

RAFFLES INSTITUTION H2 Mathematics 9758 2023 Year 6 Term 3 Revision 7a (Summary and Tutorial)

Topic: Vectors 2 (Lines and Planes)

Summary for Lines and Planes

Line: $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{a} + \lambda \mathbf{b}, \ \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ where

r is the position vector of a general point on the line,
a is the position vector of a known point on the line and
b is the vector that indicate the direction parallel to the line (known as the *direction vector*)

Note : $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{a} + \lambda \mathbf{b}, \ \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ is not **UNIQUE**.

Different Forms of Equations of a Line

$$\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ a_3 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{pmatrix}, \ \lambda \in \mathbb{R} \qquad - \text{Vector Form}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ a_3 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{pmatrix}, \ \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x = a_1 + \lambda \ b_1, y = a_2 + \lambda \ b_2, z = a_3 + \lambda \ b_3 \qquad - \text{Parametric Form}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \frac{x - a_1}{b_1} = \lambda, \ \frac{y - a_2}{b_2} = \lambda, \ \frac{z - a_3}{b_3} = \lambda$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \frac{x - a_1}{b_1} = \frac{y - a_2}{b_2} = \frac{z - a_3}{b_3} \qquad - \text{Cartesian Form}$$

Plane: $\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{n} = d$ where

r is the position vector of a general point on the plane,

 \mathbf{n} is the normal vector to the plane (a vector perpendicular to the plane)

d is a scalar constant.

Notes:

The position vector of any point A on the plane, **a** will always give the result, $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{n} = d$

The vector equation of the plane can always be reduced to the form $\mathbf{r} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} = \frac{d}{|\mathbf{n}|} = D$. In this form, the

normal vector is reduced to a unit vector and |D| is the *shortest distance of the plane from the origin*.

Different Forms of Equations of a Plane

Scalar Product form:	$\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{n} = d$
Cartesian form:	$n_1 x + n_2 y + n_3 z = d$ where $\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{n} = \begin{pmatrix} n_1 \\ n_2 \\ n_3 \end{pmatrix}$
Vector form:	$\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{a} + \lambda \mathbf{m}_1 + \mu \mathbf{m}_2, \qquad \lambda, \mu \in \mathbb{R}$
	a is the position vector of a point on the plane,
	\mathbf{m}_1 and \mathbf{m}_2 are non-parallel vectors that are parallel to the plane. Thus, $\mathbf{m}_1 \times \mathbf{m}_2$
	will be a normal to the plane.

We will now summarize the various relationships involving points, lines and planes.

Involving Points and Lines

- ***** To check whether the point *P* with position vector **p** lies on the given line *l*: $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{a} + \lambda \mathbf{b}$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$
 - Let $\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{a} + \lambda \mathbf{b}$ and find a possible value for λ .
 - If there is a unique value for λ from the three possible equations, then the point P lies on the line.
- ★ To find the position vector of the *foot of the perpendicular* from a point P with position vector **p** to a given line l: $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{a} + \lambda \mathbf{b}$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$

Let N be the foot of the perpendicular from the point P to the

- line, *l*. Make use of the fact that PN is perpendicular to *l*
- Step 1:Since N lies on l, $\overrightarrow{ON} = \mathbf{a} + \lambda \mathbf{b}$ for a unique value of λ .
- Step 2:Find $\overrightarrow{PN} = \overrightarrow{ON} \overrightarrow{OP}$ in terms of λ , where $\overrightarrow{OP} = \mathbf{p}$ is given.

Step 3: Solve for the value of λ using the fact that $\overrightarrow{PN} \cdot \mathbf{b} = 0$

Step 4: Using the value of λ found above, the position vector of N is given by $\mathbf{a} + \lambda \mathbf{b}$.

★ To find the perpendicular distance (shortest distance) from a point, *P* with position vector, **p**, to a given line l: $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{a} + \lambda \mathbf{b}$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$

Let N be the foot of the perpendicular from the point P to the line, l<u>Method 1</u>

Step 1: Find the position vector of the foot of the perpendicular from the point P to the given line l.

Step 2 : Perpendicular distance from the point P to the given line l is \overrightarrow{PN} |.

Method 2 (Cross Product)

Perpendicular distance from the point P to the given line *l* is $|\overrightarrow{PN}| = |\overrightarrow{AP} \times \hat{\mathbf{b}}|$

<u>Method 3 (Dot Product)</u> Step 1 : Find $|\overrightarrow{AN}| = |\overrightarrow{AP} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{b}}|$ Step 2 : Using Pythagoras' Theorem, Perpendicular distance from the point P to the given line l is $|\overrightarrow{PN}| = \sqrt{|\overrightarrow{AP}|^2 - |\overrightarrow{AN}|^2}$



★ To find the position vector of the reflection of a point, *P*, about a line l: $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{a} + \lambda \mathbf{b}$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$

Let P' be the reflection of P about l and that N be foot of the perpendicular from P to l.

