

# Vectors

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## VECTORS [150 Marks]

1 Solve the following:

- a)  $\overrightarrow{OA} = \mathbf{a}$  and  $\overrightarrow{OB} = \mathbf{b}$ , where  $O$  is the origin. Given that lines  $OA$  and  $OB$  are parallel,  $|\mathbf{a}| = 2$  and  $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = -2$ , express  $\mathbf{b}$  in terms of  $\mathbf{a}$ . [2]
- b) A vector  $\mathbf{a}$  is such that  $\mathbf{a} = (\sqrt{2} \cos \alpha)\mathbf{i} - (\cos \alpha)\mathbf{j} + (\sqrt{2} \sin \alpha)\mathbf{k}$ , where  $0 \leq \alpha \leq 2\pi$  and  $|\mathbf{a}| = \sqrt{2}$ . Find the value(s) of  $\alpha$ . [2]
- c) The points  $A, B$  and  $C$  with respect to the origin are represented by the vectors  $\mathbf{a}$ ,  $\mathbf{b}$  and  $\mathbf{c}$  respectively. It is given that  $|\mathbf{b}| = 2$ ,  $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = k$  and  $\mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{c} = 2$ . Given further that point  $C$  divides the line  $AB$  such that  $AC : CB = 2 : 1$ , find  $k$ . [3]
- d) Four vectors  $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c}$  and  $\mathbf{d}$  exist such that  $\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{c} + \mathbf{d} = \mathbf{0}$ . Show that  $\mathbf{b} \times (\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{c}) = \mathbf{d} \times \mathbf{b}$ . [2]
- e) Point  $A$  referred from the origin has vector  $\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} - 2\mathbf{k}$ . The line  $OA$  makes an angle of  $\alpha$  with the  $y$ -axis and  $\beta$  with the  $z$ -axis, where  $\alpha, \beta < \pi$ . Show that  $\alpha + \beta = \pi$ . [3]

2 Referred to the origin  $O$ , points  $A$  and  $B$  have position vectors given by  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$  respectively.  $C_0$  is the foot of perpendicular from  $A$  to  $OB$  with position vector  $\mathbf{c}_0$ . The angle between lines  $OA$  and  $OB$  is  $\alpha$ , where  $0 < \alpha < \frac{\pi}{2}$ .

- a) By considering  $\cos \alpha$ , show that  $|\mathbf{c}_0| = \mathbf{a} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{b}}$ . [2]
- b) The foot of perpendicular from  $C_0$  to  $OA$  is  $C_1$ . Show that  $|\mathbf{c}_1| = \mathbf{a} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{b}}(\cos \alpha)$ . [1]
- c)  $C_n$  is the  $n$ th foot of perpendicular. State  $|\mathbf{c}_n|$  in terms of  $a, b, n$  and  $\alpha$ . [1]

d) State the sum to infinity of scalar projections  $|\mathbf{c}_0| + |\mathbf{c}_1| + \dots + |\mathbf{c}_n| + \dots$  [1]

3 Referred to the origin  $O$ , points  $A$  and  $B$  have position vectors given by:  $\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{i} - p^2\mathbf{k}$  and  $\mathbf{b} = \frac{2}{p}\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}$  respectively, where  $p$  is to be found. Given that  $|\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}|^2 = 4p^2 + 2$ , find the value(s) that  $p$  can take. [4]

4 The vector equation of  $l$  is given by  $l : \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{a} + \lambda\mathbf{b}$ ,  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ . Point  $F$  is the foot of perpendicular from origin  $O$  to the line  $l$ . If  $|\mathbf{b}| = 1$  and  $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = 1$ , express the position vector  $\overrightarrow{OF}$  in terms of  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$ . [3]

5 The equations of  $l$  and  $m$  are given by  $l : \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{a} + \lambda\mathbf{b}$ ,  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $m : \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{b} + \mu\mathbf{a}$ ,  $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$ , where  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$  are co-planar vectors. State the conditions such that lines  $l$  and  $m$  are skew lines. [2]

6 Points  $A$  and  $B$  have position vectors  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$  with respect to the origin  $O$ . It is given that  $(\mathbf{a} - 3\mathbf{b}) \times (5\mathbf{a} + 7\mathbf{b}) = 11$ . Find the perpendicular distance from point  $A$  to line  $OB$  if  $|\mathbf{b}| = 11$ . [4]

