

17. Vectors

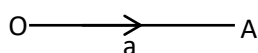
Vectors

A vector is a quantity with both magnitude and direction.

Examples include displacement, velocity, acceleration, force, momentum etc.

Representation of vectors

A vector is represented by a line segment or a small letter



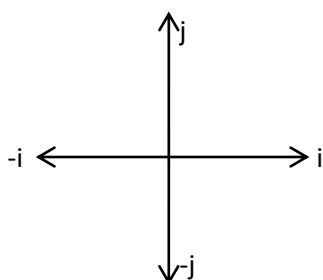
The above vector can be represented as \overrightarrow{OA} , \underline{a} etc. which can be used interchangeably.

Vectors in two dimensions

These are the representation of magnitude and directions of quantities in $x-y$ plane.

x – direction is represented by \mathbf{i} or $-\mathbf{i}$ while

y – direction is represented by \mathbf{j} or $-\mathbf{j}$.

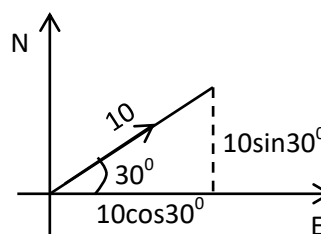


In the figure above the unit vectors in the $x-y$ plane are $\mathbf{i} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ and are $\mathbf{j} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

Illustration

- (i) The velocity of a body moving eastward at 5kms^{-1} is represented by $5\mathbf{i}$.
- (ii) The velocity of a body moving northwards at 5kms^{-1} is represented by $5\mathbf{j}$.

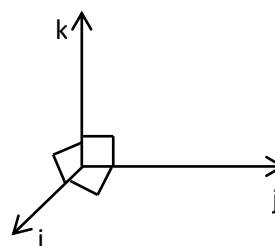
- (iii) The velocity of a body moving westward at 8kms^{-1} is represented by $-8\mathbf{i}$
- (iv) The velocity of a body moving southward at 6kms^{-1} is represented by $-6\mathbf{j}$.
- (v) A body moving at 10ms^{-1} in the direction $\text{N}60^\circ\text{E}$ is represented as



$$= 5\sqrt{3}\mathbf{i} + 5\mathbf{j}$$

Vectors in three dimensions

These represent magnitudes and directions in x, y and z planes and are represented by \mathbf{i} , \mathbf{j} and \mathbf{k}



Where \mathbf{i} and \mathbf{j} represent direction in $x-y$ plane (or east-north directions on ground) while \mathbf{k} represent direction in z - plane (vertical plane)

In summary the unit vectors in the x, y and z planes are

$$\mathbf{i} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{j} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{k} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

For example, the vector of a body that moves 10m due East, 8m due north and 12m vertically is represented as

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$$10i + 8j + 12k \text{ or } \begin{pmatrix} 10 \\ 8 \\ 12 \end{pmatrix}$$

Basic concepts

Position vector

If a point P in a two dimensional geometry has Cartesian coordinates (x, y), the position vector of P is given by $OP = p = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$ or

$$OP = p = xi + yj$$

If P has coordinates (x, y, z) in a three dimensional geometry, its position vector is given by

$$OP = p = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} \text{ or } xi + yj + zk$$

Displacement vector

If points P and Q have coordinates (x_1, y_1, z_1) and (x_2, y_2, z_2) respectively, the displacement vector PQ is denoted by either PQ, \underline{PQ} or \overrightarrow{PQ} where

$$PQ = OQ - OP$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} x_2 \\ y_2 \\ z_2 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \\ z_1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} x_2 - x_1 \\ y_2 - y_1 \\ z_2 - z_1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Example 1

Given the following pair of points, find their respective displacement vectors, P

- (i) P (3, 10) and Q (1, 1)

Solution

$$PQ = OQ - OP$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 10 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 9 \end{pmatrix}$$

- (ii) P(4, 0, 2) and Q(2, 4, 1)

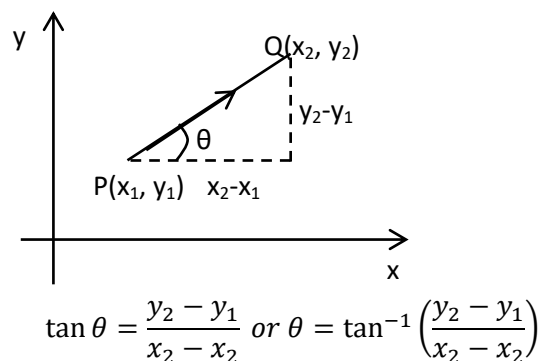
Solution

$$PQ = OQ - OP$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -4 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Direction of displacement vector

Direction of displacement vector in 2- D geometry is given by



Example 2

Find the direction of the displacement PQ with the horizontal, given the following points

- (i) P(2, 4) and Q (6, 8)

Solution

$$\tan \theta = \frac{8-4}{6-2} = 1$$

$$\theta = \tan^{-1} 1 = 45^\circ$$

- (ii) P(1, 1) and Q(3, 5)

Solution

$$\tan \theta = \frac{5-1}{3-1} = 2$$

$$\theta = \tan^{-1} 2 = 63.4^\circ$$

Modulus of a vector

Modulus of a vector is the same as magnitude of a vector.

- (i) For $P = xi + yj$

$$\text{Modulus of } P, = |P| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$$

- (ii) For $P = xi + yj + zk$

$$\text{Modulus of } P, = |P| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$$

Example 3

Find the modulus of the following vectors

- (i) $P = 3i + 4j$

Solution

$$|P| = \sqrt{3^2 + 4^2} = 5$$

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(ii) $P = 3i + 4j + 5k$

Solution

$$|P| = \sqrt{3^2 + 4^2 + 5^2} = 7.071$$

Unit vector

This is a vector whose magnitude or length is equal to one.

Example 4

Show that the vector $P = \frac{3}{5}i + \frac{4}{5}j$ is a unit vector

$$|P| = \sqrt{\left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{4}{5}\right)^2} = \sqrt{\frac{9}{25} + \frac{16}{25}} = \sqrt{\frac{25}{25}} = 1$$

The unit vector parallel to a given vector

The unit vector parallel to a vector P or a vector in direction of P is denoted by \hat{P} where

$$\hat{P} = \frac{P}{|P|}$$

Example 5

Find the unit vectors parallel to each of the following vectors.

(i) $p = 6i + 8j$

Solution

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{p} &= \frac{6i+8j}{|6i+8j|} \\ &= \frac{6i+8j}{\sqrt{6^2+8^2}} \\ &= \frac{6i+8j}{\sqrt{100}} \\ &= \frac{6i+8j}{10} = \frac{3i+4j}{5} \\ &= \frac{3}{5}i + \frac{4}{5}j\end{aligned}$$

(ii) $q = 3i + 4j + 5k$

Solution

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{q} &= \frac{3i+4j+5k}{|3i+4j+5k|} \\ &= \frac{3i+4j+5k}{\sqrt{3^2+4^2+5^2}} \\ &= \frac{3i+4j+5k}{\sqrt{50}} \\ &= \frac{3i+4j+5k}{5\sqrt{2}} \\ &= \frac{3}{5\sqrt{2}}i + \frac{4}{5\sqrt{2}}j + \frac{5}{5\sqrt{2}}k \\ &= \frac{3\sqrt{2}}{5}i + \frac{4\sqrt{2}}{5}j + \frac{5\sqrt{2}}{5}k\end{aligned}$$

Revision exercise 1

1. Find the magnitude of each of the following vectors

(a) $3i + 4j$ [5]

(b) $6i + 8j$ [10]

(c) $\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$ $[5\sqrt{2}]$

(d) $\begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 8 \\ 10 \end{pmatrix}$ [13.75]

2. Find the value of q in each of the following

(a) $|3i + qj| = 5$ [4]

(b) $|2i + qj + 4k| = 6$ [4]

(c) $|qi + 4j + 4k| = 2\sqrt{17}$ [6]

3. Find the direction θ to the horizontal of each of the following vectors.

(a) $P = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ [45]

(b) $q = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$ [53.13]

4. Find a unit vector in the direction of each of the following vectors

(a) $p = 8i + 6j$ $\left[\frac{4}{5}i + \frac{3}{5}j\right]$

(b) $q = 5i + 8j$ $\left[\frac{5}{\sqrt{89}}i + \frac{8}{\sqrt{89}}j\right]$

(c) $r = \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ -9 \end{pmatrix}$ $\left[\frac{7}{\sqrt{130}}i - \frac{9}{\sqrt{130}}j\right]$

(d) $3i - 2j + 5k$ $\left[\frac{3}{\sqrt{38}}i - \frac{2}{\sqrt{38}}j + \frac{5}{\sqrt{38}}k\right]$

(e) $i + 3j + 2k$ $\left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{14}}i + \frac{3}{\sqrt{14}}j + \frac{2}{\sqrt{14}}k\right]$

(f) $\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -12 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$ $\begin{pmatrix} \frac{3}{13} \\ -\frac{12}{13} \\ \frac{4}{13} \end{pmatrix}$

5. Find a vector of magnitude $\sqrt{7}$ in the

direction of the vector $\begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$. $\left[\frac{\sqrt{5}}{5}i - \frac{3\sqrt{5}}{5}j + \frac{\sqrt{5}}{5}k\right]$

6. Find \overrightarrow{PR} in each case given that

(a) $\overrightarrow{PQ} = 2i - 4j + 5k$ and $\overrightarrow{QR} = 3i + 6j - 2k$
 $[5i + 2j + 3k]$

(b) $\overrightarrow{PQ} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \\ -8 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\overrightarrow{QR} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -5 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$. $\left[\begin{pmatrix} 8 \\ 1 \\ -8 \end{pmatrix}\right]$

7. (a) Given that $\overrightarrow{PQ} = 5i - 7j - 2k$ and

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$$\overrightarrow{PR} = 2i + 3j - 2k, \text{ find } \overrightarrow{QR} \text{? } [-3i + 10j]$$

(b) Given that $\overrightarrow{PQ} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\overrightarrow{PR} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}$,
find \overrightarrow{QR} ? $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

8. Given that $\overrightarrow{PQ} = ai + 6j + 4k$,
 $\overrightarrow{QR} = 4i + bj + -2k$, and $\overrightarrow{PR} = -3i + ck$, find the
possible values of the constants a, b, c.
[a = -7, b = -6, c = 1]

$$3p = 3 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix}$$

(ii) $3p + 2q$
Solution

$$\begin{aligned} 3p + 2q &= 3 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} + 2 \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ 6 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 12 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Vector algebra

Addition and subtraction of vectors

When adding or subtracting two or more vectors, corresponding elements are added or subtracted.

Example 6

1. Given that $p = 2i + 3k$ and $q = 3i + 6j + 5k$ find
(i) $p + q = (2+3)i + (0+6)j + (3+5)k$
 $= 5i + 6j + 8k$
(ii) $p - q = (2-3)i + (0-6)j + (3-5)k$
 $= -i - 6j - 2k$
2. Given that $p = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 7 \\ 9 \end{pmatrix}$ and $q = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$, find
(i) $p + q = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 7 \\ 9 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 9 \\ 12 \end{pmatrix}$
(ii) $p - q = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 7 \\ 9 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}$

Multiplication or division of vectors by a scalar

When a vector is multiplied or divided by a scalar the size of the vector changes but the direction remains unchanged

Example 7

Given the vectors $p = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $q = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$
find

(i) $3p$

Coplanar vectors

The vectors p, q and r are said to be coplanar when there exist scalars say α and β such that
 $r = \alpha p + \beta q$

Example 8

- (a) Given $p = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$, $q = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$ and $r = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$, find
scalars α and β such that $r = \alpha p + \beta q$

Solution

$$\alpha \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} + \beta \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$3\alpha + \beta = 4 \dots\dots\dots(i)$$

$$4\alpha + 2\beta = 0 \dots\dots\dots(ii)$$

Solving equation (i) and (ii) simultaneously,
we obtain $\alpha = \frac{4}{5}$ and $\beta = \frac{-8}{5}$

- (b) Given $p = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$, $q = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$ and $r = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 7 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$,

find scalars α , β and γ such that
 $r = \alpha p + \beta q$

Solution

$$2\alpha - \beta = 0 \dots\dots\dots(i)$$

$$3\alpha + 2\beta = 7 \dots\dots\dots(ii)$$

$$\alpha + 2\beta = 5 \dots\dots\dots(iii)$$

Solving equation (i), (ii) and (iii)
simultaneously, we obtain $\alpha = 1$ and $\beta = 2$

Equal vectors

Two or more vectors are said to be equal when they have the same magnitude and direction.

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Example 9

Given that vectors $p = \alpha i + 2j + (4 - \beta)k$ and $q = (2 - \beta)i + 2j + 8k$ are equal find the values of α and β .

Solution

p and q are equal

$$\alpha i + 2j + (4 - \beta)k = (2 - \beta)i + 2j + 8k$$

$$\Rightarrow 4 - \beta = 8$$

$$\beta = -4$$

$$\alpha = 2 - \beta = 2 - (-4) = 6$$

$$\text{Hence } \alpha = 6 \text{ and } \beta = -4$$

Parallel vectors

Vectors p and q are parallel when one of them is a scalar multiple of another i.e. $p = kq$ where k is a constant.

To show that a given points are collinear

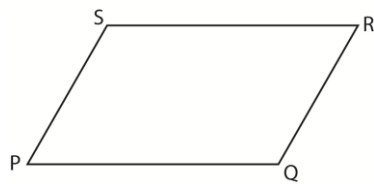
If points P , Q and R are collinear, then

- (i) PQ and PR or QR are parallel.
- (ii) $PQ = kQR$ where k is a constant and there is a common point on LHS and RHS in this case Q .

Example 10

- a. PQRS is a parallelogram with coordinates $P(2,4)$, $Q(-1, 5)$ and $R(4, 8)$. Find the coordinate of S .

Solution



$$PS = QR$$

$$OS - OP = OR - OQ$$

$$OS = OR - OQ + OP$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{Hence } S(7,7)$$

- b. The position vectors of P , Q and R are

$$OP = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, OQ = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, \text{ and}$$

$OR = \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ 10 \\ -7 \end{pmatrix}$, prove that P , Q and R are collinear.

For collinear points $PQ = kQR$

$$PQ = OQ - OP$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$PR = OR - OP$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ 10 \\ -7 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 12 \\ -9 \end{pmatrix} = 3 \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix}$$

Substituting for PQ and QR

$$\Rightarrow PQ = 2QR$$

Hence QR is parallel to PQ , since Q is common to both sides of the equation, then P , Q and R are collinear

- c. Given points $P(2, 1, 0)$, $Q(5, 2, 4)$ and $R(14, 5, 16)$; show that the points are collinear

Solution

$$PQ = kQR$$

$$PQ = OQ - OP$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$PR = OR - OP$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 14 \\ 5 \\ 16 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 12 \\ 4 \\ 16 \end{pmatrix} = 4 \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

Substituting for PQ and QR

$$\Rightarrow PQ = 3QR$$

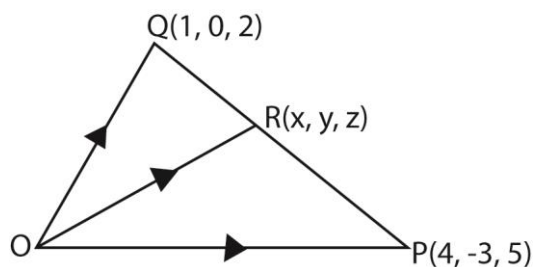
Hence QR is parallel to PQ , since Q is common to both sides of the equation, then P , Q and R are collinear

- d. Given that $OP = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -3 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$ and $OQ = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$ find

the coordinates of point R such that $PR:PQ = 1:2$ and points P , Q and R are collinear.

Solution

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$$\vec{OR} = \frac{1}{2}\vec{OP}$$

$$\vec{OR} - \vec{OP} = \frac{1}{2}(\vec{OQ} - \vec{OP})$$

$$\vec{OR} = \frac{1}{2}(\vec{OQ} - \vec{OP}) + \vec{OP} = \frac{1}{2}(\vec{OQ} + \vec{OP})$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \left[\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -3 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} \right] = \begin{pmatrix} 2.5 \\ -1.5 \\ 3.5 \end{pmatrix}$$

Hence coordinates of R(2.5, -1.5, 3.5)

The ratio theorem (section formula)

Consider the division of a line PR by a point Q as shown below:

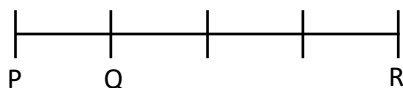


Fig: 1

In the Fig: 1 above, point Q divides line PR internally; PQ:QR = 1:3

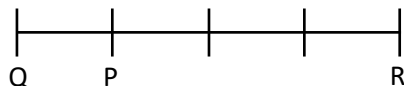


Fig: 2

In Fig: 2, point Q divides PR externally PQ:QR = -1:4 or 1:-4 (depending on the direction considered).

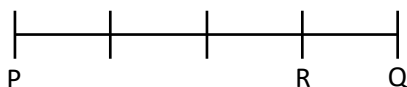


Fig: 3

In fig: 3, Point Q divides PR externally.

PQ:QR = 4:-1 or QP:RQ = 4:1

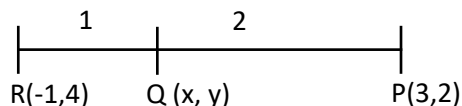
Note PQ and QR are in opposite direction.