<u>Method</u>



Involving Lines

• To check if the lines $l_1 : \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{a} + \lambda \mathbf{b}$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ and $l_2 : \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{c} + \mu \mathbf{d}$, $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$ are parallel

If **b** // **d** (i.e. **b** = k **d**), then $l_1 // l_2$

★ To find the acute angle between 2 lines, $l_1 : \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{a} + \lambda \mathbf{b}$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ and $l_2 : \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{c} + \mu \mathbf{d}$, $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$

The acute angle between the lines is determined by the two direction vectors **b** and **d**.

<u>Method</u>

Make use of scalar product of the two direction vectors **b** and **d**. $-|\mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{d}| = |\mathbf{b}| |\mathbf{d}| \cos \theta \text{ where } \theta \text{ is the acute angle between the 2}$ direction vectors, **b** and **d**. Therefore $\cos \theta = \frac{|\mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{d}|}{|\mathbf{b}| |\mathbf{d}|}$ l_{1} ★ To find the position vector of the point of intersection of the two lines $l_1 : \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{a} + \lambda \mathbf{b}$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ and $l_2 : \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{c} + \mu \mathbf{d}$, $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$

Let *P* be the point of intersection of the 2 lines l_1 and l_2 , and **p** be the position vector of *P*. Then *P* lies on both lines and $\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{a} + \lambda \mathbf{b}$ and $\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{c} + \mu \mathbf{d}$ for some values of λ and μ .

<u>Method</u>

Step 1 : Since the lines intersect, $\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{a} + \lambda \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{c} + \mu \mathbf{d}$

- **Step 2 :** From Step 1, we will have 3 linear equations in terms of λ and μ . Solve for the values of λ and μ
- If there exist unique values for λ and μ , then the position vector of the intersection point is given by $\mathbf{a} + \lambda \mathbf{b}$ or $\mathbf{c} + \mu \mathbf{d}$.
- If there are no unique values for λ and μ , then the 2 lines are non-intersecting lines. (They can be either parallel or skew lines)
- ★ To check if the lines $l_1 : \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{a} + \lambda \mathbf{b}$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ and $l_2 : \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{c} + \mu \mathbf{d}$, $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$ are skew lines (Skew lines are non-parallel and non-intersecting lines.)

Assume that P, the point of intersection of the 2 lines l_1 and l_2 , and **p** be the position vector of P exists show that it does not exist.

Then *P* lies on both lines and $\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{a} + \lambda \mathbf{b}$ and $\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{c} + \mu \mathbf{d}$ for some values of λ and μ .

<u>Method</u>

Step 1 : Show that l_1 and l_2 are not parallel ($\mathbf{b} \neq k \mathbf{d}$)

- Step 2: Then assume $\mathbf{a} + \lambda \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{c} + \mu \mathbf{d}$ and show that there is **NO** unique values for λ and μ that satisfy the equations formed.
- ★ To find the shortest distance between two parallel lines $l_1 : \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{a} + \lambda \mathbf{b}$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ and $l_2 : \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{c} + \mu \mathbf{b}$, $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$.

The shortest distance between two parallel lines can be found by taking any point, says *A* on $l_1 : \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{a} + \lambda \mathbf{b}, \ \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ and find the shortest distance between point *A* and $l_2 : \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{c} + \mu \mathbf{b}, \ \mu \in \mathbb{R}$.

OR

The shortest distance between two parallel lines can be found by taking any point, says *C* on $l_2 : \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{c} + \mu \mathbf{b}, \ \mu \in \mathbb{R}$ and find the shortest distance between point *C* and $l_1 : \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{a} + \lambda \mathbf{b}, \ \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$.

(Refer above for the shortest distance between a point and a line)

• To check whether the point P with position vector **p** lies on the given plane π : **r**.**n** = d

<u>Method</u>

- If $\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{n} = d$, then the point P lies on the plane.

If **p**. **n** \neq *d*, then the point P does not lie on the plane.

***** To check if the line $l: \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{a} + \lambda \mathbf{b}$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ is parallel to a given plane $\pi : \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{n} = d$

<u>Method</u>

- If $\mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0$, then the line is parallel to the plane. (perpendicular to the normal)



***** To check if the line $l: \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{a} + \lambda \mathbf{b}$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ lies in a given plane $\pi: \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{n} = d$

<u>Method 1</u>

- Show that $(\mathbf{a} + \lambda \mathbf{b})$. $\mathbf{n} = d$ for all values of λ , then the line lies in the plane.

<u>Method 2</u>

Step 1 : Show that $\mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0$, then the line is parallel to the plane.

