

Chapter 8: Vectors

Objectives

At the end of this topic, you will be able to:

- Define vectors in \mathbb{R}^2 and \mathbb{R}^3
- List properties of vector addition and scalar multiplication
- Define dot product (scalar product) of two vectors and state its properties
- Define cross product (vector product) of two vectors
- Find equations of lines and planes in space

8.1 Vectors

(A) Vectors and Scalars

A *vector* is a quantity that has both magnitude and direction.

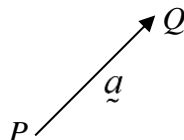
Some examples are velocity (speed in a certain direction), displacement (a movement in a certain direction), force, acceleration, ... etc.

A *scalar* is a quantity that has magnitude but no direction.

Some examples are mass, length, temperature, electric charge, work, ... etc.

(B) Representation of Vectors and Notation

A vector is usually represented by a directed line segment.



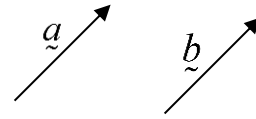
The directed line segment shown in the above figure is the vector from points P to Q and is denoted by \overrightarrow{PQ} , or simply by a single letter \vec{a} .

The magnitude of the vector \overrightarrow{PQ} is specified by the length of the line segment PQ and is denoted by $\|\overrightarrow{PQ}\|$ or $\|\vec{a}\|$. The direction of a vector is the angle it makes with the positive x -axis, measured anticlockwise.

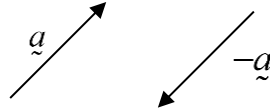
(C) Equality of Vectors

Two vectors \underline{a} and \underline{b} are equal *if and only if* they have the same magnitude and direction.

$$\underline{a} = \underline{b} \Leftrightarrow \underline{a} \text{ and } \underline{b} \text{ have the same direction and } \|\underline{a}\| = \|\underline{b}\|$$

(D) Negative Vectors

The negative vector $-\underline{a}$ is a vector having the same magnitude as \underline{a} but a direction opposite to that of \underline{a} .



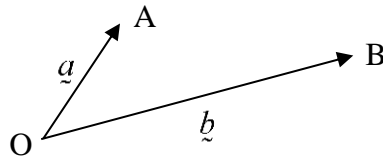
$$\|-\underline{a}\| = \|\underline{a}\|$$

(E) Zero Vector

The *zero* or *null* vector denoted by $\underline{0}$ is the vector with zero magnitude and no particular direction.

(F) Position Vector

A position vector is a vector that starts from the origin. We say that the position vector of the point A = $\overrightarrow{OA} = \underline{a}$, and the position vector of the point B $\overrightarrow{OB} = \underline{b}$

(G) Unit Vectors

A *unit vector* is a vector whose magnitude is 1.

If \underline{a} is any non-zero vector, the unit vector with the same direction as \underline{a} is denoted by $\hat{\underline{a}}$.

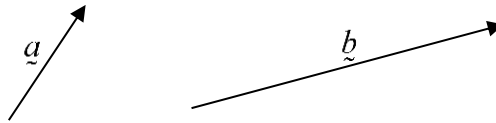
Since $\underline{a} = \|\underline{a}\| \hat{\underline{a}}$, it follows that the *unit vector with the same direction as \underline{a}* is given by

$$\hat{\underline{a}} = \frac{\underline{a}}{\|\underline{a}\|}$$

Hence, a vector of magnitude m in the same direction as \underline{a} is equal to $m\hat{\underline{a}}$.

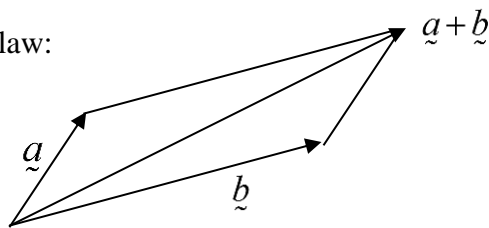
(H) Arithmetic Operations on Vectors**(i) Addition of Vectors**

Let \vec{a} and \vec{b} be two vectors.

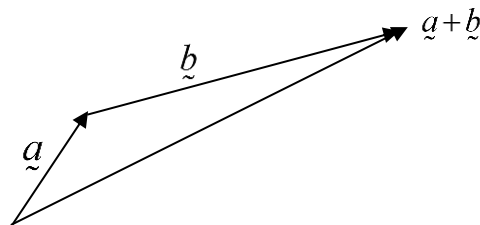


The *resultant* or the *vector sum* of the two vectors is $\vec{a} + \vec{b}$ and can be obtained using the parallelogram law or the triangle law.

The parallelogram law:



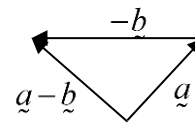
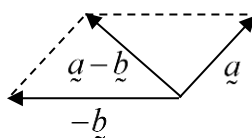
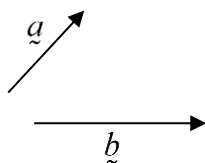
The triangle law:



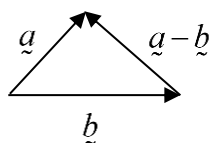
Can you show that $\vec{a} + \vec{b}$ and $\vec{b} + \vec{a}$ are equal?

(ii) Subtraction of Vectors

The difference of two vectors, $\vec{a} - \vec{b}$ is defined as the vector sum $\vec{a} + (-\vec{b})$



This is the same as

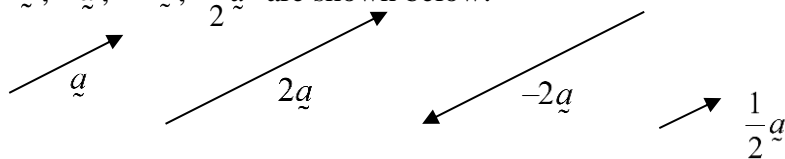


(iii) Scalar Multiplication

Let λ be a non-zero real number (i.e, a scalar) and \underline{a} a non-zero vector.
The vector $\lambda \underline{a}$ is a vector parallel to \underline{a} .