Example 11

(a) P(3, 2) and R(-1, 4) are two points on the line. A point Q divides PR in the ratio

(i) 2:1, (ii) 4:-1, (iii) 1:-4. Find the coordinates of Q in each case

Solution



Here Q divides the line internally

$$PQ:QR = 2:1$$

$$\frac{PQ}{QR} = \frac{2}{1}$$

$$PQ = 2QR$$

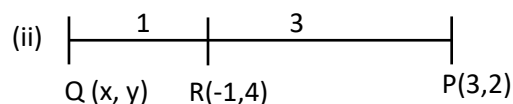
$$OQ - OP = 2(OR - OQ)$$

$$3OQ = 2OR + OP$$

$$= 2 \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 10 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{3} \\ \frac{10}{3} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{Hence } Q\left(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{10}{3}\right)$$



Here Q divides the line externally

$$PQ:QR = 4:-1 \quad (\overrightarrow{PQ} \text{ as positive})$$

$$\frac{PQ}{QR} = \frac{4}{-1}$$

$$-PQ = 4QR$$

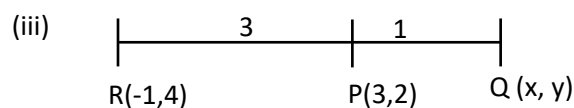
$$-(OQ - OP) = 4(OR - OQ)$$

$$3OQ = 4OR - OP$$

$$= 4 \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -7 \\ 14 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$OQ = \begin{pmatrix} -7/3 \\ 14/3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{Hence } Q\left(-\frac{7}{3}, \frac{14}{3}\right)$$



Here Q divides the line externally

$$PQ:QR = 1:-4 \quad (\text{taking PQ positive})$$

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$$\frac{PQ}{QR} = \frac{1}{-4}$$

$$-4PQ = PR$$

$$-4(OQ - OP) = (OR - OQ)$$

$$3OQ = 4OP - OR$$

$$= 4 \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 13 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

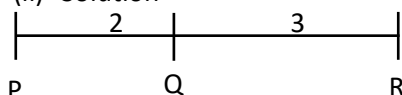
$$OQ = \begin{pmatrix} 13/3 \\ 4/3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{Hence } Q\left(\frac{13}{3}, \frac{4}{3}\right)$$

- (b) Two points P and Q are such that P(0, 1, 4) and Q(2, 6, 0). A point R divides a line PQ in ratio 2:3. Find the position vector of R if it divides PQ

(i) Internally

(ii) Solution



Here Q divides the line internally

$$PQ:QR = 2:3$$

$$\frac{PQ}{QR} = \frac{2}{3}$$

$$3PQ = 2QR$$

$$3(OQ - OP) = 2(OR - OQ)$$

$$3OQ - 3OP = 2OR - 2OQ$$

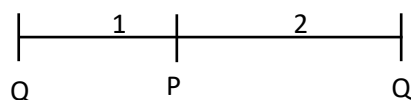
$$5OQ = 2OR + 3OP$$

$$= 2 \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 6 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + 3 \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 15 \\ 12 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$OQ = \begin{pmatrix} 4/5 \\ 3 \\ 12/5 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{Hence } Q\left(\frac{4}{5}, 3, \frac{12}{5}\right)$$

(ii) Externally



Here Q divides the line externally

$$PQ:QR = -2:3$$

$$\frac{PQ}{QR} = \frac{-2}{3}$$

$$3PQ = -2QR$$

$$3(OQ - OP) = -2(OR - OQ)$$

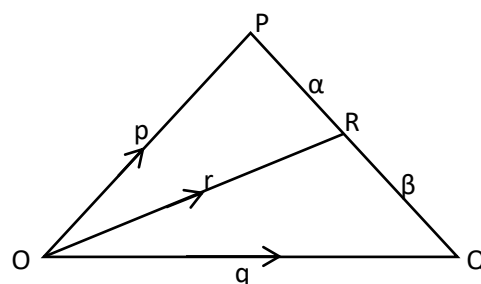
$$3OQ - 3OP = -2OR + 2OQ$$

$$OQ = 3OP - 2OR$$

$$= 3 \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} - 2 \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 6 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ -9 \\ 12 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{Hence } Q(-4, -9, 12)$$

Note: in general, given that Q divides PR in ratio $\alpha:\beta$



$$OR = OP + PR$$

$$= p + \frac{\alpha}{\alpha+\beta} PQ$$

$$= p + \frac{\alpha}{\alpha+\beta} (-PO + OQ)$$

$$= p + \frac{\alpha}{\alpha+\beta} (-p + q)$$

$$= \frac{p(\alpha+\beta) + \alpha(-p+q)}{\alpha+\beta}$$

$$= \frac{p(\alpha+\beta) - \alpha p + \alpha q}{\alpha+\beta}$$

$$= \frac{\beta}{\alpha+\beta} p + \frac{\alpha}{\alpha+\beta} q$$

Finding the constants of equality

Suppose that $r = \lambda a + kb$ and $r = ma + nb$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda a + kb = ma + nb$$

Equating corresponding unit vectors

$$\lambda = m \text{ and } k = n$$

Example 12

- (a) Find the position vector of Q if it divides PR in the ratio (i) 1:5 and (ii) 1:-4, given that $OR = r$, $OP = p$ and $OQ = q$.

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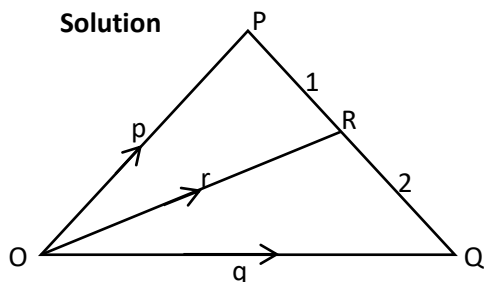
Solution

$$(i) \quad r = \frac{5}{1+5}p + \frac{1}{1+5}q = \frac{5}{6}p + \frac{1}{6}q$$

$$(ii) \quad r = \frac{-4}{1+-4}p + \frac{1}{1+-4}q = \frac{4}{3}p - \frac{1}{3}q$$

- (b) OPQ is a triangle with vector $OP = p$, $OQ = q$. Express in terms of p and q the position vector of R , where R divides PQ in ratio 1:2.

Solution

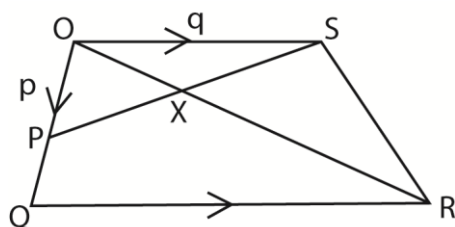


$$OR = \frac{2}{1+2}p + \frac{1}{1+2}q = \frac{2}{3}p + \frac{1}{3}q$$

- (c) The diagram below shows a quadrilateral OSRQ, $OS = q$, $OP = p$ and $SX = kSP$.

- (i) Express vectors SP and OX in terms of p and q

Solution



$$SP = SO + OP$$

$$= -q + p$$

$$= p - q$$

$$OX = OS + kSP$$

$$= q + k(p - q)$$

$$= kp + q(1-k)$$

- (ii) $OQ = 3p$ and $QR = 2OS$ and $OX = \lambda OR$. Find k and λ .

Solution

$$OX = \lambda OR$$

$$= \lambda(OQ + QR)$$

$$= \lambda(3p + 2q)$$

$$= 3\lambda p + 2\lambda q$$

Equating corresponding unit vectors

For p

$$k = 3\lambda \dots\dots\dots(1)$$

For Q

$$(1 - k) = 2\lambda$$

$$k = 1 - 2\lambda \dots\dots\dots(2)$$

Equations (1) and (2)

$$3\lambda = 1 - 2\lambda$$

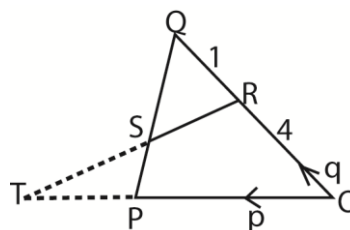
$$5\lambda = 1$$

$$\lambda = \frac{1}{5}$$

From eqn. (1)

$$k = 3 \times \frac{1}{5} = \frac{3}{5}$$

- (d) Given that $OP = p$ and $OQ = q$, point R is on OQ such that $OR:RQ = 4:1$. Point S is on QP such that $QP:SA = 2:3$ and RS and OP are both produced, they to meet at point T .



Find

- (i) OR and OS in terms of p and q .

Solution

$$OR = \frac{4}{5}OQ = \frac{4}{5}q$$

$$OS = OQ + QS$$

$$= q + \frac{2}{5}QP$$

$$= q + \frac{2}{5}(p - q)$$

$$= \frac{1}{5}(2p + 3q)$$

- (ii) OT in terms of p .

Solution

Let $OT = \alpha OP$ and $RT = \beta RS$

From $\triangle OTR$

$$OT = OR + RT$$

$$\alpha OP + OR + \beta RS$$

$$RS = RO + OS$$

$$= -\frac{4}{5}q + \frac{1}{5}(2p + 3q)$$

$$RS = \frac{1}{5}(2p - q)$$

$$\alpha OP = OR + RT$$

$$\alpha p = \frac{4}{5}q + \beta RS$$

$$= \frac{4}{5}q + \frac{\beta}{5}(2p - q)$$

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$$\alpha p = \frac{2\beta}{5}p + \left(\frac{4}{5} - \frac{\beta}{5}\right)q$$

Comparing coefficients

$$\text{For } q: \frac{4}{5} - \frac{\beta}{5} = 0$$

$$\beta = 4$$

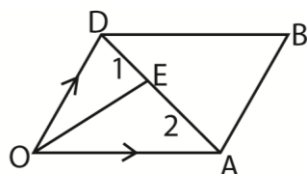
$$\text{For } p, OT = \frac{2\beta}{5} = \frac{2}{5} \times 4 = \frac{8}{5}$$

$$\therefore OT = \frac{8}{5}p$$

- (e) OABCD is a parallelogram, find the position vectors of E and F such that E divides DA in the ratio 1:2 and F divides it externally in ratio 1:2.

$$\text{Given that } OA = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } OB = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Solution



- (i) $OA = DB$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = OB - OD$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} - OD$$

$$OD = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$DE = OD + DE$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{3}(DA)$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{3}(OA - OD)$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{3} \left[\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} \right]$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -6 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} \frac{5}{3} \\ \frac{2}{3} \\ \frac{-4}{3} \end{pmatrix}$$

- (ii) When F divides DA externally, either 1 or 2 must be negative but not both. From the ratio 1: -2.

$$\Rightarrow DF : FA = 1 : -2$$

$$\frac{DF}{FA} = \frac{1}{-2}$$

$$-2DF = FA$$

$$-2(OF - OD) = OA - OF$$

$$OF = 2OD - OA$$

$$= 2 \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$OF = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 10 \\ -8 \end{pmatrix}$$

Exercise 2

1. Points P, Q, R have respective position

$$\text{vectors } \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 4 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ 5 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \begin{pmatrix} 11 \\ 7 \\ 10 \end{pmatrix}.$$

(a) Vectors PQ and QR $\left[\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}; \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right]$

- (b) Deduce that P, Q and R are collinear and find the ratio PQ:QR. [1:2]

2. The A, B and C have coordinates (1, -5, 6), (3, -2, 10) and (7, 4, 18) respectively. Show that A, B, C are collinear.

3. Show that the points P(5, 4, -5), Q(3, 8, -1) and R(0, 14, 2) are collinear.

4. Given A(2, 13, -5), B(3, x, -3) and C(6, -7, y) are collinear, find the values of x and y [8,3]

5. OABC is a parallelogram with $\overrightarrow{OA} = a$ and $\overrightarrow{OC} = c$. S is the point on AB such that AS:SB = 3:1 and T is a point on BC such that BT:TC = 1:3

- (a) Express each of the following in terms of a and c.

(i) \overrightarrow{AC} $[c - a]$

(ii) \overrightarrow{SB}

(iii) \overrightarrow{BT} $\left[-\frac{1}{4}a\right]$

(iv) \overrightarrow{ST} $[1:4]$

- (b) State the value of the ratio ST:AC

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6. Triangle OAB has $OA = a$ and $OB = b$. C is a point on OA such that $OC = \frac{2}{3}a$. D is the midpoint of AB. When CD is produced it meets OB at E, such that $DE = nCD$ and $BE = kb$. Express DE in terms of
- (a) n , a and b $\left[\frac{5}{6}na - \frac{1}{2}nb\right]$
 (b) k , a and b $\left[\frac{1}{2}a + \frac{(2k-1)}{2}b\right]$
 (c) hence find the values of n and k .
 $\left[n = \frac{3}{5} \text{ and } k = \frac{1}{5}\right]$
7. Three non-collinear points A, B, and C have position vectors a , b , and c respectively with respect to an origin O. The points M on AC is such that $AM:MC = 2:1$ and point N on AB is such that $AN:NB = 2:1$.
- (a) Find in terms of a , b , c the vectors
- (i) BM $\left[\frac{1}{3}a - b + \frac{2}{3}c\right]$
 (ii) CN $\left[\frac{1}{3}a + \frac{2}{3}b - c\right]$
- (b) The lines BM and CN intersect at L. Given that $BL = rBM$ and $CL = tCN$, where r and t are scalars; express in terms of a , b , c , r and t ;
- (i) BL $\left[\frac{1}{3}ra - rb + \frac{2rc}{3}\right]$
 (ii) CL $\left[\frac{1}{3}ta + \frac{2}{3}tb - tc\right]$
- (c) Hence by using triangle BLC, or otherwise, find r and t $\left[r = \frac{3}{5} \text{ and } t = \frac{3}{5}\right]$
8. In the rectangle OABC, $OA = a$ and $OC = c$. R is a point on AB such that $AR:RB = 1:2$ and S is a point on BC such that $BS:SC = 3:1$. AS meets OR at P.
- (i) Find an expression of OP in terms a and c $\left[\frac{4}{5}a + \frac{4}{15}c\right]$
 (ii) Show that $OP:PR = 4:1$.
 (iii) Find the value of the ratio $AP:PS$ $[4:1]$
9. In a triangle OAB, $OA = a$ and $OB = b$, M is the midpoint of AB and N is a point on OB such that $ON:NB = 1:4$. OM meets AN at P.
- (a) Find an expression of OP in terms of a and b . $\left[\frac{1}{6}(a + b)\right]$
 (b) Find the ratio of $AP:PN$ $[5:1]$
10. In a trapezium OABC, $OA = a$, $OC = c$ and $CB = 3a$. T is a point on BC such that $BC:TC = 1:2$. OT meets AC at P

- (a) Find an expression for OP in terms of a and c . $\left[\frac{2}{3}a + \frac{1}{3}c\right]$
 (b) Deduce that P is a point of trisection of both AC and OT
11. In a rectangle OABC, M is a midpoint of OA and N is a midpoint of AB. OB meets MC at P and NC at Q. show that $OP = PQ = QB$.
12. In the parallel gram OABC, P is a point on OA such that $OP:PA = 1:2$ and Q is a point on AB such that $AQ:QB = 1:3$, OB meets PC at K and QC at M show that $OK:KM:MB = 7:9:12$

The scalar or dot products

The dot product of vectors p and q inclined at an angle θ to each other is defined as
 $p \cdot q = |p| \cdot |q| \cos \theta$, $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$

Properties of scalar product.

- (a) $i \cdot i = |i| \cdot |i| \cos 0^\circ = 1$ (the angle between i and i is zero)
 (b) $i \cdot j = |i| \cdot |j| \cos 90^\circ = 0$ (i and j are perpendicular)

Thus $i \cdot i = j \cdot j = k \cdot k = 1$ and $i \cdot j = i \cdot k = j \cdot k = 0$

Hence the dot product of two vectors is a scalar quantity.

Note that a dot product is used to show that the two vectors are perpendicular.

- (c) $|p \cdot p| = |p|^2$
 (d) $p \cdot (q + r) = p \cdot q + p \cdot r$ (distribution law)
 (e) $p \cdot (kq) = (kp) \cdot q = k(p \cdot q)$ where k is constant.

Example 13

- (a) Given that $p = i - 2k$ and $q = 3i - 3j + k$; find

- (i) $p \cdot q$

Solution

$$p \cdot q = (i - 2k) \cdot (3i - 3j + k)$$

$$= 3 - 2 = 1$$

- (ii) the angle between p and q corrected to the nearest degree.

Solution

$$p \cdot q =$$

$$\sqrt{1^2 + (-2)^2} \cdot \sqrt{3^2 + (-3)^2 + 1^2} \cos \theta$$

$$1 = \sqrt{5} \cdot \sqrt{19} \cos \theta$$

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$$\theta = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{95}} \right) = 84.11^\circ$$

∴ the angle between p and q corrected to the nearest degree is 84° .

- (b) Show that the following vectors are perpendicular.

(i) $p = 2i + 6j + 4k$ and $q = (-2i - 2j + 4k)$

Solution

$$p \cdot q = (2i + 6j + 4k) \cdot (-2i - 2j + 4k) \\ = -4 - 12 + 16 = 0$$

(hence perpendicular)

(ii) $a = 3i - 4j + k$ and $b = 2i + 3j + 6k$

Solution

$$a \cdot b = (3i - 4j + k) \cdot (2i + 3j + 6k) \\ = 6 - 12 + 6 = 0$$

(hence perpendicular)

- (c) (i) Find the values of the scalar x if the vectors $p = 2xi + 7j - k$ and $q = 3xi + xj + 3k$

Solution

$$p \cdot q = |p| \cdot |q| \cos \theta$$

If p and q are perpendicular then $p \cdot q = 0$

$$p \cdot q = (2xi + 7j - k) \cdot (3xi + xj + 3k)$$

$$6x^2 + 21x - 3 = 0$$

$$(3x - 1)(2x + 3) = 0$$

$$\text{Either } x = \frac{1}{3} \text{ or } x = -\frac{3}{2}$$

- (ii) If the angle between the vector $p = xi + 2j$ and $q = 3i + j$ is 45° , find two possible values of x.

Solution

$$(xi + 2j) \cdot (3i + j) = (\sqrt{x^2 + 2^2}) \cdot (\sqrt{3^2 + 1^2}) \cos 45^\circ$$

$$3x + 2 = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} (\sqrt{x^2 + 4}) \cdot (\sqrt{10})$$

$$\Rightarrow x^2 + 3x - 4 = 0$$

By solving the equation $x = -4$ or $x = 1$

- (d) Find the angle between the vectors

$$p = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } q = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Solution

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \left| \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix} \right| \cdot \left| \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right| \cos \theta$$

$$-4 + 9 = \sqrt{2^2 + 3^2 + 7^2} \cdot \sqrt{(-2)^2 + 3^2 + 0^2} \cos \theta$$

$$5 = (\sqrt{62} \times \sqrt{13}) \cos \theta$$

$$\theta = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{5}{\sqrt{806}} \right) = 79.86^\circ$$

The vector (cross) product

Given two non-zero vectors p and q, their vector (cross) product is denoted by $p \times q$ or $p \wedge q$ is defined $p \times q = [p] [q] \sin \theta \cdot \mu$ where θ is the angle between p and q and μ is the opposite unit vector to the given vectors. And $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$

The cross product is synonymous to determinant of a 3×3 matrix.

Properties of vector (cross) product

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(a) } i \times j &= |i| |j| \sin 90^\circ \cdot k = k \\ &= 1 \times 1 \times k = k \\ i \times k &= |i| |k| \sin 90^\circ \cdot j = j \\ &= 1 \times 1 \times j = j \\ j \times k &= |j| |k| \sin 90^\circ \cdot i = i \\ &= 1 \times 1 \times i = i \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(b) } i \times i &= |i| |i| \sin 0^\circ = 0 \\ j \times j &= |j| |j| \sin 0^\circ = 0 \\ k \times k &= |k| |k| \sin 0^\circ = 0 \\ &= 1 \times 1 \times i = i \end{aligned}$$

Hence the cross product of two vectors is a vector quantity.

Note we use the cross product to show that two vectors are parallel.

- (c) $p \times q = -(q \times p)$
 (d) for any three vectors p, q, and r
 $p(q \times r) = p \times q + p \times r$
 (e) The cross product is perpendicular to either of the two vectors crossed.

Suppose we have vectors $p = (p_1i + p_2j + p_3k)$ and $q = (q_1i + q_2j + q_3k)$, the cross product of p and q is

$$\begin{aligned} p \times q &= \begin{vmatrix} i & j & k \\ p_1 & p_2 & p_3 \\ q_1 & q_2 & q_3 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= \begin{vmatrix} p_2 & p_3 \\ q_2 & q_3 \end{vmatrix} i - \begin{vmatrix} p_1 & p_3 \\ q_1 & q_3 \end{vmatrix} j + \begin{vmatrix} p_1 & p_2 \\ q_1 & q_2 \end{vmatrix} k \\ &= (p_2q_3 - p_3q_2)i - (p_1q_3 - p_3q_1)j + (p_1q_2 - p_2q_1)k \end{aligned}$$

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Example 14

- (a) Given $p = 3i - 2j + k$ and $q = 4i + 3j - 2k$, find $p \times q$ and $q \times p$.

Solution

$$\begin{aligned} p \times q &= \begin{vmatrix} i & -j & k \\ 3 & -2 & 1 \\ 4 & 3 & -2 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= \begin{vmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ 3 & -2 \end{vmatrix} i - \begin{vmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 4 & -2 \end{vmatrix} j + \begin{vmatrix} 3 & -2 \\ 4 & 3 \end{vmatrix} k \\ &= (-2 \times -2 - 1 \times 3)i - (3 \times -2 - 1 \times 4)j + (3 \times 3 - 2 \times 4)k \\ &= (4 - 3)i - (-6 - 4)j + (9 - 8)k \\ &= i + 10j + k \end{aligned}$$

Or using matrix approach

$$\begin{aligned} p \times q &= \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} -2 \times -2 - 3 \times 1 \\ -(3 \times -2 - 4 \times 1) \\ 3 \times 3 - 4 \times -2 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 4 - 3 \\ -(-6 - 4) \\ 9 + 8 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 10 \\ 17 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} q \times p &= -(p \times q) \\ &= -(i + 10j + k) \\ &= -i - 10j - k \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Or } p \times q = - \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 10 \\ 17 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -10 \\ -17 \end{pmatrix}$$

- (b) Show that the cross product of vectors

$p = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$ and $q = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$ is perpendicular to the vectors.

$$\begin{aligned} p \times q &= \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 3 \times -2 - 0 \times 5 \\ 2 \times -2 - -1 \times 5 \\ 2 \times 0 - -1 \times 3 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} -6 - 0 \\ -4 + 5 \\ 0 + 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -6 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Now } \begin{pmatrix} -6 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} = -12 - 3 + 15 = 0$$

and

$$\text{and } \begin{pmatrix} -6 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} = 6 - 6 = 0$$

Hence the product is perpendicular

- (c) Find the vector perpendicular to $p = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $q = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$

Solution

Approach 1

$$p \times q = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -10 \\ 5 \\ 10 \end{pmatrix} = 5 \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Hence the perpendicular vector is $\begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$

Note the $\begin{pmatrix} -10 \\ 5 \\ 10 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$ are parallel.

