

Intersection of Lines:

Intersection of two lines:

Given two lines in the two-dimensional plane, the lines are equal, they are parallel but not equal, or they intersect in a single point. In three dimensions, a fourth case is possible. If two lines in space are not parallel, but do not intersect, then the lines are said to be **skew lines**.

Example:

Find the point of intersection of the lines if any.

$L_1: x = 3 + 2t$	$L_2: x = 1 + 4s$	$L_3: x = 3 + 2r$
$y = -1 + 4t$	$y = 1 + 2s$	$y = 2 + r$
$z = 2 - t$	$z = -3 + 4s$	$z = -2 + 2r$
$-\infty < t < \infty$	$-\infty < s < \infty$	$-\infty < r < \infty$

Solution:

First, we check L_1 & L_2

From L_1 : $\vec{v}_1 = 2i + 4j - k$

From L_2 : $\vec{v}_2 = 4i + 2j + 4k$

\vec{v}_1 & \vec{v}_2 are not parallel, since they are not scalar multiple of each other.

Now, check if they intersect each other.

$$x = 3 + 2t = 1 + 4s \Rightarrow 2t - 4s = -2 \dots (1)$$

$$y = -1 + 4t = 1 + 2s \Rightarrow 4t - 2s = 2 \dots (2)$$

$$z = 2 - t = -3 + 4s \Rightarrow -t - 4s = -5 \dots (3)$$

From (1) & (2)

$$2t - 4s = -2$$

$$\pm 8t \mp 4s = \pm 4 \text{ "multiply (2) by 2"}$$

$$-6t = -6 \text{ "changing signs"}$$

$$t = 1 \text{ Put "t = 1" in (1)}$$

$$2(1) - 4s = -2$$

$$-4s = -2 - 2$$

$$-4s = -4$$

$$s = 1$$

Put “t=1”, “s=1” in (3)

$$-t - 4s = -5$$

$$-1 - 4 = -5$$

$$-5 = -5$$

L_1 & L_2 are intersecting.

Point of intersections:

$$x = 3 + 2(1) = 5$$

$$y = -1 + 4(1) = 3$$

$$z = 2 - 1 = 1$$

So, (5, 3, 1) is point of intersection.

Now, we have to check L_1 & L_3 .

$$\text{From } L_1: \vec{v}_1 = 2i + 4j - k$$

$$\text{From } L_3: \vec{v}_3 = 2i + j + 2k$$

As \vec{v}_1 & \vec{v}_3 are not parallel, so L_1 & L_3 are not parallel.

Now check if they intersect or not?

$$x = 3 + 2t = 3 + 2r \Rightarrow 2t - 2r = 0 \dots (1)$$

$$y = -1 + 4t = 2 + r \Rightarrow 4t - r = 3 \dots (2)$$

$$z = 2 - t = -2 + 2r \Rightarrow -t - 2r = -4 \dots (3)$$

From (1) & (3)

$$2t - 2r = 0$$

$$\underline{-t - 2r = -4}$$

$$3t = 4 \quad \text{“changing signs”}$$

$$t = 4/3$$

Put it in (1)

$$2(4/3) - 2r = 0$$

$$8/3 = 2r$$

$$r = 8/6$$

$$r = 4/3$$

Put “t” & “r” in (2)

$$4(4/3) - (4/3) = 3$$

$$16/3 - 4/3 = 3$$

$$12/3 = 3$$

$$4 \neq 3$$

L_1 & L_3 do not intersect.

Now check L_2 & L_3 .

$$\vec{v}_2 = 4i + 2j + 4k$$

$$\vec{v}_3 = 2i + j + 2k$$

$$\vec{v}_2 = 2(2i + j + 2k)$$

$$\vec{v}_2 = 2\vec{v}_3$$

\vec{v}_2 & \vec{v}_3 are parallel; therefore, L_3 & L_2 are parallel.

Ex. 12.5; 61 – 62

61. $L_1: x = 3 + 2t, y = -1 + 4t, z = 2 - t; -\infty < t < \infty$
 $L_2: x = 1 + 4s, y = 1 + 2s, z = -3 + 4s; -\infty < s < \infty$
 $L_3: x = 3 + 2r, y = 2 + r, z = -2 + 2r; -\infty < r < \infty$
62. $L_1: x = 1 + 2t, y = -1 - t, z = 3t; -\infty < t < \infty$
 $L_2: x = 2 - s, y = 3s, z = 1 + s; -\infty < s < \infty$
 $L_3: x = 5 + 2r, y = 1 - r, z = 8 + 3r; -\infty < r < \infty$