- Step 2: Show that $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{n} = d$, then the point with position vector, \mathbf{a} lies on the plane. Then conclude the line lies in the plane.
- ★ To find the position vector of point of intersection between the line $l: \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{a} + \lambda \mathbf{b}$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ and the plane $\pi : \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{n} = d$

Let *P* with position vector **p** be the point of intersection between the line *l* and the plane π Then $\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{a} + \lambda \mathbf{b}$, for some $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{n} = d$

<u>Method</u>

- -Since $\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{a} + \lambda \mathbf{b}$, for some $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{n} = d$, then $(\mathbf{a} + \lambda \mathbf{b}) \cdot \mathbf{n} = d$.
- Solve for λ and use this value to find the position vector of the point of intersection is given by $\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{a} + \lambda \mathbf{b}$



• To find the position vector of the foot of the perpendicular from the point P to the plane π : $\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{n} = d$

Let F be the foot of the perpendicular from the point P to the plane π : $\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{n} = d$.

<u>Method</u>

Step 1: Find vector equation of the line that is perpendicular to the plane (hence direction vector of this line is n) and passing through $P \Rightarrow \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{p} + \lambda \mathbf{n}, \ \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$

Step 2: The point of intersection between line, $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{p} + \lambda \mathbf{n}$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ and the plane π : $\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{n} = d$ is the foot the perpendicular from the point *P* to the plane. Consider $(\mathbf{p} + \lambda \mathbf{n}) \cdot \mathbf{n} = d$ and solve for λ to use this value to find the position vector of the point given by $\mathbf{p} + \lambda \mathbf{n}$.



(Same as above for the point of intersection between a line and a plane)

• To find the distance between point P with position vector **p** and the plane π : **r**.**n** = d

Let F be the foot of the perpendicular from the point P to the plane π : $\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{n} = d$.

<u>Method 1</u>

- Step 1: Find the position vector of the foot of the perpendicular from the point *P* to the plane π : $\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{n} = d$.
- Step 2: The distance between the point and the plane is given by |PF|. (Refer to diagram above)

Method 2

Step 1: Find any point, says A on the plane with position vector **a**.

Step 2: Find $\overrightarrow{AP} = \mathbf{p} - \mathbf{a}$

The shortest distance between the point P and the plane is given by $\frac{|(\mathbf{p}-\mathbf{a}).\mathbf{n}|}{|\mathbf{n}|}$, that is length of



projection of AP on the normal vector of the plane.

<u>Method 3</u>

The distance between the point and the plane is given by $\frac{|\mathbf{p}.\mathbf{n}-d|}{|\mathbf{n}|}$. Note from method 2: $\frac{|(\mathbf{p}-\mathbf{a}).\mathbf{n}|}{|\mathbf{n}|} = \frac{|\mathbf{p}.\mathbf{n}-\mathbf{a}.\mathbf{n}|}{|\mathbf{n}|} = \frac{|\mathbf{p}.\mathbf{n}-d|}{|\mathbf{n}|}$. • To find the acute angle between the line $l: \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{a} + \lambda \mathbf{b}$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ and the plane $\pi : \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{n} = d$

Let the acute angle between **n** and **b** be ϕ .

<u>Method 1</u>

Step 1: Find the acute angle between **n** and **b** using $\cos \phi = \frac{|\mathbf{n}.\mathbf{b}|}{|\mathbf{n}||\mathbf{b}|}$

Step 2: The acute angle between the line and the plane is $90^{\circ} - \phi$.

b π φ n n π

Let the acute angle between the line and the plane be θ . Then $\phi = 90^\circ - \theta$.

Method 2

 $-\sin\theta = \frac{|\mathbf{n}.\mathbf{b}|}{|\mathbf{n}||\mathbf{b}|}$ (since $\cos\phi = \cos(90^\circ - \theta) = \sin\theta$)

• Involving Planes

• To check if the two planes π_1 : $\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{n}_1 = d_1$ and π_2 : $\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{n}_2 = d_2$ are parallel

<u>Method</u>

 $\overline{-\text{If } \mathbf{n}_1} // \mathbf{n}_2 \text{ (i.e. } \mathbf{n}_1 = k \mathbf{n}_2 \text{), then } \pi_1 // \pi_2$

• To find the distance between two parallel planes π_1 : $\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{n}_1 = d_1$ and π_2 : $\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{n}_2 = d_2$

<u>Method</u>

Step 1: Find any point, says A with position vector, **a** on the plane π_1 .

- Step 2 : Find the shortest distance between A and π_2 which is $\frac{|\mathbf{a}.\mathbf{n}-d|}{|\mathbf{n}|}$ (Refer to Distance between point and the plane π : $\mathbf{r}.\mathbf{n} = d$)
- To find the acute angle between two planes π_1 : $\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{n}_1 = d_1$ and π_2 : $\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{n}_2 = d_2$

Let the acute angle between the two planes be θ .

