



Tutorial 3C

Vectors III: Equations of Planes

Section A (Basic Questions)

- 1 (a) The Cartesian equation of the plane π is $3x - y + 4z = -2$. State the equation of π in scalar product form.
- (b) The equation of the plane π is $\mathbf{r} \cdot (-\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k}) = 4$. Write down the Cartesian equation of π , and find a vector equation of π , involving two parameters.
- (c) The vector equation of the plane π is $\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} + s \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$, $s, t \in \mathbb{R}$. Find the equation of π in both the scalar product form and the Cartesian form.
- [(a) $\mathbf{r} \cdot (3\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + 4\mathbf{k}) = -2$, (b) $-x + y + 2z = 4$, $\mathbf{r} = (-4\mathbf{i}) + \lambda(\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j}) + \mu(2\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{k})$, $\lambda, \mu \in \mathbb{R}$
(c) $\mathbf{r} \cdot (\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k}) = -4$, $x + 2y + 2z = -4$]
- 2 For each of the following cases, find the equation of the plane π_1 in scalar product form.
- (a) π_1 contains the point $A(2, -4, 7)$ which is the foot of perpendicular from the origin to π_1 .
- (b) π_1 contains the point $B(1, -2, 0)$ and is parallel to the plane $\pi_2 : 2x - y + 3z = -1$.
- (c) π_1 passes through the points $C(2, 3, 3)$, $D(0, 1, 0)$, and $E(-1, 5, 1)$.
- (d) π_1 contains the lines $l_1 : x + 3 = y - 1, z = -1$ and $l_2 : \mathbf{r} = (-3 - t)\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} - (1 + t)\mathbf{k}$, $t \in \mathbb{R}$.
- (e) π_1 contains the line $l : \mathbf{r} = (-2\mathbf{i} + 5\mathbf{j} - 3\mathbf{k}) + \lambda(2\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k})$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ and is perpendicular to the plane $\pi_2 : \mathbf{r} \cdot (7\mathbf{i} + 4\mathbf{j} + 5\mathbf{k}) = 2$.
- (f) π_1 passes through the points $F(1, 1, 1)$ and $G(3, 2, 2)$ and is perpendicular to the plane π_2 that is parallel to the vectors $-\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}$ and $2\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}$.
- [(a) $\mathbf{r} \cdot (2\mathbf{i} - 4\mathbf{j} + 7\mathbf{k}) = 69$ (b) $\mathbf{r} \cdot (2\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + 3\mathbf{k}) = 4$ (c) $\mathbf{r} \cdot (2\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} - 2\mathbf{k}) = 1$
(d) $\mathbf{r} \cdot (-\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}) = 3$ (e) $\mathbf{r} \cdot (-3\mathbf{i} + 4\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}) = 23$ (f) $\mathbf{r} \cdot (-\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}) = 1$]
- 3 (a) Find the point of intersection of the line $\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$ and the plane $\mathbf{r} \cdot (2\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}) = 5$.
- (b) Show that the line $l : \frac{x-2}{1} = \frac{y-3}{1} = \frac{z}{-1}$ is contained in the plane $\pi : 3x - y + 2z = 3$.

[(a) $(1, 3, 6)$]

Section B (Standard Questions)

- 4 (a) Find the perpendicular distance from the origin to the plane $\mathbf{r} \cdot (4\mathbf{i} + 4\mathbf{j} + 7\mathbf{k}) = 9$.
 (b) Show that the planes $2x - y + 3z = 7$ and $-4x + 2y - 6z = 3$ are parallel and find the distance between them.
 (c) Find the angle between the planes $x + 3y - 6z = -2$ and $x + 5y + 2z = 8$.
- [(a) 1 unit (b) $\frac{17\sqrt{14}}{18}$ units (c) 83.8°]

5 NJC Prelim 9740/2008/01/Q10

A line l is given by the equation $\mathbf{r} = 2\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{k} + \lambda(\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} - 3\mathbf{k})$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ and the point P has position vector $2\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} - 3\mathbf{k}$ relative to the origin. W is a point on l such that the line PW is perpendicular to l .