7 Points  $A$  and  $B$  have position vectors  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$  with respect to the origin  $O$ . It is given that  $|\mathbf{a}| = 3$ ,  $|\mathbf{b}| = 1$  and  $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = 2$ .

a) State the vector equation of line  $AB$ . [1]

b) Find  $|\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a}|$ . [2]

c) Find the position vector of  $F$ , the foot of perpendicular from  $O$  to  $AB$ , in terms of  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$ . [3]

d) Find  $|7\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a}|$ . Hence, find the exact area of triangle  $OAB$ . [3]

8 Referred to the origin  $O$ , points  $A$  and  $B$  have the position vectors  $\overrightarrow{OA} = \mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{k}$  and  $\overrightarrow{OB} = -\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k}$  respectively.

a) Verify that  $P(3, -2, -6)$  lies on line  $AB$ . [2]

b) Find the position vector of  $F$ , the foot of perpendicular from  $P$  to  $AB$ . [3]

**c)** Hence, find the equation of line  $PF$ . [3]

**9** The equations of lines  $l_1$  and  $l_2$  are given by:

$$l_1 : \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \lambda \in \mathbb{R} \text{ and } l_2 : \frac{x+1}{9} = \frac{y}{7} = \frac{4-z}{3} \text{ respectively.}$$

Point  $A$  has coordinates  $(2, -1, 1)$  while the foot of perpendicular from  $A$  to  $l_2$  is  $F$ .

**a)** Find the position vector of  $P$ , the point of intersection between  $l_1$  and  $l_2$ . [2]

**b)** Find vector  $\overrightarrow{AF}$ . [3]

**c)** Hence, find the vector equation of  $l_3$ , the reflection of  $l_1$  in  $l_2$ . [3]

**10** Points  $A$  and  $B$  with position vectors  $-\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k}$  and  $3\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{k}$  respectively both lie on  $l_1$ .

The line  $l_2$  has Cartesian equation  $l_2 : x = 7, y - 3 = z$ .

**a)** Show that  $l_1$  and  $l_2$  are skew lines. [2]

**b)** Find a vector that is perpendicular to both  $l_1$  and  $l_2$ . [1]

**c)** Hence, find the shortest distance between  $l_1$  and  $l_2$ . [3]

**11** Referred to an origin  $O$ , points  $A$  and  $B$  have coordinates  $(-1, 2, 2)$  and  $(0, 1, 2)$  respectively. The point  $P$  on  $OA$  is such that  $OP : PA = \lambda : 1$  and the point  $Q$  on  $OB$  is such that  $OQ : QB = \lambda : 1 - \lambda$ , where  $\lambda$  is a real constant to be determined.

**a)** Find the area of  $\triangle OAB$ . [2]

**b)** Express the ratio  $\frac{\text{Area of } \triangle OAB}{\text{Area of } \triangle OPQ}$  in terms of  $\lambda$ . [3]

**c)** Deduce if  $PQ$  is ever parallel to  $AB$  for some value of  $\lambda$ . [3]

**12** Line  $l$  has the equation  $-x = \frac{y-3}{2} = \frac{z+4}{2}$ . Line  $m$ , which is parallel to  $\begin{pmatrix} c \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$  where  $c$  is some real constant, is obtained by rotating line  $l$   $45^\circ$  about the point  $A(0, 3, -4)$ . Find the possible vector equations of line  $m$ . [5]

**13** Three points  $A, B$  and  $C$  referred from the origin  $O$  have position vectors given by:

$$\mathbf{a} = 2\mathbf{i} + 4\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{b} = -2\mathbf{i} + 5\mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k} \text{ and } \mathbf{c} = \frac{3}{2}\mathbf{i} + \frac{5}{2}\mathbf{j} - 3\mathbf{k}.$$

a) Find the vector equations of lines  $AB$  and  $AC$ . [2]

b) Find two vector equations of  $l$ , where  $l$  is the line representing the all the midpoints of lines  $AB$  and  $AC$ . [4]

**14** Point  $A$  with position vector  $\mathbf{a}$  lies on plane  $\pi$  with normal parallel to vector  $\mathbf{n}$ . Given that

$$|\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{n}|^2 = 3 \text{ and } |\mathbf{n}|^2 = 4 - |\mathbf{a}|^2, \text{ find the value of } d \text{ if the equation of plane } \pi \text{ is } \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{n} = d. [4]$$

**15** The equations of parallel planes  $p$  and  $q$  are given by  $p : \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{n} = d$  and  $q : \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{n} = kd$ .

