

Accelerated Pre calculus

3D Vectors Study Guide

Unit 12

I. 2D Vectors

• Refer to 2D vectors study guide [unit 8]

II. Terminology & Notation

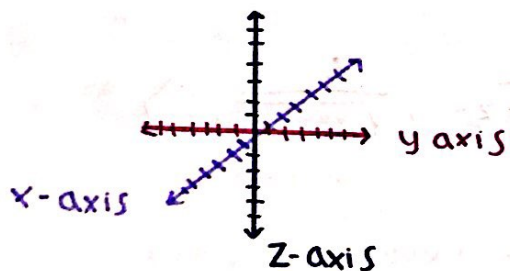
• point (x_1, y_1, z_1)

• line $\vec{r} = \langle x_1, y_1, z_1 \rangle + d \langle \Delta x, \Delta y, \Delta z \rangle$

• plane $Ax + By + Cz = D$

• vector $\langle x, y, z \rangle$ OR $x\vec{i} + y\vec{j} + z\vec{k}$

III. Drawing 3D Vectors



IV. 3D Vector Basics

→ Writing 3D vector given 2 points

$A(x_1, y_1, z_1)$ and $B(x_2, y_2, z_2)$

$$\vec{AB} = \langle x_2 - x_1, y_2 - y_1, z_2 - z_1 \rangle$$

→ adding / subtracting 3D vectors

• must add / subtract "matching parts" of each vector

$$\vec{AB} \langle x_1, y_1, z_1 \rangle \quad \vec{BC} \langle x_2, y_2, z_2 \rangle$$

$$\vec{AB} + \vec{BC} = \langle x_1 + x_2, y_1 + y_2, z_1 + z_2 \rangle$$

→ midpoint of a line given 2 pts

(x_1, y_1, z_1) and (x_2, y_2, z_2)

$$\text{midpoint: } \left(\frac{x_1 + x_2}{2}, \frac{y_1 + y_2}{2}, \frac{z_1 + z_2}{2} \right)$$

→ non collinear points

• points that do not lie on the same line

→ intercepts

1) x intercept: when $y = z = 0$

$$(x, 0, 0)$$

2) y intercept: when $x = z = 0$

$$(0, y, 0)$$

3) z intercept: when $x = y = 0$

$$(0, 0, z)$$

→ magnitude of a 3D vector

$$|\langle x, y, z \rangle| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$$

→ unit vector of a 3D vector

• original vector written over the vector's magnitude

$$\vec{v} = \langle x, y, z \rangle$$

$$\vec{u}_v = \left\langle \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}}, \frac{y}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}}, \frac{z}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}} \right\rangle$$

Ⓟ Angle Between two vectors

$$\theta = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}{|\vec{a}| |\vec{b}|} \right)$$

• dot product divided by the product of the magnitudes

Ⓟ Scalar Projections, Vector Projections & Orthogonal Components

→ scalar projection (\vec{a} to \vec{b})

$$sp = |\vec{a}| \cos \theta$$

where θ = angle between vectors

$$sp = \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}{|\vec{b}|}$$

dot product divided by magnitude of 2nd vector

→ VECTOR PROJECTIONS (\vec{a} to \vec{b})

$v_p =$ sp of \vec{a} to \vec{b} * unit vector \vec{b}

$$v_p = \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}{|\vec{b}|^2} * \vec{b}$$

→ ORTHOGONAL COMPONENT (\vec{a} to \vec{b})

$OC = \vec{a} - v_p$ of (\vec{a} to \vec{b})

$$OC = \vec{a} - \left(\frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}{|\vec{b}|^2} * \vec{b} \right)$$

VII Dot Product

• Represented by " \cdot "

$$\vec{A} \langle x_1, y_1, z_1 \rangle$$

$$\vec{B} \langle x_2, y_2, z_2 \rangle$$

- the dot product of perpendicular vectors equals ZERO

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = x_1 x_2 + y_1 y_2 + z_1 z_2$$

↳ multiply corresponding x, y, z terms & find the sum of the 3 values

VIII Cross Product

• aka vector product or outer product

• symbol " \times "

