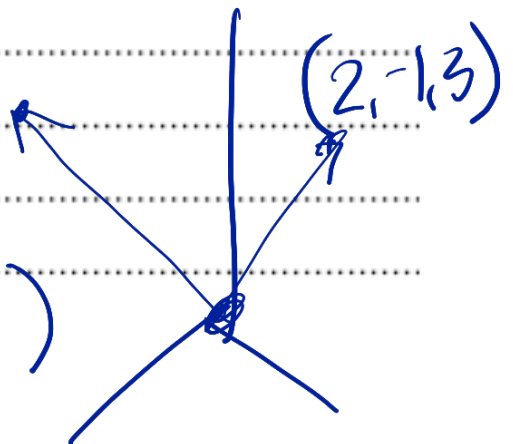
$$\vec{v} = (4, 5)$$

$$\vec{v} = 4i + 5j$$

$$r = (2-\lambda)i + (-1+5\lambda)j + (3-6\lambda)k$$

$$\begin{cases} x = 2 - \lambda \\ y = -1 + 5\lambda \\ z = 3 - 6\lambda \end{cases}$$

$$(2-\lambda, -1+5\lambda, 3-6\lambda)$$



Example 2. Determine if the line (from example 1) passes through the point $(0, 3, 8)$ and is parallel to the line given by $x = 10 + 3t, y = 12t, z = -3 - t$ passes through the xz -plane. If it does, give the coordinate of that point.

$$(0, 3, 8)$$

$$x = 10 + 3t$$

$$y = 12t$$

$$z = -3 - t$$

$$r = (0, 3, 8) + t(-3, 12, -1)$$

$$r = (3t, -3 + 12t, 8 - t)$$

$$0 = -3 + 12t$$

$$t = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$r\left(\frac{3}{4}, 0, \frac{31}{4}\right)$$

direction vector

Example 3. Is the line through the points $(2, 0, 9)$ and $(-4, 1, -5)$ parallel, orthogonal or neither to the line given by $r = (5, 1 - 9t, -8 - 4t)$?

$$\vec{v} \parallel \vec{w} \text{ if } \vec{v} = k\vec{w}$$

$$\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w} = 0$$

$$v = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$w = (0, -3, 5) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -3 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$v \cdot w = (1)(0) + (1)(-3) + (3)(5) = -3$$

$$r = (5, 1 - 9t, -8 - 4t)$$

$$r_1 = (6, -1, 14)$$

$$r_2 = (0, -9, -4)$$

$$r_1 \cdot r_2 = (6)(0) + (-1)(-9) + (14)(-4) = -47$$

HOME PRACTICE

Example 4. Point A has coordinates $(-4, -12, 1)$ and point B has coordinates $(2, -4, -4)$. The line L passes through A and B.

a. Show that $\vec{AB} = \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 8 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix}$

$$\vec{AB} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 - (-4) \\ -4 - (-12) \\ -4 - 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 8 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix}$$

b. Find the vector equation for L.

$$L = \begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ -12 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 8 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix} \lambda \quad \text{or} \quad L = (-4i - 12j + k) + (6i + 8j - 5k)\lambda$$
$$L = (-4 + 6\lambda)i + (-12 + 8\lambda)j + (1 - 5\lambda)k$$

c. Point C(k, 12, -k) is on L. Show that k = 14.

$$\begin{pmatrix} k \\ 12 \\ -k \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ -12 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 8 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix} \lambda$$

if $\lambda = 3$

$$k = -4 + 6\lambda \quad -k = 1 - 5\lambda$$
$$k = -4 + 6(3) \quad -k = 1 - 5(3)$$
$$k = 14 \quad -k = -14$$
$$k = 14$$
$$12 = -12 + 8\lambda$$
$$24 = 8\lambda$$
$$3 = \lambda$$

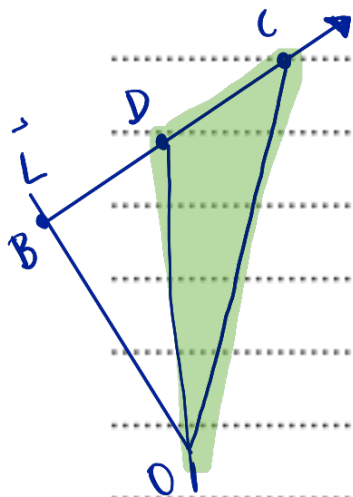
d. Find $\vec{OB} \cdot \vec{AB}$

$$\vec{OB} \cdot \vec{AB} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -4 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 8 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$= 12 - 32 + 20$$
$$= 0$$

e. Write down the values of angle OBA.

$$\angle OBA = 90^\circ$$

f. Point D is also on L and has coordinates $(8, 4, -9)$. Find the area of triangle OCD.



$$A_{OCD} = \frac{1}{2} |\vec{OB}| \times |\vec{CD}| = \frac{1}{2} \times 6 \times \sqrt{125}$$

$$\vec{CD} = \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 8 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix} \quad |\vec{OB}| = 6 \quad = 15\sqrt{5}$$

$$|\vec{CD}| = \sqrt{125}$$