VECTORS Topic 3

Contents:

3.1 Vectors in two and three dimensions

3.2 Unit vectors

3.3 Dot product

3.4 Cross product

3.5 Equations of Lines and Planes

SUBTOPICS:

- 3.1.1 Geometric Vectors
- 3.1.2 Vectors in a 2-dimension
- 3.1.3 Vectors in a 3-dimension
- 3.1.4 Properties of Vector
- 3.1.5 Properties of Vector Operations
- 3.1.6 Norm of a Vector
- 3.2.1 Unit Vector in the Direction of v
- 3.2.2 Standard Unit Vector
- 3.3.1 Component Form of the Dot Product
- 3.3.2 Properties of the Dot Product
- 3.4.1 Definition of Cross Product
- 3.4.2 Properties of Cross Product
- 3.4.3 Relationship Involving Cross Product and Dot Product
- 3.4.4 Cross Product and Angle of Vectors
- 3.5.1 Lines in 3-Space
- 3.5.2 Planes in 3-Space

3.1.1 Geometric Vectors

Vectors are usually represented geometrically as **directed line** segments or arrows.

The tail of the arrow is called the **initial point** of the vector, and the tip of the arrow the **terminal point**.

The initial point of a vector **v** is A and the terminal point is B, we write $\mathbf{v} = AB$.

3.1.1 Geometric Vectors

Two vectors are regarded as **equal** (or equivalent) if both vectors are of the **same direction** with **equal magnitude,** regardless of the position of the initial points.

The vector of length zero is called the **zero vector** or **null vector** and is denoted by $\mathbf{0} = \langle 0, 0 \rangle$ whose magnitude is zero and whose direction is indeterminate.

3.1.2 Vectors in a 2-dimension

If **v** is a vector in the plane whose initial point is the origin and terminal point is $(v_1,$ v ₂), then the coordinates $(v_{\it 1},\,v_{\it 2})$ of the terminal point of **v** are called the ${\bf component}$ of **v** and we write

3.1.3 Vectors in a 3-dimension

There are three planes: *xy-plane*, *xz*-plane and *yz*-plane. These three planes form eight octants; the **first octant** consists of all positive numbers (+x, +y,+z). The remaining seven octants have different combinations of positive and negative numbers: (-x, +y, +z), (-x, -y, +z), (+x, -y, +z), (+x, +y, -z), (-x, +y, -z), (-x, -y, -z) and $(+x, -y, +z)$.

3.1.3 Vectors in a 3-dimension

If $A(x_1, y_1)$ and $B(x_2, y_2)$ are points in 2D space, then the vector joining initial point A to terminal point B, denoted by AB , has the **component** form

$$
\overrightarrow{AB} = \langle x_2 - x_1, y_2 - y_1 \rangle.
$$

Similarly, if $A(x_1, y_1, z_1)$ and $B(x_2, y_2, z_2)$ are points in 3D space, then $\overrightarrow{AB} = \langle x_2 - x_1, y_2 - y_1, z_2 - z_1 \rangle$

For the special case when initial point A is the origin, i.e. either $O(0,0)$ or $O(0,0,0)$, then the resulting vector \overrightarrow{OB} is a special type of vector known as a **position vector**.

Example:

In 2-space the vector from $P_1(1, 3)$ to $P_2(4, -2)$ is

Solution:

$$
\overrightarrow{P_1P_2} = \langle 4-1, -2-3 \rangle = \langle 3, -5 \rangle
$$

Example:

In 3-space the vector from $A(0, -2, 5)$ to $B(3, 4, -1)$ is

Solution:

$$
\overrightarrow{AB} = \langle 3 - 0, 4 - (-2), -1 - 5 \rangle = \langle 3, 6, -6 \rangle
$$

3.1.4 Properties of Vector

1. If $\mathbf{v} = \langle v_1, v_2, v_3 \rangle$ and $\mathbf{w} = \langle w_1, w_2, w_3 \rangle$ are equivalent, then $v_1 = w_1$, $v_2 = w_2$ and $v_3 = w_3$.