→ the CROSS PRODUCT of \vec{r} and \vec{s} ($\vec{r} \times \vec{s}$) is vector \vec{t}

1) \vec{t} is perpendicular to both vectors

2) the magnitude of \vec{t} is the area of the parallelogram formed by \vec{r} and \vec{s}

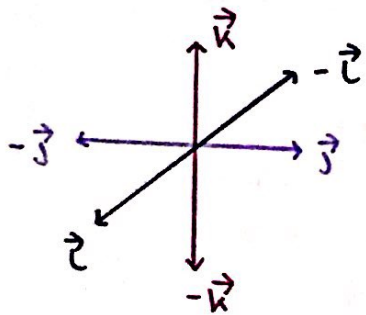
$$\langle x_1, y_1, z_1 \rangle \times \langle x_2, y_2, z_2 \rangle$$

$$\begin{vmatrix} \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ x_1 & y_1 & z_1 \\ x_2 & y_2 & z_2 \end{vmatrix} = \vec{i} \begin{vmatrix} y_1 & z_1 \\ y_2 & z_2 \end{vmatrix} - \vec{j} \begin{vmatrix} x_1 & z_1 \\ x_2 & z_2 \end{vmatrix} + \vec{k} \begin{vmatrix} x_1 & y_1 \\ x_2 & y_2 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$(y_1 z_2 - y_2 z_1) \vec{i} - (x_1 z_2 - x_2 z_1) \vec{j} + (x_1 y_2 - x_2 y_1) \vec{k}$$

Right Hand Rule

- 1) point hand in direction of 1st vector
- 2) curl fingers towards direction of 2nd vector
- 3) thumb will point in direction of the cross product



$$\begin{bmatrix} \hat{i} \times \hat{j} = \hat{k} \\ \hat{j} \times \hat{i} = -\hat{k} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \hat{j} \times \hat{k} = \hat{i} \\ \hat{k} \times \hat{j} = -\hat{i} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \hat{j} \times \hat{k} = \hat{i} \\ \hat{k} \times \hat{j} = -\hat{i} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \hat{i} \times \hat{i} = 0 \\ \hat{j} \times \hat{j} = 0 \\ \hat{k} \times \hat{k} = 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

⊗ Application of Cross Products

→ if cross product is \perp to two vectors

- unit vector orthogonal to 2 vectors =

$$\hat{u} = \frac{\langle \text{cross product} \rangle}{\text{magnitude of cross product}}$$

→ if cross product = area \triangle

- area of a triangle $\triangle ABC$

- $\vec{AB} \times \vec{AC}$ (cross product)

- magnitude of cross product

- divide by 2

⊗ Distance between a point and a plane

- point $P = (x, y, z)$

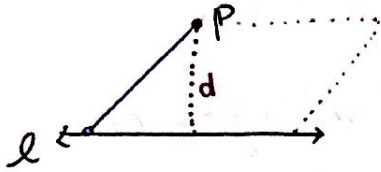
- plane $Ax + By + Cz = D$

↳ $\langle A, B, C \rangle$ is a vector \perp to the plane

$$d = \left| \frac{Ax + By + Cz - D}{\sqrt{A^2 + B^2 + C^2}} \right|$$

(XI) Distance between a point & a line

→ method 1: using area & cross products

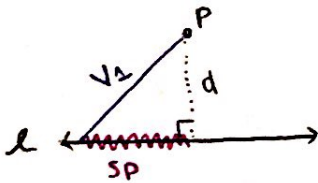


- make a vector between point P and any point on the line
- find the cross product of that vector with a vector that lies on the line (l)
- find the magnitude of the cross product \Rightarrow this is the area of the \square formed

$$\text{Area} = bh$$

- area = magnitude of cross product
 - base = magnitude of vector lying on line
- \hookrightarrow solve for h (or the distance)