- If $\lambda > 0$, $\lambda \underline{a}$ is in the same direction as \underline{a} .
- If $\lambda < 0$, $\lambda \underline{a}$ is in the opposite direction from \underline{a} .
- $\|\lambda \underline{a}\| = |\lambda| \|\underline{a}\|$

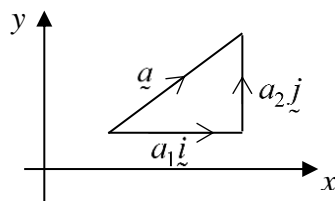
Vectors \underline{a} , $2\underline{a}$, $-2\underline{a}$, $\frac{1}{2}\underline{a}$ are shown below:



Thus, if $\underline{a} \neq \underline{0}$ and $\underline{b} \neq \underline{0}$, \underline{a} and \underline{b} are parallel $\Leftrightarrow \underline{a} = \lambda \underline{b}$ where λ is a scalar and $\lambda \neq 0$.

(I) Vectors in Two-Dimensional Space \mathbb{R}^2

Let us consider a two-dimensional coordinate frame.



A unit vector in the positive direction of the x -axis is denoted by \underline{i} .

A unit vector in the positive direction of the y -axis is denoted by \underline{j} .

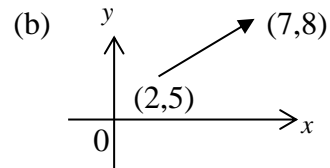
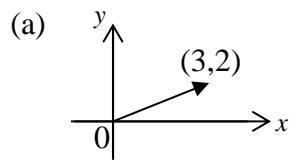
For every vector \underline{a} in the xy -plane, if a_1 and a_2 are the components of \underline{a} in the x and y directions respectively, then \underline{a} can be expressed in the following forms:

$\underline{i}, \underline{j}$ - notation	Vector notation	Matrix notation
$\underline{a} = a_1 \underline{i} + a_2 \underline{j}$	$\underline{a} = \langle a_1, a_2 \rangle$	$\underline{a} = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \end{pmatrix}$

By Pythagoras' theorem, the magnitude of \underline{a} is $\|\underline{a}\| = \sqrt{a_1^2 + a_2^2}$.

Example 1

Write the following vectors in $x\hat{i} + y\hat{j}$ form.

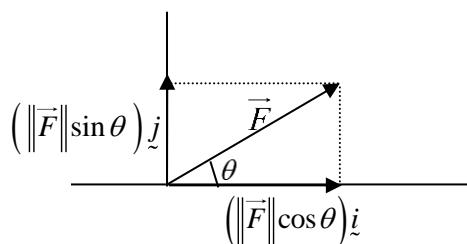
Example 2

If $\vec{a} = 3\hat{i} + 4\hat{j}$, find

- (a) $\|\vec{a}\|$ (b) \hat{a} (c) a vector of magnitude 20 in the direction of \vec{a}

(J) Resolution of a Vector into Components in Two Perpendicular Directions

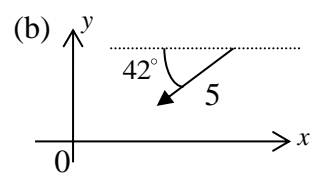
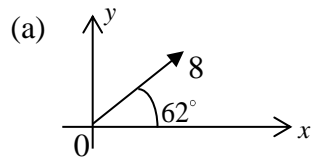
In applications, we often resolve a vector into its components in two perpendicular directions.



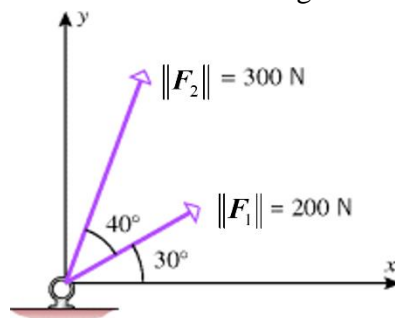
$$\vec{F} = (\|\vec{F}\| \cos \theta) \hat{i} + (\|\vec{F}\| \sin \theta) \hat{j}$$

Example 3 (to be taught in class)

Write the following vectors in $x\mathbf{i} + y\mathbf{j}$ form.

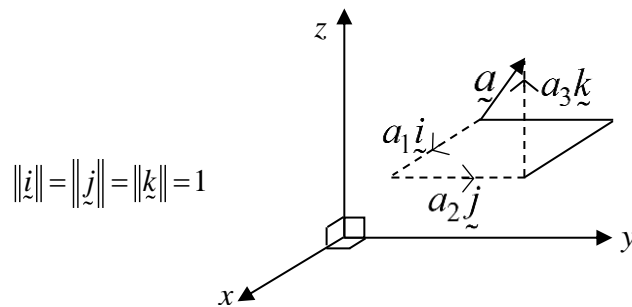
Example 4 (to be taught in class)

Suppose that two forces are applied to an eye bracket, as shown below. Find the magnitude of the resultant and the angle θ that it makes with the positive x -axis.



(K) Vectors in Three-Dimensional Space \mathbb{R}^3

Let us consider a three-dimensional coordinate frame.



The axes are placed in such a way that they follow the Right-hand Rule.

The vectors \underline{i} , \underline{j} and \underline{k} are unit vectors in the positive directions of the x -, y - and z -axis, respectively.

For every vector \underline{a} in \mathbb{R}^3 , if a_1 , a_2 and a_3 are the components of \underline{a} in the x , y and z directions respectively, then \underline{a} can be expressed in the following form:

$\underline{i} \ \underline{j} \ \underline{k}$ - notation	Vector notation	Matrix notation
$\underline{a} = a_1 \underline{i} + a_2 \underline{j} + a_3 \underline{k}$	$\underline{a} = \langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle$	$\underline{a} = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ a_3 \end{pmatrix}$

By Pythagoras' theorem, the magnitude of \underline{a} is $\|\underline{a}\| = \sqrt{a_1^2 + a_2^2 + a_3^2}$.

Example 5

If $\underline{a} = 2\underline{j} - \underline{j} + \underline{k}$, find

- (a) $\| \underline{a} \|$ (b) a vector of magnitude 5 in the direction of \underline{a} .