2.
$$
\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w} = \langle v_1 + w_1, v_2 + w_2, v_3 + w_3 \rangle
$$
.

3. $k\mathbf{v} = \langle k v_1, k v_2, k v_3 \rangle$ where *k* is any scalar.

3. $k\mathbf{v} = \langle kv_1, kv_2, kv_3 \rangle$ where k is any scalar.
4. If the vector $\overrightarrow{P_1P_2}$ has initial point $P_1(x_1, y_1, z_1)$ and $P_2(x_2, y_2, z_2)$ terminal point , then the component form of the vector **v** represented by \overrightarrow{p} is $P^{}_1 P^{}_{2}$

$$
\langle v_1, v_2, v_3 \rangle = \langle x_2 - x_1, y_2 - y_1, z_2 - z_1 \rangle
$$

3.1.5 Properties of Vector Operations

If **u**, **v**, and **w** are vectors in 2 or 3-space and *k* and *l* are scalars, the following relationships hold.

3.1.6 Norm of a Vector

The **length** of a vector **v** is often called the **norm** of **v** and is denoted by $|v|$ where

3.1.6 Norm of a Vector

Distance Formula in Two Dimensions with initial point not at origin The distance between the points $P_1(x_1, y_1)$ and $P_2(x_2, y_2)$ is

$$
|P_1P_2| = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}
$$

3.1.6 Norm of a Vector

Example:

Given points $P_1(2,-1,-5)$ and $P_2(4,-3,1)$, find the norm of the vector ${\bf v}$ represented by P_1P_2

Solution:

$$
|\mathbf{v}| = \sqrt{v_1^2 + v_2^2 + v_3^2} = \sqrt{(4-2)^2 + (-3+1)^2 + (1+5)^2} = \sqrt{44} = 2\sqrt{11}
$$

Example:

Given $\mathbf{u} = <3, -2>$ and $\mathbf{v} = \langle -9, 0, 2 \rangle$, find $|\mathbf{u}|$ and $|\mathbf{v}|$. **Solution:** $|\mathbf{u}| = \sqrt{3^2 + (-2)^2} = \sqrt{9 + 4} = \sqrt{13}.$ $|\mathbf{v}| = \sqrt{(-9)^2 + 0^2 + (2)^2} = \sqrt{81 + 4} = \sqrt{85}.$

3.2.1 Unit Vector in the Direction of v

If **v** is a nonzero vector in the plane, then the unit vector **u** is defined as

$$
\mathbf{u} = \frac{\mathbf{v}}{|\mathbf{v}|} = \frac{1}{|\mathbf{v}|} \mathbf{v}
$$

and has magnitude (or length) 1 and the same direction as **v**.

Example:

Find a unit vector in the direction of $\mathbf{v} = \langle 1,1,2 \rangle$ and verify that the result has length 1.

Solution:

The unit vector in the direction of **v** is

$$
\mathbf{u} = \frac{\mathbf{v}}{|\mathbf{v}|} = \frac{\langle 1,1,2\rangle}{\sqrt{1^2 + 1^2 + 2^2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \langle 1,1,2\rangle = \left\langle \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}} \right\rangle
$$

The vector has length 1, because

$$
\sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{2}{\sqrt{6}}\right)^2} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{4}{6}} = 1
$$

Example:

Determine whether the following vectors are unit vectors.

i)
$$
\mathbf{u} = \left\langle \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right\rangle
$$
; *ii)* $\mathbf{v} = \left\langle 2, 1, 0 \right\rangle$.

Solution:

i)
$$
|\mathbf{u}| = \sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^2 + \left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^2} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}} = 1
$$
 \therefore **u** is a unit vector.
ii) $|\mathbf{v}| = \sqrt{2^2 + 1^2 + 0^2} = \sqrt{4 + 1} = \sqrt{5}$ \therefore **v** is not a unit vector.

