

9) Vectors

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9.1) Equation of a line in three dimensions [Chapter CONTENTS](#)

Worked example

The straight line has vector equation $r = (i + 5j - 3k) + t(2i - j - 6k)$. Given that the point $(0, a, b)$ lies on l , find the value of a and the value of b .

Your turn

The straight line has vector equation $r = (3i + 2j - 5k) + t(i - 6j - 2k)$. Given that the point $(a, b, 0)$ lies on l , find the value of a and the value of b .

$$a = \frac{1}{2}, b = 17$$

Worked example

The straight line l has vector equation
 $\mathbf{r} = (1\mathbf{i} + 4\mathbf{j} - 3\mathbf{k}) + \lambda(10\mathbf{i} - 15\mathbf{j} + 5\mathbf{k})$.
Show that another vector equation of l is
 $\mathbf{r} = (7\mathbf{i} - 5\mathbf{j}) + \mu(2\mathbf{i} - 3\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k})$

Your turn

The straight line l has vector equation
 $\mathbf{r} = (2\mathbf{i} + 5\mathbf{j} - 3\mathbf{k}) + \lambda(6\mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j} + 4\mathbf{k})$.
Show that another vector equation of l is
 $\mathbf{r} = (8\mathbf{i} + 3\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}) + \mu(3\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k})$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ -2 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} = 2 \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

\therefore lines parallel

$$\text{Let } \lambda = 0 \rightarrow \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{Let } \mu = -2 \rightarrow \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 8 + 3(-2) \\ 3 - (-2) \\ 1 + 2(-2) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix}$$

\therefore point in common

Lines parallel and shared point \therefore same line

Worked example

The line l has equation $r = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$, and the point

P has position vector $\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$.

(a) Show that P does not lie on l .

Given that a circle, centre P , intersects l at points A and B ,

and that A has position vector $\begin{pmatrix} -6 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$,

(b) find the possible position vectors of B .

Your turn

The line l has equation $r = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$, and the point

P has position vector $\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$.

(a) Show that P does not lie on l .

Given that a circle, centre P , intersects l at points A and B ,

and that A has position vector $\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -3 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}$,

(b) find the possible position vectors of B .

(a) Shown

(b) $(-3, 3, 3)$ or $(0, -3, 6)$

Worked example

Find the Cartesian equation of the line with vector

$$\text{equation } \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Find the Cartesian equation of the line with vector

$$\text{equation } \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 0 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Your turn

Find the Cartesian equation of the line with vector

$$\text{equation } \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}.$$

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

Find the Cartesian equation of the line with vector

$$\text{equation } \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

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

Worked example

The Cartesian equation of a line is $\frac{x+2}{-3} = \frac{y}{-4} = \frac{z-5}{1}$.
Find the vector form of the equation of the line.

The Cartesian equation of a line is $\frac{2-x}{3} = \frac{y+3}{-1} = \frac{5-z}{-4}$.
Find the vector form of the equation of the line.

Your turn

The Cartesian equation of a line is $\frac{x-2}{3} = \frac{y+5}{-1} = \frac{z}{4}$.
Find the vector form of the equation of the line.

$$r = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -5 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

Worked example

Show that the points $A(3, -4, -5)$, $B(-3, 1, -2)$ and $C(-9, 6, 1)$ are collinear

Your turn

Show that the points $A(-3, 4, 5)$, $B(3, -1, 2)$ and $C(9, 2, -1)$ are collinear

Shown

Worked example

The Cartesian equation of a line is $y = 2x - 3$. Find the vector form of the equation of the line.

The Cartesian equation of a line is $y = 3x - 2$. Find the vector form of the equation of the line.

Your turn

The Cartesian equation of a line is $y = 3x + 2$. Find the vector form of the equation of the line.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

9.2) Equation of a plane in three dimensions [Chapter CONTENTS](#)

Worked example

A plane Π passes through the points

$$A(1, -2, 2), B(-3, -2, 1), C(5, 4, 3)$$

Find the equation of the plane Π in the form

$$r = \mathbf{a} + \lambda \mathbf{b} + \mu \mathbf{c}$$

Your turn

A plane Π passes through the points

$$A(2, 2 - 1), B(3, 2, -1), C(4, 3, 5)$$

Find the equation of the plane Π in the form

$$r = \mathbf{a} + \lambda \mathbf{b} + \mu \mathbf{c}$$

$$r = 2\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k} + \lambda \mathbf{i} + \mu(2\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + 6\mathbf{k})$$

$$r = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}$$

Worked example

Verify that the point P with position vector $\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$

lies in the plane with vector equation

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

Your turn

Verify that the point P with position vector $\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$

lies in the plane with vector equation

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

Shown

Worked example

The plane Π is perpendicular to the normal $\mathbf{n} = 2\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + 3\mathbf{k}$ and passes through the point P with position vector $4\mathbf{i} - 8\mathbf{j} + 7\mathbf{k}$.