Approach 2

Let the perpendicular vector be $\begin{pmatrix} p \\ q \\ r \end{pmatrix}$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} p \\ q \\ r \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$3p + 4q + r = 0 \dots\dots\dots(ii)$$

$$\text{And } \begin{pmatrix} p \\ q \\ r \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$-p + 2q - r = 0 \dots\dots\dots(ii)$$

$$\text{Eqn. (i)} - 2\text{Eqn (ii)}$$

$$5p + 5r = 0$$

$$p + r = 0$$

$$\text{Let } p = \lambda, \text{ then } r = -\lambda$$

Substituting for p and r in equation (i)

$$3\lambda + 4b - \lambda = 0$$

$$b = -\frac{1}{2}\lambda$$

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$$\therefore \begin{pmatrix} p \\ q \\ r \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda \\ -\frac{1}{2}\lambda \\ -\lambda \end{pmatrix} = -\frac{1}{2}\lambda \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Hence the perpendicular vector is $\begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$

- (d) Given points P(1, 1, 2), Q(3, 7, 8) and R(4, 10, 11)

Show that PQ is parallel to QR.

Solution

$$PQ = OQ - OP$$

$$= (3i + 7j + 8k) - (i + j + 2k)$$

$$= (2i + 6j + 6k)$$

$$QR = OR - OQ$$

$$= (4i + 10j + 11k) - (3i + 7j + 8k)$$

$$= (i + 3j + 3k)$$

$$PQ \times QR = \begin{vmatrix} i & -j & k \\ 2 & 6 & 6 \\ 1 & 3 & 3 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{vmatrix} 6 & 6 \\ 3 & 3 \end{vmatrix} i - \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 6 \\ 1 & 3 \end{vmatrix} j + \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 6 \\ 1 & 3 \end{vmatrix} k$$

$$= (6 \times 3 - 6 \times 3)i - (2 \times 3 - 6 \times 1)j + (2 \times 3 - 1 \times 6)k$$

$$= (18 - 18)i - (6 - 6)j + (6 - 6)k$$

$$0i - 0j - 0k = 0$$

- (e) If vectors $p = 2i - 3j + k$ and $q = ai - 6j + bk$ are parallel, find the values of a and b

Solution

$$p \times q = \begin{vmatrix} i & -j & k \\ 2 & -3 & 1 \\ a & -6 & b \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{vmatrix} -3 & 1 \\ -6 & b \end{vmatrix} i - \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ a & b \end{vmatrix} j + \begin{vmatrix} 2 & -3 \\ a & -6 \end{vmatrix} k$$

$$= (-3b + 6)i - (2b - a)j + (-12 + 3a)k$$

$$\Rightarrow -3b + 6 = 0; b = 2$$

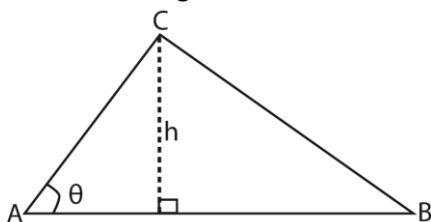
$$\Rightarrow 2b - a = 0; a = 2 \times 2 = 4$$

Hence the value of $a = 4$ and $b = 2$

Application of dot and cross product of vectors

(1) The triangle

- (i) The area of a triangle



$$\text{Area of triangle ABC} = \frac{1}{2} \times \overline{AB} \times h$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \times \overline{AB} \times AC \sin \theta$$

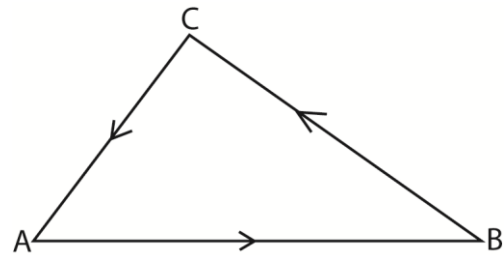
$$\text{But } |AB \times AC| = |AB||AC|\sin \theta$$

$$\text{Hence the area of the triangle} = \frac{1}{2} |AB \times AC|$$

In general, the area of a triangle ABC

$$= \frac{1}{2} |AB \times AC| = \frac{1}{2} |BA \times CC| = \frac{1}{2} |CB \times CA|$$

- (ii) To show that given vertices for a triangle



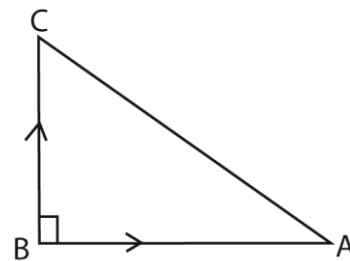
If ABC is a triangle, then it must be a closed polygon.

$$\text{i.e. } \overrightarrow{AB} + \overrightarrow{BC} + \overrightarrow{CA} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (OB - OA) + (OC - OB) + (OA - OC) = 0$$

- (iii) To show that a given triangle is right angled triangle.

Suppose $\angle ABC = 90^\circ$

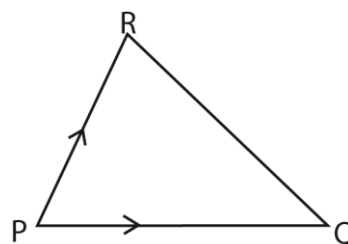


$$\Rightarrow BA \cdot BC = 0 \text{ (dot product of BA and BC)}$$

Example 15

- (a) The vertices of a triangle PQR have position vectors $p = i + 2j + k$, $q = i + 3k$ and $r = -1 + 2j - k$. Determine the area of the triangle PQR.

Solution



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$$PQ = OQ - OP$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$PR = OR - OP$$

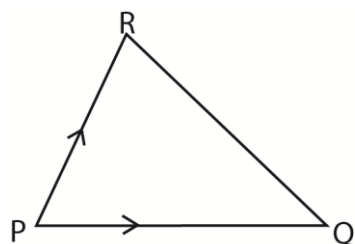
$$= \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$PQ \times PR = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -4 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Area of PQR} &= \frac{1}{2} |PQ \times PR| \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{4^2 + (-4)^2 + (-4)^2} \\ &= 2\sqrt{3} \text{ sq. units.} \end{aligned}$$

- (b) Find the area of a triangle PQR with vertices P(0, 1, 3), Q(1, 5, 7) and R(4, -2, 4)

Solution



$$PQ = OQ - OP$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

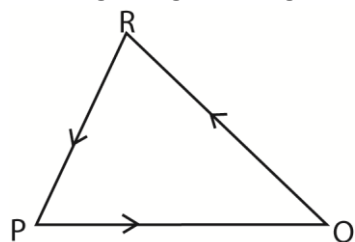
$$PR = OR - OP$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -2 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$PQ \times PR = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 16 \\ 15 \\ -19 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Area of PQR} &= \frac{1}{2} |PQ \times PR| \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{16^2 + 15^2 + (-19)^2} \\ &= 29 \text{ sq. units.} \end{aligned}$$

- (c) Show that the points P(13, -2, 0), Q(7, 1, -3) and R(2, -1, 5) are vertices of a triangle and it is a right angled triangle. Find its area



$$PQ = OQ - OP$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ 1 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 13 \\ -2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -6 \\ 3 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$QR = OR - OQ$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ 1 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -5 \\ -2 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$PR = OR - OP$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 13 \\ -2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 11 \\ -1 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} PQ + QR + RP &= \begin{pmatrix} -6 \\ 3 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} -5 \\ -2 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 11 \\ -1 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Hence PQR is a triangle

To show that PQR is a right angled triangle

$$PQ \cdot QR = \begin{pmatrix} -6 \\ 3 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} -5 \\ -2 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix} = 30 - 6 - 20 = 0$$

Hence PQR is a right angled triangle

$$\text{Area PQR} = \frac{1}{2} (\overline{QP} \times \overline{QR})$$

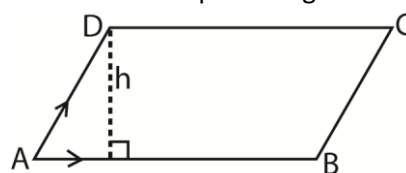
$$\overline{QP} = \sqrt{6^2 + (-3)^2 + 3^2} = \sqrt{54}$$

$$\overline{QR} = \sqrt{(-5)^2 + (-2)^2 + 8^2} = \sqrt{93}$$

$$\text{Area PQR} = \frac{1}{2} (\sqrt{54} \times \sqrt{93}) = 35.4 \text{ sq. units}$$

(2) The parallelogram

- (i) The area of the parallelogram



Taking $\angle DAB = \theta$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Area of parallelogram} &= \text{base} \times \text{height} \\ &= |AB| |AD| \cos \theta \\ &= |AB \times AD| \end{aligned}$$

- (ii) Properties of parallelogram

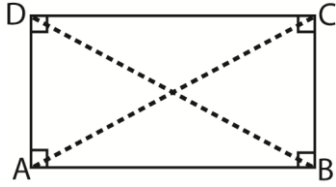
- Two sides are parallel and equal, i.e., $AB = DC$ and $AD = BC$
- The diagonals are not perpendicular and not equal
- Opposite angles are equal i.e.

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$$\angle DAB = \angle DCB \text{ and } \angle ADC = \angle ABC$$

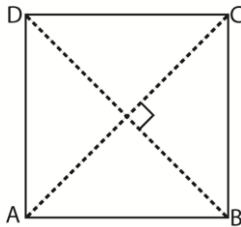
- The sides are not perpendicular i.e.,
 $\angle DAB = \angle DCB \neq 90^\circ$ and
 $\angle ADC = \angle ABC \neq 90^\circ$

(iii) Properties of a rectangle



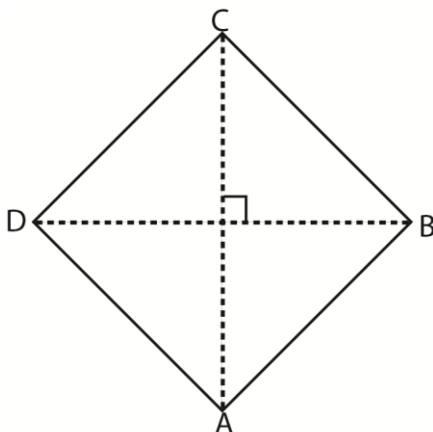
- Two sides are parallel and equal, i.e.,
 $AB = DC$ and $AD = BC$
- Diagonals are equal and perpendicular
- All angles are equal to 90° i.e.,
 $\angle DAB = \angle ABC = \angle BCA = \angle CDA = 90^\circ$.

(iv) Properties of a square



- All sides are parallel and equal, i.e.,
 $AB = DC = AD = BC$
- Diagonals are equal and perpendicular
- All angles are equal to 90° i.e.,
 $\angle DAB = \angle ABC = \angle BCA = \angle CDA = 90^\circ$.

(v) Properties of a rhombus



- All sides are parallel and equal, i.e.,
 $AB = DC = AD = BC$
- Diagonals are equal and perpendicular

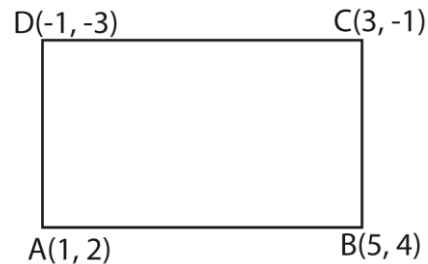
Opposite angles are equal but not equal to 90° i.e.

$$\angle DAB = \angle DCB \neq 90^\circ \text{ and } \angle ADC = \angle ABC \neq 90^\circ$$

Example 16

- (a) A quadrilateral ABCD has coordinates A(1, 2), B(5, 4), C(3, -1) and D(-1, -3). Show whether ABCD is a rectangle or parallelogram

Solution



For both a rectangle and parallelogram,
 $AB = DC$ and $AD = BC$

$$AB = OB - OA$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$DC = OC - OD$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow AB = DC$$

$$AD = OD - OA$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$BC = OC - OB$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow AD = BC$$

Hence ABCD is either a rectangle or parallelogram.

For a rectangle $\angle DAB = \angle ABC = 90^\circ$

$$\Rightarrow AD \cdot AB = 0$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = -8 - 10 = -18$$

Hence ABCD is not a rectangle.

For a parallelogram, $\angle DAB = \angle BCD$ and $\angle ABC = \angle ADC$

$$AD \cdot AB = |AD||AB|\cos\theta$$

$$-18 = \sqrt{4^2 + 2^2}\sqrt{-2^2 + -5^2}\cos\theta$$

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$$-18 = \sqrt{20 \times 29} \cos \theta$$

$$\theta = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{-18}{\sqrt{580}} \right) = 138.4^\circ$$

$$CB \cdot CD = |CB||CD| \cos \theta$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} = \sqrt{2^2 + 5^2} \sqrt{-4^2 + -2^2} \cos \theta$$

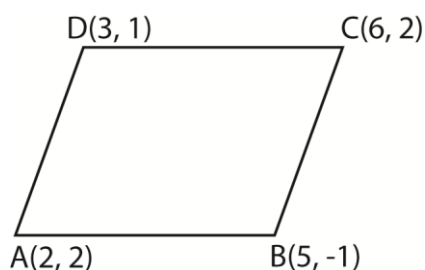
$$-8 - 10 = \sqrt{29 \cdot 20} \cos \theta$$

$$-18 = \sqrt{20 \times 29} \cos \theta$$

$$\theta = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{-18}{\sqrt{580}} \right) = 138.4^\circ$$

Since $\angle DAB = \angle BCD$; ABCD is a parallelogram.

- (b) ABCD is a quadrilateral with A(2, -2), B(5, -1), C(6, 2) and D(3, 1). Show whether the quadrilateral is a square or a rhombus.



For square or rhombus

$$AB = BC = CD = AD$$

$$AB = OB - OA$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$|AB| = \sqrt{3^2 + 1^2} = \sqrt{10}$$

$$BC = OC - OB$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$|BC| = \sqrt{1^2 + 3^2} = \sqrt{10}$$

$$CD = OD - OC$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$|AB| = \sqrt{-3^2 + -1^2} = \sqrt{10}$$

$$AD = OD - OA$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$|AD| = \sqrt{1^2 + 3^2} = \sqrt{10}$$

Since AD is parallel to BC and have the same magnitude; ABCD is either a square or rhombus.

For both a square and rhombus, the diagonals are perpendicular

$$\Rightarrow AC \cdot BD = 0$$

$$AC = OC - OA$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$BD = OD - OB$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$AC \cdot BD = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = -8 + 8 = 0$$

Hence ABCD is either a square or rhombus

For a square $\angle DAB = \angle ABC = 90^\circ$

$$\Rightarrow AB \cdot AD = 0$$

$$\text{Now } \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = 3 + 3 = 6$$

Hence ABCD is not a square.

For a rhombus $\angle ADC = \angle BCD \neq 90^\circ$ and $\angle ABC = \angle ADC \neq 90^\circ$

$$AD \cdot AB = |AD||AB| \cos \theta$$

$$6 = \sqrt{3^2 + 1^2} \sqrt{1^2 + 3^2} \cos \theta$$

$$6 = \sqrt{10} \sqrt{10} \cos \theta$$

$$\theta = \cos^{-1} \frac{6}{10} = 53.13^\circ$$

$$CB \cdot CD = |AD||AB| \cos \theta$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = \sqrt{-1^2 + -3^2} \sqrt{-3^2 + -1^2} \cos \theta$$

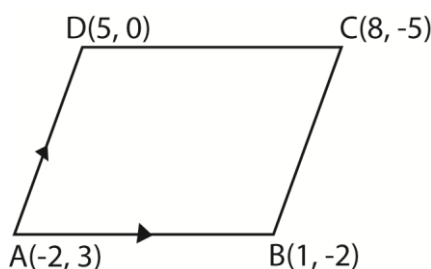
$$6 = \sqrt{10} \sqrt{10} \cos \theta$$

$$\theta = \cos^{-1} \frac{6}{10} = 53.13^\circ$$

Since $\angle DAB = \angle BCD \neq 90^\circ$; ABCD is a rhombus.

- (c) A parallelogram ABCD has vertices A(-2, 3), B(1, -2), C(8, -5) and D(5, 0). Find the area of the parallelogram

Solution



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$$\text{Area of ABCD} = |AB \times AD|$$

$$AB = OB - OA$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$AD = OD - OA$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$AB \times AD = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -5 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ -3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 26 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$|AB \times AD| = \sqrt{26^2} = 26$$

The area of ABCD = 26 s. units.

Exercise 3

- Given that $p = 4i + 5j$, $q = \alpha i - 8j$ and $r = i + \beta j$.
 - Find the value of constants α given that p and q are perpendicular. [10]
 - Find the value of constant β given that p and r are parallel $\begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$
- Given that $p = 6i - j$, $q = \alpha i + 2j$ and $r = 2i + \beta j$.
 - Find the value of a constant α given that p and q are parallel [-12]
 - Find the value of constant β given that p and r are perpendicular. [12]
- Given that $\begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ 2 + \alpha \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 3 \\ 4 - \alpha \end{pmatrix}$ are perpendicular vectors, find the value of α . [18]
- Find the possible values of the constant α , given the vectors $\alpha i + 8j + (3\alpha + 1)k$ and $(\alpha + 1)i + (\alpha - 1)j - 2k$ are perpendicular. [2 or -5]
- Given that the vectors $\begin{pmatrix} t \\ 4 \\ 2t + 1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\begin{pmatrix} t + 2 \\ 1 - t \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$ are perpendicular, find the possible values of t [5 or -1]
- Three point P, Q, and R have position vectors $p = 7i + 10j$; $q = 3i + 12j$ and $r = -i + 4j$ respectively.
 - Write down vectors PQ and RQ and show that they are perpendicular.

$$[-4i + 2j; 4i, 8j; PQ \cdot RQ = 0]$$

- Using a scalar product or otherwise find and RQ [26.6°]
 - Find the position vectors of S, the mid-point of PR. [-4i, -3j]
- The points A, B, C have position vectors $A = 2i + j - k$, $b = 3i + 4j - 2k$, $c = 5i - j + 2k$ respectively, relatively to fixed point O.
 - Evaluate the scalar product $(a - b) \cdot (c - b)$. Hence calculate the size of angle ABC. [17.40.2°]
 - Given that ABCD is parallelogram
 - Determine the position vector of D [-4i, -2j + 3k]
 - Calculate the area of ABCD, [14.4]
 - The point E lies on BA produced so that $\overrightarrow{BE} = 3\overrightarrow{BA}$. Write down the position vector of E. the line CE cuts the line AD at X; find the position vector of X. $[-2i + k; \frac{10}{3}i, \frac{7}{3}j, \frac{5}{3}k]$
 - The point A and B have position vectors $i + 2j + 2k$ and $4i + 3k$ respectively, relative an origin O.
 - Find the length of OA and OB. [3, 5]
 - Find the scalar product of OA and OB. Hence find angle OAB. [48.2°]
 - Find the area of the triangle AOB, giving your answer correct to 2 decimal places. [5.59]
 - The point C divides AB in ratio $\alpha : 1 - \alpha$
 - Find an expression for OC. $[(1 + \alpha)i + (2 + \alpha)j + 2(1 - \alpha)k]$
 - Show that $OC^2 = 14\alpha^2 + 2\alpha + 9$
 - Find the position vectors of the two point on AB whose distance from O is $\sqrt{21}$. $[-2i + j + 4k; \frac{25}{7}i + \frac{29}{7}j + \frac{2}{2}k]$
 - Show that the perpendicular distance of O from AB is approximately 2.99

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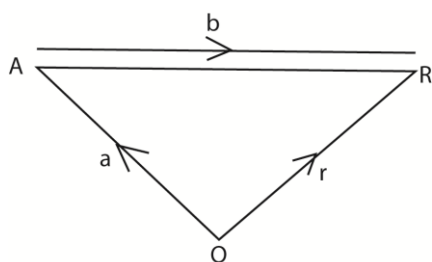
Lines

Equation of a line

An equation of line can be expressed in any of the three forms

- (i) Vectors
- (ii) Parametric form
- (iii) Cartesian form

Finding equations of a line given one point on the line and the vector parallel to the line (direction vector)



In the figure above A is the point on the line with position vector $OA = a$ and b is the vector parallel to the line

Taking $R(x, y, z)$ as general point on the line AR is parallel to b

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow AR &= \lambda b \text{ where } \lambda \text{ is a constant} \\ OR - OA &= \lambda b \\ OR &= OA + \lambda b \\ \Rightarrow r &= a + \lambda b \end{aligned}$$

This is the vector equation of the line

$$\text{Suppose that } a = \begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ y_0 \\ z_0 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } b = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \\ z_1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Substituting for r , a and b into the equation

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ y_0 \\ z_0 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \\ z_1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$x = x_0 + \lambda x_1$$

$$y = y_0 + \lambda y_1$$

$$z = z_0 + \lambda z_1$$

These are parametric equation of a line

By making λ the subject from the parametric equations,

$$\frac{x-x_0}{x_1} = \frac{y-y_0}{y_1} = \frac{z-z_0}{z_1}$$

This is the Cartesian equation of the line

Different values of λ define positions of R.