Line  $l$  given by equation  $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{a} + \lambda\mathbf{b}$ ,  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$  intersects planes  $p$  and  $q$  at points  $A$  and  $B$  respectively.

a) Show that  $\overrightarrow{AB} = \mathbf{b} \left( \frac{d(k-1)}{\mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{n}} \right)$ . [4]

b) Hence, or otherwise, show that the perpendicular distance between planes  $p$  and  $q$  is equal to  $\frac{d(k-1)}{|\mathbf{n}|}$  units. [2]

**16** The equations of plane  $\pi$  and  $l$  are given by:

$$\pi : \mathbf{r} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = -1 \text{ and } l : \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ k \end{pmatrix}, \lambda, k \in \mathbb{R} \text{ respectively.}$$

a) Show that, for  $\pi$  and  $l$  to intersect,  $k \neq -\frac{7}{2}$ . [1]

For the rest of the question, assume  $k = 1$ .

b) Find the coordinates of point  $P$ , the point of intersection of  $\pi$  and  $l$ . [2]

c) Find the shortest distance from  $A(-1, 0, 2)$  to  $\pi$ . [3]

d) Find the acute angle between  $\pi$  and  $l$ . [2]

**17** Plane  $\pi$  has a normal parallel to  $\begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$  and has the equation:

$$\pi : \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ 4 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + s \begin{pmatrix} a \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad t, s \in \mathbb{R},$$

where  $a$  is some real constant to be determined.

- a) Find the value of  $a$ . [2]
- b) Find the scalar product equation of plane  $\pi$ . [1]
- c) Line  $l$  passes through  $\pi$ , the origin  $O$  and  $A(3, 2, 5)$ . Find the position vector of  $P$ , the point of intersection between line  $l$  and plane  $\pi$ . [2]
- d) Find  $|\overrightarrow{PF}|$ , where  $F$  is the foot of perpendicular from  $A$  to plane  $\pi$ . [3]
- e) Hence find  $|\overrightarrow{PG}|$ , where  $G$  is the foot of perpendicular from  $O$  to plane  $\pi$ . [2]

**18** The equations of planes  $\pi_1$ ,  $\pi_2$  and  $\pi_3$  are such that:

$$\pi_1 : 2x + 3y + 4z = -1, \quad \pi_2 : -2x + y - z = 5 \quad \text{and} \quad \pi_3 : \mathbf{r} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} a \\ -5 \\ -a \end{pmatrix} = k.$$

- a) Find the vector equation of  $l$ , the line of intersection between  $\pi_1$  and  $\pi_2$ . [3]
- b) Given that  $a = 2$ , find the value of  $k$  such that  $\pi_3$  contains  $l$ . [2]
- c) Given that  $a = 1$ ,  $k = 3$ , find the point of intersection of  $\pi_1$ ,  $\pi_2$  and  $\pi_3$ . [2]

- 19 An incident beam of light was reflected perfectly ( $\theta_1 = \theta_2$ ) on a round mirror.