Find the Cartesian equation of Π .

Your turn

The plane Π is perpendicular to the normal $\mathbf{n} = 3\mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}$ and passes through the point P with position vector $8\mathbf{i} + 4\mathbf{j} - 7\mathbf{k}$.

Find the Cartesian equation of Π .

$$3x - 2y + z = 9$$

Worked example

Show that the points $(3, 2, 2)$, $(3, 5, 1)$, $(-1, 3, 4)$ and $(-1, 6, 3)$ are coplanar.

Your turn

Show that the points $(2, 2, 3)$, $(1, 5, 3)$, $(4, 3, -1)$ and $(3, 6, -1)$ are coplanar.

Shown

Worked example

Show that the points $(3, 2, 2)$, $(3, 5, 1)$, $(-1, 3, 4)$ and $(-1, 6, 4)$ are not coplanar.

Your turn

Show that the points $(2, 2, 3)$, $(1, 5, 3)$, $(4, 3, -1)$ and $(4, 6, -1)$ are coplanar.

Shown

9.3) Scalar product

Worked example

$$\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} a \\ 5 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ b \\ 10 \end{pmatrix}$$

Your turn

$$\begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

9

Worked example

Find the acute angle between the vectors

$$\mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Find the angle between the vectors

$$2\mathbf{i} + 4\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k} \text{ and } \mathbf{j} + 8\mathbf{k}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix}$$

Your turn

Find the acute angle between the vectors

$$\mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$70.64^\circ \text{ (2 dp)}$$

Find the angle between the vectors

$$-\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + 3\mathbf{k} \text{ and } 7\mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k}$$

$$96.9^\circ \text{ (3 sf)}$$

Worked example

If $A(5,3,2)$, $B(4,0,5)$ and $C(2, -3,4)$, find the area of triangle ABC

Your turn

If $A(2,3,5)$, $B(5,0,4)$ and $C(4, -3,2)$, find the area of triangle ABC

7.10 (3 sf)

Worked example

Show that $\mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 7 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$ are perpendicular.

Your turn

Show that $\mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$ are perpendicular.

Shown

Worked example

Given that the vectors $a = 1\mathbf{i} - 6\mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k}$ and $b = \lambda\mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j} + 5\mathbf{k}$ are perpendicular, find the value of λ

Your turn

Given that the vectors $a = 2\mathbf{i} - 6\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}$ and $b = 5\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} + \lambda\mathbf{k}$ are perpendicular, find the value of λ

$$\lambda = 2$$

Worked example

Show that the two lines are perpendicular:

$$l_1: r = (-9\mathbf{i} + 10\mathbf{k}) + \lambda(3\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k})$$

$$l_2: r = (-3\mathbf{i} + 5\mathbf{k}) + \mu(2\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + 4\mathbf{k})$$

Your turn

Show that the two lines are perpendicular:

$$l_1: r = (-9\mathbf{i} + 10\mathbf{k}) + \lambda(2\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k})$$

$$l_2: r = (-3\mathbf{i} + 5\mathbf{k}) + \mu(3\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + 5\mathbf{k})$$

Shown

Worked example

Given that

$$\mathbf{a} = 2\mathbf{i} - 5\mathbf{j} + 4\mathbf{k} \text{ and } \mathbf{b} = -4 + 8\mathbf{j} - 5\mathbf{k},$$

find a vector which is perpendicular to both \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} .

Your turn

Given that

$$\mathbf{a} = -2\mathbf{i} + 5\mathbf{j} - 4\mathbf{k} \text{ and } \mathbf{b} = 4\mathbf{i} - 8\mathbf{j} + 5\mathbf{k},$$

find a vector which is perpendicular to both \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} .

$$7\mathbf{i} + 6\mathbf{j} + 4\mathbf{k}$$

Worked example

Find, to the nearest tenth of a degree, the angle that the vector $9\mathbf{i} - 5\mathbf{j} + 3\mathbf{k}$ makes with:

- The positive x -axis

- The positive y -axis

Your turn

Find, to the nearest tenth of a degree, the angle that the vector $\mathbf{i} + 11\mathbf{j} - 4\mathbf{k}$ makes with:

- The positive z -axis

109.9° (1 dp)

Worked example

The points P , Q and R have coordinates $(6, -1, 1)$, $(4, 5, -2)$ and $(-5, 3, 0)$ respectively.

- (a) Show that PQ is perpendicular to QR
- (b) Hence find the centre and radius of the circle that passes through points P , Q and R

Your turn

The points P , Q and R have coordinates $(1, -1, 6)$, $(-2, 5, 4)$ and $(0, 3, -5)$ respectively.