(L) Addition, Subtraction and Scalar Multiplication in Component Form**THEOREM**

Given that $\underline{a} = a_1\underline{i} + a_2\underline{j} + a_3\underline{k}$ and $\underline{b} = b_1\underline{i} + b_2\underline{j} + b_3\underline{k}$, then

	$\underline{i} \ \underline{j} \ \underline{k}$ - notation	Vector notation	Matrix notation
Addition $\underline{a} + \underline{b}$	$(a_1 + b_1)\underline{i} + (a_2 + b_2)\underline{j} + (a_3 + b_3)\underline{k}$	$\langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle + \langle b_1, b_2, b_3 \rangle$ $= \langle a_1 + b_1, a_2 + b_2, a_3 + b_3 \rangle$	$\begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ a_3 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 + b_1 \\ a_2 + b_2 \\ a_3 + b_3 \end{bmatrix}$
Subtraction $\underline{a} - \underline{b}$	$(a_1 - b_1)\underline{i} + (a_2 - b_2)\underline{j} + (a_3 - b_3)\underline{k}$	$\langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle - \langle b_1, b_2, b_3 \rangle$ $= \langle a_1 - b_1, a_2 - b_2, a_3 - b_3 \rangle$	$\begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ a_3 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 - b_1 \\ a_2 - b_2 \\ a_3 - b_3 \end{bmatrix}$
Scalar Multiplication $\lambda \underline{a}$	$\lambda a_1 \underline{i} + \lambda a_2 \underline{j} + \lambda a_3 \underline{k}$	$\lambda \langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle$ $= \langle \lambda a_1, \lambda a_2, \lambda a_3 \rangle$	$\lambda \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ a_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda a_1 \\ \lambda a_2 \\ \lambda a_3 \end{bmatrix}$

Example 6

If $\underline{a} = \underline{i} + 5\underline{j} + 3\underline{k}$ and $\underline{b} = 3\underline{i} - 6\underline{j} + \underline{k}$, find

(a) $\underline{a} + \underline{b}$

(b) $\underline{a} - \underline{b}$

(c) $7\underline{a}$

(M) Position Vectors

The *position vector* of a point P in space is the vector from the origin to the point P which is denoted by the vector \overrightarrow{OP} . If P has coordinates (x, y, z) , then the position vector of P is

$$\overrightarrow{OP} = x\mathbf{i} + y\mathbf{j} + z\mathbf{k} \quad \text{or} \quad \langle x, y, z \rangle \quad \text{or} \quad \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \|\overrightarrow{OP}\| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2} .$$

Example 7

The coordinates of points P and Q are points $(-3, 7, 8)$ and $(2, 5, 5)$ respectively. Find

- (a) the position vector of P (b) the position vector of Q (c) \overrightarrow{PQ} (d) $\|\overrightarrow{PQ}\|$

8.2 Dot Product (Scalar Product)

Dot Product is also known as *Scalar Product* or *Inner Product*.

(A) Definition of the Dot Product

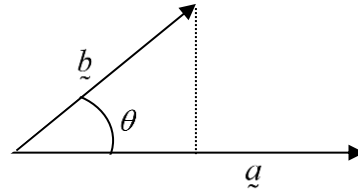
DEFINITION

The *scalar product* or *dot product* of two vectors \underline{a} and \underline{b} denoted by $\underline{a} \cdot \underline{b}$ is defined as

$$\underline{a} \cdot \underline{b} = \|\underline{a}\| \|\underline{b}\| \cos \theta$$

where θ is the angle between \underline{a} and \underline{b} .

Note that $\underline{a} \cdot \underline{b}$ is a scalar, not a vector.



Example 8

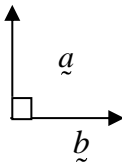
If vectors \underline{a} and \underline{b} are inclined at 60° to each other and $\|\underline{a}\| = 3$, $\|\underline{b}\| = 8$, find $\underline{a} \cdot \underline{b}$.

(B) Properties of the Dot Product**THEOREM**

- (1) $\underline{a} \cdot \underline{b} = \underline{b} \cdot \underline{a}$ (scalar product is commutative)
- (2) $\underline{a} \cdot (\underline{b} + \underline{c}) = \underline{a} \cdot \underline{b} + \underline{a} \cdot \underline{c}$ (scalar product is distributive over addition)
- (3) $\lambda(\underline{a} \cdot \underline{b}) = (\lambda \underline{a}) \cdot \underline{b} = \underline{a} \cdot (\lambda \underline{b})$ where $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$

(4) If \underline{a} and \underline{b} are non-zero vectors,

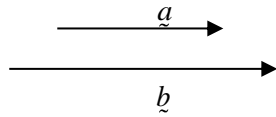
- $\underline{a} \cdot \underline{b} = 0 \Leftrightarrow \underline{a} \text{ and } \underline{b} \text{ are perpendicular (orthogonal) to each other.}$



$$\underline{a} \cdot \underline{b} = |\underline{a}| |\underline{b}| \cos 90^\circ = 0$$

Hence $\underline{i} \cdot \underline{j} = \underline{j} \cdot \underline{k} = \underline{k} \cdot \underline{i} = 0$

- $\underline{a} \cdot \underline{b} = |\underline{a}| |\underline{b}| \Leftrightarrow \underline{a} \text{ and } \underline{b} \text{ are in the same direction, i.e. } \theta = 0.$

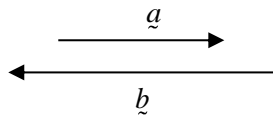


$$\underline{a} \cdot \underline{b} = |\underline{a}| |\underline{b}| \cos 0^\circ = |\underline{a}| |\underline{b}|$$

Hence $\underline{a} \cdot \underline{a} = |\underline{a}|^2$,

$$\underline{i} \cdot \underline{i} = |\underline{i}| |\underline{i}| = 1, \quad \underline{j} \cdot \underline{j} = |\underline{j}| |\underline{j}| = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \underline{k} \cdot \underline{k} = |\underline{k}| |\underline{k}| = 1$$

- $\underline{a} \cdot \underline{b} = -|\underline{a}| |\underline{b}| \Leftrightarrow \underline{a} \text{ and } \underline{b} \text{ are in opposite directions, i.e. } \theta = 180^\circ$



$$\underline{a} \cdot \underline{b} = |\underline{a}| |\underline{b}| \cos 180^\circ = -|\underline{a}| |\underline{b}|$$

(C) Dot Product in Component Form

Let $\underline{a} = a_1\underline{i} + a_2\underline{j} + a_3\underline{k}$ and $\underline{b} = b_1\underline{i} + b_2\underline{j} + b_3\underline{k}$, then

$$\underline{a} \cdot \underline{b} = (a_1\underline{i} + a_2\underline{j} + a_3\underline{k}) \cdot (b_1\underline{i} + b_2\underline{j} + b_3\underline{k}).$$

Since \underline{i} , \underline{j} and \underline{k} are orthogonal unit vectors, the dot products of the basis vectors are all zero except for

$$\underline{i} \cdot \underline{i} = \underline{j} \cdot \underline{j} = \underline{k} \cdot \underline{k} = 1.$$

Hence the dot product $\underline{a} \cdot \underline{b}$ can be written in the following notations:

$\underline{i} \ \underline{j} \ \underline{k}$ - notation	Vector notation	Matrix notation
$\underline{a} \cdot \underline{b}$ $= a_1b_1 + a_2b_2 + a_3b_3$	$\underline{a} \cdot \underline{b}$ $= \langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle \cdot \langle b_1, b_2, b_3 \rangle$ $= a_1b_1 + a_2b_2 + a_3b_3$	$\underline{a} \cdot \underline{b}$ $= \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ a_3 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{bmatrix}$ $= \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{bmatrix}$ $= a_1b_1 + a_2b_2 + a_3b_3$

Note that all notations arrive at the same result.