- (i) Show that $\overrightarrow{PN} = \frac{1}{7}(5\mathbf{i} + 17\mathbf{j} + 13\mathbf{k})$. [2]
 (ii) The plane Π_1 has equation $\mathbf{r} \cdot (3\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{k}) = 7$. Verify that l lies in Π_1 and find the perpendicular distance from point P to Π_1 . [4]
 (iii) A second plane Π_2 contains l and P . Using your answers above, or otherwise, determine the acute angle between Π_1 and Π_2 . [2]
 (iv) A third plane Π_3 has equation $\mathbf{r} \cdot (-\mathbf{j} + 5\mathbf{k}) = 22$. Determine the position vector of the point of intersection between planes Π_1 , Π_2 and Π_3 . [2]

[(ii) $\frac{4}{\sqrt{10}}$ (iii) 23.8° (iv) $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$]

6 9740/2014/01/Q9

Planes p and q are perpendicular. Plane p has equation $x + 2y - 3z = 12$. Plane q contains the line l with equation $\frac{x-1}{2} = \frac{y+1}{-1} = \frac{z-3}{4}$. The point A on l has coordinates $(1, -1, 3)$.

- (i) Find a cartesian equation of q . [4]
 (ii) Find a vector equation of the line m where p and q meet. [4]
 (iii) B is a general point on m . Find an expression for the square of the distance AB . Hence, or otherwise, find the coordinates of the point on m which is nearest to A [5]

[(i) $-x + 2y + z = 0$ (ii) $\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \mu \in \mathbb{R}$ (iii) $21\mu^2 + 36\mu + 50$; $\left(\frac{18}{7}, \frac{15}{7}, -\frac{12}{7}\right)$]

$\vec{AB} = \vec{OB} - \vec{OA}$
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7 PJC Prelim 9740/2011/01/Q12 (modified)

The position vectors of the points A, B, C are $\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -9 \\ 2 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}$ respectively.

(i) Given that A, B, C lies on plane Π_1 , show that the equation of Π_1 is $\mathbf{r} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = -9$. [2]

The equations of the plane Π_2 and the line l are $\mathbf{r} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = -6$ and $\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}, \mu \in \mathbb{R}$ respectively.

(ii) Find the position vector of the foot of the perpendicular from A to the plane Π_2 . [3]

(iii) Find a vector equation of the line of intersection between Π_1 and Π_2 . [2]

(iv) The plane Π_3 has the Cartesian equation $ax + by + cz = 3$, where a, b and c are constants.

Π_1, Π_2 and Π_3 intersect in a line, and the point with position vector $\begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -12 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$ lies on Π_3 .

Find a, b and c . Hence find the acute angle between Π_3 and l . [5]

$$[(ii) \frac{1}{21} \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 40 \\ -62 \end{pmatrix}, (iii) \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 3 \\ 10 \end{pmatrix}, \lambda \in \mathbb{R}, (iv) a=3, b=1, c=0, 25.0^\circ]$$

8 9740/2013/02/Q4

The planes p_1 and p_2 have equations $\mathbf{r} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 1$ and $\mathbf{r} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} -6 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = -1$ respectively, and meet in the line l .

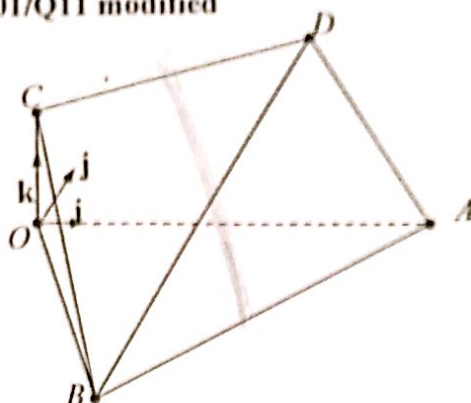
(i) Find the acute angle between p_1 and p_2 . [3]

(ii) Find a vector equation for l . [4]

(iii) The point $A(4, 3, c)$ is equidistant from the planes p_1 and p_2 . Calculate the two possible values of c . [6]

$$[(i) 40.4^\circ (ii) \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} -1/6 \\ -2/3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 7/6 \\ 5/3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \lambda \in \mathbb{R} (iii) c = \frac{35}{13} \text{ or } -49]$$

9 HCI Prelim 9740/2010/01/Q11 modified



The diagram above shows part of the structure of a modern art museum designed by Marcus, with a horizontal base OAB and vertical wall $OADC$. Perpendicular unit vectors \mathbf{i} , \mathbf{j} , \mathbf{k} are such that \mathbf{i} and \mathbf{k} are parallel to OA and OC respectively.

The walls of the museum BCD and ABD can be described respectively by the equations

$$\mathbf{r} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -5 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix} = 36 \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 14 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 4 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}, \text{ where } \lambda, \mu \in \mathbb{R}.$$

- (i) Write down the distance of A from O . [1]
 (ii) Find the vector equation of the intersection line of the two walls BCD and ABD . [3]
 (iii) Marcus wishes to repaint the inner wall ABD . Find the area of this wall. [3]

Suppose Marcus wishes to divide the structure into two by adding a partition such that it intersects with the walls BCD and ABD at a line. This partition can be described by the equation $2x - 7y + \alpha z = \beta$, where $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$.

