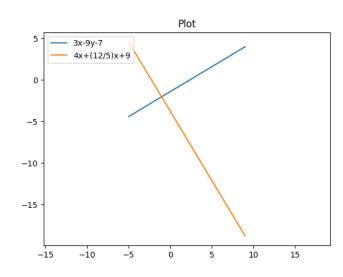
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Assignment-1

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4b[ICSE 2018]

If the straight lines 3x - 5y = 7 and 4x + ay + 9 = 0 are perpendicular to one another, find the value of a.



Solution

If two lines are perpendicular, then dot product of their normal vectors is 0.

The equation of a line is given by $\mathbf{n}^{\top}\mathbf{x} = c$ where \mathbf{n} is the normal vector of the line.

Vector form of 3x - 5y = 7 is $\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = 7$, with $\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix}$ as normal vector.

Vector form of 4x+ay+9=0 is $\binom{4}{a}\binom{x}{y}=-9$, with $\binom{4}{a}$ as normal vector. As $\binom{3}{-5}.\binom{4}{a}=0$

$$12 - 5a = 0$$

So
$$a = (\frac{12}{5})$$