Example 9

If $\underline{a} = \underline{i} + 8\underline{j} + 7\underline{k}$ and $\underline{b} = 3\underline{i} - 2\underline{j} + 5\underline{k}$, find $\underline{a} \cdot \underline{b}$.

Example 10

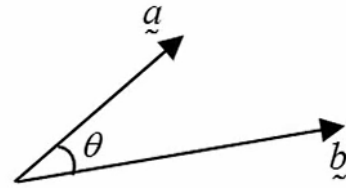
Find the value of p if $\underline{u} = 2\underline{i} + p\underline{j} + \underline{k}$ is perpendicular to $\underline{v} = 4\underline{i} + 2\underline{j} - 2\underline{k}$

(D) Angle Between Vectors

From the definition of dot product, we can drive that the angle $\theta \in [0, \pi]$ between two non-zero vectors \vec{a} and \vec{b} is given by:

$$\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = \|\vec{a}\| \|\vec{b}\| \cos \theta$$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}{\|\vec{a}\| \|\vec{b}\|}$$

Example 11

Find the angle between the vectors $\vec{u} = 4\vec{i} - 3\vec{j}$ and $\vec{v} = 2\vec{i} + 5\vec{j}$. Ans: 105°

(E) Work Done

The work done by a force \vec{F} in moving an object is given by

$$\boxed{W = \vec{F} \cdot \vec{S}} \quad \text{where } \vec{S} \text{ is the displacement vector.}$$

Example 12

If $\vec{F} = 2\hat{i} + \hat{j} - 3\hat{k}$ N and $\vec{S} = 2\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} - 4\hat{k}$ m, find the work done and the angle between \vec{F} and \vec{S} .

Solution $W = \vec{F} \cdot \vec{S}$

$$\begin{aligned} &= (2\hat{i} + \hat{j} - 3\hat{k}) \cdot (2\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} - 4\hat{k}) \\ &= 2(2) + 1(2) + (-3)(-4) \\ &= 4 + 2 + 12 \\ &= 18 \text{ J} \end{aligned}$$

To find the angle between \vec{F} and \vec{S} we use

$$\vec{F} \cdot \vec{S} = |\vec{F}| |\vec{S}| \cos \theta$$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\vec{F} \cdot \vec{S}}{|\vec{F}| |\vec{S}|} \Rightarrow \theta = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{\vec{F} \cdot \vec{S}}{|\vec{F}| |\vec{S}|} \right)$$

$$|\vec{F}| = \sqrt{2^2 + 1^2 + 3^2} = \sqrt{4 + 1 + 9} = \sqrt{14}$$

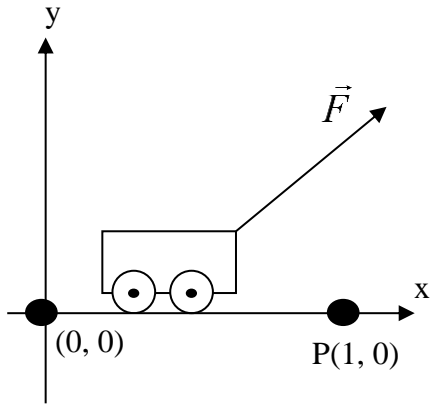
$$|\vec{S}| = \sqrt{2^2 + 2^2 + 4^2} = \sqrt{4 + 4 + 16} = \sqrt{24}$$

$$\therefore \theta = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{18}{\sqrt{14}\sqrt{24}} \right) = \cos^{-1} 0.9819 = 10.89^\circ$$

The angle between \vec{F} and \vec{S} is 10.89° .

Example 13

Find the work done by a force \vec{F} of magnitude 5 N acting in the direction of $\underline{i} + \underline{j}$ in moving an object from the origin to the point $P(1,0)$, distance being measured in meters. (Ans: 3.536 J)



8.3 Lines and Line Segments in \mathbb{R}^3

(A) Vector and Parametric Equations of Lines

Consider a line L in \mathbb{R}^3 parallel to a nonzero vector $\underline{v} = \langle a, b, c \rangle$ and passing through a fixed point $P_0(x_0, y_0, z_0)$, with position vector $\overrightarrow{OP_0} = \underline{r}_0$.

Let $P(x, y, z)$ be an arbitrary point on the line L with position vector, that is $\overrightarrow{OP} = \underline{r}$.

Since $\overrightarrow{P_0P}$ is parallel to the line and hence parallel to the vector \underline{v} ,
then

$$\overrightarrow{P_0P} = \lambda \underline{v}, \quad \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$\overrightarrow{OP} - \overrightarrow{OP_0} = \lambda \underline{v}$$

$$\overrightarrow{OP} = \overrightarrow{OP_0} + \lambda \underline{v}$$

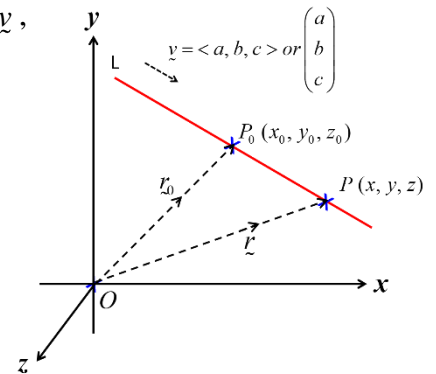
$$\underline{r} = \underline{r}_0 + \lambda \underline{v}, \quad \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$$

We know $\underline{r} = \underline{r}_0 + \lambda \underline{v}, \quad \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$

Where $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_0 \\ y_0 \\ z_0 \end{bmatrix} + \lambda \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix}, \quad \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} x &= x_0 + \lambda a, \\ y &= y_0 + \lambda b, \\ z &= z_0 + \lambda c, \quad \lambda \in \mathbb{R} \end{aligned}$$



VECTOR EQUATION OF A LINE

$$\underline{r} = \underline{r}_0 + \lambda \underline{v}, \quad \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$$

Where

\underline{r} is the position vector of any point on the line,

\underline{r}_0 is the position vector of a known point on the line,

\underline{v} is a non-zero vector parallel to the line.

