



Tutorial 3B

Vectors II – Equations of Straight Lines

Section A (Basic Questions)

1 For each of the following, write down a vector equation of the line l and convert it to Cartesian form.

(a) l passes through the point with position vector $-\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{k}$ and is parallel to the vector $\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j}$.

(b) l passes through the points $P(1, -1, 3)$ and $Q(2, 1, -2)$.

(c) l passes through the origin O and is parallel to the line $m: \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}, \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$.

(d) l passes through the point $C(1, 1, 0)$ and is parallel to the z -axis.

$$[(a) \ x + 1 = y, z = 1 \quad (b) \ x - 1 = \frac{y + 1}{2} = \frac{3 - z}{5} \quad (c) \ x = \frac{y}{2} = \frac{z}{3} \quad (d) \ x = 1, y = 1]$$

2 For each of the following, find the acute angle between the lines l_1 and l_2 .

Determine if l_1 and l_2 are parallel, intersecting or skew.

In the case of intersecting lines, find the position vector of the point of intersection.

(a) $l_1: x - 1 = -y = z - 2$ and $l_2: \frac{x - 2}{2} = -\frac{y + 1}{2} = \frac{z - 3}{2}$

(b) $l_1: \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \alpha \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -2 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix}, \alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ and $l_2: \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 10 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \beta \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 8 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$

(c) $l_1: \mathbf{r} = (\mathbf{i} - 5\mathbf{k}) + \lambda(\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}), \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ and $l_2: \mathbf{r} = (\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}) + \mu(5\mathbf{i} - 4\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k}), \mu \in \mathbb{R}$

$$[(a) \ 0^\circ, \text{parallel} \quad (b) \ 81.3^\circ, \text{skew} \quad (c) \ 44.5^\circ, \text{intersecting}, \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ -5 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}]$$

Section B (Standard Questions)**9740/2015/01/Q7**

Referred to the origin O , points A and B have position vectors \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} respectively. Point C lies on OA , between O and A , such that $OC : CA = 3 : 2$. Point D lies on OB , between O and B , such that $OD : DB = 5 : 6$.

(i) Find the position vectors \overrightarrow{OC} and \overrightarrow{OD} , giving your answers in terms of \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} . [2]

(ii) Show that the vector equation of the line BC can be written as $\mathbf{r} = \frac{3}{5}\lambda\mathbf{a} + (1-\lambda)\mathbf{b}$, where λ is a parameter. Find in a similar form the vector equation of the line AD in terms of a parameter μ . [3]

3 March (iii) Find, in terms of \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} , the position vector of the point E where the lines BC and AD meet and find the ratio $AE : ED$. [5]

$$[(i) \frac{3}{5}\mathbf{a}, \frac{5}{11}\mathbf{b} \quad (ii) \mathbf{r} = \frac{5}{11}\mu\mathbf{b} + (1-\mu)\mathbf{a} \quad (iii) \frac{9}{20}\mathbf{a} + \frac{1}{4}\mathbf{b}, 11 : 9]$$

4 The points P and Q have coordinates $(0, -1, -1)$ and $(3, 0, 1)$ respectively, and the equations of the lines l_1 and l_2 are given by

$$l_1 : \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, \lambda \in \mathbb{R} \quad \text{and} \quad l_2 : \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \mu \in \mathbb{R}.$$

(a) (i) Show that P lies on l_1 but does not lie on l_2 .

(ii) Determine whether the lines l_1 and l_2 passes through Q .

(b) (i) Find the coordinates of the foot of perpendicular from P to l_2 .

Hence, or otherwise, find the perpendicular distance from P to l_2 .

(ii) Using (b)(i) or otherwise, find the length of projection of \overrightarrow{PQ} onto l_2 .

$$[(a)(ii) \quad Q \text{ is on } l_2 \text{ but not } l_1 \quad (b)(i) \quad (1, 1, 1), 3 \text{ units} \quad (b)(ii) \quad \sqrt{5} \text{ units}]$$

5 **MI JC2CT1 9740/2011/02/Q4**

The line l_1 passes through the points A and B which have position vectors $2\mathbf{i} - 3\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}$ and $3\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j}$ respectively. The line l_2 has Cartesian equation $2x = y + 7 = \frac{z-3}{2}$. Find

(i) the vector equations of l_1 and l_2 , [2]

(ii) the acute angle between the two lines, [2]

(iii) the position vector of the point of intersection between l_1 and l_2 . [3]

The line l_3 contains the point B . It also is perpendicular to and intersects l_2 .