- (iv) Find the values of α and β . [2]

question not clear

[i] $OA = 14$ [ii] $\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -8 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \gamma \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \gamma \in \mathbb{R}$ [iii] 51.8 [iv] $\alpha = 5, \beta = 64$ [1]

10 AJC Prelim 9234/2006/01/Q8(modified)

The plane π contains the origin and is parallel to vectors $-\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{k}$ and $\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j}$. A point P with position vector $3\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k}$ is reflected about the plane π .

- (i) Find the position vector of the foot N of the perpendicular from P to the plane π .
 Hence, show that the position vector of P' , the reflection of P about π is $-\mathbf{i} + 3\mathbf{j} - 2\mathbf{k}$. [4]

A line l passes through the point P and is parallel to $\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + 3\mathbf{k}$.

- (ii) Find the position vector of the intersection point between l and π . [3]
 (iii) Hence or otherwise, find the equation of the line l' , the reflection of line l about π . [2]

[i] $\overrightarrow{ON} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ [ii] $\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$ [iii] $\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 3 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} + \gamma \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \gamma \in \mathbb{R}$

Section C (Extension/Challenging Questions)**11 9234/ 2003/01/Q9**

The line l_1 passes through the point A with position vector $\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} - 2\mathbf{k}$ and is parallel to the vector $3\mathbf{i} - 4\mathbf{j} - 2\mathbf{k}$. The variable line l_2 passes through the point

$$(1 + 5\cos t)\mathbf{i} - (1 + 5\sin t)\mathbf{j} - 14\mathbf{k}, \text{ where } 0 \leq t \leq 2\pi,$$

and is parallel to that vector $15\mathbf{i} + 8\mathbf{j} - 3\mathbf{k}$. The points P and Q are on l_1 and l_2 respectively, and PQ is perpendicular to both l_1 and l_2 .

- (i) Find the length of PQ in terms of t .
- (ii) Hence show that the lines l_1 and l_2 do not intersect, and find the maximum length of PQ as t varies.
- (iii) The plane π_1 contains the line l_1 and PQ ; the plane π_2 contains l_2 and PQ . Find the angle between the planes π_1 and π_2 .

$$[\text{(i)} \frac{1}{13}(144 - 20\cos t - 15\sin t), \text{(ii)} 13 \text{ units}, \text{(iii)} 78.2^\circ]$$

12 9234/19 89/01/Q12

With respect to an origin O , the points A , B and C , which are not coplanar with O , have position vectors \mathbf{a} , \mathbf{b} , and \mathbf{c} respectively. The points L , M and N are on the line segment OA , AB , and OC respectively, and are such that $OL = LA$, $2AM = MB$ and $ON = 3NC$. The line MN meets the plane LBC at the point Q .

- (i) Write down, in terms of \mathbf{a} , \mathbf{b} , and \mathbf{c} , the position vectors of L , M and N .
- (ii) Show that the position vector of any point on MN can be expressed in the form $\frac{2}{3}t\mathbf{a} + \frac{1}{3}t\mathbf{b} + \frac{3}{4}(1-t)\mathbf{c}$.
- (iii) Show that the position vector of any point in the plane LBC can be expressed in the form $\frac{1}{2}(1-\lambda-\mu)\mathbf{a} + \lambda\mathbf{b} + \mu\mathbf{c}$.

- (iv) Hence, or otherwise, find the numerical value of $\frac{NQ}{QM}$.

$$[\text{(i)} \overline{OL} = \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{a}, \overline{OM} = \frac{1}{3}(2\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}), \overline{ON} = \frac{3}{4}\mathbf{c}, \text{(iv)} \frac{3}{8}]$$

13 9234/1991 /01/Q11

The points A and B have position vectors \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} respectively. The plane π , with vector equation $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{b} + \lambda \mathbf{u} + \mu \mathbf{v}$, where λ and μ are real parameters, contains B and does not contain A .

(i) Show that the perpendicular distance of A from π is p , where $p = \frac{|(\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v}) \cdot (\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a})|}{|\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v}|}$.