Note:

- (1) The vector equation of line L is not unique as there are many choices of \underline{r}_0 .
- (2) \underline{v} is called a **direction vector** of line L .

PARAMETRIC EQUATIONS OF A LINE

$$x = x_0 + \lambda a, \quad y = y_0 + \lambda b, \quad z = z_0 + \lambda c \quad \text{where } \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$$

Example 14

Find vector and parametric equations of the line

- (a) passing through $(-2, 0)$ and parallel to $\underline{v} = \langle 2, 4 \rangle$.
- (b) passing through $(-3, 2, -3)$ and parallel to $\underline{v} = \underline{i} - \underline{j} + 4\underline{k}$.

Example 15

Find parametric and vector equations of the line L passing through the points $P(-3, 2, -3)$ and $Q(5, 0, 7)$. Where does the line intersect the xy -plane?

Example 16

Consider the two lines in \mathbb{R}^3 :

$$\begin{aligned} L_1 : x &= -3 + 4\lambda, \quad y = 9 - 4\lambda, \quad z = -6 + 5\lambda \\ L_2 : x &= 10 + 8\mu, \quad y = 1 - 3\mu, \quad z = 6 + \mu \end{aligned} \quad \text{Where } \lambda, \mu \in \mathbb{R}$$

Determine whether the lines are parallel and whether they intersect.

(B) Vector and Parametric Equations of a Line Segment

A line segment is a section of a line. Instead of extending infinitely where $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$, a line segment begins and ends with two points, and is only valid for certain values of λ .

Let $A_1(x_1, y_1, z_1)$ and $A_2(x_2, y_2, z_2)$ be two known points on a line. To find the vector/parametric equation of a line segment,

- (i) Find the vector/parametric equation of the entire line (see section [A] above)
- (ii) Substitute the point A_1 into the equation to find λ_1 .
- (iii) Substitute the point A_2 into the equation to find λ_2 .
- (iv) Thus, the line segment between A_1 and A_2 is the part of the line for $\lambda_1 \leq \lambda \leq \lambda_2$.

VECTOR EQUATION OF A LINE SEGMENT

$$\underline{r} = \underline{r}_0 + \lambda \underline{v} \quad , \quad \lambda \in [\lambda_1, \lambda_2]$$

PARAMETRIC EQUATIONS OF A LINE SEGMENT

$$x = x_0 + \lambda a, \quad y = y_0 + \lambda b, \quad z = z_0 + \lambda c \quad \text{where } \lambda \in [\lambda_1, \lambda_2]$$

Example 17

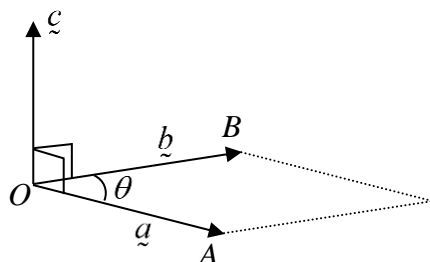
Parametrize the line segment joining the points $P(-3, 2, -3)$ and $Q(5, 0, 7)$.

8.4 The Vector Product or Cross Product

(A) Definition of the Cross Product

Given two vectors $\underline{a}, \underline{b} \in \mathbb{R}^3$, let $\underline{c} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ be a third vector with the following properties.

- \underline{c} is orthogonal to both \underline{a} and \underline{b} ;
- \underline{c} points in the direction of an advancing right-handed screw when it is turned from \underline{a} to \underline{b} ;
- \underline{c} has a magnitude $\|\underline{a}\|\|\underline{b}\|\sin\theta$ which is the area of the parallelogram formed by \underline{a} and \underline{b} .



The vector \underline{c} is called the **vector product** or **cross product** of \underline{a} and \underline{b} and is denoted by $\underline{a} \times \underline{b}$.

Unlike scalar product, the vector product is not commutative but anti-commutative, that is, $\underline{a} \times \underline{b} = -\underline{b} \times \underline{a}$.

However, the vector product does obey the distributive law: $\underline{a} \times (\underline{b} + \underline{c}) = \underline{a} \times \underline{b} + \underline{a} \times \underline{c}$.

The vector product can also be expressed in component form.

Let $\underline{a} = a_1\hat{i} + a_2\hat{j} + a_3\hat{k}$ and $\underline{b} = b_1\hat{i} + b_2\hat{j} + b_3\hat{k}$, then

$$\begin{aligned}\underline{a} \times \underline{b} &= (a_1\hat{i} + a_2\hat{j} + a_3\hat{k}) \times (b_1\hat{i} + b_2\hat{j} + b_3\hat{k}) = \dots \\ &= (a_2b_3 - a_3b_2)\hat{i} + (a_3b_1 - a_1b_3)\hat{j} + (a_1b_2 - a_2b_1)\hat{k}\end{aligned}$$

DEFINITION

If \underline{a} and $\underline{b} \in \mathbb{R}^3$, given by $\underline{a} = \langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle$ and $\underline{b} = \langle b_1, b_2, b_3 \rangle$, then the *cross product* $\underline{a} \times \underline{b}$ is the vector defined by

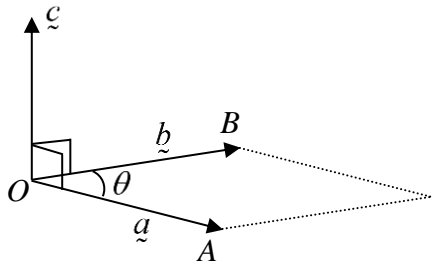
$$\underline{a} \times \underline{b} = \langle a_2b_3 - a_3b_2, a_3b_1 - a_1b_3, a_1b_2 - a_2b_1 \rangle$$

$\underline{a} \times \underline{b}$ can also be written as a determinant:
$$\underline{a} \times \underline{b} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \end{vmatrix}$$

Example 18a

\underline{c} is orthogonal to both \underline{a} and \underline{b} hence $\underline{c} = \underline{a} \times \underline{b}$.