<u>Method</u>

- To find the acute angle between the two planes, we make use of $\cos\theta = \frac{|\mathbf{n}_1 \cdot \mathbf{n}_2|}{|\mathbf{n}_1||\mathbf{n}_2|}$

★ To find vector equation of the line of intersection between two planes π_1 : $\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{n}_1 = d_1$ and π_2 : $\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{n}_2 = d_2$

Method 1 (using GC)

Step 1: Find the cartesian equations for the planes

Step 2: Using GC to find the line of intersection

Method 2 (if GC is not allowed)

Step 1: Find the cartesian equations for the planes

- Step 2: Let one of the variables says x = 0. Then solve for y and z using the cartesian equations from Step 1 to get a common point, A with position vector, **a**.
- Step 3: Compute $\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{n}_1 \times \mathbf{n}_2$ which is the direction vector of the line of intersection. Then the equation of the line of intersection is $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{a} + \lambda \mathbf{b}$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$

Method 3 (if GC is not allowed)

Step 1: Find the cartesian equations for the planes

- Step 2: Find two common points using the cartesian equations from Step 1 by first letting x = 0 and solve for y and z and then letting y = 0 and solve for x and z to get another common point
- Step 3: Use the two points to find the equation of the line of intersection .

Example to illustrate Method 2 and 3:

Find the equation of the line of intersection of the two planes whose equations are

$$\mathbf{r} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} = 6 \text{ and } \mathbf{r} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = 1 \text{ respectively}$$

Method 2

$$\mathbf{r} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1\\1\\-3 \end{pmatrix} = 6 \Rightarrow x + y - 3z = 6 \quad \dots \quad (1)$$

and
$$\mathbf{r} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1\\0\\2 \end{pmatrix} = 1 \Rightarrow x + 2z = 1 \quad \dots \quad (2)$$

Let z = 0 and solve, we have x = 1, y = 5 and z = 0 $\begin{pmatrix} 1\\1\\-3 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} 1\\0\\2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2\\-5\\-1 \end{pmatrix}$ $\Rightarrow \text{ the required vector equation is } \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -5 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, \ \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$

Method 3

$$\mathbf{r} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} = 6 \Rightarrow x + y - 3z = 6 \quad \dots \quad (1) \text{ and } \quad \mathbf{r} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = 1 \Rightarrow x + 2z = 1 \quad \dots \quad (2)$$

Let z = 0 and solve, we have x = 1, y = 5 and z = 0Let x = 0 and solve, we have x = 0, $y = \frac{15}{2}$ and $z = \frac{1}{2}$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1\\5\\0 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 0\\\frac{15}{2}\\\frac{1}{2}\\\frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1\\-\frac{5}{2}\\-\frac{1}{2}\\-\frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 2\\-5\\-1 \end{pmatrix}$$

 $\Rightarrow \text{ the required vector equation is } \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -5 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, \ \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$

Revision Tutorial Questions

1 Source of Question: HCI 2016 JC2 CTP1Q10(a)

Three distinct points O, A and B are such that $\overrightarrow{OA} = \mathbf{a}$ and $\overrightarrow{OB} = \mathbf{b}$.

(i) Let $\overrightarrow{OP} = \mathbf{r}$ and $\mathbf{r} \times \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}$. By expressing \mathbf{r} in terms of \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} , show that the locus of *P* is a line parallel to \mathbf{b} . [2]

- (ii) In terms of a and b, write down the distance from O to this line.
 Hence write down the distance from B to this line.
- (iii) Given that the line passes through O, what can you say about the relationship between a and b?

1(a)(i)	$\mathbf{r} \times \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} \Rightarrow (\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{a}) \times \mathbf{b} = 0 \Rightarrow \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{a} = \lambda \mathbf{b} \Rightarrow \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{a} + \lambda \mathbf{b}$
	The locus of P is a line passing through the point A and parallel to b .
(a)(ii)	Distance of <i>O</i> from line = $\frac{ \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} }{ \mathbf{b} }$ •
	b A Distance of B from line = $\frac{ \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} }{ \mathbf{b} }$ since b is parallel to the line
(a)(iii)	Since the line passes through <i>O</i> and <i>A</i> ,
	$\Rightarrow \overline{OA} //line$
	$\Rightarrow \mathbf{a}//\mathbf{b}, \text{ or } \mathbf{a} = k\mathbf{b}$

2 Source of Question: CJC 2016 JC2 CTQ2

In the rhombus OABC where O is the origin, the position vectors of the points A, B and C are **a**, **b** and **c** respectively.

(i) Show that $(\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{c}) \cdot (\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{c}) = 0$. [2]

Another point D on AB produced is such that AB:AD = 1:4 and the lines OD and BC intersect at the point E.