3.2.2 Standard Unit Vector

The unit vectors $\mathbf{i} = \langle 1, 0, 0 \rangle$, $\mathbf{j} = \langle 0, 1, 0 \rangle$ and $\mathbf{k} = \langle 0, 0, 1 \rangle$ are called the **standard unit vectors** in the plane and we can write

 ${\bf v} = \langle v_1, v_2, v_3 \rangle = v_1 \langle 1, 0, 0 \rangle + v_2 \langle 0, 1, 0 \rangle + v_3 \langle 0, 0, 1 \rangle = v_1 {\bf i} + v_2 {\bf j} + v_3 {\bf k}$

3.3 DOT PRODUCT/ SCALAR PRODUCT

3.3.1 Component Form of the Dot Product

Let $\mathbf{u} = \langle u_1, u_2 \rangle$ and $\mathbf{v} = \langle v_1, v_2 \rangle$ be two vectors in 2-space, then their **dot product** are as follows:

$$
\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = u_1 v_1 + u_2 v_2
$$

Let $\mathbf{u} = \langle u_1, u_2, u_3 \rangle$ and $\mathbf{v} = \langle v_1, v_2, v_3 \rangle$ be two vectors in 3-space, then their **dot product** are as follows:

 $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = u_1 v_1 + u_2 v_2 + u_3 v_3$

3.3 DOT PRODUCT/ SCALAR PRODUCT

3.3.1 Component Form of the Dot Product

If θ (where $0 \le \theta \le \pi$) is the angle between **u** and **v**, then the **dot product** can also be defined as

 $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = |\mathbf{u}| |\mathbf{v}| \cos \theta$

3.3 DOT PRODUCT/ SCALAR PRODUCT

3.3.1 Component Form of the Dot Product

Interpreting the sign of the dot product $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = |\mathbf{u}| |\mathbf{v}| \cos \theta$

Example:

Consider the vector $\mathbf{u} = \langle 2, -1, 1 \rangle$ and $\mathbf{v} = \langle 1, 1, 2 \rangle$, find their dot product and determine the angle between **u** and **v.**

Solution:

$$
\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = u_1 v_1 + u_2 v_2 + u_3 v_3 = (2)(1) + (-1)(1) + (1)(2) = 3
$$

\n
$$
|\mathbf{u}| = \sqrt{2^2 + (-1)^2 + 1^2} = \sqrt{6}
$$

\n
$$
|\mathbf{v}| = \sqrt{1^2 + 1^2 + 2^2} = \sqrt{6}
$$

\n
$$
\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = |\mathbf{u}| |\mathbf{v}| \cos \theta
$$

\n⇒ $\cos \theta = \frac{\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}}{|\mathbf{u}| |\mathbf{v}|} = \frac{3}{\sqrt{6}\sqrt{6}} = \frac{1}{2}$
\n∴ $\theta = 60^\circ$

Example:

Find the dot product of $\mathbf{u} = \langle 0,0,1 \rangle$ and $\mathbf{v} = \langle 0,2,2 \rangle$ where $\theta = 45^{\circ}$

Solution:

$$
\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = |\mathbf{u}| |\mathbf{v}| \cos \theta = \left(\sqrt{0^2 + 0^2 + 1^2}\right) \left(\sqrt{0^2 + 2^2 + 2^2}\right) \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right) = \sqrt{4} = 2
$$

Example: Show that $\mathbf{u} = \langle 2,2,-1 \rangle$ and $\mathbf{v} = \langle 5,-4,2 \rangle$ are perpendicular

Solution:

If **u** and **v** are perpendicular, then $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0$

 $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = 2(5) + 2(-4) + (-1)(2) = 0$

A wagon is pulled horizontally by exerting a constant force of 10 lb on the handle at an angle of 60° with the horizontal. How much work is done in moving the wagon 50 ft?