Given that $\underline{a} = \langle 5, 1, 4 \rangle$ and $\underline{b} = \langle -1, 0, 2 \rangle$, find \underline{c} . (ans: $\underline{c} = \langle 2, -14, 1 \rangle$)



Video link

<https://qr.go.page.link/KLgS1>

Example 18b (try on your own)

Given that $\underline{a} = \langle 1, 2, 3 \rangle$ and $\underline{b} = \langle -2, 0, 1 \rangle$, find $\underline{a} \times \underline{b}$. (ans: $\langle 2, -7, 4 \rangle$)

Video link

<https://qr.go.page.link/KZV7G>



8.5 Planes in \mathbb{R}^3

A plane is a two-dimensional flat surface which extends infinitely large with no thickness.

(A) Vector and Point – Normal Equations of Planes

Suppose plane M passes through a point $P_0(x_0, y_0, z_0)$ with position vector $\overrightarrow{OP_0} = \underline{r}_0$, and is normal (perpendicular) to the non-zero vector $\underline{n} = \langle a, b, c \rangle$.

Let $P(x, y, z)$ be any point on the plane M with position vector, that is $\overrightarrow{OP} = \underline{r}$.

Since $\overrightarrow{P_0P}$ is perpendicular to \underline{n} ,

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\underline{n} \cdot \overrightarrow{P_0P} = 0} \quad \leftarrow \text{Vector Equation}$$

$$\Rightarrow (\overrightarrow{OP} - \overrightarrow{OP_0}) \cdot \underline{n} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (\underline{r} - \underline{r}_0) \cdot \underline{n} = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \Rightarrow \boxed{\underline{r} \cdot \underline{n} = \underline{r}_0 \cdot \underline{n}}$$

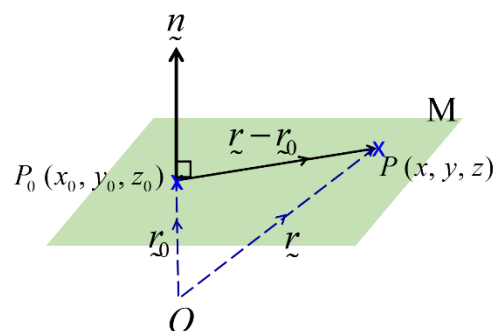
$$\Rightarrow \left(\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} x_0 \\ y_0 \\ z_0 \end{bmatrix} \right) \cdot \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x - x_0 \\ y - y_0 \\ z - z_0 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

$$\therefore \boxed{a(x - x_0) + b(y - y_0) + c(z - z_0) = 0} \quad \leftarrow \text{Point-normal Equation}$$

or

$$ax + by + cz + d = 0 \quad \text{where} \quad d = -(ax_0 + by_0 + cz_0) = -\underline{r}_0 \cdot \underline{n}$$



THEOREM

The plane in \mathbb{R}^3 that passes through the point $P_0(x_0, y_0, z_0)$ and is normal to the non-zero vector $\underline{n} = \langle a, b, c \rangle = a\underline{i} + b\underline{j} + c\underline{k}$ has equations:

$$\text{In vector form:} \quad \underline{n} \cdot \overrightarrow{P_0P} = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \underline{r} \cdot \underline{n} = \underline{r}_0 \cdot \underline{n}$$

$$\text{In point-normal form:} \quad a(x - x_0) + b(y - y_0) + c(z - z_0) = 0$$

REMARKS

If a, b, c and d are constants and a, b and c are not all zeros, then $\langle a, b, c \rangle$ is normal to the plane $ax + by + cz + d = 0$.

Example 19

Find an equation of the plane passing through $P_0 (-3, 0, 7)$ and perpendicular to $\underline{n} = \langle 5, 2, -1 \rangle$.

Example 20

Find an equation of the plane through the points $P_1 (1, 2, -1)$, $P_2 (2, 0, 1)$, and $P_3 (0, 3, 2)$.

Example 21

Determine whether the planes $3x - 4y + 5z = 0$ and $-6x + 8y - 10z = 7$ are parallel.

Example 22

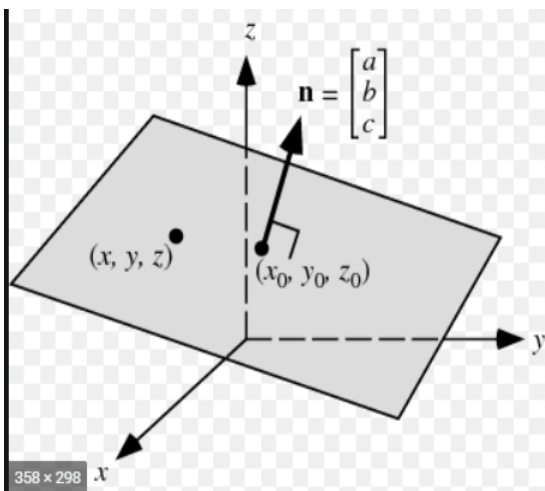
Determine whether the line $x=1+2\lambda$, $y=-2+3\lambda$, $z=-3-\lambda$ is parallel to the plane $x-2y+4z=12$.

Example 23

Find the point where the line $x=\frac{8}{3}+2\mu$, $y=-2\mu$, $z=1+\mu$ intersects the plane $3x+2y+6z=6$.

Example 24 (to be taught in class)

Find the equation of a 3D plane that passes through $(1, -4, 3)$ and it has a normal vector of $\langle 2, 3, -1 \rangle$. If $Q(1, 2, z)$ lies on the given plane, find z . (Answer: $2x+3y-z=-13$, $z=21$)



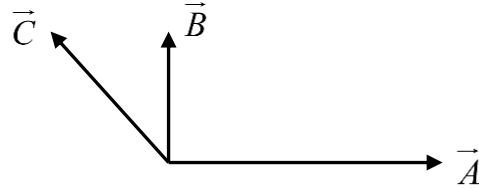
Tutorial 8.1:

1) Based on vectors \vec{A} , \vec{B} and \vec{C} shown below, sketch the vectors:

(a) $\vec{A} + \vec{B}$

(b) $2\vec{A} - 3\vec{C}$

(c) $\vec{A} - 2\vec{B} + \vec{C}$



2) Sketch the vectors with their initial points at the origin.