- (a) Show that PQ is perpendicular to QR
- (b) Hence find the centre and radius of the circle that passes through points P , Q and R

(a) Shown

(b) Centre $\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1, \frac{1}{2}\right)$, radius $\frac{\sqrt{138}}{2}$

9.4) Calculating angles between lines and planes

[Chapter CONTENTS](#)

Worked example

Find the acute angle between the line l with equation $\mathbf{r} = -5\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k} + \lambda(-12\mathbf{i} + 4\mathbf{j} + 3\mathbf{k})$ and the plane with equation $\mathbf{r} \cdot (-\mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k}) = 2$.

Your turn

Find the acute angle between the line l with equation $\mathbf{r} = 2\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} - 5\mathbf{k} + \lambda(3\mathbf{i} + 4\mathbf{j} - 12\mathbf{k})$ and the plane with equation $\mathbf{r} \cdot (2\mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k}) = 2$.

14.9° (3 sf)

Worked example

The plane P has equation

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

- a) Find a vector perpendicular to the plane P
b) The line l passes through the point A (3, 3, 1) and meets P at (2, 1, 3). The acute angle between the plane P and the line l is θ . Find θ to the nearest degree

Your turn

The plane P has equation

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

- a) Find a vector perpendicular to the plane P
b) The line l passes through the point A (1, 3, 3) and meets P at (3, 1, 2). The acute angle between the plane P and the line l is θ . Find θ to the nearest degree

$$\theta = 63^\circ \text{ (nearest degree)}$$

Worked example

Find the acute angle between the planes:

$$\Pi_1: \mathbf{r} \cdot (3\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}) = 4$$

$$\Pi_2: \mathbf{r} \cdot (2\mathbf{i} + 3\mathbf{j}) = 7$$

Your turn

Find the acute angle between the planes:

$$\Pi_1: \mathbf{r} \cdot (4\mathbf{i} + 4\mathbf{j} - 7\mathbf{k}) = 13$$

$$\Pi_2: \mathbf{r} \cdot (7\mathbf{i} - 4\mathbf{j} + 4\mathbf{k}) = 6$$

$$\theta = 78.6^\circ (1 \text{ dp})$$

Worked example

The lines l_1 and l_2 have Cartesian equations $\frac{x+6}{-1} = \frac{y-3}{2} = \frac{z-2}{3}$ and $\frac{x+8}{-2} = \frac{y-4}{3} = \frac{z+13}{-1}$ respectively.

- (a) Show that the point $A (-2, -5, -10)$ lies on both lines
(b) Find the size of the acute angle between the lines at A

Your turn

The lines l_1 and l_2 have Cartesian equations $\frac{x-6}{-1} = \frac{y+3}{2} = \frac{z+2}{3}$ and $\frac{x+5}{2} = \frac{y-15}{-3} = \frac{z-3}{1}$ respectively.

- (a) Show that the point $A (3, 3, 7)$ lies on both lines
(b) Find the size of the acute angle between the lines at A

- (a) Shown
(b) 69.1° (1 dp)

9.5) Points of intersection

Worked example

The lines l_1 and l_2 have vector equations
 $r = i + 2j + 3k + \lambda(4i - 3j - 2k)$ and
 $r = -3i - 2k + \mu(-4i + 8j + 9k)$ respectively.
Show that the two lines intersect, and find the
position vector of the point of intersection.

Your turn

The lines l_1 and l_2 have vector equations
 $r = 3i + j + k + \lambda(i - 2j - k)$ and
 $r = -2j + 3k + \mu(-5i + j + 4k)$ respectively.
Show that the two lines intersect, and find the
position vector of the point of intersection.

$(5, -3, -1)$

Worked example

Find the point of intersection of the line l and the plane Π where:

$$l: \mathbf{r} = -2\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + 3\mathbf{k} + \lambda(2\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + 7\mathbf{k})$$

$$\Pi: \mathbf{r} \cdot (3\mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}) = 5$$

Your turn

Find the point of intersection of the line l and the plane Π where:

$$l: \mathbf{r} = -\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} - 5\mathbf{k} + \lambda(\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k})$$

$$\Pi: \mathbf{r} \cdot (\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} + 3\mathbf{k}) = 4$$

$$(1, 3, -1)$$

Worked example

A line has Cartesian equation

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

A plane Π has Cartesian equation

$$-4x - 3y + 2z = 10$$

Find the position vector of the point of intersection of the line and the plane.

Your turn

A line has Cartesian equation

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

A plane Π has Cartesian equation

$$4x + 3y - 2z = -10$$

Find the position vector of the point of intersection of the line and the plane.

$$\left(\frac{53}{31}, -\frac{86}{31}, \frac{132}{32} \right)$$

Worked example

The lines l_1 and l_2 have equations
 $\frac{x-3}{2} = y - 4 = \frac{z-1}{-5}$ and $\frac{x-1}{3} = \frac{y+2}{-7} = z - 5$
respectively. Prove that l_1 and l_2 are skew.