Solution:

With $\|\mathbf{F}\| = 10$, $\theta = 60^{\circ}$, and $\|\overrightarrow{PQ}\| = 50$, it follows that the work done is $W = (\|\mathbf{F}\|\cos\theta)\|\overrightarrow{PQ}\| = 10 \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot 50 = 250$ ft·lb $F = 1015$ 60° 50ftP $\overline{\bf Q}$

28

3.3.2 Properties of the Dot Product

Properties of the Dot Product

If **u**, **v** and **w** are vectors in 2- or 3-space and *k* is a scalar, then

- 1. $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{u}$
- 2. $\mathbf{u} \cdot (\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{w}$
- 3. $k(\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}) = (k\mathbf{u}) \cdot \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{u} \cdot (k\mathbf{v})$
- 4. $\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{v} > 0$ if $\mathbf{v} \neq 0$, and $\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0$ if $\mathbf{v} = 0$
- 5. $\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{v} = ||\mathbf{v}||^2$
- 6. Two nonzero vectors **u** and **v** are **orthogonal/perpendicular** if and only if $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0$, we write $\mathbf{u} \perp \mathbf{v}$.

3.4 CROSS PRODUCT/ VECTOR PRODUCT

determinants.

Some of the concept that we will develop in this section requires basic ideas about
determinants.
A 2 x 2 determinant is $\begin{vmatrix} a_1 & a_2 \\ b_1 & b_2 \end{vmatrix} = a_1b_2 - a_2b_1$
A 3 x 3 determinant is $\begin{vmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \\ c_$ A 2 x 2 determinant is $\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = a_1b_2 - a_2b_1$ 1 v_2 $\left| \begin{array}{cc} a & a \\ a & b \end{array} \right| = a_1b_2 - a_2b_3$ *b b a a* $= a_1 D_2$ – A **3 x 3** determinant is 1 2 1 v_2 3 1 3 1 \overline{v}_3 2 2 3 2 3 1 1 \mathfrak{c}_2 \mathfrak{c}_3 1 v_2 v_3 1 \mathbf{u}_2 \mathbf{u}_3 $c₁$ *c b b a* $c₁$ *c b b a* $c₂$ *c b b a* c_1 c_2 c_1 *b b b a a a* $= a_1$ $- a_2$ $+$

3.4.1 Definition of Cross Product

If $\mathbf{u} = \langle u_1, u_2, u_3 \rangle$ and $\mathbf{v} = \langle v_1, v_2, v_3 \rangle$ be two vectors in 3-space, then their **cross product u x v** is the vector defined by:

$$
\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v} = \langle u_2 v_3 - u_3 v_2, u_3 v_1 - u_1 v_3, u_1 v_2 - u_2 v_1 \rangle
$$

or in the determinant notation,

$$
\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v} = \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} u_2 & u_3 \\ v_2 & v_3 \end{pmatrix}, -\begin{vmatrix} u_1 & u_3 \\ v_1 & v_3 \end{vmatrix}, \begin{vmatrix} u_1 & u_2 \\ v_1 & v_2 \end{vmatrix} \right\rangle
$$

The cross product can be calculated as follows:

$$
\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ u_1 & u_2 & u_3 \\ v_1 & v_2 & v_3 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} u_2 & u_3 \\ v_2 & v_3 \end{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} - \begin{vmatrix} u_1 & u_3 \\ v_1 & v_3 \end{vmatrix} \mathbf{j} + \begin{vmatrix} u_1 & u_2 \\ v_1 & v_2 \end{vmatrix} \mathbf{k}
$$

Example: If $\mathbf{u} = \langle 1, 2, -2 \rangle$ and $\mathbf{v} = \langle 3, 0, 1 \rangle$, find the cross product of **u** and **v**.

