

MATH 251
Assignment 1

1. (4 marks) Consider two points A and B in \mathbb{R}^3 . Suppose $A = (3, 0, 2)$ and $\vec{AB} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}$.
- Find the coordinates of point B .
 - Find two distinct unit vectors that are parallel to \vec{AB} .
 - Find parametric equations for the line passing through points A and B .
 - At what point does the line from part (c) intersect the xy -plane?

$$a) \vec{AB} = \vec{B} - \vec{A} \Rightarrow \vec{B} = \vec{AB} + \vec{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -3 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix} \quad \therefore B = (5, -3, 8)$$

$$b) \|\vec{AB}\| = \sqrt{2^2 + (-3)^2 + 6^2} = \sqrt{4 + 9 + 36} = \sqrt{49} = 7$$

$$\therefore \vec{u} = \pm \frac{1}{\|\vec{AB}\|} \vec{AB} = \pm \frac{1}{7} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$c) \vec{x} = \vec{A} + t \vec{AB} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} x = 3 + 2t \\ y = -3t \\ z = 2 + 6t \end{cases} \quad (\text{Answer not unique.})$$

$$d) z = 0 \Rightarrow 2 + 6t = 0 \Rightarrow t = -\frac{1}{3} \quad \therefore x = 3 + 2(-\frac{1}{3}) = \frac{7}{3} \text{ and } y = -3(-\frac{1}{3}) = 1$$

$$\therefore \text{point is } (\frac{7}{3}, 1, 0)$$

2. (7 marks) Consider the three points

$$A = (2, 0, -5), \quad B = (8, 2, -9), \quad C = (7, 9, -7).$$

- (a) Find the area of triangle $\triangle ABC$. Give an exact, simplified answer.
 (b) Find the angle $0^\circ \leq \theta \leq 180^\circ$ between \vec{AB} and \vec{AC} . Round your answer to two decimal places.
 (c) Determine whether or not $\triangle ABC$ is a right triangle.
 (d) Find the equation, in general form, of the plane passing through the points A , B , and C .

$$a) \quad \vec{AB} = \begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ 2 \\ -9 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 2 \\ -4 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{AC} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 9 \\ -7 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 9 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\vec{AB} \times \vec{AC} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ 6 & 2 & -4 \\ 5 & 9 & -2 \end{vmatrix} = -4\hat{i} - 20\hat{j} + 54\hat{k} - 10\hat{k} + 36\hat{i} + 12\hat{j}$$

$$= 32\hat{i} - 8\hat{j} + 44\hat{k} \quad \therefore \text{Area} = \frac{1}{2} \|\vec{AB} \times \vec{AC}\| = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{32^2 + (-8)^2 + 44^2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{3024} = \frac{1}{2} (12\sqrt{21}) = 6\sqrt{21}$$

$$b) \quad \|\vec{AB}\| = \sqrt{6^2 + 2^2 + (-4)^2} = \sqrt{56} = 2\sqrt{14}$$

$$\|\vec{AC}\| = \sqrt{5^2 + 9^2 + (-2)^2} = \sqrt{110}$$

$$\vec{AB} \cdot \vec{AC} = 30 + 18 + 8 = 56$$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\vec{AB} \cdot \vec{AC}}{\|\vec{AB}\| \|\vec{AC}\|} = \frac{56}{2\sqrt{14}\sqrt{110}} = \frac{14}{\sqrt{385}} \Rightarrow \theta = \cos^{-1} \frac{14}{\sqrt{385}} \approx 44.48^\circ$$

$$c) \quad \vec{BC} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 9 \\ -7 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ 2 \\ -9 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 7 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \vec{AB} \cdot \vec{BC} = -6 + 14 - 8 = 0 \quad \therefore \vec{AB} \perp \vec{BC}$$

and $\angle B = 90^\circ$ and so $\triangle ABC$ is a right triangle.

$$d) \quad \vec{n} = \vec{AB} \times \vec{AC} = \begin{bmatrix} 32 \\ -8 \\ 44 \end{bmatrix} \quad \vec{n} \cdot \vec{x} = \vec{n} \cdot \vec{A}$$

$$32x - 8y + 44z = 32(2) - 8(0) + 44(-5)$$

$$32x - 8y + 44z = -156$$

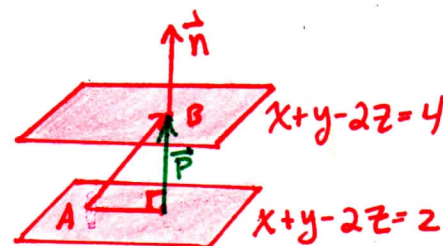
$$\text{or} \quad 8x - 2y + 11z = -39$$

3. (3 marks) Using projections, find the distance between the parallel planes $x + y - 2z = 2$ and $x + y - 2z = 4$. Given an exact, simplified answer.

Let A be a point on 1st plane, e.g. $A = (0, 0, -1)$.