If $\lambda < 0$, the point R is on the left point A

If $\lambda = 0$, the point in question is A

If $\lambda > 0$, the point R is on the right of point A

Example 17

- (a) Find the vector, parametric and Cartesian equation of the line passing through the point $A(1,2,3)$ and is parallel to the vector $2i - j + k$.

Solution

The position vector of A is $a = i + 2j + 3k$ and the parallel vector $b = 2i - j + k$.

Using $r = a + \lambda b$

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

Or

$$r = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \text{ this a vector equation}$$

$$\text{Substituting for } r = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix}$$

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

$$x = 1 + 2\lambda$$

$$y = 2 - \lambda$$

$$z = 3 + \lambda \text{ this parametric equation}$$

From these equation

$$\begin{pmatrix} x-1 \\ y-2 \\ z-3 \end{pmatrix} = \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{x-1}{2} = \frac{y-2}{-1} = \frac{z-3}{1} \text{ is the Cartesian equation}$$

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Note

Given the Cartesian equation of a line, the point through which the line passes (1, 2, 3)

and the vector parallel to this line $\begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ can be deduced easily, for example the line

$$\frac{x-2}{-3} = \frac{y-1}{2} = \frac{z+4}{1} \text{ passes through}$$

$$(-2, 1, 4) \text{ and is parallel to } \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Hence from the general Cartesian equation of the line, $\frac{x-x_0}{x_1} = \frac{y-y_0}{y_1} = \frac{z-z_0}{z_1}$, the parallel vector is the values of the denominator and for the vector equation, it is the coefficient of the constant.

- (b) Find the Cartesian equation of the line that passes the point

(i) P(2, 0, -1) and is parallel to $\begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 4 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$

(ii) M(3, 2, 1) and is parallel to $5i + 7k$.

Solution

Using general Cartesian equation

$$\frac{x-x_0}{x_1} = \frac{y-y_0}{y_1} = \frac{z-z_0}{z_1}$$

(i) $\frac{x-2}{-1} = \frac{y-0}{4} = \frac{z+1}{-2}$

$$\frac{x-2}{-1} = \frac{y}{4} = \frac{z+1}{-2}$$

(ii) $\frac{x-3}{5} = \frac{y-2}{0} = \frac{z-1}{7}$

$$\frac{x-3}{5} = \frac{z-1}{7}; y = 2$$

- (c) Find the vector equation of the straight line that passes through point (2, 3) and perpendicular to the line $r = 3i + 2j + \lambda(i - 2j)$.

Solution

Using $r = a + \lambda b$, substituting for $a = 2i + 3j$ and $b = a_1i + b_1j$, we have

$$r = 2i + 3j + \lambda(a_1i + b_1j)$$

since the lines are perpendicular, this means that their parallel vectors are also perpendicular

$$\Rightarrow (a_1i + b_1j)(i - 2j) = 0$$

$$a_1 - 2b_1 = 0$$

$$a_1 = 2b_1$$

$$\Rightarrow b = 2b_1i + b_1j$$

$$b = b_1(2i + j)$$

Hence the required line will be parallel to any vector of the form $\lambda(2i + j)$. So taking $2i + j$ as one of such vector, the required equation is $r = 2i + 3j + \lambda(2i + j)$

- (a) Defining a line given two points lying on the line

Finding equations of a line given two points lying on the line

Suppose the line passes through point A and B whose position vectors are a and b .

For a general point R(x, y, z)

AR is parallel to AB

$$AR = \lambda AB \text{ for any value of } \lambda.$$

$$OR - OA = \lambda(OB - OA)$$

$$OR = OA + \lambda(OB - OA)$$

$$r = a + \lambda(b - a)$$

Example 18

- (a) Find the equation of the line passing through the points A(3, 0, -2) and B(4, -2, 1)

Solution

$$AB = OB - OA = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

Using $r = a + \lambda AB$

$$r = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \text{ the vector equation}$$

Substituting for r

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$x = 3 + \lambda$$

$$y = -2\lambda$$

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$$z = -2 + 3\lambda \text{ parametric equation}$$

Making λ the subject

$$\frac{x-3}{1} = \frac{y}{-2} = \frac{z+2}{3}: \text{Cartesian equation}$$

- (b) Find the equation of the line passing through points A and B whose position vectors are $i + 2j - 5k$ and $2i - 5j + 8k$

Solution

$$AB = OB - OA = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -5 \\ 13 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -7 \\ 13 \end{pmatrix}$$

Using $r = a + \lambda AB$

$$r = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -7 \\ 13 \end{pmatrix}: \text{the vector equation}$$

Substituting for r

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -7 \\ 13 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$x = 1 + \lambda$$

$$y = 2 - 7\lambda \quad \text{Parametric equation}$$

$$z = -5 + 13\lambda$$

Making λ the subject

$$\frac{x-1}{1} = \frac{y-2}{-7} = \frac{z+5}{13} \text{ Cartesian equation}$$

Note: in a situation where three points lying on a line are given such as ABC, the vector equation of the line is given by

$$r = a + \lambda(BC)$$

- (c) Find the equation of the line passing through points A(1, 2, 5), B(2, 1, 0) and C(5, 3, 2).

Solution

$$BC = OC - OB = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$r = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}: \text{vector equation}$$

Substituting for r

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

$$x = 1 + 3\lambda$$

$$y = 2 + 2\lambda \quad \text{Parametric equation}$$

$$z = 5 + 2\lambda$$

Making λ the subject

$$\frac{x-1}{3} = \frac{y-2}{2} = \frac{z-5}{2} \text{ Cartesian equation}$$

To show that a given point lies on the line

Suppose that a point (a, b, c) lies on

$\frac{x-x_0}{x_1} = \frac{y-y_0}{y_1} = \frac{z-z_0}{z_1}$. The when we substitute this point into the equation, we obtain a constant for the values of a, b, c .

Example 19

- (a) Show that a point with coordinates $(4, -1, 12)$ lies on the line $r = 2i + 3j + 4k + \lambda(i - 2j + 4k)$

Solution

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

Substituting $(x, y, z) = (4, -1, 12)$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -1 \\ 12 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 4-2 \\ -1-3 \\ 12-4 \end{pmatrix} = \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} \lambda \\ \lambda \\ \lambda \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Since the value of λ is constant, the point lies on the line.

- (b) Show that a point with position vector $i - 9j + k$ lies on the line $r = 3i + 3k - k + \lambda(i + 6j - k)$

Solution

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

Substituting $(x, y, z) = (1, -9, 1)$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -9 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 6 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1-3 \\ -9-3 \\ 1+1 \end{pmatrix} = \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 6 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} \lambda \\ \lambda \\ \lambda \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ -2 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$$

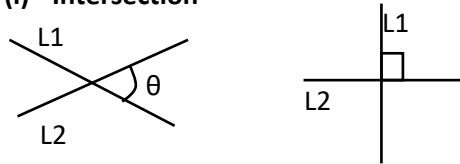
Since the value of λ is constant, the point lies on the line.

Understanding Pure Mathematics

Relationship between two lines

There are three types of relationship between lines

(i) Intersection

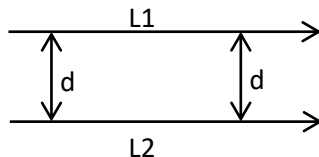


(a) intersecting at θ (b) intersecting at 90°

If two lines r_1 and r_2 meet, then at the point of intersection, $r_1 = r_2$

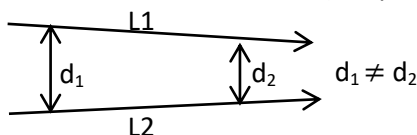
(ii) Parallel lines

These are non-intersecting lines that are equidistant from one another.



(iii) Skew lines

These are non-intersecting lines that are not equidistant from one another (not parallel)



Example 20

(a) Show that lines

$$r_1 = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 8 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and}$$

$$r_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 8 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \text{ intersect and find the point of intersection.}$$

Solution

At the point of intersection $r_1 = r_2$

$$\begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 8 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 8 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$-2 + \mu = 8 - 4\lambda \text{ i.e. } \mu + 4\lambda = 10 \dots\dots\dots(i)$$

$$8 + 3\mu = -1 + \lambda \text{ i.e. } 3\mu - \lambda = -9 \dots\dots\dots(ii)$$

$$-1 - 2\mu = 3 \text{ i.e. } \mu = -2$$

Substituting for μ in equation (i)

$$\lambda = 3$$

Checking with eqn. (ii) $3(-2) - 3 = -9$ i.e. there is consistency.

Using $\mu = -2$, the point of intersection is

$$\begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 8 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} - 2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ 2 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

Or point of intersection is $(-4, 2, 5)$

(b) Show that lines

$$\frac{x}{1} = \frac{y+2}{2} = \frac{z-5}{-1} \text{ and } \frac{x-1}{-1} = \frac{y+3}{-3} = \frac{z-4}{1}$$

intersect and find the point of intersection.

Solution

$$\frac{x}{1} = \frac{y+2}{2} \text{ i.e. } 2x - y = 2 \dots\dots\dots(i)$$

Also

$$\frac{x-1}{-1} = \frac{y+3}{-3} \text{ i.e. } -3x + y = -6 \dots\dots\dots(ii)$$

$$\text{Eqn. (i) + Eqn. (ii) } -x = -4 \text{ or } x = 4$$

Substituting for x in equation (i)

$$2 \times 4 - y = 2; y = 6$$

Finding the value of z

$$\frac{x}{1} = \frac{z-5}{-1} \Rightarrow -x = z - 5$$

Substituting for x

$$-4 = z - 5; z = 1$$

$$\text{Checking for consistency using } \frac{y+3}{-3} = \frac{z-4}{1}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{6+3}{-3} = \frac{1-4}{1} = -3 \text{ (consistent)}$$

Given that $r_1 = a_1 + \lambda_1 b_1$ and $r_2 = a_2 + \lambda_2 b_2$ intersect; then the shortest distance between the lines is zero.

$$\text{Or } (a_1 - a_2) \cdot (b_1 \times b_2) = 0$$

(c) Show that the following lines are perpendicular

$$(i) \frac{x-1}{2} = \frac{y}{1} = \frac{z-4}{4} \text{ and } \frac{x}{3} = \frac{y+2}{-2} = \frac{z}{-1}$$

$$\text{The first line is parallel to } b_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{The 2nd line is parallel to } b_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$b_1 \cdot b_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = 6 - 2 - 4 = 0$$

\therefore the lines are perpendicular because $b_1 \cdot b_2 = 0$

Understanding Pure Mathematics

(ii) $r_1 = i - j + \lambda_1(i + 2j - k)$ and
 $r_2 = 2i + j - k + \lambda_2(-2i - 4j + 2k)$

Solution

The 1st line is parallel to $b_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$

The 2nd line is parallel to $b_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ -4 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = 2 \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

Substituting for b_1 into b_2 ; $b_2 = -2b_1$

Hence the two lines are parallel.

The shortest (perpendicular) distance from a given point to the line.

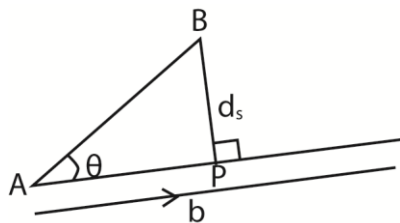
There are several methods of calculating this; here two methods are discussed in examples below

Example 21

- (a) Find the perpendicular distance from point, $A(1, 1, 3)$ to the line $\frac{x+4}{2} = \frac{y+1}{3} = \frac{z-1}{3}$.

Solution

Approach 1



In the figure above

A is a point on the line

P is a point at which the perpendicular from B meets the line

B is the vector parallel to the line

θ is the angle between AB and the line (or the parallel vector)

Required is the distance $d_s = |BP|$

From the figure, $|BP| = |AB|\sin\theta$ (i)

But by definition: $|AB \times b| = |AB||b|\sin\theta$

$$\Rightarrow |AB|\sin\theta = \frac{|AB \times b|}{|b|} \dots\dots\dots(ii)$$

Combining equations (i) and (ii)

$$|PB| = \frac{|AB \times b|}{|b|}$$

$$\text{The shortest distance, } d_s = \frac{|AB \times b|}{|b|}$$

From the given line in question $A(-4, -1, 1)$

$$\text{and } b = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$AB = OB - OA = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

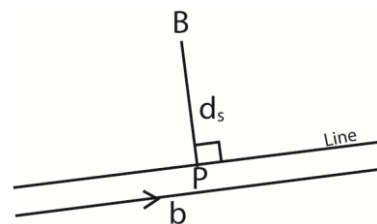
$$AB \times b = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -11 \\ 11 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$|AB \times b| = \sqrt{[(-11)^2 + 11^2]} = 11\sqrt{2} \text{ and}$$

$$|b| = \sqrt{2^2 + 3^2 + 3^2} = \sqrt{22}$$

$$d_s = \frac{|AB \times b|}{|b|} = \frac{11\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{22}} = \sqrt{11} \text{ units}$$

Approach 2



P is a point at which the perpendicular line meets the line

The vector equation of the line is

$$r = \begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{Let } \lambda = \lambda_1 \text{ at Q i.e. } p = \begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda_1 \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} -4 + 2\lambda_1 \\ -1 + 3\lambda_1 \\ 1 + 3\lambda_1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Since PB is perpendicular to the line, it is also perpendicular to b.

$$BP \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = 0 \text{ i.e. } (p - B) \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} -4 + 2\lambda_1 \\ -1 + 3\lambda_1 \\ 1 + 3\lambda_1 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

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$$-10 + 4\lambda_1 - 6 + 9\lambda_1 - 6 + 9\lambda_1 = 0$$

$$\lambda_1 = 1$$

$$BP = \begin{pmatrix} -5 + 2 \\ -2 + 3 \\ -2 + 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$|BP| = d_s = \sqrt{-3^2 + 1^2 + 1^2} = \sqrt{11} \text{ units}$$

- (b) Find the perpendicular distance from the point A(4, -3, 10) to the line L with vector

$$\text{equation } r = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Solution

Method 1

$$\text{The shortest distance } d_s = \frac{|AB \times b|}{|b|}$$

From the given line in question, B(1, 2, 3)

$$\text{and } b = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$BA = OA - OB$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -3 \\ 10 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -5 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix}$$

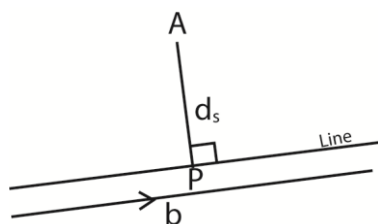
$$BA \times b = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -5 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 15 \\ 12 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$|BA| = \sqrt{-3^2 + 15^2 + 12^2} = \sqrt{378}$$

$$|b| = \sqrt{3^2 + (-1)^2 + 2^2} = \sqrt{14}$$

$$d_s = \frac{|AB \times b|}{|b|} = \frac{\sqrt{378}}{\sqrt{14}} = \sqrt{27} = 3\sqrt{3}$$

Method 2



$$r = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Let } \lambda = \lambda_1 \text{ at P i.e. } p &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda_1 \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 + 3\lambda_1 \\ 2 - \lambda_1 \\ 3 + 2\lambda_1 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Since AP is perpendicular to the line, it is also perpendicular to b

$$AP \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 + 3\lambda_1 \\ 2 - \lambda_1 \\ 3 + 2\lambda_1 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -3 \\ 10 \end{pmatrix} \right\} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} -3 + 3\lambda_1 \\ 5 - \lambda_1 \\ -7 + 2\lambda_1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$-9 + 9\lambda_1 - 5 + \lambda_1 - 14 + 4\lambda_1 = 0$$

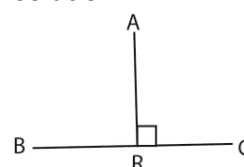
$$\lambda_1 = 2$$

$$AP = \begin{pmatrix} -3 + 6 \\ 5 - 2 \\ -7 + 4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$|AP| = \sqrt{3^2 + 3^2 + (-3)^2} = \sqrt{27} = 3\sqrt{3} \text{ units}$$

- (c) The points A, B, C have position vectors $a = 3i - j + 4k$, $b = j - 4k$, $c = 6i + 4j + 5k$ respectively. Find the position vector of the point R on BC such that AR is perpendicular to BC. Hence find the perpendicular distance of A from the line BC.

Solution



$$BR = \lambda BC$$

$$OR - OB = \lambda(OC - OB)$$

$$OR = OB + \lambda(OC - OB)$$

$$r = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \left[\begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} \right]$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 3 \\ 9 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$R = \begin{pmatrix} 6\lambda \\ 1 + 3\lambda \\ -4 + 9\lambda \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{Perpendicular distance} = |AR|$$

$$\Rightarrow AR \cdot BC = 0$$

$$AR = OR - OA$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 6\lambda \\ 1 + 3\lambda \\ -4 + 9\lambda \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -3 + 6\lambda \\ 2 + 3\lambda \\ -8 + 9\lambda \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{Hence } \begin{pmatrix} -3 + 6\lambda \\ 2 + 3\lambda \\ -8 + 9\lambda \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 3 \\ 9 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$-18 + 36\lambda + 6 + 9\lambda - 72 + 81\lambda = 0$$

$$126\lambda = 84$$

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$$\lambda = \frac{84}{126} = \frac{2}{3}$$

substituting for λ into $AR = \begin{pmatrix} -3 + 6\lambda \\ 2 + 3\lambda \\ -8 + 9\lambda \end{pmatrix}$ we

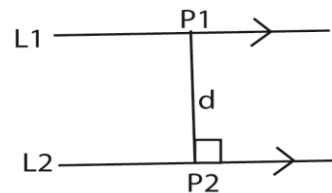
$$\text{get } AR = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$|AR| = \sqrt{1^2 + 4^2 + (-2)^2} = \sqrt{21} \text{ units}$$

Distance between two lines

Note that:

- (i) If r_1 and r_2 are parallel, the distance between the two lines is the length of any line segment P_1P_2 with P_1 on r_1 and P_2 on r_2 perpendicular to both lines



The perpendicular distance, $d = |P_1P_2|$

But $P_1P_2 = OP_2 - OP_1$

- $\Rightarrow P_1P_2 \cdot b = 0$, where b is a parallel vector to the lines.