Solution:

$$
\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ 1 & 2 & -2 \\ 3 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} 2 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} - \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ 3 & 1 \end{vmatrix} \mathbf{j} + \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 0 \end{vmatrix} \mathbf{k} = 2\mathbf{i} - 7\mathbf{j} - 6\mathbf{k}
$$

3.4.2 Properties of Cross Product

If **u**, **v** and **w** are any vectors in 3-space and *k* is a scalar, then: 1.u $x \mathbf{v} = -(\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{u})$ **2.u** $x (v + w) = (u \times v) + (u \times w)$ $3(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) \times \mathbf{w} = (\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{w}) + (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{w})$ $4.k$ (**u** x **v**) = k (**u**) x **v** = **u** x (k **v**) = (**u** x **v**) k $5. u \times 0 = 0 \times u = 0$ **6.u x u = 0 7.u** and **v** are parallel if and only if **u x v= 0**

Remark:

Cross product is neither commutative nor associative, that is,

 $\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} \neq \mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{a}$, $\mathbf{a} \times (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}) \neq (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}) \times \mathbf{c}$.

Example:

Find a vector perpendicular to the plane that contains $A(1,-1,0)$, $B(2,1,-1)$ and $C(-1,1,2)$.

Solution:

We begin by forming the vectors \overrightarrow{AB} and \overrightarrow{AC} which lie on the plane, i.e.

$$
\overrightarrow{AB} = (2-1)\hat{\mathbf{i}} + (1+1)\hat{\mathbf{j}} + (-1-0)\hat{\mathbf{k}} = \hat{\mathbf{i}} + 2\hat{\mathbf{j}} - \hat{\mathbf{k}}
$$

$$
\overrightarrow{AC} = (-1-1)\hat{\mathbf{i}} + (1+1)\hat{\mathbf{j}} + (2-0)\hat{\mathbf{k}} = -2\hat{\mathbf{i}} + 2\hat{\mathbf{j}} + 2\hat{\mathbf{k}}.
$$

Taking their cross product yields

$$
\overrightarrow{AB} \times \overrightarrow{AC} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{i}} & \hat{\mathbf{j}} & \hat{\mathbf{k}} \\ 1 & 2 & -1 \\ -2 & 2 & 2 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 2 & 2 \end{vmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{i}} - \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -2 & 2 \end{vmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{j}} + \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ -2 & 2 \end{vmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{k}}
$$

$$
= 6\hat{\mathbf{i}} + 6\hat{\mathbf{k}}.
$$

The vector $6\hat{i} + 6\hat{k}$ is perpendicular to both \overrightarrow{AB} and \overrightarrow{AC} , which means that it is also perpendicular to the plane on which they lie.

Example:

Show that
$$
\mathbf{a} = \langle 2, 9, 3 \rangle
$$
 and $\mathbf{b} = \langle -1, -\frac{9}{2}, -\frac{3}{2} \rangle$ are parallel.

Solution:
\n
$$
\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{i}} & \hat{\mathbf{j}} & \hat{\mathbf{k}} \\ 2 & 9 & 3 \\ -1 & -\frac{9}{2} & -\frac{3}{2} \end{vmatrix}
$$
\n
$$
= [(9)(-3/2) - (-9/2)(3)]\hat{\mathbf{i}} - [2(-3/2) - (-1)(3)]\hat{\mathbf{j}} + [2(-9/2) - (-1)(9)]\hat{\mathbf{k}}
$$
\n
$$
= 0\hat{\mathbf{i}} + 0\hat{\mathbf{j}} + 0\hat{\mathbf{k}} = \mathbf{0}
$$

 \therefore a and b are parallel.