(iv) Find the coordinates of the point of intersection between l_2 and l_3 . [4]

(v) Hence, or otherwise, find the area of the triangle bounded by the three lines. [2]

$$[(i) \quad l_1 : \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \alpha \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad l_2 : \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -7 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \beta \begin{pmatrix} 0.5 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (ii) 84.9^\circ \quad (iii) \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -7 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \\ (iv) \left(\frac{1}{7}, -\frac{47}{7}, \frac{25}{7}\right) \quad (v) \frac{15}{14}\sqrt{5} \text{ units}^2]$$

6 The points A and B have position vectors $\mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k}$ and $2\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} - 2\mathbf{k}$ respectively.

- Find a vector equation of the line l passing through the midpoint, M , of AB and the origin O .
- Find the position vector of a point N where N is the foot of the perpendicular from A to l .
- Find the position vector of a point C such that $AOCM$ is a parallelogram.
- Show that the points A , N and C are collinear.

State, with a geometrical reason, the value of $\frac{CO}{CM}$.

$$[(i) \quad l: \mathbf{r} = t \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, t \in \mathbb{R} \quad (ii) \quad \overrightarrow{ON} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (iii) \quad \overrightarrow{OC} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (iv) \quad 1]$$

ACJC Prelim 9233/ 2000/02/Q15 (part) (modified)

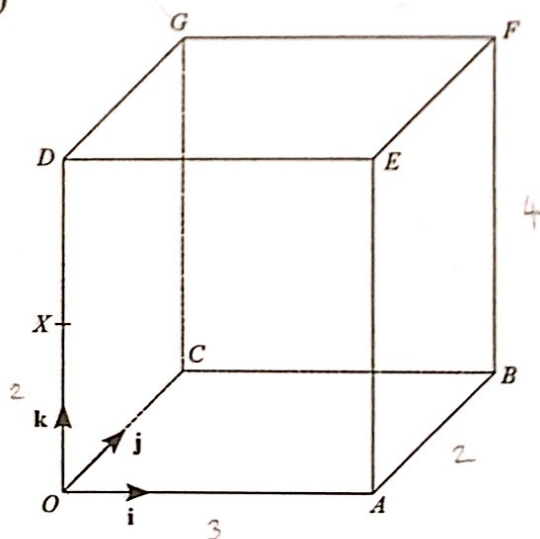
In the diagram on the right, O is the origin and \mathbf{i} , \mathbf{j} and \mathbf{k} are the unit vectors along the x , y and z -axis respectively.

The length of OA , AB and BF of the cuboid $OABCDEFG$ is 3 units, 2 units and 4 units respectively.

The point X is the midpoint of OD .

l_1 is the line passing through the points X and F .

l_2 is the line passing through the points G and E .



(i) Find, to the nearest 0.1° , the acute angle between the lines l_1 and l_2 .

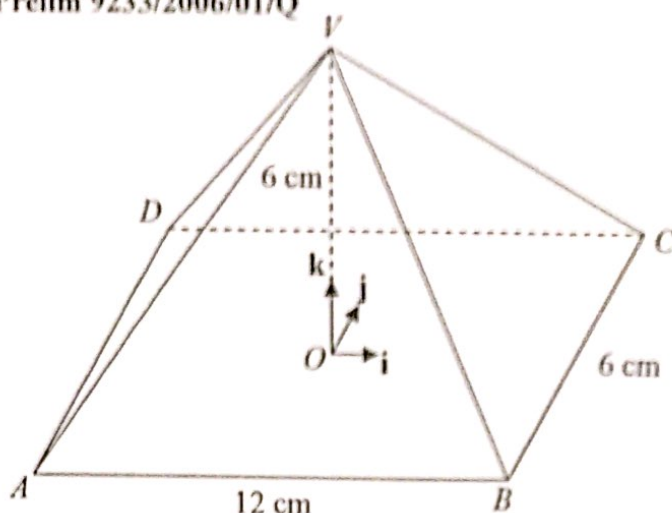
(ii) Verify that the point $P\left(\frac{3}{2}, 1, 4\right)$ is on the line l_2 .