Let B be a point on 2nd plane, e.g. $B = (0, 0, -2)$

Then $\vec{AB} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$. Also $\vec{n} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}$ is a normal vector to both planes.

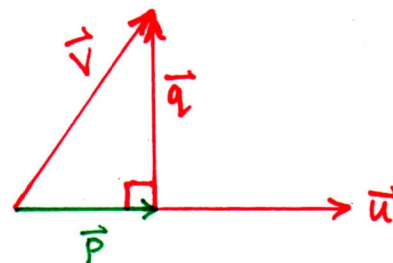


$$\text{Let } \vec{p} = \text{proj}_{\vec{n}}(\vec{AB}) = \left(\frac{\vec{n} \cdot \vec{AB}}{\vec{n} \cdot \vec{n}} \right) \vec{n} = \frac{2}{6} \vec{n} = \frac{1}{3} \vec{n}.$$

$$\text{Then distance} = \|\vec{p}\| = \left\| \frac{1}{3} \vec{n} \right\| = \frac{1}{3} \sqrt{1^2 + 1^2 + (-2)^2} = \frac{\sqrt{6}}{3}.$$

4. (3 marks) Let $\mathbf{u} = [-4, 0, 3]$ and $\mathbf{v} = [2, 5, 1]$. Find vectors \mathbf{p} and \mathbf{q} so that $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q}$, \mathbf{p} is parallel to \mathbf{u} , and \mathbf{q} is orthogonal to \mathbf{u} . [Hint: Use projections to find one of the vectors.]

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{p} &= \text{proj}_{\vec{u}}(\vec{v}) = \left(\frac{\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v}}{\vec{u} \cdot \vec{u}} \right) \vec{u} \\ &= \frac{-5}{25} \vec{u} = -\frac{1}{5} [-4, 0, 3] = \left[\frac{4}{5}, 0, -\frac{3}{5} \right] \end{aligned}$$



$$\vec{q} = \vec{v} - \vec{p} = [2, 5, 1] - \left[\frac{4}{5}, 0, -\frac{3}{5} \right] = \left[\frac{6}{5}, 5, \frac{8}{5} \right].$$

5. (3 marks) Find an equation, in parametric form, of the line passing through the point $P = (1, 2, -1)$ and orthogonal to the plane defined by

$$\begin{cases} x = 6 + 2s - t \\ y = 1 - 3s + 5t \\ z = -7 + s - t. \end{cases} \Rightarrow \vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 1 \\ -7 \end{bmatrix} + s \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 5 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

direction vectors for plane

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{n} &= \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 5 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ 2 & -3 & 1 \\ -1 & 5 & -1 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} \\ 2 & -3 \\ -1 & 5 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= 3\hat{i} - \hat{j} + 10\hat{k} - 3\hat{k} - 5\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} = -2\hat{i} + \hat{j} + 7\hat{k} \end{aligned}$$

This normal vector is orthogonal to the plane and \therefore a direction vector for the line.

$$\therefore \vec{x} = \vec{P} + t\vec{d} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}$$

In parametric form,
$$\begin{cases} x = 1 - 2t \\ y = 2 + t \\ z = -1 + 7t \end{cases} \quad (\text{Answer not unique.})$$

6. (3 marks) Find the vector form of the equation of the plane $3x - 4y + 2z = 12$.

Three points on the plane are $A = (4, 0, 0)$, $B = (0, -3, 0)$ and $C = (0, 0, 6)$.

$\therefore \vec{AB} = \begin{bmatrix} -4 \\ -3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\vec{AC} = \begin{bmatrix} -4 \\ 0 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}$ are nonparallel direction vectors

for the plane. Scaling to simplify (optional) gives us $\vec{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 0 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$. Using point A for $\vec{p} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$, we get

the vector form $\vec{x} = \vec{p} + s\vec{u} + t\vec{v}$ given by

$$\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + s \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 0 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \quad (\text{Answer not unique.})$$

7. (2 marks) Find the value(s) of k such that the vector

$$\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ k \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

is orthogonal to the plane $2x + 3y - 4z = 0$.

\vec{v} must be parallel to (i.e. a scalar multiple of) the normal vector $\vec{n} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ -4 \end{bmatrix}$ to the plane:

$$\vec{v} = c \vec{n} \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ k \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = c \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ -4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2c \\ 3c \\ -4c \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\therefore -1 = 2c \Rightarrow c = -\frac{1}{2} \text{ and similarly } 2 = -4c \Rightarrow c = -\frac{1}{2}$$

$$\therefore k = 3c = 3\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) = -\frac{3}{2}$$

OR Find any vector parallel to the plane with a nonzero y -component.
eg Since $A = (0, 0, 0)$ and $B = (3, -2, 0)$ are in the plane then $\vec{AB} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ is such a parallel vector.

Since \vec{v} must be orthogonal to \vec{AB} , then

$$\vec{v} \cdot \vec{AB} = 0 \Rightarrow (-3) - 2k + 0 = 0 \Rightarrow k = -\frac{3}{2}.$$