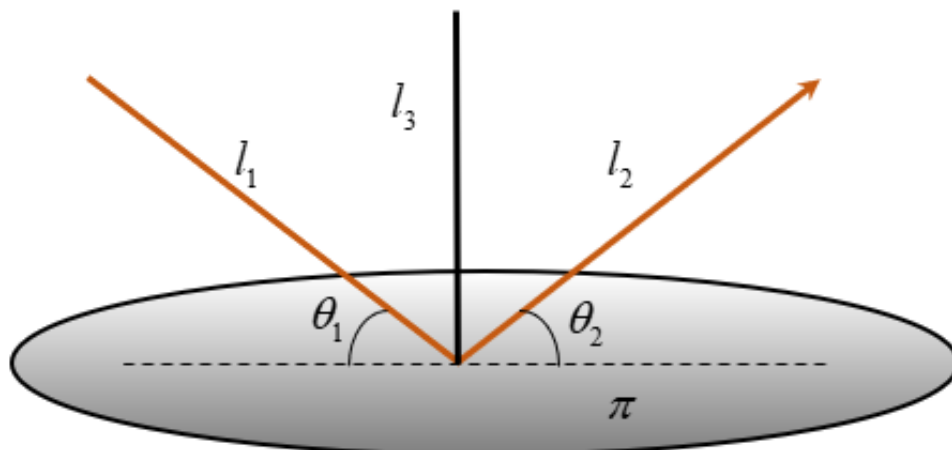


Figure 1: Mirror

A student modelled the scenario such that the incident beam is  $l_1$ , the reflected beam is  $l_2$  and the mirror is  $\pi$ , where  $\pi$  contains the vectors  $\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}$ ,  $\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j}$  and  $2\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k}$ .

- a) Find the equation of the plane  $\pi$  in the form  $\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{n} = d$ . [3]
- b) Show that  $P(1, 3, 2)$ , the point of intersection between  $l_1$  and  $l_2$  lies on  $\pi$ . [1]
- c) State the vector equation of  $l_3$ , the axis of reflection between  $l_1$  and  $l_2$ . [1]
- d) Given that  $A(t, 1, 1)$  lies on  $l_1$ , where  $t > 0$ , find  $t$  such that  $\theta_1 = \theta_2 = \frac{\pi}{4}$ . [4]

For the rest of the question, take  $t = 4$ .

- e) Find the shortest distance from  $A$  to  $\pi$ . [2]
- f) Find the coordinates of  $F$ , the foot of perpendicular from  $A$  to  $l_3$ . Hence, or otherwise, find the equation of  $l_2$ . [6]

20 A professional card stacker stacks two cards  $P$  and  $Q$  as follows:

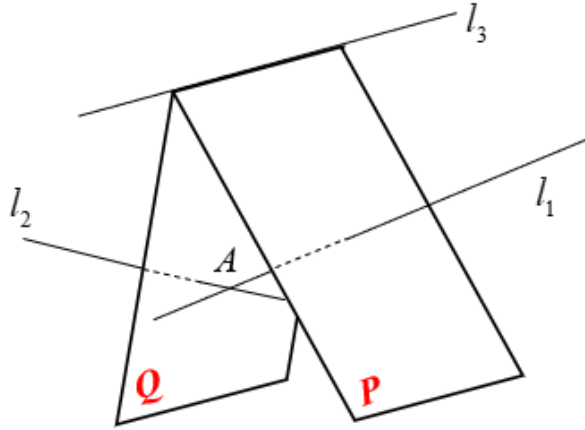


Figure 2: Card Stack

Mr Poh models the scenario such that the two cards are planes  $P$  and  $Q$ , where the equation of plane  $P$  is  $P : \mathbf{r} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 1$ , where line  $l_1$  is a normal to plane  $P$  that contains  $A(-3, 3, 2)$ . Line  $l_2$ , a normal to plane  $Q$ , also contains point  $A$  and is parallel to the vector  $\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ a \end{pmatrix}$  where  $a < 0$ .  $l_3$  is the line of intersection between planes  $P$  and  $Q$ .

- Find the coordinates of  $B$ , the point of intersection between  $l_1$  and plane  $P$ . [2]
- Given that  $l_2$  is obtained by rotating  $l_1$   $\cos^{-1} \frac{9}{11}$  about point  $A$ , find  $a$ ; Hence, find the vector equation of  $l_2$ . [4]
- The point of intersection between  $l_2$  and plane  $Q$  is point  $B'$ . Given that  $|\overrightarrow{AB}| = |\overrightarrow{AB'}|$ , find the position vector of  $B'$  given that the  $x$ -coordinate of  $B' < 0$ . [3]
- Find the equation of the plane  $Q$  in the form  $\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{n} = d$ . [2]
- Find the vector equation of  $l_3$ . [2]

The equation of plane  $R$  is such that it reflects the image of plane  $P$  to form plane  $Q$ .

- Find the vector  $\overrightarrow{AF}$ , where  $F$  is the foot of perpendicular from  $A$  to  $l_3$ .

Hence, find the equation of plane  $R$  in the form  $\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{n} = d$ . [5]