(a) $2\vec{i} + 3\vec{j}$

(b) $2\vec{i} - 5\vec{j} + \vec{k}$

(c) $\langle -1, 0, 4 \rangle$

3) Find the terminal point of $\vec{v} = -2\vec{i} + 5\vec{j} + \vec{k}$ if the initial point is $(0, 3, -4)$.

4) If $\vec{u} = 2\vec{i} - \vec{j}$, $\vec{v} = 4\vec{i} + 5\vec{j}$, calculate

(a) $\vec{u} + \vec{v}$

(b) $5\vec{u} - 3\vec{v}$

(c) $\| -2\vec{u} + \vec{v} \|$

(d) $\| \vec{u} \| + \| 2\vec{v} \|$

5) Let $\vec{v} = -3\vec{i} + \vec{j}$.

(a) Find $\| \vec{v} \|$ and the direction of \vec{v} .

(b) The unit vector in the direction of \vec{v} .

6) The force \vec{F} with a magnitude of 4 N is acting in the direction of $3\vec{i} - 4\vec{j} + 12\vec{k}$. Find \vec{F} .

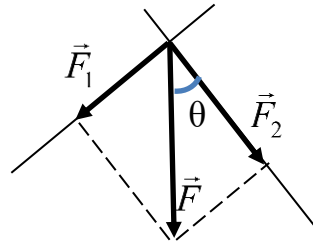
7) Given the points $P(-1, 1)$ and $Q(2, 5)$. Find the position vectors of P and Q and hence find the vector \vec{PQ} .

- 8) The process of breaking a vector into its components is called **resolving into components**.

For example, if we express a vector \vec{F} into $\vec{F}_1 + \vec{F}_2$, we are resolving \vec{F} into its \vec{F}_1 and \vec{F}_2 components.

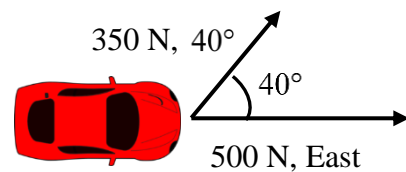
\vec{F} is the weight of the object. Resolve \vec{F} into components which are at right angles to one another: One along \vec{F}_1 and the other along \vec{F}_2 . (See the diagram below.)

Assume that $\|\vec{F}\| = 5 \text{ N}$, $\theta = 30^\circ$. Calculate the magnitudes of its components.



- 9) Two persons pull horizontally on ropes attached to a car stuck in mud. One person pulls with a force of 500 N directly east of the car, and the other person pulls with a force of 350 N at 40° from the first force, as shown in the figure.

- (a) Express the two force vectors in $x\hat{i} + y\hat{j}$ form.
 (b) Find the resultant force on the car.
 (c) Find the magnitude and the direction of the resultant force.



Answers

- 3) $(-2, 8, -3)$
- 4) (a) $6\hat{i} + 4\hat{j}$ (b) $-2\hat{i} - 20\hat{j}$ (c) 7 (d) $\sqrt{5} + \sqrt{164}$
- 5) (a) $\sqrt{10}$, $\theta = 161.57^\circ$ (b) $\frac{1}{\sqrt{10}}(-3\hat{i} + \hat{j})$
- 6) $\vec{F} = 0.923\hat{i} - 1.231\hat{j} + 3.692\hat{k}$
- 7) $\overrightarrow{OP} = -\hat{i} + \hat{j}$; $\overrightarrow{OQ} = 2\hat{i} + 5\hat{j}$; $\overrightarrow{PQ} = 3\hat{i} + 4\hat{j}$
- 8) $|\vec{F}_1| = 2.5 \text{ N}$; $|\vec{F}_2| = 4.33 \text{ N}$
- 9) (a) $\vec{F}_1 = 500\hat{i}$, $\vec{F}_2 = 268.12\hat{i} + 224.98\hat{j}$ (b) $\vec{F} = 768.12\hat{i} + 224.98\hat{j}$
 (c) $|\vec{F}| = 800.39 \text{ N}$,
 The resultant force acts an angle of 16.33° from the first force.

Tutorial 8.2:

1) Find the following dot products.

(a) $2\hat{i} \cdot \hat{i}$ (b) $(\hat{i} + \hat{j}) \cdot \hat{k}$ (c) $3\hat{i} \cdot 4\hat{j}$ (d) $(5\hat{i} - 3\hat{j}) \cdot (-2\hat{i} + \hat{j})$

2) Find the angle between the following vectors.

(a) $\vec{u} = \hat{i} - 3\hat{j} + 5\hat{k}$ and $\vec{v} = 2\hat{i} + 5\hat{j} - 12\hat{k}$ (b) $\vec{a} = 6\hat{i} + \hat{j} + 3\hat{k}$ and $\vec{b} = 5\hat{i} - 7\hat{k}$

3) Find the work done by the force \vec{F} .

(a) $\vec{F} = 2\hat{i} - 5\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}$, moving an object from the origin to the point $P(8, 1, 0)$.

(b) $\vec{F} = 6\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} - \hat{k}$, moving an object from the point $P(-1, 2, 2)$ to $Q(3, -5, -4)$.

4) Given two points $A(3, -2, 1)$ and $B(1, 1, -4)$ and a force \vec{F} of 8 N acting in the direction of $2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} - \sqrt{3}\hat{k}$.

(a) Find the displacement vector \overrightarrow{AB} .

(b) Find the force \vec{F} .

(c) Find the angle between \vec{F} and \overrightarrow{AB} .

(d) Find the work done by \vec{F} in displacing an object from A to B .

5) A boat travels 100 m due north while the wind exerts a force of 400 N toward the northeast. How much work does the wind do?

6) A force $\vec{F} = 4\hat{i} - 6\hat{j} + \hat{k}$ newtons is applied to a point that moves a distance of 15 meters in the direction of $\hat{i} + \hat{j} + \hat{k}$. How much work is done?