(ii) The perpendicular from A to π meets π at C , and D is the point on AB such that CD is perpendicular to AB . Show that $AD = \frac{p^2}{AB}$ and hence, or otherwise, show that the position

$$\text{vector of } D \text{ is } \mathbf{a} + \left(\frac{p}{|\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a}|} \right)^2 (\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a}).$$

In the case where $\mathbf{a} = -\mathbf{i} + 7\mathbf{j} + 8\mathbf{k}$, $\mathbf{b} = 2\mathbf{i} + 7\mathbf{j} + 5\mathbf{k}$, $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k}$ and $\mathbf{v} = 3\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k}$, find the value of p , and show that $\overrightarrow{CD} = \frac{8\sqrt{2}}{9}\mathbf{x} + \frac{4}{9}\mathbf{y}$, where \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{y} are the unit vectors of \overrightarrow{CB} and \overrightarrow{CA} respectively.

[(ii) $p = 4$]

Section D (Self Practice Questions)**1 JJC Promo 9740/2006/Q9**

The plane has vector equation $\mathbf{r} = 9\mathbf{i} + 3\mathbf{k} + \alpha(\mathbf{i} + 5\mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k}) + \beta(3\mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j} + 6\mathbf{k})$, where α and β are real parameters. The line through O perpendicular to Π meets Π at P . Find the position vector of P .

Given that Q is the point with coordinates $(1, 5, 7)$, find the length of the projection of PQ onto the plane Π .

The plane Π_1 has equation $\mathbf{r} \cdot (-2\mathbf{i} + 13\mathbf{j} + 25\mathbf{k}) = 11$. Find a vector equation of the line of intersection of Π and Π_1 .

$$[\overrightarrow{OP} = 6\mathbf{i} - 3\mathbf{k}; \sqrt{70}; \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 15/2 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 13 \\ -48 \\ 26 \end{pmatrix}, \mu \in \mathbb{R}]$$

2 AJC Mid year Paper 9740/2007/Q9

The equation of the plane Π_1 is $x + y - 2z = 3$.

(i) Find the vector equation of the line l_1 , which lies in both the plane Π_1 and the yz plane.

(ii) Another plane Π_2 contains the line l_2 with equation $x = 1, \frac{y+1}{2} = z$ and is perpendicular to Π_1 . Find the equation of the plane Π_2 in scalar product form.

Determine whether l_1 lies on Π_2 .

$$[\text{(i)} \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \lambda \in \mathbb{R}]$$

$$[\text{(ii)} \mathbf{r} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = 6]$$

3 RI Y6 Common Test 9740/2007/Q8 modified

(i) The plane Π_1 and the line l_1 have equations $\mathbf{r} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = 4$ and $\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$ where

$\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$, respectively. Show that l_1 lies on Π_1 .

(ii) Another plane Π_2 contains l_1 and is perpendicular to Π_1 . Find an equation of Π_2 in the form $\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{n} = p$.

(iii) A third plane Π_3 has a normal parallel to $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ and passes through the origin. Write down an equation for Π_3 .

$$[(ii) \mathbf{r} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = -5 \quad (iii) \mathbf{r} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 0]$$

4 TJC Mid Year Paper 9740/2007/Q7

The line ℓ whose vector equation is $\mathbf{r} = 5\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} - 3\mathbf{k} + \alpha(7\mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j} - 3\mathbf{k})$ passes through the point A with position vector $5\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} - 3\mathbf{k}$. The plane π whose vector equation is $\mathbf{r} = -5\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k} + \beta(7\mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j} - 3\mathbf{k}) + \gamma(9\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k})$ contains the point B with position vector $-5\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k}$.

(i) Find the position vector of the point P on the line segment AB such that $AP:PB = 4:1$.

(ii) The plane π_1 contains the line ℓ and the point P .

Write down a vector equation of the line of intersection of π and π_1 .

Find the vector equation of π_1 and the angle between π and π_1 .

Hence find the ratio of the perpendicular distances from P to the line ℓ and from P to the plane π .

$$[(i) \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (ii) \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} + s \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ -2 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ or } \mathbf{r} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} = 0; 90^\circ; 4:1]$$

5 IJC Prelim 9740/2008/02/Q4 modified

The line l has equation $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k} + \lambda(\mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}), \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$. The plane π_1 has equation

$x + 2y + 3z = 5$. The point A on l is given by $\lambda = 2$ and the point B has position vector $2\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + 4\mathbf{k}$.

(i) Show that the line l lies in the plane π_1 . [2]

(ii) Find the acute angle between the line AB and the plane π_1 . [4]

(iii) The plane π_2 is perpendicular to the plane π_1 and parallel to the line l , and contains the point B . Find the equation of π_2 . [3]

$$[(ii) 45.5^\circ \quad (iii) \mathbf{r} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} = 1]$$

THE END