(iii) Find the length of the projection of \overrightarrow{DP} onto l_1 , leaving your answer in surd form.

(iv) Find the coordinates of the foot of the perpendicular from P to l_1 , leaving your answer in fractional form.

$$[(i) \quad 70.3^\circ \quad (iii) \quad \frac{13\sqrt{17}}{34} \text{ units} \quad (iv) \quad \left(\frac{63}{34}, \frac{21}{17}, \frac{55}{17}\right)]$$

8 HCI Prelim 9233/2006/01/Q



In the diagram, O is centre of the rectangular base $ABCD$ of a right pyramid with vertex V .

Perpendicular unit vectors \mathbf{i} , \mathbf{j} , \mathbf{k} are parallel to AB , BC and OV respectively. The length of AB , BC and OV are 12 cm, 6 cm and 6 cm respectively.

A line l has cartesian equation $\frac{-x-4}{10} = y+2 = \frac{t-z}{-2}$.

(i) Find the vector equation of line AV . [2]

(ii) If the line l intersects line AV at M , find the position vector of M and the value of t . [5]

(iii) Find the acute angle between line AV and the line l . Hence find the perpendicular distance from A to the line l . [5]

$$[(i) \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \lambda \in \mathbb{R} \quad (ii) \overline{OM} = \begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ -2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, t = 2 \quad (iii) 60.8^\circ, 2.62]$$

Section C (Extension/Challenging Questions)

9 The four points A , B , C , D have position vectors $p\mathbf{i}$, $\mathbf{j}+q\mathbf{k}$, \mathbf{k} and $\mathbf{i}+\mathbf{j}$ respectively, where p and q are positive real numbers. Find vector equations for the lines AB and CD .

(i) Given that the lines AB and CD intersect at a point R , express q in terms of p , and show that the two lines cannot be perpendicular. Show also that $\frac{AR}{AB} = \frac{CR}{CD}$.

(ii) Given that AB and CD are perpendicular, express q in terms of p , and show that the angle between AC and BD is equal to the angle between AD and BC .

$$[(i) q = \frac{1}{p} \quad (ii) q = 1 - p]$$

- 10 If \mathbf{a} , \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{y} are three non-zero and mutually non-parallel vectors, and the vectors \mathbf{b} and \mathbf{c} are given by $\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{x} - (\mathbf{x} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{a}})\hat{\mathbf{a}}$ and $\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{y} - (\mathbf{y} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{a}})\hat{\mathbf{a}} - (\mathbf{y} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{b}})\hat{\mathbf{b}}$, where $\hat{\mathbf{a}}$ and $\hat{\mathbf{b}}$ are unit vectors along \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} respectively, show that \mathbf{a} , \mathbf{b} and \mathbf{c} are mutually perpendicular.

Section D (Self-Practice Questions)

1 TPJC Prelim 9740/2013/01/Q10 (modified)

Referred to the origin O , the position vector of the point A is $2\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} - 6\mathbf{k}$ and the cartesian equation of the line l is $x - 1 = 2 - y = z + 6$. Find

- (i) the position vector of the foot of the perpendicular from A to l , [3]
 (ii) the perpendicular distance from A to l . [2]

$$\text{[(i) } \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \\ -17 \end{pmatrix} \text{ (ii) } \frac{1}{3}\sqrt{6} \text{ or } 0.816]$$

2 CJC Prelim 9233/2006/01/Q14

The points A and B have position vectors $\begin{pmatrix} 8 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$ respectively.

- (i) Show that $AB = 2\sqrt{26}$. [1]
 (ii) Find the cartesian equation for the line AB . [2]
 (iii) The line l has equation $\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 6 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$.