Your turn

The lines l_1 and l_2 have equations
 $\frac{x-2}{4} = \frac{y+3}{2} = z - 1$ and $\frac{x+1}{5} = \frac{y}{4} = \frac{z-4}{-2}$
respectively. Prove that l_1 and l_2 are skew.

Proof

9.6) Finding perpendiculars

Worked example

Find the shortest distance between the parallel lines with equations:

$$\mathbf{r} = 2\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + 6\mathbf{k} + \lambda(3\mathbf{i} + 4\mathbf{j} + 5\mathbf{k}) \text{ and}$$

$$\mathbf{r} = 3\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k} + \mu(6\mathbf{i} + 8\mathbf{j} + 10\mathbf{k}),$$

Where λ and μ are scalars

Your turn

Find the shortest distance between the parallel lines with equations:

$$\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k} + \lambda(5\mathbf{i} + 4\mathbf{j} + 3\mathbf{k}) \text{ and}$$

$$\mathbf{r} = 2\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{k} + \mu(5\mathbf{i} + 4\mathbf{j} + 3\mathbf{k}),$$

Where λ and μ are scalars

$$\frac{21\sqrt{2}}{10}$$

Worked example

The lines l_1 and l_2 have equations

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

respectively, where λ and μ are scalars.

Find the shortest distance between these two lines.

Your turn

The lines l_1 and l_2 have equations

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

respectively, where λ and μ are scalars.

Find the shortest distance between these two lines.

$$2\sqrt{2}$$

Worked example

The line l has equation $\frac{x-1}{-2} = \frac{y-1}{2} = \frac{z+3}{1}$, and the point A has coordinates $(-1, 2, 1)$.

- Find the shortest distance between A and l .
- Find the Cartesian equation of the line that is perpendicular to l and passes through A .

Your turn

The line l has equation $\frac{x-1}{2} = \frac{y-1}{-2} = \frac{z+3}{-1}$, and the point A has coordinates $(1, 2, -1)$.

- Find the shortest distance between A and l .
- Find the Cartesian equation of the line that is perpendicular to l and passes through A .

(a) $\frac{\sqrt{29}}{3}$

(b) $\frac{x-1}{8} = \frac{y-2}{1} = \frac{z+1}{14}$

Worked example

Find the perpendicular distance from the point with coordinates $(1, -2, 3)$ to the plane with equation $3x - 2y - z = 5$.

Your turn

Find the perpendicular distance from the point with coordinates $(3, 2, -1)$ to the plane with equation $2x - 3y + z = 5$.

$$\frac{6}{\sqrt{14}}$$

Worked example

The plane Π has vector equation

$$\mathbf{r} \cdot (2\mathbf{i} - 3\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k}) = 5$$

Find the perpendicular distance from the point $(2, -12, -23)$ to the plane

Your turn

The plane Π has vector equation

$$\mathbf{r} \cdot (3\mathbf{i} - 4\mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k}) = 5$$

Find the perpendicular distance from the point $(6, 2, 12)$ to the plane

$$\sqrt{29}$$

Worked example

The plane Π has equation $r \cdot (2i + 2j + 1k) = 5$.

The point P has coordinates $(-2, 3, 1)$.

(a) Find the shortest distance between P and Π .

Your turn

The plane Π has equation $r \cdot (i + 2j + 2k) = 5$.

The point P has coordinates $(1, 3, -2)$.

(a) Find the shortest distance between P and Π .

$$\frac{2}{3}$$

Worked example

The plane Π has equation $r \cdot (2i + 2j + 1k) = 5$.

The point P has coordinates $(-2, 3, 1)$.

The point Q is the reflection of the point P in Π .

Find the coordinates of point Q .

Your turn

The plane Π has equation $r \cdot (i + 2j + 2k) = 5$.

The point P has coordinates $(1, 3, -2)$.

The point Q is the reflection of the point P in Π .

Find the coordinates of point Q .

$$\left(\frac{12}{9}, \frac{35}{9}, -\frac{10}{9} \right)$$

Worked example

The line l_1 has equation $\frac{x-2}{-2} = \frac{y-4}{2} = \frac{z+6}{-1}$.

The plane Π has equation $x - 3y + 2z = 8$.

The line l_2 is the reflection of line l_1 in the plane Π .

Find a vector equation of the line l_2 .

Your turn

The line l_1 has equation $\frac{x-2}{2} = \frac{y-4}{-2} = \frac{z+6}{1}$.

The plane Π has equation $2x - 3y + z = 8$.

The line l_2 is the reflection of line l_1 in the plane Π .

Find a vector equation of the line l_2 .

$$\begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 0 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} 8 \\ -19 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$$