(ii) (a) Find \overrightarrow{OD} in terms of a and c, [1]

(b) By considering the lines of OD and BC, find \overrightarrow{OE} in terms of **a** and **c**. [4]

Hence, find the value of
$$\frac{BE}{EC}$$
. [1]

2(i)
$$(\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{c}) \cdot (\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{c}) = \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a} - \mathbf{c} \cdot \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c} - \mathbf{c} \cdot \mathbf{c} = |\mathbf{a}|^2 - |\mathbf{c}|^2 = 0$$
 $(\because |\mathbf{a}| = |\mathbf{c}|)$
Alternative solution:
The diagonals of a rhombus is perpendicular.
 $\therefore \overrightarrow{AC} \perp \overrightarrow{OB} \Leftrightarrow (\mathbf{c} - \mathbf{a}) \cdot (\mathbf{b}) = 0 \Leftrightarrow (\mathbf{c} - \mathbf{a}) \cdot (\mathbf{c} + \mathbf{a}) = 0 \Leftrightarrow (\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{c}) \cdot (\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{c}) = 0$
(ii) (a) $\overrightarrow{OD} = \overrightarrow{OA} + 4\overrightarrow{AB} = \mathbf{a} + 4\mathbf{c}$
(b) $\overrightarrow{OE} = \mu\overrightarrow{OD} = \mu\mathbf{a} + 4\mu\mathbf{c}$
 $\overrightarrow{OE} = \overrightarrow{OB} + \overrightarrow{ABC} = \overrightarrow{AOC} + (1 - \overrightarrow{A})\overrightarrow{OB}$
 $= \cancel{A}\mathbf{c} + (1 - \cancel{A})\mathbf{b} = \cancel{A}\mathbf{c} + (1 - \cancel{A})(\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{c}) = (1 - \cancel{A})\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{c}$
Comparing the coefficients of vectors \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{c} ,
 $4\mu = 1 \Leftrightarrow \mu = \frac{1}{4}$ $\mu = 1 - \cancel{A} \Leftrightarrow \cancel{A} = \frac{3}{4}$
Therefore, $\overrightarrow{OE} = \frac{1}{4}\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{c}$
(iii) $\frac{BE}{EC} = \frac{3}{4} = \frac{3}{1}$

3 Source of Question: MI 2015 Prelim P1Q7

A line *l* passes through the points *A* and *B* with coordinates (0, -2, 2) and (1, 0, 1) respectively.

- (i) Find the acute angle between \overrightarrow{OA} and the line *l*, where *O* is the origin. [2]
- (ii) Hence, find the shortest distance from *O* to the line *l*, leaving your answer in exact form. [1]

(i)(ii)

$$\overline{AB} = \begin{pmatrix} 1\\0\\1 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 0\\-2\\2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1\\2\\-1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1\\2\\-1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 0\\-2\\2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\begin{pmatrix} 1\\2\\-1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 0\\-2\\2 \end{pmatrix}}{(\sqrt{6})(\sqrt{8})} \implies \theta = 30^{\circ}$$
Thus, acute angle between \overline{OA} and the line $l = 30^{\circ}$
Shortest distance $= \sqrt{8} \sin 30^{\circ} = \sqrt{2}$ units

4 Source of Question: NJC 2016 JC2 CTQ9

A line *l* and a plane *p* have equations
$$\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}$$
 and $\mathbf{r} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} = 7$ respectively, where λ

is a real parameter.

(i) Show, with working, that l lies completely on p. [2]

The point A has coordinates (0, 3, 8). Find, in exact form, the shortest distance between

(ii) A and p, [2]

[3]

(iii) A and l.

Using the results obtained in parts (ii) and (iii), find the shortest distance between l and the foot of perpendicular of A onto p. [2]

(i)	Method 1
	Since $\begin{pmatrix} 3\\1\\2 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 3\\2\\-2 \end{pmatrix} = 9 + 2 - 4 = 7$, one point on <i>l</i> lies on <i>p</i> .
	Since $\begin{pmatrix} 2\\3\\6 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 3\\2\\-2 \end{pmatrix} = 6 + 6 - 12 = 0$, the direction vector of <i>l</i> is perpendicular to the normal vector of <i>p</i> , and hence is parallel to <i>p</i> .
	Therefore l lies on p .