3.4.3 Relationship Involving Cross Product and Dot Product

If \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} and \mathbf{w} are any vectors in 3-space, then: 1. $\mathbf{u} \cdot (\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v}) = 0$ $(\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v})$ is orthogonal to \mathbf{u}) 2. $\mathbf{v} \cdot (\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v}) = 0$ ($\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v}$ is orthogonal to \mathbf{v}) 3. $\mathbf{u} \times (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{w}) = (\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{w})\mathbf{v} - (\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v})\mathbf{w}$ 4. $(\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v}) \times \mathbf{w} = (\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{w}) \mathbf{v} - (\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w}) \mathbf{u}$

3.4.4 Cross Product and Angle of Vectors

If **u** and **v** are vectors and θ is the angle between **u** and **v**, then

 $|\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v}| = |\mathbf{u}| |\mathbf{v}| \sin \theta$

where $0 \le \theta \le \pi$

SUMMARY:

u

Dot Product

- the product of two vectors is a **scalar**
- defined in 2D and 3D space
- $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = u_1 v_1 + u_2 v_2 + u_3 v_3$
- $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = |\mathbf{u}| |\mathbf{v}| \cos \theta$.
- \cdot if $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0$, then **u** and **v** are **perpendicular**

Cross Product

- the product of two vectors is a **vector**
- defined only in 3D space
- **u** x **v** = $\langle u_2 v_3 u_3 v_2, u_3 v_1 u_1 v_3, u_1 v_2 u_2 v_1 \rangle$.
- \cdot $|\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v}| = |\mathbf{u}| |\mathbf{v}| \sin \theta$. (area of the parallelogram)
- If $u \times v = 0$, then **u** and **v** are **parallel**

3.5.1 Lines in 3-Dimensional

If *L* is a line in 3D-space through the **point** $P_0(x_o, y_o, z_o)$ and **parallel** to the nonzero **vector** $\mathbf{v} = \langle a,b,c \rangle$, then this line *L* is represented by the **vector equation**

based on the vector addition using Triangle Law $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{r_0} + \mathbf{a}$

3.5.1 Lines in 3-Dimensional

Parametric Equations of a Line in Space

It can be written in scalar equations,

$$
x = x_0 + at \t y = y_0 + bt \t z = z_0 + ct
$$

which are called **parametric equations**

Symmetric Equations of a Line in Space

If a vector $\mathbf{v} = \langle a, b, c \rangle$ is used to describe the direction of a line *L*, then the numbers *a, b,* and *c* are called **direction numbers** of *L*.

If the direction numbers *a*, *b* and *c* are all nonzero, then we can eliminate the parameter *t* to obtain the **symmetric equations** of a line.

$$
\frac{x - x_0}{a} = \frac{y - y_0}{b} = \frac{z - z_0}{c}
$$

41

Example:

Find the parametric equations and symmetric equations of the line that pass through the points $(1,2,-3)$ and parallel to the vector $\mathbf{v} = \langle 4,5,-7 \rangle$ **Solution:**

The parametric equations are : $x=1+4$ *t* $y=2+5$ *t* $z=-3-7$ *t* The symmetric equations are : 7 3 5 2 4 1 −+ = $=\frac{y-1}{x-1}$ *x* − 1 *y* − 2 *z*

Example:

(a) Find parametric equations and symmetric equations of the line that passes through the points $A(2, 4, -3)$ and $B(3, -1, 1)$.

(b) At what point does this line intersect the xy -plane?

Example:

(a) Find parametric equations and symmetric equations of the line that passes through the points $A(2, 4, -3)$ and $B(3, -1, 1)$.

Solution:

(a) We are not explicitly given a vector parallel to the line, but observe that the vector **v** with representation \overrightarrow{AB} is parallel to the line and

$$
\mathbf{v} = \langle 3 - 2, -1 - 4, 1 - (-3) \rangle = \langle 1, -5, 4 \rangle
$$

Thus direction numbers are $a = 1$, $b = -5$, and $c = 4$. Taking the point $(2, 4, -3)$ as P_0 , we see that parametric equations (2) are

$$
x = 2 + t
$$
 $y = 4 - 5t$ $z = -3 + 4t$

and symmetric equations (3) are

$$
\frac{x-2}{1} = \frac{y-4}{-5} = \frac{z+3}{4}
$$

44

Example:

(b) At what point does this line intersect the xy -plane?