→ method 2: scalar projections & pythagorean theorem



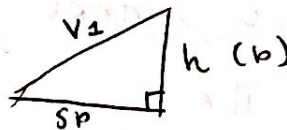
- write a vector (v_1) between the point & any point on the line
- find the scalar projection of v_1 onto a vector lying on the line
- find the magnitude of v_1

pythag. theorem =

$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$$

$$\text{OR } (SP)^2 + b^2 = (|v_1|)^2$$

• solve for b (height)



(XII) Distance between 2 skewed lines

$$l_1 = \langle x_1, y_1, z_1 \rangle + d \langle A, B, C \rangle$$

$$l_2 = \langle x_2, y_2, z_2 \rangle + d \langle E, F, G \rangle$$

i) find the vector between two points on the line

$$\vec{v}_1 = \langle x_2 - x_1, y_2 - y_1, z_2 - z_1 \rangle$$

- 2) find the cross product of the two vectors that lie on the lines

$$\begin{vmatrix} i & j & k \\ A & B & C \\ D & E & F \end{vmatrix} = \langle \quad \quad \quad \rangle = \vec{v}_2$$

- 3) find the scalar projection of v_1 onto v_2

(sp: vector between 2 points onto cross product of the lines)

XIII. Spheres

• In standard form: $(x - x_1)^2 + (y - y_1)^2 + (z - z_1)^2 = r^2$

- center at (x_1, y_1, z_1)

- Radius = r

* complete the square to get this form if given in general form

• intercepts: when the other two variables equal zero

• traces

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{XY trace} & \text{let } z=0 \\ \text{XZ trace} & \text{let } y=0 \\ \text{YZ trace} & \text{let } x=0 \end{bmatrix}$$

• surface area of a sphere

$$SA = 4\pi r^2$$

• volume of a sphere

$$V = \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$$

XIV. Intersections

1) line and plane (0-1 points of intersection)

2) line and sphere (0-2 points of intersection)

- write parametric equation of the line

- substitute $x, y,$ and z values into equation of the plane/sphere

- solve for T

- substitute T value(s) into parametric eq to find x, y, z (to find PO)

(XV) Direction Cosines

- when the vector along the line is a unit vector, the coefficients are called direction cosines

↳ abbreviated c_1, c_2, c_3

$\langle x, y, z \rangle$

$$c_1 = \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2+z^2}} \quad c_2 = \frac{y}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2+z^2}} \quad c_3 = \frac{z}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2+z^2}}$$

- use \cos^{-1} to find direction angles (θ).

(XVI) Various Problem Solving

→ write the equation of a plane given 3 points. (A, B, C)

- write vectors \vec{AB} and \vec{AC}

- find the cross product $\vec{AB} \times \vec{AC}$

- use cross products as the coefficients of $x, y,$ and z in the plane

- plug in point A, B, or C into equation to solve for the constant (D)

↳ all 3 points should equal the same constant (D)

$$Ax + By + Cz = D$$

→ write a vector perpendicular to a plane

$$Ax + By + Cz = D$$

↳ $\langle A, B, C \rangle$

* use coefficients

→ write a line parallel to another line that passes through a given point

* works with two parallel planes & a point

- keep coefficients the same (slope = same)

- plug in given point

- solve for the new constant

- rewrite w/ variables and new constant

• write equation of a plane \perp to a line that passes through a point

• write eq. of line

• find plane \perp to the line

• take coefficients, plug in the point, solve for the constant

• distance from a plane (or a line parallel to a plane) and another plane

• find any point on the plane or line

• find distance using distance formula

$$d = \left| \frac{Ax + By + Cz - D}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + c^2}} \right|$$

• parallel planes to the axes/planes

- plane parallel to the xy plane

$$z = k \text{ (constant)}$$

- plane parallel to the xz plane

$$y = k \text{ (constant)}$$

- plane parallel to the yz plane

$$x = k \text{ (constant)}$$

- line parallel to x axis

↳ perpendicular to yz plane

- plane perpendicular to the y axis

$$y = k \text{ (constant)}$$

• intersection between 2 planes

• let 1 variable equal zero

• use systems of equations to solve for the other two

↳ infinitely many solutions