Method 2
$\left(3+2\lambda\right)\left(3\right)$
$\begin{vmatrix} 1+3\lambda \\ \cdot \end{vmatrix} = 3(3+2\lambda)+2(1+3\lambda)-2(2+6\lambda)$
$\left(2+6\lambda\right)\left(-2\right)$
$=9+6\lambda+2+6\lambda-4-12\lambda$
= 7
$(1+2\lambda)$
Since $1+3\lambda$ satisfies the equation of p regardless of the value of λ , l lies on p.
$\begin{pmatrix} -1+6\lambda \end{pmatrix}$
(ii) Let B denote the point $(3, 1, 2)$ (0, 2, 0)
and N denote the foot of $A(0, 3, 8)$
perpendicular of A onto p. $\left \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \end{array} \right $
Then
Shortest distance from $B(3, 1, 2)$ Side view of p
A to p
=AN
$\begin{bmatrix} & 3 \\ & \overline{BA} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 3 \\ - \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$
$ \begin{vmatrix} -2 \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} 0 \\ 8 \\ 2 \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} -2 \\ -2 \end{vmatrix} $
$=\left \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{2^2+2^2+(-2)^2}}\right =\left \frac{\sqrt{2}\sqrt{2}+\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{2}+4+4}\right $
$\left[\begin{array}{c} \left[\sqrt{3} + 2 + (2) \right] + \sqrt{3} + 1 + 1 \right] \\ \left[\left[\sqrt{3} + 2 + (2) \right] + \sqrt{3} + 1 + 1 \right] \\ \left[\left[\sqrt{3} + 2 + (2) \right] + \sqrt{3} + 1 + 1 \right] \\ \left[\left[\sqrt{3} + 2 + (2) \right] + \sqrt{3} + 1 + 1 \right] \\ \left[\left[\sqrt{3} + 2 + (2) \right] + \sqrt{3} + 1 + 1 \right] \\ \left[\left[\sqrt{3} + 2 + (2) \right] + \sqrt{3} + 1 + 1 \right] \\ \left[\left[\sqrt{3} + 2 + (2) \right] + \sqrt{3} + 1 + 1 \right] \\ \left[\left[\sqrt{3} + 2 + (2) \right] + \sqrt{3} + 1 + 1 \right] \\ \left[\sqrt{3} + 2 + (2) \right] \\ \left[\sqrt{3} $
$\left(\begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} \right)$
$\left - \frac{\left(6 \right) \left(-2 \right)}{\left -9 + 4 - 12 \right } - \sqrt{17}$
$\begin{vmatrix} - \\ \sqrt{17} \end{vmatrix}$ $\begin{vmatrix} - \\ \sqrt{17} \end{vmatrix}$ $\begin{vmatrix} - \sqrt{17} \\ \sqrt{17} \end{vmatrix}$
(iii) Let F denote the foot of $A(0, 3, 8)$
perpendicular of A onto l. (2)
Then 3
Shortest distance from A to l $E = \frac{6}{6}$
$B(3, 1, 2) \xrightarrow{I}$

$$= AF$$

$$= \frac{AF}{\left| \frac{BA \times \binom{2}{3}}{\sqrt{2^{2} + 3^{2} + 6^{2}}} \right|}{\sqrt{2^{2} + 3^{2} + 6^{2}}} = \left| \frac{\binom{-3}{2}}{\binom{6}{3}} \times \binom{2}{3}}{\sqrt{4 + 9 + 36}} \right|$$

$$= \left| \frac{\binom{(2)(6) - (6)(3)}{(6)(2) - (-3)(6)}}{\sqrt{49}} \right| = \frac{1}{7} \left| \frac{-6}{30} \right|$$

$$= \frac{1}{7} \sqrt{(-6)^{2} + 30^{2} + (-13)^{2}} = \frac{1}{7} \sqrt{36 + 900 + 169} = \frac{\sqrt{1105}}{7}$$
Alternatively, BF

$$= \left| \frac{\overline{BA} \cdot \binom{2}{3}}{\sqrt{2^{2} + 3^{2} + 6^{2}}} \right| = \left| \frac{\binom{-3}{2}}{\binom{2}{6}} \cdot \binom{2}{3}}{\sqrt{4 + 9 + 36}} \right|$$

$$= \frac{\binom{-6}{439}}{\sqrt{49}} = \frac{36}{7}$$
By Pythagoras' Theorem,
 $AF = \sqrt{BA^{2} - BF^{2}}$

$$= \sqrt{(-3)^{2} + 2^{2} + 6^{2}} - \left(\frac{36}{7}\right)^{2}$$

$$= \sqrt{49 - \frac{1296}{49}} = \frac{\sqrt{1105}}{7}$$
(last Shortest distance between *l* and the foot of perpendicular of *A* on *p*

$$= \frac{\sqrt{1105}}{\sqrt{149}} - 17 = \frac{\sqrt{272}}{7} \text{ or } \frac{4}{7} \sqrt{17} \text{ or } 2.36 \text{ (to 3 s.f.)}$$

5 Source of Question: MI 2015 Prelim P2 Q3

Relative to a fixed origin *O*, the points *A*, *B* and *C* have position vectors $\alpha \mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k}$, 4**i** $-2\mathbf{j}$ and $-\mathbf{i} - 7\mathbf{j} + \beta \mathbf{k}$ respectively where α and β are constants.