Solution:

(b) The line intersects the xy-plane when $z = 0$, so we put $z = 0$ in the symmetric equations and obtain

$$
\frac{x-2}{1} = \frac{y-4}{-5} = \frac{3}{4}
$$

This gives $x = \frac{11}{4}$ and $y = \frac{1}{4}$, so the line intersects the xy-plane at the point $(\frac{11}{4}, \frac{1}{4}, 0)$.

3.5.2 Planes in 3-Dimensional

The plane containing the $\frac{\textbf{point}}{P_0}$ (x_o , y_o , z_o) and having a $\frac{\textbf{normal vector}}{\textbf{vector}}$ $\textbf{n} = \langle a,b,c \rangle$ is **perpendicular /orthogonal** to every vector in the given plane, in particular to $\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r_0}$, so by the dot product of orthogonal vectors, we have

which can be written as $n.r = n.r_0$ is called the **vector equation** of the plane.

3.5.2 Planes in 3-Dimensional

By writing $\mathbf{n} = \langle a,b,c \rangle$, $\mathbf{r} = \langle x, y, z \rangle$ and $\mathbf{r_0} = \langle x_0, y_0, z_0 \rangle$ in component form, we have

$$
\langle a,b,c\rangle \langle x-x_0,y-y_0,z-z_0\rangle = 0
$$

To obtain for the **scalar equation**, we can expand the dot product becomes

$$
a(x - x_0) + b(y - y_0) + c(z - z_0) = 0
$$

Theorem:

If *a*, *b*, *c* and *d* are constants and *a*, *b* and *c* are not all zero, then the equation of the plane can be rewritten as $ax+by+cz+d=0$ having the normal vector $\mathbf{n} = \langle a,b,c \rangle$.

Example:

Find an equation of the plane passing through the point (3, -1, 7) and perpendicular to the vector $n = \langle 4, 2, -5 \rangle$

Solution:

 $4x + 2y - 5z + 25 = 0$ $4(x-3) + 2(y+1) - 5(z-7) = 0$ $a(x-x_0)+b(y-y_0)+c(z-z_0)=0$

Example

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

Solution:

Since $P_1(1,2,-1)$, $P_2(2,3,1)$ and $P_3(3,-1,2)$ lies in the plane, the vectors $\overrightarrow{P_1P_2} = \langle 1,1,2 \rangle$

and $\overrightarrow{P_1P_3} = \langle 2,-3,3 \rangle$ are parallel to the plane.

Therefore $P_1P_2 \times P_1P_3 = \langle 9,1,-5 \rangle$ is normal to the plane.

 $\left(\because \overrightarrow{P_1P_2} \times \overrightarrow{P_1P_3} \text{ is perpendicular to both } \overrightarrow{P_1P_2} \text{ and } \overrightarrow{P_1P_3}\right)$

A point-normal form for the equation of a plane is (P_1) lies in the plane) $a(x-x_0)+b(y-y_0)+c(z-z_0)=0$ $\Rightarrow 9(x-1)+1(y-2)-5(z+1)=0 \Rightarrow 9x+y-5z-16=0$

The Intersection of a Line and a Plane

Types of Intersection:

1.) One Point of Intersection:

The line crosses the plane at a single point.

2.) No Point of Intersection:

The line and plane are parallel and distinct.

3.) Infinite Points of Intersection:

The line lies in the plane.

REFERENCES

- Stewart, J., Redlin, L., & Watson, S. (2012). Precalculus: Mathematics for Calculus (6th ed.) Brooks/Cole, Cengage Learning.
- Howard Anton, Irl C. Bivens, Stephen Davis (2012). Calculus. (10th ed.) John Wiley & Sons, Inc.