This enables us to find the value of either $\mu_1 - \mu_2$ or $\mu_2 - \mu_1$ which is substituted to find $d = |P_1P_2|$

- (ii) If r_1 and r_2 are not parallel (skew lines), there are unique points P_1 on r_1 and P_2 on r_2 such that the length of the segment P_1P_2 is the shortest possible distance. The length P_1P_2 is the distance between the two lines which is the common perpendicular to both lines r_1 and r_2 .

The distance, d , between skew lines

$r_1 = a_1 + \mu_1 b_1$ and $r_2 = a_2 + \mu_2 b_2$ is normally taken to be the shortest distance

$d = |(a_1 - a_2) \cdot \hat{n}|$, where $\hat{n} = \frac{n}{|n|}$ and

$n = b_1 \times b_2$.

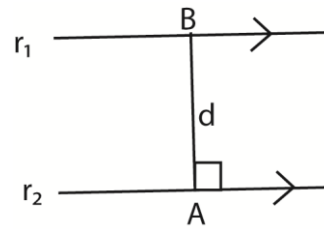
Example 22

Determine the shortest distance between the following pairs of lines

(a) $r_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$ and

$$r_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Solution



$$r_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

So we have $A(2+\lambda, -\lambda, 3+2\lambda)$

$$r_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Thus $B(1+\mu, -1-\mu, 4+2\mu)$

$AB = OB - OA$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1+\mu \\ -1-\mu \\ 4+2\mu \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 2+\lambda \\ -\lambda \\ 3+2\lambda \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} -1+\mu-\lambda \\ -1-\mu+\lambda \\ 1+2\mu-2\lambda \end{pmatrix}$$

Now $AB \cdot b = 0$

$$\begin{pmatrix} -1+\mu-\lambda \\ -1-\mu+\lambda \\ 1+2\mu-2\lambda \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$-1+\mu-\lambda+1+\mu-\lambda+2+4\mu-4\lambda=0$$

$$\lambda - \mu = \frac{1}{3}$$

By substitution

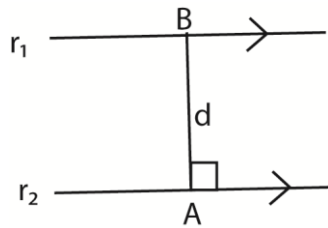
$$AB = -\frac{4}{3}i - \frac{2}{3}j + \frac{1}{3}k$$

$$d = |AB| = \sqrt{\frac{16}{9} + \frac{4}{9} + \frac{1}{9}} = \frac{\sqrt{21}}{3} \text{ units}$$

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(b) $\frac{x-2}{1} = \frac{y-1}{-1} = \frac{z-3}{2}$ and $\frac{x+1}{1} = \frac{y-3}{-1} = \frac{z-1}{2}$

Solution



Let $\frac{x-2}{1} = \frac{y-1}{-1} = \frac{z-3}{2} = \lambda$ and
 $\frac{x+1}{1} = \frac{y-3}{-1} = \frac{z-1}{2} = \mu$

So we have

$A(2+\lambda, 1-\lambda, 3+2\lambda)$ and $B(-1-\mu, 3+\mu, 1+2\mu)$

$AB = OB - OA$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} -1+\mu \\ 3-\mu \\ 1+2\mu \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 2+\lambda \\ 1-\lambda \\ 3+2\lambda \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -3+\mu-\lambda \\ 2-\mu+\lambda \\ -2+2\mu-2\lambda \end{pmatrix}$$

Now $AB \cdot b = 0$

$$\begin{pmatrix} -3+\mu-\lambda \\ 2-\mu+\lambda \\ -2+2\mu-2\lambda \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$-3 + \mu - \lambda - 2 + \mu - \lambda - 4 + 4\mu - 4\lambda = 0$

$\mu - \lambda = \frac{9}{6} = \frac{3}{2}$

By substitution;

$AB = -\frac{3}{2}i - \frac{1}{2}j + k$

$d = |AB| = \sqrt{\frac{9}{4} + \frac{1}{4} + 1} = \frac{\sqrt{14}}{2}$ units

(c) $r_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$ and

$r_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

Solution

$a_1 - a_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -4 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$ and

$b_1 \times b_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$

$|n| = \sqrt{4^2 + 2^2 + 2^2} = \sqrt{24}$

$\hat{n} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{24}} \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$

$(a_1 - a_2) \cdot \hat{n} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{24}} \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -4 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$

$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{24}} (-4 - 8 + 4) = -\frac{8}{\sqrt{24}}$

$d = |(a_1 - a_2) \cdot \hat{n}| = \left| -\frac{8}{\sqrt{24}} \right| = \frac{\sqrt{24}}{3}$

\therefore The distance apart is $\frac{\sqrt{24}}{3}$ units

(d) $r_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ and

$r_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$

Solution

$a_1 - a_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 3 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$ and

$b_1 \times b_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

$|n| = \sqrt{-1^2 + 1^2 + 1^2} = \sqrt{3}$

$\hat{n} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} (-i + j + k)$

$(a_1 - a_2) \cdot \hat{n} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 3 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

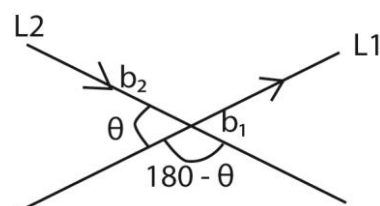
$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} (1 - 3 - 1) = -\frac{3}{\sqrt{3}}$

$d = |(a_1 - a_2) \cdot \hat{n}| = \left| -\frac{3}{\sqrt{3}} \right| = \sqrt{3}$

\therefore The distance apart is $\sqrt{3}$ units

Angle between two lines

The angle between two lines is equivalent to the angle between their parallel vectors.



In the illustration above, there are two angles: θ and $180 - \theta$ i.e. is obtuse.

Example 23

(a) Determine the acute angle between each of the pairs of the lines

(i) $r_1 = 2i + j - k + \lambda(2i + 3j + 6k)$ and

$r_2 = i + 2j - 3k + \mu(2i - 2j + k)$

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Solution

r_1 is parallel to $b_1 = 2i + 3j + 6k$ and

r_2 is parallel to $b_2 = 2i - 2j + k$

Using $b_1 b_2 = |b_1||b_2|\cos\theta$

$$(2i + 3j + 6k) \cdot (2i - 2j + k)$$

$$= (\sqrt{2^2 + 3^2 + 6^2} \cdot \sqrt{2^2 + (-2)^2 + 1^2}) \cos\theta$$

$$4 - 6 + 6 = (7)(3)\cos\theta$$

$$\cos^{-1}\left(\frac{4}{21}\right) = 79^\circ$$

$$(ii) \frac{x-2}{-4} = \frac{y-3}{3} = \frac{z+1}{-1} \text{ and } \frac{x-3}{2} = \frac{y-1}{6} = \frac{z+1}{-5}$$

Solution

r_1 is parallel to $b_1 = \begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ 3 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$ and

r_2 is parallel to $b_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 6 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix}$

Using $b_1 b_2 = |b_1||b_2|\cos\theta$

$$\begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ 3 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 6 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= (\sqrt{-4^2 + 3^2 + (-1)^2} \cdot \sqrt{2^2 + 6^2 + (-5)^2}) \cos\theta$$

$$-8 + 18 + 5 = (\sqrt{26})(\sqrt{65})\cos\theta$$

$$\cos^{-1}\left(\frac{15}{\sqrt{1690}}\right) = 68.6^\circ$$

In general, angle θ between the lines

$$r_1 = a_1 + \mu b_1 \text{ and } r_2 = a_2 + \lambda b_2 \text{ is}$$

$$\theta = \arccos\left(\frac{b_1 b_2}{|b_1||b_2|}\right)$$

(b) Given the equation of two lines are

$$y = m_1 x + c_1 \text{ and } y = m_2 x + c_2. \text{ Show that}$$

(i) Their vector equations are respectively

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ c_1 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ m_1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ c_2 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ m_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

where μ and λ are constant

Solution

$$\Rightarrow \frac{x}{1} = \frac{y-c_1}{m_1} \text{ and } \frac{x}{1} = \frac{y-c_2}{m_2}$$

$$\text{i.e. } \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ c_1 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ m_1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ c_2 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ m_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

(ii) The angle, θ , between them is

$$\tan^{-1}\left(\frac{m_1 - m_2}{1 + m_1 m_2}\right)$$

Solution

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ m_1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ m_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \sqrt{(1 + m_1^2)} \cdot \sqrt{(1 + m_2^2)} \cos\theta$$

$$(1 + m_1 m_2)^2 = (1 + m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_1^2 m_2^2) \cos^2\theta$$

$$\sec^2\theta = 1 + \tan^2\theta = \frac{1 + m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_1^2 m_2^2}{(1 + m_1 m_2)^2}$$

$$\tan^2\theta = \frac{1 + m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_1^2 m_2^2}{(1 + m_1 m_2)^2} - 1 = \frac{(m_1 - m_2)^2}{(1 + m_1 m_2)^2}$$

$$\tan\theta = \frac{m_1 - m_2}{1 + m_1 m_2}$$

$$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{m_1 - m_2}{1 + m_1 m_2}\right)$$

Exercise 4

1. Find the vector equation for the line passing through

(a) (4, 3) and is parallel to vector $i - 2j$

$$\left[r = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \right]$$

(b) (5, -1, 3) and parallel to vector $4i - 3j + k$

$$\left[r = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right]$$

2. Find a vector equation for the line joining the following point

(a) (2, 6) and (5, -2) $\left[r = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -8 \end{pmatrix} \right]$

(b) (-1, 2, -3) and (6, 3, 0)

$$\left[r = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \right]$$

3. (a) Point A and B have coordinates (4, 1) and (2, -5) respectively. Find the vector equation for the line which passes through the point A and perpendicular to point AB

$$\left[r = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \right]$$

(b) Point P and Q have coordinates (3, 5) and (-3, -7) respectively. Find vector equation for the line which passes through the point P which is perpendicular to PQ

$$\left[r = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \right]$$

4. Find a vector equation for perpendicular bisector of the points

(a) (6, 3) and (2, -5) $\left[r = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \right]$

(b) (7, -1) and (3, -3) $\left[r = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \right]$

5. Points P, Q and R have position vectors $4i - 4j$, $2i + 2j$ and $8i + 6j$ respectively.

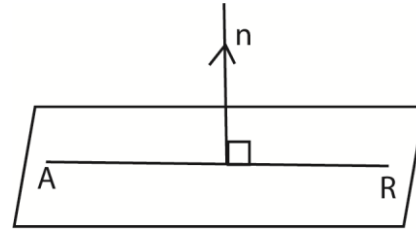
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- (a) Find a vector equation for L_1 which is perpendicular bisector to points P and Q. $\left[L_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right]$
- (b) Find a vector equation for L_2 which is perpendicular bisector to points P and Q. $\left[L_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} \right]$
- (c) Hence find the position vector of the point $\left[\frac{59}{11}, \frac{4}{11} \right]$
6. Two lines L_1 and L_2 have equations
- $$L_1: \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and}$$
- $$L_2: \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$
- (a) Show that L_1 and L_2 are concurrent (meet at a common point) and find the position vector of their point of intersection. $[2i + 5j + 9k]$
- (b) Find the angle between L_1 and L_2 . $[15.6^\circ]$
7. Points P, Q, and R have coordinates $(-1, 1)$, $(4, 6)$ and $(7, 3)$ respectively.
- (a) Show that the perpendicular distance from the point R to the line PQ is $3\sqrt{2}$.
- (b) Deduce the area of the triangle PQR is 15 sq. units
8. Point A, B and C have position vectors $-i + 3j + 5k$, $5i - 6j - 4k$ and $4i + 7j + 5k$ respectively. P is the point ON AB such that $AP = \lambda AB$. Find
- (a) AB
- (b) CP
- (c) The perpendicular distance from the point C to the line AB $[3\sqrt{3}]$ {m v
9. Two lines L_1 and L_2 have vector equation $r_1 = (2 - 3\lambda)i + (1 + \lambda)j + 4\lambda k$ and $r_2 = (-1 + 3\mu)i + 3j + (4 - \mu)k$. Find
- (a) The position vector of their common point of intersection. $[r = -4i + 3j + 8k]$
- (b) The angle between the lines $[143.7^\circ]$

The Plane

Equation of a plane

- (I) **Determining the equation of the plane given a vector perpendicular to the plane and one point contained in the plane.**



In the figure, A is a point in the plane

n is the perpendicular vector to the plane and R is the general point in the plane

Since n is perpendicular to AR, then

$$n \cdot AR = 0$$

$$\text{i.e. } n \cdot (r - a) = 0 \dots\dots\dots(i)$$

$$\text{Let } n = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{pmatrix}, A(x_1, y_1, z_1) \text{ and } R(x, y, z)$$

Substituting these into equation (i)

$$\begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} x - x_1 \\ y - y_1 \\ z - z_1 \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$a(x - x_1) + b(y - y_1) + c(z - z_1) = 0$$

$$ax + by + cz - (ax_1 + by_1 + cz_1) = 0$$

$$\text{let } d = ax_1 + by_1 + cz_1$$

$$\Rightarrow ax + by + cz = d$$

Hence the Cartesian equation of the plane is $ax + by + cz = d$ where d is a constant and the coefficient of x , y and z form the perpendicular or normal vector.

Note: the above equation may be written as

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{pmatrix} = d$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{pmatrix} = d \text{ i.e. } n = d$$

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This is called the scalar product of the vector equation of the plane

Example 24

- (a) Find the vector normal to the plane
 $3x - 2y + z = 7$

Solution

The coefficient of x , y and z is $3\mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}$

Hence the normal vector is $\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

- (b) Find the equation of the plane that is normal to $5\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k}$ and passes through $A(4, 1, -3)$

Solution

Either:

$$\begin{pmatrix} x-4 \\ y-1 \\ z+3 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$5x - 20 - y + 1 + 2z + 6 = 0$$

$$5x - y + 2z = 13$$

Or:

Using the general equation $ax + by + cz = d$

$$5x - y + 2z = (5 \times 4) - 1 + (2 \times -3)$$

$$5x - y + 2z = 13$$

- (c) Find the equation of the plane that is normal to $4\mathbf{i} + 6\mathbf{j} + 5\mathbf{k}$ and passes through the point with position vector $\mathbf{i} + 3\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}$.

Solution

Either:

$$\begin{pmatrix} x-1 \\ y-3 \\ z-1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 6 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$4x - 4 + 6y - 18 + 5z - 5 = 0$$

$$4x + 6y + 5z = 27$$

Or:

Using the general equation $ax + by + cz = d$

$$4x + 6y + 5z = (4 \times 1) + 6 \times 3 + (5 \times 1)$$

$$4x + 6y + 5z = 27$$

(II) Determining the equation of the plane given three non-collinear points.

Several methods are employed including the four outlined in the following example.

Example 25

- (a) Find the equation of the plane containing the points $A(1, 1, 1)$, $B(5, 0, 0)$ and $C(3, 2, 1)$

Solution

Method 1

Let the equation of the plane be

$$ax + by + cz = d$$

As the three points lie in the same plane, their coordinates satisfy the above equation

Substituting for A , B and C coordinates in the general equation

$$\text{For } A(1, 1, 1): a + b + c = d \dots\dots\dots(i)$$

$$\text{For } B(5, 0, 0): 5a = d \dots\dots\dots(ii)$$

$$\text{For } C(3, 2, 1): 3a + 2b + c \dots\dots\dots(iii)$$

Solving for a , b , and c in terms of d :

$$\text{From Eqn. (ii)} \quad a = \frac{1}{5}d$$

Substituting for a into eqn. (i)

$$\frac{1}{5}d + b + c = d \Rightarrow b + c = \frac{4}{5}d \dots\dots\dots(iv)$$

Substituting for a into eqn. (iii)

$$3\left(\frac{1}{5}d\right) + 2b + c = d \Rightarrow 2b + c = \frac{2}{5}d \dots\dots\dots(v)$$

$$\text{Eqn. (v)} - \text{eqn. (iv)}: b = -\frac{2}{5}d$$

Substituting b into eqn. (iv)

$$-\frac{2}{5}d + c = \frac{4}{5}d \Rightarrow c = \frac{6}{5}d$$

Substituting a , b , and c into the equation

$$ax + by + cz = d$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{5}dx - \frac{2}{5}dy + \frac{6}{5}dz = d$$

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Multiplying through by $\frac{5}{d}$

$x - 2y + 6z = 5$ is the equation of the plane

Method 2

One of the normal vectors of the plane is

$$AB \cdot AC = 0$$

$$\text{Where } AB = OB - OA = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{And } AC = OC - OA = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{Now, } AB \times AC = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}$$

If $R(x, y, z)$ is the general point in the plane, then AR is normal to $AB \times AC$.

$$(r-a) \cdot (AB \times AC) = 0$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x-1 \\ y-1 \\ z-1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$x - 1 - 2y + 2 + 6z - 6 = 0$$

$$x - 2y + 6z = 5$$

Method 3

Let R be the general point in the plane

The $AR = \mu AB + \lambda AC$ for scalars μ and λ .

$$r - a = \mu AB + \lambda AC$$

$$r = a + \mu AB + \lambda AC$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Equating the coefficients of x, y and z

$$x = 1 + 4\mu + \lambda \dots\dots\dots (i)$$

$$y = 1 - \mu + \lambda \dots\dots\dots (ii)$$

$$z = 1 - \mu \dots\dots\dots (iii)$$

$$\text{From eqn. (iii): } \mu = 1 - z$$

Substituting for μ

$$\lambda = y - 1 + (1 - z) = y - z$$

Substituting μ and λ in equation (i)

$$x = 1 + 4(1 - z) + 2(y - z)$$

$$= 1 + 4 - 4z + 2y - 2z$$

$$x - 2y + 6z = 5$$

Note that:

- If the plane passes through the origin, then its equation is $r = \mu b + \lambda c$
- The plane $r = a + \mu b + \lambda c$ passes through point a with position vector a and is parallel to b and c .
- If the vectors a, b and c are coplanar, then the sum of the coefficients of a, b and c must be zero.

Method 4

This involves finding the determinant of a 3×3 matrix. Taking A as the principal point, we have

$$AB \times AC = \begin{vmatrix} x-1 & y-1 & z-1 \\ 4 & -1 & -1 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (x-1)1 - (y-1)2 + (z-1)6 = 0$$

$$x - 1 - 2y + 2 + 6z - 6 = 0$$

$$x - 2y + 6z = 5$$

- (d) Find the equation of the plane containing the points $A(1, 2, 5)$, $B(1, 0, 4)$ and $C(5, 2, 1)$

Solution

Using the determinant method

$$AB = OB - OA$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$AC = OC - OA$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 0 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$AB \times AC = \begin{vmatrix} x-1 & y-2 & z-5 \\ 0 & -3 & -1 \\ 4 & 0 & -4 \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (x-1)8 - (y-2)4 + (z-5)8 = 0$$

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$$(x-1)2 - (y-2) + (z-5)2 = 0$$

$$2x - y + 2z = 10$$

(III) Determining the equation of the plane given one point and a line in the plane.

Here more points are obtained from the equation and the problem worked out as in (III).

Example 26

- (a) Find the equation of the plane through the point (1, 0, 1) and containing the line $\frac{x}{1} = \frac{y}{-1} = \frac{z}{2}$.