Given that A, B and C are collinear, show that $\alpha = 5$ and $\beta = -10$. [2]

Hence state the ratio of the area of $\triangle OBA$ to the area of $\triangle OBC$. [1]

Find the vector equation of the line *l* which passes through points *A* and *B*. [1]

The point *P* lies on *OB* such that $\overrightarrow{OP} = \frac{1}{3}\overrightarrow{PB} \cdot Q$ is a point on the line *l* such that the length of projection of \overrightarrow{PQ} on the line *OB* is $\sqrt{5}$ units. Find the possible coordinates of *Q*. [7]

i	$\overrightarrow{AB} = k\overrightarrow{BC}$
	$\begin{pmatrix} 4-\alpha\\-1\\-2 \end{pmatrix} = k \begin{pmatrix} -5\\-5\\\beta \end{pmatrix}$ $k = \frac{1}{5}$ $\therefore \ \alpha = 5 \text{ and } \beta = -10$
ii	Since both triangles share same base with points <i>A</i> , <i>B</i> , <i>C</i> , so ratio is 1 : 5.
iii	$\boldsymbol{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \ \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline 3 \text{iv} & \text{Since } \overline{OP} = \frac{1}{3} \overline{PB}, \\ \hline \overline{OP} = \frac{1}{4} \overline{OB} = \frac{1}{4} \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -0.5 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ \hline \overline{OQ} = \begin{pmatrix} 4+\lambda \\ -2+\lambda \\ 2\lambda \end{pmatrix} \\ \hline \overline{PQ} = \begin{pmatrix} 4+\lambda-1 \\ -2+\lambda+0.5 \\ 2\lambda \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3+\lambda \\ -1.5+\lambda \\ 2\lambda \end{pmatrix} \\ \therefore & \frac{|\overline{PQ} \cdot \overline{OB}|}{|\overline{OB}|} = \sqrt{5} \\ |15+2\lambda| = 10 \\ \text{So } \lambda = -\frac{5}{2} \text{ or } \lambda = -\frac{25}{2} \\ \hline \text{For } \lambda = -\frac{5}{2}, & \overline{OQ} = \begin{pmatrix} 1.5 \\ -4.5 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and for } \lambda = -\frac{25}{2}, & \overline{OQ} = \begin{pmatrix} -8.5 \\ -14.5 \\ -25 \end{pmatrix} \\ \text{Coordinates of } Q \text{ are } (1.5, -4.5, -5) \text{ and } (-8.5, -14.5, -25). \end{array}$$

6 Source of Question: RI 2015 Prelim P1Q6

The line l_1 has equation

$$\mathbf{r} = (3\mathbf{i}+2\mathbf{j}+\mathbf{k}) + \lambda(\mathbf{i}+\mathbf{j}+\mathbf{k}), \ \lambda \in \mathbb{R},$$

and the line l_2 passes through the origin *O* and point *A*, whose position vector is given by $\mathbf{a} = 2\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j}$. Find the acute angle between

- (i) $l_1 \text{ and } l_2$, [2]
- (ii) l_1 and the xy-plane. [2]

A point *B* on l_1 is such that $OB = \sqrt{5}$.

(iii) Find the possible position vectors of *B*. [4]

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{\hat{6}(i)} \\ \mathbf{\hat{2m}} & \text{Let } \theta \text{ be the acute angle between } \begin{pmatrix} 1\\1\\1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \begin{pmatrix} 2\\1\\0 \end{pmatrix} \\ \mathbf{\hat{1}} \\ \mathbf{\hat{0}} \\ \mathbf{\hat{$$

7 Source of Question: YJC 2015 PrelimP1Q12

Relative to the origin *O*, two points *A* and *B* have position vectors $\mathbf{a} = 2\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{k}$ and $\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} - 2\mathbf{k}$ respectively.

- (i) Find a×b and give the geometrical meaning of |a×b|. [2]
 Hence write down the area of triangle OAB. [1]
 (ii) Find a×b and give the geometrical meaning of |a×b|. [2]
- (ii) Find a vector equation of the line l passing through A and B. [2]
- (iii) The perpendicular to l from the point C with position vector $-13\mathbf{i}+2\mathbf{j}+3\mathbf{k}$ meets the line at the point M. Show that the position vector of M is $\mathbf{i}+\mathbf{j}-2\mathbf{k}$. [3]
- (iv) Find a cartesian equation of the plane containing O, A and B and the exact length of projection of \overrightarrow{CM} onto this plane. [4]
- (v) Find the acute angle between the line OC and the triangle OAB. [2]



$$\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 2\\0\\1 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1\\-1\\3 \end{pmatrix} \text{ where } \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$$