Find the length of the projection of AB onto l . [2]

- (iv) Calculate the acute angle between AB and l , giving your answer correct to the nearest degree. [3]

- (v) Find the position vector of the foot N of the perpendicular from A to l . Hence find the position vector of the image of A in the line l . [4] use pg 15 part (iv)

$$\text{[(ii) } \frac{8-x}{10} = \frac{z-2}{2}, y=3 \text{ (iii) } \frac{10}{\sqrt{65}} \text{ (iv) } 83^\circ \text{ (v) } \frac{1}{13} \begin{pmatrix} -22 \\ 51 \\ 62 \end{pmatrix}, \frac{1}{13} \begin{pmatrix} -148 \\ 63 \\ 98 \end{pmatrix}] \rightarrow \text{use pg 15 part (iv)}$$

3 MI Prelim 9740/2014/01/Q1

The lines l_1 and l_2 have equations

$$\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ respectively.}$$

- (i) Show that l_1 and l_2 are skew lines. [2]
 (ii) Find the acute angle between the lines l_1 and l_2 . [2]

$$\text{[(ii) } 33.6^\circ]$$

4 MJC Prelim 9233/2006/02/Q5

Relative to an origin O , points A and B have position vectors $\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ respectively.

The line l has vector equation $\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ a \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ a \end{pmatrix}$, where t is a real parameter and a is a constant. The line m passes through the point A and is parallel to the line OB .

- (i) Find the position vector of the point P on m such that OP is perpendicular to m . [4]
- (ii) Show that the two lines l and m have no common point. [3]
- (iii) If the acute angle between the line l and the z -axis is 60° , find the exact values of the constant a . [3]

$$[(i) \quad \overrightarrow{OP} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (iii) \quad a = \pm \sqrt{\frac{10}{3}}]$$

5 SRJC Prelim 9233/2006/02/Q2

The lines l_1 and l_2 have vector equations

$$\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

respectively, where λ and μ are real parameters.

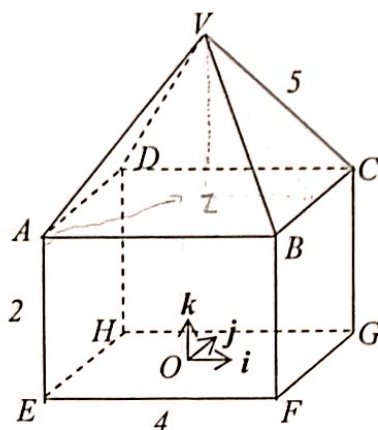
- (i) Find the acute angle between the two lines l_1 and l_2 , giving your answer to the nearest 0.1° . [2]
- (ii) Show that l_1 passes through point P with position vector $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -4 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$.

Hence, show that the distance between point P and any point on the line l_2 is given by $\sqrt{6\mu^2 - 12\mu + 20}$. Deduce the shortest distance between point P and the line l_2 . [5]

$$[(i) \quad 56.8^\circ \quad (ii) \quad \sqrt{14}]$$

6 SAJC Prelim 9740/2013/01/Q5 (modified)

The figure shows a right pyramid $VABCD$ with a square base $ABCD$, standing horizontally on a cuboid $ABCDEFGH$. It is given that $VA = VB = VC = VD = 5$ cm, $EF = FG = 4$ cm and $AE = 2$ cm, as shown in the diagram. O is the centre of the square base $EFGH$. Perpendicular unit vectors \mathbf{i} , \mathbf{j} , \mathbf{k} are parallel to EF , FG , EA respectively.



- (i) Show that the height of the figure, OV is $2 + \sqrt{17}$. [2]
- (ii) State the geometrical meaning of $\frac{|\overrightarrow{VA} \times \overrightarrow{OV}|}{2 + \sqrt{17}}$. [1]
- (iii) Find the equation of the line passing through B and V . [2]

$$[(iii) \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 2 + \sqrt{17} \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \\ -\sqrt{17} \end{pmatrix}, \lambda \in \mathbb{R}]$$

THE END