Solution

The vector equation for the line is

$$r = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Let 1st given point be P(1, 0, -1):

Taking $\mu = 0$: the 2nd point is O(0, 0, 0)

Taking $\mu = 1$: the 3rd point Q(1, -1, 2)

$$\text{Thus } OP = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } OQ = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

The normal vector is

$$OP \times OQ = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -3 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

The equation of the plane is

$$\begin{pmatrix} x-0 \\ y-0 \\ z-0 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -3 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$x + 3y + z = 0$$

Using determinant method

$$OP \times OQ = \begin{vmatrix} x & y & z \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 2 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$x(-1) - y(3) + z(-1) = 0$$

$$x + 3y + z = 0$$

$$x + 3y + z = 0$$

(IV) Determining the equation of the plane given two lines in the plane.

This can be tackled in two ways

Example 27

Find the equation of the plane containing the lines

$$\frac{x-3}{5} = \frac{y+1}{2} = \frac{z-3}{1} \text{ and}$$

$$\frac{x-3}{2} = \frac{y+1}{4} = \frac{z-3}{3}$$

Solution

Method 1

The corresponding vector equations of the above lines are as follows

$$r_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and}$$

$$r_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \text{ respectively}$$

Taking $\mu = 0$, the 1st point is A(3, -1, 3)

Taking $\mu = 1$, the 2nd point is B(8, 1, 4)

Taking $\lambda = 1$, the 3rd point is C(5, 3, 6)

So with three points obtained, the above methods can be used.

$$\text{Now } AB = OB - OA = \begin{pmatrix} 8 \\ 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{And } AC = OC - OA = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

The normal vector

$$n = AB \times AC = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -13 \\ 16 \end{pmatrix}$$

Taking the point (3, -1, 3) which lies on the 1st line: the equation of the plane is

$$\begin{pmatrix} x-3 \\ y+1 \\ z-3 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -13 \\ 16 \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$2x - 6 - 13y - 13 + 16z - 48 = 0$$

$$2x - 13y + 16z = 67$$

Method 2

The parallel vectors of the given lines are

$$\begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \text{ respectively.}$$

$$\text{The normal vector, } n = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -13 \\ 16 \end{pmatrix}$$

Taking the point (3, -1, 3) as before

$$\begin{pmatrix} x-3 \\ y+1 \\ z-3 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -13 \\ 16 \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$2x - 13y + 16z = 67$$

(V) Determining the equation of the plane given one point in the plane and a perpendicular line.

Example 28

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Find the equation of the plane perpendicular to the line $\frac{x-1}{2} = \frac{y}{-1} = \frac{z}{3}$ and passing through point B(1, -3, 2)

Solution

The parallel vector to the line is $2i - j + 3k$

This means that this vector is also perpendicular to the plane

The equation of the plane is

$$\begin{pmatrix} x-1 \\ y+3 \\ z-2 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$2x - 2 - y - 3 + 3z - 6 = 0$$

$$2x - y + 3z = 11$$

(VI) Determining the equation of the plane given two points in the plane.

Example 29

Find the equation of the plane containing the points A(1, 2, -1) and B(4, -3, 2)

Solution

$$a = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } b = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

The normal vector is

$$a \times b = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -6 \\ -11 \end{pmatrix}$$

the equation of the line is thus

$$\begin{pmatrix} x-1 \\ y-2 \\ z+1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -6 \\ -11 \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$x - 6y - 11z = 0$$

(VII) Determining the equation of the plane given two parallel lines.

Example 30

Find the equation of the plane passing through (1, 0, -1) and parallel to the line

$$r_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and}$$

$$r_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Solution

The normal vector,

$$n = b_1 \times b_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -6 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix}$$

Equation of the plane

$$-x - 6y + 7z = -1(1) - 6(0) + 7(-1)$$

$$x + 6y - 7z = 8$$

(VIII) Determining the equation of the plane given a line in the plane and a parallel vector.

Example 31

Find the equation of the plane containing

$$r = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and parallel to } \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

Solution

The normal vector

$$n = b_1 \times b_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -7 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

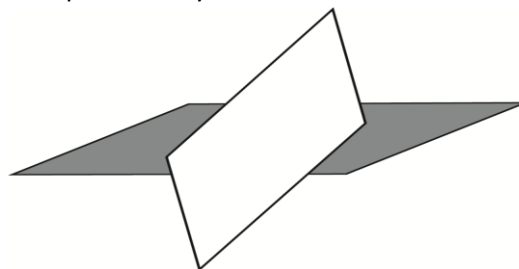
Equation of the plane is

$$-7x - y + 3z = -7(1) - 2 + 3(1) = -6$$

$$7x + y - 3z = 6$$

Intersection of two planes

Two plane always on a line



Solving the two equations of the lines simultaneously gives equation of this line

Example 32

Find the Cartesian equation of the lines of intersection of the following planes

$$(a) \quad 3x - 5y + z = 8 \text{ and } 2x - 3y + z = 3$$

Solution

Method 1

Note: solving for three unknown from two equations is quite hard, so we express them in terms of a constant say λ

$$\text{Let } 3x - 5y + z = 8 \dots\dots\dots (i)$$

$$\text{and } 2x - 3y + z = 3 \dots\dots\dots (ii)$$

$$\text{Eqn. (i) - eqn. (ii)}$$

$$x - 2y = 5$$

$$\text{Let } x = \lambda \Rightarrow \lambda - 2y = 5 \text{ i.e. } y = \frac{1}{2}(\lambda - 5)$$

Substituting for x and y into eqn. (ii)

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$$2\lambda - \frac{3}{2}(\lambda - 5) + z = 3 \Rightarrow z = \frac{1}{2}(-9 - \lambda)$$

$$\text{So } x = \lambda, y = \frac{1}{2}(\lambda - 5), z = \frac{1}{2}(-9 - \lambda)$$

To eliminate fractions let $\lambda = 1 + 2\mu$

$$x = 1 + 2\mu, y = -2 + \mu, z = -5 - \mu$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, \text{ the vector}$$

equation

$$\frac{x-1}{2} = \frac{y+2}{1} = \frac{z+5}{-1} \text{ Cartesian equation}$$

Method 2

The parallel vector

$$\begin{aligned} b = n_1 \times n_2 &= \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -5 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= -\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{The equation of the line is } r = a + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

From the equation $3x - 5y + z$ and $2x - 3y + z = 3$, subtracting

$$\Rightarrow x - 2y = 5$$

when $x = 1$, $1 - 2y = 5$ i.e. $y = -2$

substituting in the first equation

$$3(1) - 5(-2) + z = 8 \text{ i.e. } z = -5$$

$$r = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ vector equation}$$

OR

Substituting for r

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

$$\frac{x-1}{2} = \frac{y+2}{1} = \frac{z+5}{-1} \text{ Cartesian equation}$$

$$(b) \quad 3x + 4y + 2z = 3 \text{ and } 2x - 3y - z = 1$$

$$\text{Let } 3x + 4y + 2z = 3 \dots\dots\dots(i)$$

$$\text{and } 2x - 3y - z = 1 \dots\dots\dots(ii)$$

$$2\text{en. (i)} - \text{eqn. (ii)}$$

$$17y + 7z = 3$$

$$\text{Let } y = \lambda, 17\lambda + 7z = 3 \Rightarrow z = \frac{3-17\lambda}{7}$$

Substituting for y and z into eqn. (i)

$$3x + 4\lambda + \frac{2}{7}(3 - 17\lambda) = 3 \Rightarrow x = \frac{1}{7}(5 + 2\lambda)$$

$$x = \frac{1}{7}(5 + 2\lambda), y = \lambda, z = \frac{3-17\lambda}{7}$$

Let $\lambda = 1 + 7\mu$ (to eliminate fractions)

$$\text{Then } x = 1 + 2\mu, y = 1 + 7\mu \text{ and } z = -2 - 17\mu$$

The Cartesian equation is

$$\frac{x-1}{2} = \frac{y-1}{7} = \frac{z+2}{-17}$$

Method 2

Parallel vector

$$b = n_1 \times n_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 7 \\ -17 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{The equation of the line is } r = a + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 7 \\ -17 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{Let } 3x + 4y + 2z = 3 \dots\dots\dots(i)$$

$$\text{and } 2x - 3y - z = 1 \dots\dots\dots(ii)$$

$$2\text{en. (i)} - \text{eqn. (ii)}$$

$$17y + 7z = 3$$

$$\text{Let } y = 1, 17 + 7z = 3 \Rightarrow z = \frac{3-17}{7} = -2$$

Substituting for y and z into eqn. (i)

$$3x + 4 + 2(-2) = 3 \Rightarrow x = 1$$

$$r = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 7 \\ -17 \end{pmatrix} \text{ vector equation}$$

Or

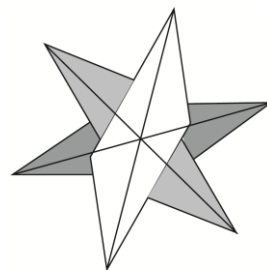
Substituting for r

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 7 \\ -17 \end{pmatrix}$$

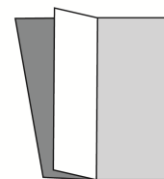
$$\frac{x-1}{2} = \frac{y-1}{7} = \frac{z+2}{-17}, \text{ Cartesian equation}$$

Intersection of three planes

Three planes may intersect at a point or on a line (if they meet)



Three planes meeting at a point



Three planes meeting on a line (book pages)

(I) Intersection of three planes at point

Example 33

Find the point of intersection of the three planes

$$x + 2y - z = 2, 3x - y + z = 3 \text{ and } 2x + y - 3z = 3$$

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Solution

Form simultaneous equation

$$x + 2y - z = 2 \dots\dots\dots(i)$$

$$3x - y + z = 3 \dots\dots\dots(ii)$$

$$2x + y - 3z = 3 \dots\dots\dots(iii)$$

Solving simultaneously the point of intersection is (1, 1, 1)

(II) Intersection of three planes at point

If a plane and a line meet, they do so at a particular point.

Example 33

- (a) Find the point where the line

$$\frac{x-3}{-1} = \frac{y-1}{2} = \frac{z+3}{4} \text{ meets the plane } 3x - y + 2z = 8$$

Solution

Expressing the equation of the line in parametric form

$$\text{Let } \frac{x-3}{-1} = \frac{y-1}{2} = \frac{z+3}{4} = \lambda$$

$$\text{Then } x = 3 - \lambda, y = 1 + 2\lambda \text{ and } z = -3 + 4\lambda$$

Substituting for parametric equations into the equation of the plane

$$3(3 - \lambda) - (1 + 2\lambda) + 2(-3 + 4\lambda) = 8 \Rightarrow \lambda = 2$$

Substituting for λ into parametric equations

$$x = 3 - 2 = 1, y = 1 + 2(2) = 5 \text{ and}$$

$$z = -3 + 4(2) = 5$$

Hence the point of intersection (x, y, z) is (1, 5, 5)

- (b) Find the position vector of a point where

$$\text{the line } r = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \text{ meets the}$$

$$\text{plane } r \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = 15$$

Solution

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

The parametric equations of the line are

$$x = 2 + 5\lambda, y = -1 + 3\lambda \text{ and } z = 3 + 2\lambda$$

The equation of the plane is $x + 2y - z = 15$

Substituting parametric equations into the equation of the plane

$$2 + 5\lambda + (-1 + 3\lambda) - (3 + 2\lambda) = 15$$

$$\lambda = 2$$

Substituting λ into parametric equations

$$x = 2 + 5(2) = 12$$

$$y = (-1 + 3(2)) = 5$$

$$z = (3 + 2(2)) = 7$$

Hence the point of intersection (x, y, z) is (12, 5, 7)

Perpendicular distance from a point to the plane

A. Perpendicular distance from the origin to the plane

Rewriting the equation $r \cdot n = d$ in the form

$$r \cdot \hat{n} = d_1 \text{ where } \hat{n} \text{ is the unit normal to the plane}$$

Or

By using the general formula, the perpendicular distance d_p from a plane $ax + by + cz + d = 0$ to the point (x_1, y_1, z_1) is given by the expression

$$d_p = \frac{|ax_1 + by_1 + cz_1 + d|}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + c^2}}$$

Example 34

- (a) Find the distance from the origin to the plane $4x + 8y - z = 18$

Solution

$$\text{The normal vector } n = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 8 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and}$$

$$|n| = \sqrt{4^2 + 8^2 + (-1)^2} = 9$$

$$\text{Now } \hat{n} = \frac{1}{9} \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 8 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow r \cdot \frac{1}{9} \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 8 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{18}{9} = 2$$

Or

By using the general formula, rewrite the equation of the plane as

$$4x + 8y - z - 18 = 0, a = 4, b = 8, c = -1 \text{ and } d = -18$$

At the origin $(x_1, y_1, z_1) = (0, 0, 0)$

$$d_p = \frac{|4(0) + 8(0) - 1(0) - 18|}{\sqrt{4^2 + 8^2 + (-1)^2}} = \frac{18}{9} = 2 \text{ units}$$

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- (b) Find the perpendicular distance from the origin to the plane $r \cdot (2i - 14j + 5k) = 10$

Solution

The normal vector $n = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -14 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$ and

$$|n| = \sqrt{2^2 + (-14)^2 + 5^2} = 15$$

$$\text{Now } \hat{n} = \frac{1}{15} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -14 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow r \cdot \frac{1}{15} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -14 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{10}{15} = \frac{2}{3}$$

Or

By using the general formula, rewrite the equation of the plane as

$$2x - 14y + 5z - 10 = 0, a = 2, b = -14, c = 5 \text{ and } d = -10$$

At the origin $(x_1, y_1, z_1) = (0, 0, 0)$

$$d_p = \frac{|2(0) - 14(0) + 5(0) - 10|}{\sqrt{2^2 + (-14)^2 + 5^2}} = \frac{10}{15} = \frac{2}{3} \text{ units}$$

- B. Perpendicular distance for a given point rather than origin to a plane**

Several methods are employed

Example 35

- (a) Determine the distance from the line $12x - 3y - 4z = 39$ to the point $(5, 3, 1)$

Solution

Method 1

The perpendicular distance d_p from a plane $ax + by + cz + d = 0$ to the point (x_1, y_1, z_1) is given by the expression

$$d_p = \frac{|ax_1 + by_1 + cz_1 + d|}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + c^2}}$$

By substitution

$$d_p = \frac{|12(5) - 3(3) - 4(1) + 39|}{\sqrt{12^2 + (-3)^2 + (-4)^2}} = 2 \text{ units}$$

Note that the equation of the plane should be rewritten in the form $f(x, y, z) = 0$ before applying the formula.

Method 2

The parallel plane containing the point given is obtained and the absolute difference of the resulting length of the plane from the origin computed.

Equation of the plane: $12x - 3y - 4z = 39$..(i)

Equation of parallel plane $12x - 3y - 4z = D$ for any constant D .

Since this parallel contains the point

$$(5, -3, 1): 12(5) - 3(-3) - 4(1) = 65 = D$$

The parallel plane: $12x - 3y - 4z = 65$ (ii)

In both planes, the normal vector

$$n = 12i - 3j - 4k$$

$$|n| = \sqrt{12^2 + (-3)^2 + (-4)^2} = 13$$

Dividing equation by 13:

$$\frac{12}{13}x - \frac{3}{13}y - \frac{4}{13}z = \frac{65}{13} = 5$$

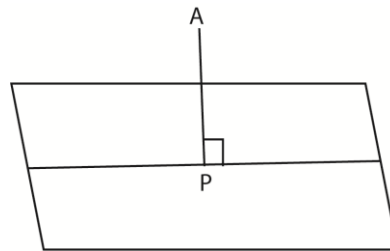
The distance between two planes is

$$|5 - 3| = 2$$

\therefore the distance from point $(5, -3, 1)$ to the plane $12x - 3y - 4z = 39$ is 2 units.

Method 3

$AP = \lambda n$ (AP is parallel to n)



Given the equation of the plane

$$12x - 3y - 4z = 39$$

$$\text{Let } n = \begin{pmatrix} 12 \\ -3 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } A(5, -3, 1)$$

Substitute in $AP = \lambda n$

$$p - a = \lambda n$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 12 \\ -3 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 - 12\lambda \\ -3 - 3\lambda \\ 1 - 4\lambda \end{pmatrix}$$

$$x = 5 - 12\lambda, y = -3 - 3\lambda, z = 1 - 4\lambda$$

Substitute these in the equation of the plane

$$12x - 3y - 4z = 39$$

$$12(5 - 12\lambda) - 3(-3 - 3\lambda) - 4(1 - 4\lambda) = 39$$

$$\lambda = -\frac{2}{13}$$

$$AP = -\frac{2}{13} \begin{pmatrix} 12 \\ -3 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$|AP| = \frac{2}{13} \sqrt{12^2 + (-3)^2 + (-4)^2} = 2 \text{ units}$$

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Angle between two planes

The angle say θ between the planes $r \cdot n_1 = d_1$ and $r \cdot n_2 = d_2$ is the angle between the normal vectors of the two planes. This is given by

$$\theta = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{n_1 \cdot n_2}{|n_1||n_2|} \right)$$

Example 36

Determine the angle between the planes

$$4x + 3y + 12z = 10 \text{ and } 4x - 3y = 7$$

Solution

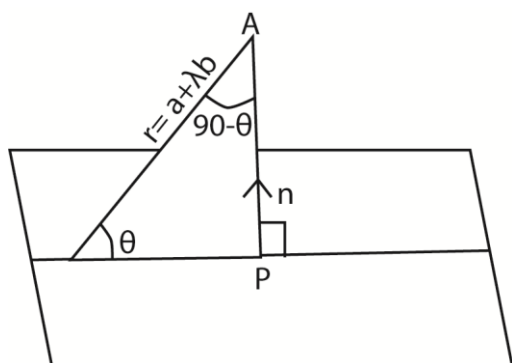
The normal $n_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \\ 12 \end{pmatrix}$ and $n_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ respectively.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \\ 12 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \sqrt{4^2 + 3^2 + 12^2} \sqrt{4^2 + (-3)^2} \cos \theta$$

$$16 - 9 = \sqrt{169} \sqrt{25} \cos \theta$$

$$\theta = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{7}{65} \right) = 83.8^\circ$$

Angle between a line and a plane



The angle between a line and a plane is the angle between the normal vector to the plane and the parallel vector to the line.