Or

$$\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 1\\1\\-2 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1\\-1\\3 \end{pmatrix} \text{ where } \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$\mathbf{iii}$$

$$\overline{OC} = \begin{pmatrix} -13\\2\\3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\overline{OM} = \begin{pmatrix} 2\\0\\1 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1\\-1\\3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2+\lambda\\-\lambda\\1+32 \end{pmatrix} \text{ for some } \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$\overline{CM} = \overline{OM} - \overline{OC} = \begin{pmatrix} 15+\lambda\\-\lambda-2\\3\lambda-2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\overline{CM} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1\\-1\\3 \end{pmatrix} = 0 \Rightarrow 15 + \lambda + \lambda + 2 + 9\lambda - 6 = 0$$

$$11\lambda = -11 \Rightarrow \lambda = -1$$

$$\therefore \overline{OM} = \begin{pmatrix} 1\\1\\-2 \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} - 2\mathbf{k} \text{ (Shown)}$$

$$\mathbf{iv}$$

$$\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} -1\\5\\2 \end{pmatrix} \text{ from (i)}$$

Plane $OAB: \mathbf{r} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} -1\\5\\2 \end{pmatrix} = 0 \text{ (as origin is on the plane)}$

Required equation is
$$x - 5y - 2z = 0$$

$$\overline{CM} = \begin{pmatrix} 14\\ -1\\ -5 \end{pmatrix} \text{ from (iii)}$$
Length of the projection of vector \overline{CM} onto this plane $= \frac{1}{\sqrt{30}} \left| \overline{CM} \times \begin{pmatrix} -1\\ 5\\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \right|$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{30}} \left| \begin{pmatrix} 14\\ -1\\ -5 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} -1\\ 5\\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \right| = \frac{23}{\sqrt{30}} \left| \begin{pmatrix} 1\\ -1\\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \right|$$

$$= 23\sqrt{\frac{11}{30}}$$
v Let θ be the angle between line *OC* and the normal of triangle *OAB*.

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\begin{pmatrix} -13\\ 2\\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} -1\\ 5\\ 2 \end{pmatrix}}{\begin{pmatrix} -1\\ 5\\ 2 \end{pmatrix}} = \frac{13 + 10 + 6}{\sqrt{5460}} \implies \theta = 66.892^{\circ}$$
Therefore acute angle between line *OC* and triangle *OAB*. = 23.1°

8 Source of Question: CJC 2015 Promo Q6 (a)

The equation of a line *l* is given by $\frac{x-5}{2} = \frac{y+1}{-2} = z+1$. A point *P*, not lying on *l*, has position vector $9\mathbf{i} + 7\mathbf{j} - 2\mathbf{k}$.

- (i) Given that Q is a point on l such that $PQ = 6\sqrt{3}$, find the possible coordinates of Q. [4]
- (ii) Hence, or otherwise, find the position vector of the foot of perpendicular from P to l. [2]

(i)
Equation of *l*:
$$\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$$

Since *Q* lies on *l*, $\overrightarrow{OQ} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$, for some $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$.
 $\overrightarrow{PQ} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -4 + 2\lambda \\ -8 - 2\lambda \\ 1 + \lambda \end{pmatrix}$
So $PQ = \begin{vmatrix} -4 + 2\lambda \\ -8 - 2\lambda \\ 1 + \lambda \end{vmatrix} = 6\sqrt{3}$
 $(-4 + 2\lambda)^2 + (-8 - 2\lambda)^2 + (1 + \lambda)^2 = 108$
 $9\lambda^2 + 18\lambda - 27 = 0$
 $(\lambda + 3)(\lambda - 1) = 0$
 $\therefore \lambda = -3 \text{ or } \lambda = 1$
So $\overrightarrow{OQ} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} - 3\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 5 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} \text{ or } \overrightarrow{OQ} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ -3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$
Possible coordinates of *Q* are $(-1, 5, -4)$ and $(7, -3, 0)$.
(ii)
Method 1:
Let $Q_1(-1, 5, -4)$ and $Q_2(7, -3, 0)$ and let *F* be the foot of perpendicular from *P* to *l*.
Since ${}_{\Delta}PQ_1Q_2$ is isosceles, *F* is the midpoint of Q_1 and Q_2 .
So $\overrightarrow{OF} = \frac{\overrightarrow{OQ}_1 + \overrightarrow{OQ}_2}{2} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 5 \\ -4 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ -3 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$

Method 2:
Let *F* be the foot of perpendicular from *A* to *l*.
Then
$$\overrightarrow{OF} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} + \alpha \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$
 for some $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$.
 $\overrightarrow{PF} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} + \alpha \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 9 \\ 7 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ -8 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \alpha \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$
 $\overrightarrow{PF} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 0 \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ -8 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \alpha \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 0$
 $\begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ -8 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \alpha \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 0$
 $9 + 9\alpha = 0 \Rightarrow \alpha = -1$
So $\overrightarrow{OF} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$