

4-4.2-3

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Question:

Find the direction and normal vectors of the following line: $-2x + 3y = 6$

Solution:

Information	Symbolic Form	Value
Given Line	$\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{h} + k\mathbf{m}$	$-2x + 3y = 6$
Direction Vector	\mathbf{m}	$\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$
Normal Vector	\mathbf{n}	$\begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$

TABLE 0: Final Information

The equation of the given line is:

$$6 = -2x + 3y \quad (0.1)$$

$$y = 2 + \frac{2}{3}x \quad (0.2)$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ \frac{2}{3}x + 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} + x \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \frac{2}{3} \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.3)$$

$$= \mathbf{h} + k\mathbf{m} \quad (0.4)$$

Thereby yielding the direction vector:

$$\mathbf{m} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \frac{2}{3} \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.5)$$

From

$$\mathbf{m}^\top \mathbf{n} = 0 \quad (0.6)$$

We get:

$$\mathbf{n} = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{2}{3} \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.7)$$

Therefore, the direction vector of the line can be given by $\mathbf{m} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{n} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$.

Codes for plotting the vectors:

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codes/vector_calculator.c
codes/plot_vectors.py
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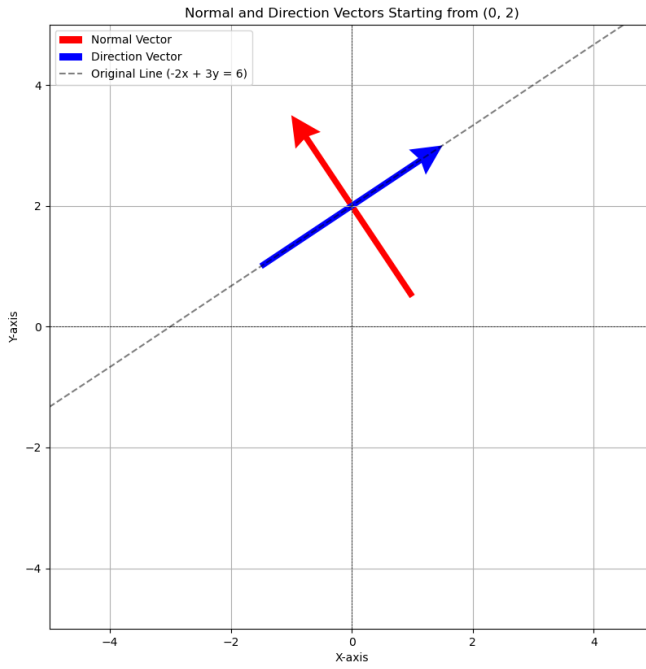


Fig. 0.1: Line and Vectors