Given a line $r = a + \lambda b$ and the plane $r \cdot n = d$, the angle θ between them can be computed from the dot product of vectors as

$$b \cdot n = |b||n| \cos(90 - \theta)$$

$$= |b||n| \sin \theta$$

$$\theta = \sin^{-1} \theta \left(\frac{b \cdot n}{|b||n|} \right)$$

Example 37

- (a) Find the acute angle between the line $\frac{x+1}{4} = \frac{y-2}{1} = \frac{z-3}{-1}$ and the plane $3x - 5y + 4z = 5$

Solution

The line is parallel to $b = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$ and the

normal vector to the plane is $n = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -5 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -5 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \sqrt{4^2 + 1^2 + (-1)^2} \sqrt{3^2 + (-5)^2 + 4^2} \sin \theta$$

$$3 = \sqrt{900} \sin \theta$$

$$\theta = \sin^{-1} \frac{3}{30} = 5.7^\circ$$

- (b) Find the angle between the line

$$r = \begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and the plane } 4x + 3y - 3z = -1$$

Solution

The line is parallel to $b = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix}$ and the normal

vector to the plane is $n = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix}$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \sqrt{2^2 + 2^2 + (-4)^2} \sqrt{4^2 + 3^2 + (-3)^2} \sin \theta$$

$$50 = \sqrt{2856} \sin \theta$$

$$\theta = \sin^{-1} \frac{50}{\sqrt{2856}} = 69.3^\circ$$

Exercise 5

- Find the equation of the plane containing points $P(1, 1, 1)$, $Q(1, 2, 0)$ and $R(-1, 2, 1)$.
[$x + 2y + 2z = 5$]
- Find the equation of the plane containing point $(4, -2, 3)$ and parallel to the plane $3x - 7z = 12$

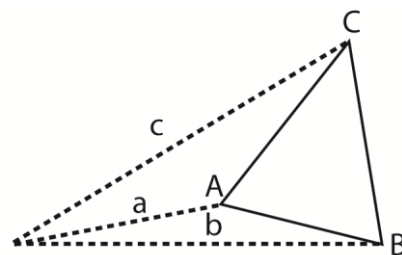
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- $[3x - 7z = -9]$
- Show that the point with position vector $7\mathbf{i} - 5\mathbf{j} - 4\mathbf{k}$ lies in the plane $\mathbf{r} = 4\mathbf{i} + 3\mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k} + \lambda(\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k}) + \mu(2\mathbf{i} + 3\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k})$. Find the point at which the line $x = y - 1 = 2z$ intersects the plane $4x - y + 3z = 8$ $[(2, 3, 1)]$
 - Find the parametric equation for the line through the point $(0, 1, 2)$ that is parallel to the plane $x + y + z = 2$ and perpendicular to the line $x = 1 + t, y = 1 - t, z = 2t$.
 $[x = 3t, y = 1 - t, z = 2 - 2t]$
 - Find the distance between parallel planes $z = x + 2y + 1$ and $3x + 6y - 3z = 4$ $[\frac{7\sqrt{6}}{18}]$
 - Two planes are given by their parametric equation: $x = r + s, y = 3s, z = 2r$ and $x = 1 + r + s, y = 2 + r, z = -3 + s$. Find the Cartesian equation of the intersection point. $[6x - 2y - 3z = 0]$
 - The equation of a plane P is given by $\mathbf{r} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 6 \\ 9 \end{pmatrix} = 33$, where \mathbf{r} is position vector of P
 Find the perpendicular distance from the origin to the plane $[3 \text{ units}]$
 - The line through point $(1, -2, 3)$ and parallel to the line $\frac{x}{3} = \frac{y+1}{-1} = \frac{z}{1} = z + 1$ meets the line $x + 2y + 2z = 8$ at Q. Find the coordinates of Q. $[(6, \frac{-11}{3}, \frac{14}{3})]$
 - (a) Find the angle between the plane $x + 4y - z = 72$ and the line $\mathbf{r} = 9\mathbf{i} + 6\mathbf{j} + 8\mathbf{k}$.
 $[34.5^\circ]$
 - Obtain the equation of the plane that passes through $(1, -2, 2)$ and perpendicular to the line $\frac{x-9}{4} = \frac{y-6}{-1} = \frac{z-8}{1}$ $[4x - y + z = 8]$
 - Find the parametric equations of the line of intersection of the planes $x + y + z = 4$ and $x - y + 2z = 0$
 $[x = 3 + t, y = 2t, z = 1 + 3t]$
 - Find the points of intersection of the three planes $2x - y + 3z = 4, 3x - 2y + 6z = 4$ and $7x - 4y + 5z = 11$. $[(5, 6, 0)]$
 - Find the Cartesian equation of the plane with parametric vector equation
 $\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$
 $[x + 2y - 3z = 0]$
 - Find the Cartesian equation of the plane containing the position vector $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ and parallel to the vectors $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix}$.
 $[3y - z = 10]$
 - Find the Cartesian equation of the plane containing the points with position vectors $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -3 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$
 $[3x + 2y + z = 6]$
 - Find the perpendicular distance from the plane $\mathbf{r} \cdot (2\mathbf{i} - 14\mathbf{j} + 5\mathbf{k}) = 10$ to the origin $[\frac{2}{3}]$
 - Find the position vector of the point where the line $\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$ meets the plane $\mathbf{r} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = 15$ $[\begin{pmatrix} 12 \\ 5 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}]$
 - Two lines have vector equations
 $\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$. Find the position vector of the point of intersection of the two lines and the Cartesian equation of the plane containing the two lines.
 $[\begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, 5x - y + 3z = 19]$

Example 38 (mixed questions)

- The position vector of point A is $2\mathbf{i} + 3\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}$, of B is $5\mathbf{j} + 4\mathbf{k}$ and of C is $\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} + 12\mathbf{k}$. Show that ABC is a triangle.

Solution



$$\mathbf{a} = 2\mathbf{i} + 3\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}$$

$$\mathbf{b} = 5\mathbf{j} + 4\mathbf{k}$$

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$$c = i+2j + 12k$$

Two conditions must be fulfilled:

1st condition

For a triangle to be, $\overrightarrow{AB} + \overrightarrow{BC} + \overrightarrow{CA} = 0$

$$\overrightarrow{AB} + \overrightarrow{BC} + \overrightarrow{CA} = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= (\mathbf{OB} - \mathbf{OA}) + (\mathbf{OC} - \mathbf{OB}) + (\mathbf{OA} - \mathbf{OC}) \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 5 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 12 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 5 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 12 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -3 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -11 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Second condition

We work out for any angle and if it is not 0° or 180° , then we conclude that ABC is a triangle

Now finding angle A

From dot product of vectors

$$\mathbf{AB} \cdot \mathbf{AC} = |\mathbf{AB}| |\mathbf{AC}| \cos A$$

$$\cos A = \frac{\mathbf{AB} \cdot \mathbf{AC}}{|\mathbf{AB}| |\mathbf{AC}|}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{AB} \cdot \mathbf{AC} &= (-2\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} + 3\mathbf{k}) \cdot (-\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + 11\mathbf{k}) \\ &= 2 - 2 + 33 = 33 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathbf{AB}| &= \sqrt{(-2)^2 + 2^2 + 3^2} \\ &= \sqrt{4 + 4 + 9} = \sqrt{17} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathbf{AC}| &= \sqrt{(-1)^2 + 1^2 + 11^2} \\ &= \sqrt{1 + 1 + 121} = \sqrt{123} \end{aligned}$$

$$A = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{33}{\sqrt{17} \times \sqrt{123}} \right) = 43.8^\circ$$

Since A is not 0° or 180° , hence ABC is a triangle

NB. The above two conditions **must** be clearly shown in order for the candidate to get all the marks.

2. (a) Find the point of intersection of the lines

$$\frac{x-3}{4} = \frac{y-7}{4} = \frac{z+3}{-5} \text{ and } \frac{x-8}{7} = \frac{y-4}{1} = \frac{z-5}{3}$$

Solution

$$\text{Let } \frac{x-3}{4} = \frac{y-7}{4} = \frac{z+3}{-5} = \mu$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 7 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix} \dots\dots\dots (i)$$

And

$$\frac{x-8}{7} = \frac{y-4}{1} = \frac{z-5}{3} = \lambda$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 8 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \dots\dots\dots (ii)$$

Equating eqn. (i) and eqn. (ii)

$$\begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 7 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 8 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

Equating corresponding unit vectors

$$5 + 4\mu = 8 + 7\lambda$$

$$4\mu - 7\lambda = 3 \dots\dots\dots (iii)$$

$$7 + 4\mu = 4 + \lambda$$

$$4\mu - \lambda = -3 \dots\dots\dots (iv)$$

Eqn. (iii) – eqn.(iv)

$$-6\lambda = 6$$

$$\lambda = -1$$

Substituting λ in eqn. (ii)

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 8 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} + -1 \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 8-7 \\ 4-1 \\ 5-3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

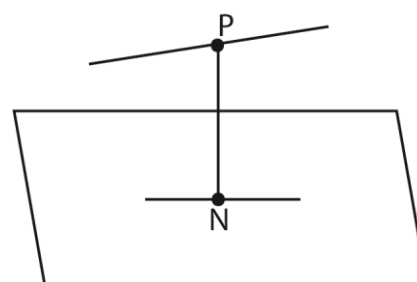
$$\therefore (x, y, z) = (1, 3, 2)$$

(b) The equations of a line and a plane are

$$\frac{x-2}{1} = \frac{y-2}{2} = \frac{z+3}{2} \text{ and } 2x + y + 4z = 9$$

respectively. P is a point on the line where $x = 3$, N is the foot of the perpendicular from P to the plane. Find the coordinates of N.

Solution



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Line equation

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$x = 2 + \lambda$$

$$\text{When } x = 3$$

$$3 = 2 + \lambda; \lambda = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{OP} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\therefore \text{P}(3, 4, 5)$$

$$\text{Plane equation: } 2x + y + 4z = 9$$

$$r \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} = 9$$

$$\therefore n = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{NP} = n$$

$$\text{NP} = \text{OP} - \text{ON}$$

$$\text{ON} = \text{OP} - \text{NP}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\therefore \text{N}(1, 3, 1)$$

3. (a) Find the Cartesian equation of the plane through the points whose position vectors are $2i + 2j + 3k$, $3i + j + 2k$ and $-2j + 4k$. (06marks)

Solution

Method 1

$$\text{Let OA} = 2i + 2j + 3k$$

$$\text{OB} = 3i + j + 2k$$

$$\text{OC} = -2j + 4k$$

Let R be the general point in the plane

$$\text{Then AR} = \mu(\text{AB}) + \lambda \text{AC}$$

$$\text{OR} = \text{OA} + \mu(\text{OB} - \text{OA}) + \lambda(\text{OC} - \text{OA})$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \left[\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \right] + \lambda \left[\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -2 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \right]$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ -4 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$x = 2 + \mu - 2\lambda \dots\dots\dots (i)$$

$$y = 2 - \mu - 4\lambda \dots\dots\dots (ii)$$

$$z = 3 - \mu + \lambda \dots\dots\dots (iii)$$

$$\text{Eqn (i) + eqn. (ii)}$$

$$(x + y) = 4 - 6\lambda \dots\dots\dots (iv)$$

$$\text{Eqn. (i) and eqn. (iii)}$$

$$x + z = 5 - \lambda$$

$$\lambda = -x - z + 5$$

$$\text{Substituting for } \lambda \text{ into eqn. (iv)}$$

$$x + y = 4 - 6(-x - z + 5)$$

$$5x - y + 6z - 26 = 0$$

Method 2

Let the equation of the plane be

$$ax + by + cz = d$$

Substituting point (2, 2, 3) in equation

$$2a + 2b + 3c = d \dots\dots\dots (i)$$

Substituting point (3, 1, 2) in equation

$$3a + b + 2c = d \dots\dots\dots (ii)$$

Substituting point (0, -2, 4) in equation

$$-2b + 4c = d \dots\dots\dots (iii)$$

We have to solve for a, b, c and d

$$3\text{Eqn. (i)} - 2\text{Eqn. (ii)}$$

$$6a + 6b + 9c = 3d$$

$$- 6a + 2b + 4c = 2d$$

$$\hline 4b + 5c = d \dots\dots\dots (iv)$$

$$2\text{eqn. (iii)} + \text{eqn. (iv)}$$

$$-4b + 8c = 2d$$

$$+4b + 4c = d$$

$$\hline 13c = 3d$$

$$c = \frac{3}{13}d$$

From eqn. (iv)

$$4b + \frac{15}{13}d = d; 4b = d - \frac{15}{13}d = \frac{-2}{13}d$$

From eqn. (i)

$$2a - \frac{2}{26}d + \frac{9}{13}d = d$$

$$2a = d + \frac{2}{26}d - \frac{9}{13}d = \frac{10}{26}d$$

$$a = \frac{5}{26}d$$

Substituting for a, b, c in the equation of the plane

$$\frac{5}{26}dx - \frac{1}{26}dy + \frac{3}{13}d = d$$

$$\text{Multiplying through by } \frac{26}{d}$$

$$5x - y + 6z = 26$$

- (b) Determine the angle between the plane in (a) and the line $\frac{x-2}{2} = \frac{y}{-4} = \frac{z-5}{1}$. (06marks)

Let n = normal vector to the plane

b = parallel vector to the plane

$$\Rightarrow b = 2i - 4j + k$$

$$n = 5i - j + 6k$$

Let θ = angle between the line and the plane

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$$b.n = |b||n|\sin\theta$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -4 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -1 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix} = (\sqrt{2^2 + (-4)^2 + 1^2} \cdot \sqrt{5^2 + (-1)^2 + 6^2}) \sin\theta$$

$$10 + 4 + 6 = (\sqrt{21} \cdot \sqrt{62}) \sin\theta$$

$$= \sqrt{1302} \sin\theta$$

$$\sin\theta = \frac{20}{\sqrt{1302}}; \theta = 33.66^\circ \text{ (2D)}$$

4. Three points A(2, -1, 0), B(-2, 5, -4) and C are on a straight line such that $3AB = 2AC$. Find the coordinates of C.

Solution

Method 1

$$3(AB) = 2AC$$

$$\frac{3}{2}AB = AC$$

$$\frac{3}{2}(OB - OA) = OC - OA$$

$$\frac{3}{2} \left[\begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 5 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right] = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\frac{3}{2} \begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ 6 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} -6 \\ 9 \\ -6 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

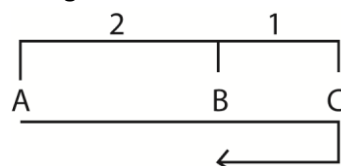
$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -6 \\ 9 \\ -6 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ 8 \\ -6 \end{pmatrix}$$

Hence coordinates of C are (-4, 8, -6)

Method 2

Using ratio theorem



C divides externally in the ratio 3: -1

$$OC = \frac{3(OB) - 1(OA)}{3 + (-1)}$$

$$OC = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ 3 \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 5 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} -8 \\ 16 \\ 12 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ 8 \\ -6 \end{pmatrix}$$

Hence C(-4, 8, -6)

Method 3

B divides AC internally in ratio of 2:1

$$\begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 5 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{3} \left\{ 2 \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

$$3 \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 5 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} = 2 \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} -6 \\ 15 \\ 12 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} -8 \\ 16 \\ -12 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ 8 \\ -6 \end{pmatrix}$$

Hence C(-4, 8, -6)

5. (a) Line A is the intersection of two planes whose equations are

$$3x - y + z = 2 \text{ and } x + 5y + 2z = 6. \text{ Find the equation of the line.}$$

$$3x - y + z = 2 \text{ (i)}$$

$$x + 5y + 2z = 6 \text{ (ii)}$$

5eqn. (i) + eqn. (ii)

$$\begin{array}{r} 15x - 5y + 5z = 10 \\ + \quad x + 5y + 2z = 6 \\ \hline 16x + 7z = 16 \end{array}$$

Let $x = \lambda$

$$16\lambda + 7z = 16$$

$$z = \frac{1}{7}(16 - 16\lambda)$$

Substituting for x and z in equation (i)

$$3\lambda - y + \frac{1}{7}(16 - 16\lambda) = 2$$

$$21\lambda - 7y + 16 - 16\lambda = 14$$

$$y = \frac{1}{7}(2 + 5\lambda)$$

$$\text{let } \lambda = 1 + 7\mu$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 1 + 7\mu$$

$$y = \frac{1}{7}(2 + 5(1 + 7\mu))$$

$$= \frac{1}{7}(2 + 5 + 35\mu)$$

$$= 1 + 5\mu$$

$$z = \frac{1}{7}(16 - 16(1 + 7\mu))$$

$$= \frac{1}{7}(16 - 16 - 16 \times 7\mu)$$

$$= -16\mu$$

$$\underline{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ 5 \\ -16 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ 5 \\ -16 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\frac{x-1}{7} = \frac{y-1}{5} = \frac{-z}{16}$$

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- (b) Given that line B is perpendicular to the plane $3x - y + z = 2$ and passes through the point $C(1, 1, 0)$, find the

(i) Cartesian equation of line B

Solution

Normal to the plane $b = 3i - j + k$

$$\begin{aligned} r &= a + \lambda b \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ \frac{x-1}{3} &= \frac{y-1}{-1} = \frac{z}{1} \end{aligned}$$

- (ii) angle between line B and line A in (a) above

Solution

Let $b_1 = 7i + 5j - 16k$ and $b_2 = 3i - j + k$ and $\theta =$ angle between line A and line B

$$b_1 \cdot b_2 = |b_1||b_2|\cos\theta$$

$$\begin{aligned} b_1 \cdot b_2 &= (7i + 5j - 16k) \cdot (3i - j + k) \\ &= 21 - 5 - 16 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$|b_1||b_2|\cos\theta = 0$$

$$\cos\theta = 0$$

$$\theta = \cos^{-1} 0 = 90^\circ$$

6. (a) The points A and B have position vectors a and b . A point C with vector position c lies on AB such that $\frac{AC}{AB} = \lambda$.

Show that $c = (1 - \lambda)a + \lambda b$. (04marks)

Solution

$$\frac{\overrightarrow{AC}}{\overrightarrow{AB}} = \lambda$$

$$\overrightarrow{AC} = \lambda \overrightarrow{AB}$$

$$\overrightarrow{OC} - \overrightarrow{OA} = \lambda(\overrightarrow{OB} - \overrightarrow{OA})$$

$$c - a = \lambda(b - a)$$

$$c = a + \lambda(b - a)$$

$$= (1 - \lambda)a + \lambda b$$

- (b) The vector equation of two lines are;

$$r_1 = 2i + j + \lambda(i + j + 2k) \text{ and}$$

$$r_2 = 2i + 2j + tk + \mu(i + 2j + k)$$

where i, j and k are unit vectors and λ, μ and t are constants. Given that the two lines intersect, find

(i) the value of t .

$$x = 2 + \lambda = 2 + \mu \dots\dots\dots (i)$$

$$y = 1 + \lambda = 2 + 2\mu \dots\dots\dots (ii)$$

$$z = 2\lambda = t + \lambda \dots\dots\dots (iii)$$

From eqn. (i)

$$2 + \lambda = 2 + \mu$$

$$\lambda = \mu$$

From eqn. (ii)

$$1 + \lambda = 2 + 2\mu$$

$$1 + \mu = 2 + 2\mu$$

$$\mu = \lambda = -1$$

From eqn. (iii)

$$2\lambda = t + \lambda$$

$$2(-1) = t - 1$$

$$t = -1$$

- (ii) the coordinates of the point of intersection. (08marks)

$$x = 2 + \lambda = 2 - 1 = 1$$

$$y = 1 + \lambda = 1 - 1 = 0$$

$$z = 2\lambda = 2(-1) = -2$$

$$\therefore (x, y, z) = (1, 0, -2)$$

7. Determine the angle between the lines

$$\frac{x+4}{8} = \frac{y-2}{2} = \frac{z+1}{-4} \text{ and the plane } 4x + 3y - 3z + 1 = 0 \text{ (05marks)}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} =$$

$$\sqrt{8^2 + 2^2 + (-4)^2} \cdot \sqrt{4^2 + 3^2 + (-3)^2} \sin \theta$$

$$32 + 6 + 12 = \sqrt{84} \times \sqrt{34} \sin \theta$$

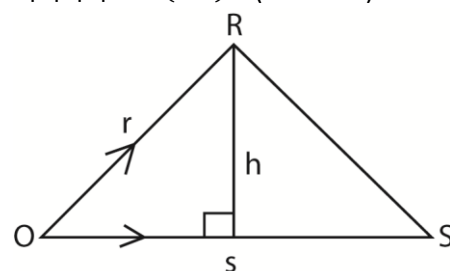
$$\sin \theta = \frac{50}{\sqrt{2856}}$$

$$\theta = 69.33^\circ$$

8. The position vectors of the vertices of a triangle are O, r and s , where O is the origin.

Show that its area (A) is given by $4A^2$

$$= |r|^2 |s|^2 - (r \cdot s)^2. \text{ (06marks)}$$



$$r \cdot s = |r||s| \cos \theta$$

$$(r \cdot s)^2 = |r|^2 |s|^2 \cos^2 \theta$$

$$\sin^2 \theta = 1 - \frac{(r \cdot s)^2}{|r|^2 |s|^2} = \frac{|r|^2 |s|^2 - (r \cdot s)^2}{|r|^2 |s|^2}$$

$$A = \frac{1}{2} |r||s| \sin \theta$$

$$2A = |r||s| \sin \theta$$

$$4A^2 = |r|^2 |s|^2 \sin^2 \theta$$

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$$4A^2 = |r|^2 |s|^2 \cdot \frac{|r|^2 |s|^2 - (r \cdot s)^2}{|r|^2 |s|^2}$$

$$4A^2 = |r|^2 |s|^2 - (r \cdot s)^2$$

Hence, find the area of a triangle when

$$r = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } s = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \text{ (06marks)}$$

$$|r|^2 = 2^2 + 3^2 = 13$$

$$|s|^2 = 1^2 + 4^2 = 17$$

$$r \cdot s = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} = (2 \times 1) + (3 \times 4) = 14$$

$$\therefore 4A^2 = 13 \times 17 - 14^2 = 25$$

$$A = \sqrt{\frac{25}{4}} = 2.5 \text{ units}$$

9. Given the plane $4x + 3y - 3z - 4 = 0$

- (a) Show that the point A(1,1,1) lies on the plane (02marks)