Answers

1) (a) 2 (b) 0 (c) 0 (d) -13

2) (a) 159.74° (b) 81.13°

3) (a) 11 J (b) 9 J

4) (a) $-2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} - 5\hat{k}$ (b) $4\hat{i} + 6\hat{j} - 2\sqrt{3}\hat{k}$ (c) 56.36° (d) 27.32 joules

5) $20000\sqrt{2}$ J

6) $-5\sqrt{3}$ J

Tutorial 8.3:

- 1) Find parametric equations for the line through P_1 and P_2 and also for the line segment joining those points.
 (a) $P_1(3, -2), P_2(5, 1)$ (b) $P_1(5, -2, 1), P_2(2, 4, 2)$
- 2) Find parametric equations for the line whose vector equation is given.
 (a) $\langle x, y \rangle = \langle 2, -3 \rangle + \lambda \langle 1, -4 \rangle$ (b) $x\mathbf{i} + y\mathbf{j} + z\mathbf{k} = \mathbf{k} + \mu(\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k})$
- 3) Find a point P on the line and a vector \mathbf{v} parallel to the line by inspection.
 (a) $x\mathbf{i} + y\mathbf{j} = (2\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j}) + \lambda(4\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j})$ (b) $\langle x, y, z \rangle = \langle -1, 2, 4 \rangle + \mu \langle 5, 7, -8 \rangle$
- 4) Express the given parametric equations of a line using bracket notation and also using $\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j}, \mathbf{k}$ notation.
 (a) $x = -3 + \lambda, y = 4 + 5\lambda$ (b) $x = 2 - \mu, y = -3 + 5\mu, z = \mu$
- 5) Find the parametric equation of the line through $(-2, 0, 5)$ that is parallel to the line given by $x = 1 + 2\lambda, y = 4 - \lambda, z = 6 + 2\lambda$.
- 6) Find the intersections of the line $x = -2, y = 4 + 2\lambda, z = -3 + \lambda$ with the xy -plane, the xz -plane, and the yz -plane.
- 7) Where does the line $x = 1 + \lambda, y = 3 - \lambda, z = 2\lambda$ intersect the cylinder $x^2 + y^2 = 16$?
- 8) Show that the lines L_1 and L_2 intersect, and find their point of intersection.
 $L_1: x = 2 + \lambda, y = 2 + 3\lambda, z = 3 + \lambda$
 $L_2: x = 2 + \mu, y = 3 + 4\mu, z = 4 + 2\mu$

Answers

- 1) (a) $x = 3 + 2\lambda, y = -2 + 3\lambda$; line segment: $0 \leq \lambda \leq 1$
 (b) $x = 5 - 3\lambda, y = -2 + 6\lambda, z = 1 + \lambda$; line segment: $0 \leq \lambda \leq 1$
- 2) (a) $x = 2 + \lambda, y = -3 - 4\lambda$ (b) $x = \mu, y = -\mu, z = 1 + \mu$
- 3) (a) $P(2, -1), \mathbf{v} = 4\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j}$ (b) $P(-1, 2, 4), \mathbf{v} = 5\mathbf{i} + 7\mathbf{j} - 8\mathbf{k}$
- 4) (a) $\langle -3, 4 \rangle + \lambda \langle 1, 5 \rangle; -3\mathbf{i} + 4\mathbf{j} + \lambda(\mathbf{i} + 5\mathbf{j})$
 (b) $\langle 2, -3, 0 \rangle + \mu \langle -1, 5, 1 \rangle; 2\mathbf{i} - 3\mathbf{j} + \mu(-\mathbf{i} + 5\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k})$
- 5) $x = -2 + 2\lambda, y = -\lambda, z = 5 + 2\lambda$
- 6) $(-2, 10, 0); (-2, 0, -5)$; the line does not intersect the yz -plane
- 7) $(0, 4, -2), (4, 0, 6)$ 8) $(1, -1, 2)$

Tutorial 8.4:

- 1) Find an equation of the plane that passes through the point $P(2,6,1)$ and has the vector $\vec{n} = \langle 1, 4, 2 \rangle$ as a normal in (i) point-normal form (ii) vector form.
- 2) Find an equation of the plane that passes through the points $(-2, 1, 1)$, $(0, 2, 3)$ and $(1, 0, -1)$ in vector form. Convert the equation into point-normal form.
- 3) Determine if the planes are parallel, perpendicular or neither.

(a) $2x - 8y - 6z - 2 = 0$ $-x + 4y + 3z - 5 = 0$	(b) $3x - 2y + z = 1$ $4x + 5y - 2z = 4$	(c) $x - y + 3z - 2 = 0$ $2x + z = 1$
--	---	--
- 4) Determine if the line and the plane are parallel, perpendicular or neither.

(a) $x = 4 + 2\lambda, y = -\lambda, z = -1 - 4\lambda$ $3x + 2y + z - 7 = 0$	(b) $x = \lambda, y = 2\lambda, z = 3\lambda$ $x - y + 2z = 5$
(c) $x = -1 + 2\lambda, y = 4 + \lambda, z = 1 - \lambda$ $4x + 2y - 2z = 7$	
- 5) Determine whether the line and plane intersect. If so, find the coordinates of the intersection.

(a) $x = \lambda, y = \lambda, z = \lambda$ $3x - 2y + z - 5 = 0$	(b) $x = 2 - \lambda, y = 3 + \lambda, z = \lambda$ $2x + y + z = 1$
--	---
- 6) Find the equation of the plane through the origin that is parallel to the plane $4x - 2y + 7z + 12 = 0$.
- 7) Let L_1 and L_2 be the lines whose parametric equations are

$$L_1: x = 1 + 2t, y = 2 - t, z = 4 - 2t$$

$$L_2: x = 9 + \mu, y = 5 + 3\mu, z = -4 - \mu$$
 - (a) Show that L_1 and L_2 intersect at the point $(7, -1, -2)$.
 - (b) Find, to the nearest degree, the acute angle between L_1 and L_2 at their intersection.
 - (c) Find parametric equations for the line that is perpendicular to L_1 and L_2 and passes through their point of intersection.

Answers

- 1) $x + 4y + 2z = 28, \quad \vec{r} \cdot \langle 1, 4, 2 \rangle = 28$ 2) $\vec{r} \cdot \langle 0, 2, -1 \rangle = 1, \quad 2y - z = 1$
- 3) (a) Parallel (b) Perpendicular (c) Neither 4) (a) Parallel (b) Neither (c) Perpendicular
- 5) (a) $\left(\frac{5}{2}, \frac{5}{2}, \frac{5}{2}\right)$ (b) No intersection 6) $4x - 2y + 7z = 0$ or $\vec{r} \cdot \langle 4, -2, 7 \rangle = 0$
- 7) (b) 84° (c) $x = 7 + 7\lambda, y = -1, z = -2 + 7\lambda$ or $x = 7 + \lambda, y = -1, z = -2 + \lambda$