Three Dimensional Geometry

12^{th} Maths - Chapter 11

This is Problem-3 from Exercise 11.1

1. If a line has the direction ratios –18, 12, –4, then what are its direction cosines ?

Solution: let **A** be the given vector

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} -18\\12\\-4 \end{pmatrix} \tag{1}$$

Then \mathbf{B} be the unit vector in the direction of \mathbf{A} then directions cosines is given by

$$\mathbf{B} = \frac{\mathbf{A}}{\|\mathbf{A}\|} \tag{2}$$

The magnitude for \mathbf{A} is

$$\|\mathbf{A}\| = 22\tag{3}$$

Then direction cosines are

$$\mathbf{B} = \left(\frac{-9}{11}, \frac{6}{11}, \frac{-2}{11}\right) \tag{4}$$