Solution

Substitute A(1, 1, 1) into the equation of plane

$$4 \times 1 + 3 \times 1 - 3 \times 1 - 4 = 0$$

Hence the point lies on the plane

- (b) Find the perpendicular distance from the plane to the point B(1, 5, 1) (03marks)

$$d = \frac{|4 \times 1 + 3 \times 5 - 3 \times 1 - 4|}{\sqrt{4^2 + 3^2 + (-3)^2}} = 2.058$$

10. (a) Determine the perpendicular distance of the point (4, 6) from the line $2x + 4y - 3 = 0$ (03marks)

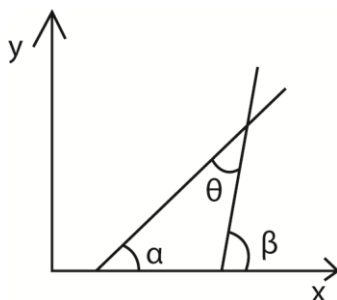
Solution

$$\text{Perpendicular distance, } d = \frac{|2(4) + 4(6) - 3|}{\sqrt{2^2 + 4^2}} =$$

$$\frac{29}{\sqrt{20}} = 6.4846$$

- (b) Show that the angle θ , between two lines with gradient λ_1 and λ_2 is given by $\theta = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{\lambda_1 - \lambda_2}{1 + \lambda_1 \lambda_2} \right)$. Hence find the acute angle between the lines $x + y + 7 = 0$ and $\sqrt{3}x - y + 5 = 0$ (09 marks)

Solution



$$\tan \alpha = \lambda_2, \tan \beta = \lambda_1$$

$$\alpha + \theta = \beta; \theta = \beta - \alpha$$

$$\tan \theta = \tan (\beta - \alpha)$$

$$= \frac{\tan \beta - \tan \alpha}{1 + \tan \alpha \tan \beta}$$

$$= \left(\frac{\lambda_1 - \lambda_2}{1 + \lambda_1 \lambda_2} \right)$$

$$\therefore \theta = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{\lambda_1 - \lambda_2}{1 + \lambda_1 \lambda_2} \right)$$

$$\text{But } \lambda_1 = -1 \text{ and } \lambda_2 = \sqrt{3}$$

$$\theta = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{-1 - \sqrt{3}}{1 + (-1 \times \sqrt{3})} \right) = 75^\circ$$

Topical revision questions

- (a) The position vectors of points A, B and C are $2i - j + 5k$, $i - 2j + k$ and $3i + j - 2k$ respectively. Give that L and M are the midpoint of AC and CB. Show that LM is parallel to BA.

(b) Show that the points with position vectors $4i - 8j - 13k$, $5i - 2j - 3k$ and $5i + 4j + 10k$ are vertices of a triangle
- (a) The position vector of a body of mass 12 .5kg is $8t^2i + 6tj$ meters at a given time t. determine the

 - Velocity after 4s. $[64i + 6j]$
 - The force acting on the body $[200N \text{ horizontally}]$

(b) The vector OA is represented by displacement vector a and OB by b. Point R divides AB in the ratio $\lambda:\mu$. Find the position vector of R in terms of vectors a and b and the scalars λ and μ .

$$\left[r = \frac{\mu}{\mu + \lambda} a + \frac{\lambda}{\mu + \lambda} b \right]$$

(c) If the points P, Q and R have position vector p, q and r respectively, and M is the midpoint of QR, show that the position vector of N is a point on PM that $PN:NM = 2:1$ is $\frac{1}{3}(p + q + r)$.
- (a) Determine a unit vector perpendicular to the plane containing the points A(0, 2, -4), B(2, 0, 2) and C(-8, 4, 0) $\sqrt{230}$

(b) Find the equation of the plane $[5x + 14y + 3z = 16]$

(c) Show that the point (5, -4, 3) lies on the plane [does on lie on the line]

(d) Write down the equation in form of $r = a + \mu b$ of the perpendicular through

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- the point $P(3, 4, 2)$ to the plane
 $[r = 3i + 4j + 2k + \mu(4i + 14j + 3k)]$
- (e) If the perpendicular meets the plane at N. determine NP [4.022units]
4. (a) A and B are points whose position vectors are $a = 2i + k$ and $b = i - j + 3k$ respectively. Determine the position vector of the point P that divides AB in the ratio 4:1
 $\left[\frac{1}{5}(6i - 4j + 16k)\right]$
 (b) Given that $a = i - 3j + 3k$ and $b = -i - 3j + 2k$ determine
 (i) The equation of the plane containing a and b $[-3x + 5y + 6z = 0]$
 (ii) The angle the line $\frac{x-4}{4} = \frac{y}{3} = \frac{z-1}{2}$ makes with the plane in (i) above. [19.446°]
5. A vector XY of magnitude a units makes an angle of α with the horizontal. Another vector YZ beginning from the end Y, inclined at an angle β to the same horizontal axis is of magnitude b units. If θ is the angle between the positive directions of the two vectors, where $\theta = \beta - \alpha$ is acute, show that the resultant vector XZ has a magnitude xz equal to $\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + 2ab\cos\theta}$ units and is inclined at an angle $\alpha + \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{b\sin\theta}{xz}\right)$ to the horizontal. Hence or otherwise calculate the magnitude and direction of the resultant vector of vectors XY and YZ, inclined at 30° and 75° to the horizontal and magnitude 9 and 6 units respectively. [47.7°]
6. (a) The position vector of points A and B with respect to the origin O are $\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$ respectively. Determine the equation of the line AB
 $\left[r = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}\right]$
 (b) Find the equation of the plane OPQ where O is the origin and P and Q are points whose position vectors are $\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$ respectively $\left[r \cdot \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 0 \text{ or } -2x + z = 0\right]$
- (c) (i) Given that R is a point at which AB meets the plane OPQ, find the coordinates of R $[(7, -7, 14)]$
 (ii) Show that the point S(1, -1, 2) lies on OR.
7. The points A, B, and C have position vectors $(-2i + 3j)$, $(i - 2j)$, and $(8i - 5j)$ respectively.
 (a) Find the vector equation of line AC
 $\left[r = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 10 \\ -8 \end{pmatrix}\right]$
 (b) Determine the coordinates of D if ABCD is a parallelogram [5, 0]
 (c) Write down the vector equation of the line through which point B perpendicular to AC and find where it meets AC $\left[\frac{93}{41}, -\frac{17}{41}\right]$
8. (a) In the triangle ABC, P is the point on BC such that $BP : PC = \lambda : \mu$. Show that $(\lambda + \mu)AP = \lambda AC + \mu AB$
 (b) Three non collinear points A, B, and C have position vectors a, b, and c respectively with respect to O. The point M on AC is such that $AM:MC = 2:1$ and the point N on AB is such that $AN:NB = 2:1$.
 (i) Show that $BM = \frac{1}{3}a - b + \frac{2}{3}c$, and find a similar expression for CN
 $\left[CN = \frac{1}{3}a + \frac{2}{3}b - c\right]$
 (ii) The line BM and CN intersect at L. Given that $BL = rBM$ and $CL = sCN$, where r and s are scalars, express BL and CL in terms of r, s, a, b, and c.
 $\left[BL = \frac{1}{3}sa - rb + \frac{2}{3}rc; CL = \frac{1}{3}sa - \frac{2}{3}sb - sc;\right]$
 (iii) Hence by using triangle BLC or otherwise find r and s $\left[r = \frac{2}{5}, s = \frac{3}{5}\right]$
9. Find the distance of the point $(-2, 0, 6)$ from the plane $2x - y + 3z = 21$ [1.8708 units]
10. ABCD is a quadrilateral with $A(2, -2)$, $B(5, -1)$, $C(6, 2)$ and $D(3, 1)$. Show that the quadrilateral is a rhombus.
11. The points $P(4, -6, 1)$, $Q(2, 8, 4)$ and $R(3, 7, 14)$ lie in the same plane. Find the angle between PQ and QR. [84.5°]

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12. (a) Given that $OP = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -3 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$ and $OQ = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$,
find the coordinates of the point R such that
PR:PQ = 1:2 and the points P, Q and R are
collinear. [R(2.5, -1.5, 3.5)]
(b) Show that the vector $5i - 2j + k$ is
perpendicular to the line
 $r = i - 4j + \lambda(2i + 3j - 4k)$.
(c) Find the equation of the plane through
the point with position vector $5i - 2j + 3k$
perpendicular to the vector $3i + 4j - k$.
[$3x + 4y - z = 4$]
13. Calculate the area of a triangle with vertices
(-1, 3), (5, 2), (4, -1) [7.6811 sq. units]
14. PQRS is a quadrilateral with vertices P(1, -2),
Q(4, -1), R(5, 2) and S(2, 1).
[show that PQ is parallel to SR and PS is
parallel to QR and that $|PQ| = |SP| =$
 $|QR| = |PS|$ and PR and QS are
perpendicular]
15. The vector equation of lines P and Q are
given as $r_p = t(4i + 3j)$ and
 $r_q = 2i + 12j + 5(i - j)$
Use the dot product to find the angle
between P and Q. [8.13°]
16. The vector equations of two lines are
 $r_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -6 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $r_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$.
Determine the point where r_1 meets r_2 .
[8, -5]
17. The equation of three planes P, Q and R are
 $2x - y + 3z = 3$, $3x + y + 2z = 7$ and
 $x + 7y - 5z = 13$ respectively. Determine
where the three planes intersect. [(-2, 5, 4)]
18. (a) Find in Cartesian form the equation of
the line passing through the points A(1, 2,
5), B(1, 0, 4) and C(5, 2, 1). [since AB = BC,
points A, B and C are not collinear]
(b) Find the angle between the line
 $\frac{x+4}{8} = \frac{y-2}{2} = \frac{z+1}{-4}$ and the plane
 $4x + 3y - 3z + 1$. [69.32°]
19. Show that the equation of the line through
points (1, 2, 1) and (4, -2, 2) is given as
 $\frac{x-1}{3} = \frac{y-2}{-4} = \frac{z-1}{1}$
20. (a) Show that the equation of the plane
through points with position vector $-2i + 4k$
perpendicular to vector $i + 3j - 2k$ is
 $x + 3y - 2z + 10 = 0$
(b)(i) Show that the vector $2i - 5j + 3.5k$ is
perpendicular to the plane
 $r = 2i - j + \lambda(4i + 3j + 2k)$.
(ii) Calculate the angle between the vectors
 $3i - 2j + k$ and the line in b(i) above. [66.6°]
21. Find the point of intersection of the line
 $\frac{x}{5} = \frac{y+2}{2} = \frac{z-1}{4}$ with the plane
 $3x + 4y + 2z - 25 = 0$ [(5, 0, 5)]
22. (a) Find the Cartesian equation of the plane
through A(0, 3, -4), B(2, -1, 2) and C(7, 4, -1).
Show that Q(10, 13, -10) lies in the same
plane
(b) Express the equation of the plane in (a)
in the scalar product form.
$$\left[r \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -6 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix} = 2 \right]$$

(c) Find the area of ABC in (a) [25.1 Sq.
Units]
23. The vertices of a triangle are P(2, -1, 5),
Q(7, 1, -3) and R (12, -2, 0). Show that $\angle PQR =$
 90° . Find the coordinates of S if PQRS is a
rectangle [(8, -4, 8)]
24. (a) Find the equation of the perpendicular
line from Point A = $\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$ onto the line
 $r = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$. What is the distance of A
from r.
$$\left[OP = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{4}{9} \\ \frac{14}{9} \\ -\frac{8}{9} \end{pmatrix}; 1.795 \text{ units} \right]$$

(b) Find the angle contained between the
line OR and x - y plane, where $OR = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$
[41.81°]
25. Given that vectors OA = (3, -2, 5) and
OB = (9, 1, -1), find the position vector of
point C such that C divides AB internally in
the ratio 5:-3
$$\left[xi + yj + zk = 18i + \frac{11}{2}j - 10k \right]$$
26. (a) In a triangle ABC, the altitudes from B
and C meet the opposite sides at E and F

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- respectively. BE and CF intersect at O. Taking O as the origin, Use the dot product to prove that AO is perpendicular to BC.
- (b) Prove that $\angle ABC = 90^\circ$ given that A is (0, 5, -3), B(2, 3, -4) and C(1, -1, 2). Find the coordinates of D if ABCD is a rectangle. $[(-1, 1, 3)]$
27. Find the equation of the plane through the point (1, 2, 3) and perpendicular to the vector $r = 4i + 5j + k$. $[4x - 5y + z = 17]$
28. (a) Find the equation of the line through A(2, 2, 5) and B(1, 2, 3).

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} + \mu \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}$$
- (b) If the line in (a) above meets the line $\frac{x-1}{1} = \frac{y-2}{0} = \frac{z-1}{3}$ at P, find the
 (i) Coordinate of P $[3, 2, 7]$
 (ii) Angle between the lines $[171.9^\circ]$
29. Given that the vector $a i - 2j + k$ and $2a i + aj - 4k$ are perpendicular, find the values of a. $[-1, 2]$
30. (a) Determine the coordinates of the point of intersection of the line $\frac{x+1}{2} = \frac{y-3}{5} = \frac{z+2}{-1}$ and the plane $x + y + z = 12$ $[3, 13, -4]$
 (b) Find the angle between the line $\frac{x+1}{2} = \frac{y-3}{5} = \frac{z+1}{-1}$ and the plane $x + y + z = 12$ $[50.7685^\circ \text{ or } 39.2515^\circ]$
31. Find the point of intersection of the plane $11x - 3y + 7z = 8$ and the line $r = \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 1 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$ where μ is a scalar $[-4, -1, 7]$
32. (a) Given the vector $a = 3i - 2j + k$ and $b = i - 2j + 2k$, find
 (i) the acute angle between the vectors. $[36.7^\circ]$
 (ii) vector c such that it is perpendicular to both vectors a and b. $\left[c \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \right]$
- (b) Given that $OA = a$ and $OB = b$, Point R is on OB such that $OR : RB = 4:1$. Point P is on BA such that $BP:PA = 2:3$ and when RP and OA are both produced they meet at point Q. Find
 (i) OR and OP in terms of a and b.
- $$\left[OR = \frac{4}{5}b, OP = \frac{1}{5}(2a + 3b) \right]$$
- (ii) OQ in terms of a. $\left[\frac{8}{5}a \right]$
33. A point P has coordinates (1, -2, 3) and a certain plane has equation $x + 2y + 2z = 8$. The line through P parallel to the line $\frac{x}{3} = \frac{y+1}{-1} = z + 1$ meets the plane at a point Q. Find the coordinates of Q $\left[\left(6, \frac{-11}{3}, \frac{14}{3} \right) \right]$
34. Given that the position vectors of A, B, and C are $OA = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$, $OB = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $OC = \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ -2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$
 (a) Prove that A, B and C are collinear
 (b) Find the angle between OA and OB $[106.1^\circ]$
 (c) If OABD is parallelogram, find the position vectors of E and F such that E divides DA in ratio 1:2 and F divides it externally in ratio 1:2.

$$\left[E = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{5}{3} \\ 2 \\ -\frac{4}{3} \end{pmatrix}, F = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 10 \\ -8 \end{pmatrix} \right]$$
35. Given the vectors $a = i - 3j + 3k$ and $b = -i - 3j + 2k$; find the
 (i) Acute angle between vectors a and b $[30.86^\circ]$
 (ii) Equation of the plane containing a and b $[-3x + 5y + 6z = 0]$
36. The position vectors of A and B are $OA = 2i - 4j - k$ and $OB = 5i - 2j + 3k$ respectively. The line AB is produced to meet the plane $2x + 6y - 3z = -5$ at point C. Find the
 (a) coordinates of C $[(8, 0, 7)]$
 (b) angle between AB and the plane $[9.169^\circ]$
37. The points P(2, 3), Q(-11, 8) and R(-4, -5) are vertices of a parallelogram PQRS which has PR as the diagonal. Find the coordinates of the vertex S. $[S(9, -10)]$
38. (a) Find the angle between the planes $x - 2y + z = 0$ and $x - y = 1$ $[30^\circ]$
 (b) Two lines are given by the parametric equation: $-i + 2j + k + t(i - 2j + 3k)$ and

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$-3i - + pj + 7k + s(i - j + 2k)$. If the lines intersect, find

(i) values of t , s and p .

$$[t = 10, s = 12, p = -6]$$

(ii) coordinates of the points of intersection $[(9, 18, 31)]$

39. given the points $A(-3, 3, 4)$, $B(5, 7, 2)$ and $C(1, 1, 4)$, find the vector equation of a line which joins the mid-point of AB and BC

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} + \mu \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

40. (a) The equation of the plane R is

$$r \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} = 16. \text{ Where } r \text{ is the position}$$

vector of R . Find the perpendicular distance of the plane from the origin $[2.971 \text{ units}]$

(b) Find the Cartesian equation of the plane through the point $P(1, 0, -2)$ and $Q(3, -1, 1)$ and parallel to the line with a vector equation

$$r = 2i + (2\alpha - 1)j + (5 - \alpha)k$$

$$[-5x + 2y + 4z + 13 = 0]$$

41. Find the equation of the line through point $(2, 3)$ and perpendicular to line $x + 2y + 5 = 0$
 $[y = 2x - 1]$

42. Show that the points A , B and C with position vectors $3i + 3j + k$, $8i + 7j + 4k$ and $11i + 4j + 5k$ respectively are vertices of a triangle.

43. (a) Find the angle between the lines

$$x = \frac{y-1}{2} = \frac{z-2}{3} \text{ and } \frac{x}{2} = \frac{y+1}{3} = \frac{z+2}{4}. [8.53^\circ]$$

(b) Find in vector form the equation of the line of intersection of two planes

$$2x + 3y - 2z = 4 \text{ and } x - y + 2z = 5$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} r = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \frac{13}{5} \\ \frac{19}{5} \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ or } \\ r = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{19}{5} \\ \frac{-6}{5} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ or } \\ r = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{13}{5} \\ 0 \\ \frac{-6}{5} \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

44. A line passes through the point $A(4, 6, 3)$ and $B(1, 3, 3)$.

- (a) Find the vector equation of the line

$$\begin{bmatrix} r = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 6 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ -3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

(b) Show that the point $C(2, 4, 3)$ lies on the line in (a) above.

45. Triangle OAB has $OA = a$ and $OB = b$. C is a point on OA such that $OC = \frac{2}{3}a$. D is the mid-point of AB . When CD is produced it meets OB produced at E , such that $DE = nCD$ and $BE = kb$. Express DE in terms of

(a) n , a and b $\left[\frac{5n}{6}a + \frac{n}{2}b \right]$

(b) k , a and b $\left[\frac{1}{2}a + \frac{2k-1}{2}b \right]$

Hence find the values of n and k .

$$\left[n = \frac{3}{5}, k = \frac{1}{5} \right]$$