

# lyryx with Open Texts

# LINEAR ALGEBRA with Applications

## Open Edition



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Adapted for

Emory University

Math 221

Linear Algebra

Sections 1 & 2

Lectured and adapted by

Le Chen

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le.chen@emory.edu

Course page

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by W. Keith Nicholson

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# Contents

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<b>1</b>	<b>Systems of Linear Equations</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1	Solutions and Elementary Operations . . . . .	6
1.2	Gaussian Elimination . . . . .	16
1.3	Homogeneous Equations . . . . .	28
	Supplementary Exercises for Chapter 1 . . . . .	37
<b>2</b>	<b>Matrix Algebra</b>	<b>39</b>
2.1	Matrix Addition, Scalar Multiplication, and Transposition . . . . .	40
2.2	Matrix-Vector Multiplication . . . . .	53
2.3	Matrix Multiplication . . . . .	72
2.4	Matrix Inverses . . . . .	91
2.5	Elementary Matrices . . . . .	109
2.6	Linear Transformations . . . . .	119
2.7	LU-Factorization . . . . .	135
<b>3</b>	<b>Determinants and Diagonalization</b>	<b>147</b>
3.1	The Cofactor Expansion . . . . .	148
3.2	Determinants and Matrix Inverses . . . . .	163
3.3	Diagonalization and Eigenvalues . . . . .	178
	Supplementary Exercises for Chapter 3 . . . . .	201
<b>4</b>	<b>Vector Geometry</b>	<b>203</b>
4.1	Vectors and Lines . . . . .	204
4.2	Projections and Planes . . . . .	223
4.3	More on the Cross Product . . . . .	244
4.4	Linear Operators on $\mathbb{R}^3$ . . . . .	251
	Supplementary Exercises for Chapter 4 . . . . .	260
<b>5</b>	<b>Vector Space <math>\mathbb{R}^n</math></b>	<b>263</b>
5.1	Subspaces and Spanning . . . . .	264
5.2	Independence and Dimension . . . . .	273
5.3	Orthogonality . . . . .	287
5.4	Rank of a Matrix . . . . .	297

5.5	Similarity and Diagonalization . . . . .	307
	Supplementary Exercises for Chapter 5 . . . . .	320
<b>6</b>	<b>Vector Spaces</b>	<b>321</b>
6.1	Examples and Basic Properties . . . . .	322
6.2	Subspaces and Spanning Sets . . . . .	333
6.3	Linear Independence and Dimension . . . . .	342
6.4	Finite Dimensional Spaces . . . . .	354
	Supplementary Exercises for Chapter 6 . . . . .	364
<b>7</b>	<b>Linear Transformations</b>	<b>365</b>
7.1	Examples and Elementary Properties . . . . .	366
7.2	Kernel and Image of a Linear Transformation . . . . .	374
7.3	Isomorphisms and Composition . . . . .	385
<b>8</b>	<b>Orthogonality</b>	<b>399</b>
8.1	Orthogonal Complements and Projections . . . . .	400
8.2	Orthogonal Diagonalization . . . . .	410
8.3	Positive Definite Matrices . . . . .	421
8.4	QR-Factorization . . . . .	427
8.5	Computing Eigenvalues . . . . .	431
8.6	The Singular Value Decomposition . . . . .	436
8.6.1	Singular Value Decompositions . . . . .	436
8.6.2	Fundamental Subspaces . . . . .	442
8.6.3	The Polar Decomposition of a Real Square Matrix . . . . .	445
8.6.4	The Pseudoinverse of a Matrix . . . . .	447

## 4.2 Projections and Planes

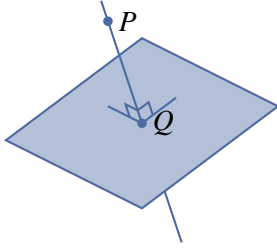


Figure 4.2.1

Any student of geometry soon realizes that the notion of perpendicular lines is fundamental. As an illustration, suppose a point  $P$  and a plane are given and it is desired to find the point  $Q$  that lies in the plane and is closest to  $P$ , as shown in Figure 4.2.1. Clearly, what is required is to find the line through  $P$  that is perpendicular to the plane and then to obtain  $Q$  as the point of intersection of this line with the plane. Finding the line *perpendicular* to the plane requires a way to determine when two vectors are perpendicular. This can be done using the idea of the dot product of two vectors.

### The Dot Product and Angles

#### Definition 4.4 Dot Product in $\mathbb{R}^3$

Given vectors  $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \\ z_1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} x_2 \\ y_2 \\ z_2 \end{bmatrix}$ , their **dot product**  $\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w}$  is a number defined

$$\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w} = x_1x_2 + y_1y_2 + z_1z_2 = \mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{w}$$

Because  $\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w}$  is a number, it is sometimes called the **scalar product** of  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$ .<sup>11</sup>

#### Example 4.2.1

If  $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$ , then  $\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w} = 2 \cdot 1 + (-1) \cdot 4 + 3 \cdot (-1) = -5$ .

The next theorem lists several basic properties of the dot product.

#### Theorem 4.2.1

Let  $\mathbf{u}$ ,  $\mathbf{v}$ , and  $\mathbf{w}$  denote vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  (or  $\mathbb{R}^2$ ).

1.  $\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w}$  is a real number.
2.  $\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{v}$ .
3.  $\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{0} = 0 = \mathbf{0} \cdot \mathbf{v}$ .
4.  $\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{v} = \|\mathbf{v}\|^2$ .

<sup>11</sup>Similarly, if  $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} x_2 \\ y_2 \end{bmatrix}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ , then  $\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w} = x_1x_2 + y_1y_2$ .

5.  $(k\mathbf{v}) \cdot \mathbf{w} = k(\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{v} \cdot (k\mathbf{w})$  for all scalars  $k$ .

6.  $\mathbf{u} \cdot (\mathbf{v} \pm \mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} \pm \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{w}$

**Proof.** (1), (2), and (3) are easily verified, and (4) comes from Theorem 4.1.1. The rest are properties of matrix arithmetic (because  $\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{w}$ ), and are left to the reader.  $\square$

The properties in Theorem 4.2.1 enable us to do calculations like

$$3\mathbf{u} \cdot (2\mathbf{v} - 3\mathbf{w} + 4\mathbf{z}) = 6(\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}) - 9(\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{w}) + 12(\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{z})$$

and such computations will be used without comment below. Here is an example.

### Example 4.2.2

Verify that  $\|\mathbf{v} - 3\mathbf{w}\|^2 = 1$  when  $\|\mathbf{v}\| = 2$ ,  $\|\mathbf{w}\| = 1$ , and  $\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w} = 2$ .

**Solution.** We apply Theorem 4.2.1 several times:

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathbf{v} - 3\mathbf{w}\|^2 &= (\mathbf{v} - 3\mathbf{w}) \cdot (\mathbf{v} - 3\mathbf{w}) \\ &= \mathbf{v} \cdot (\mathbf{v} - 3\mathbf{w}) - 3\mathbf{w} \cdot (\mathbf{v} - 3\mathbf{w}) \\ &= \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{v} - 3(\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w}) - 3(\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{v}) + 9(\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{w}) \\ &= \|\mathbf{v}\|^2 - 6(\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w}) + 9\|\mathbf{w}\|^2 \\ &= 4 - 12 + 9 = 1 \end{aligned}$$

There is an intrinsic description of the dot product of two nonzero vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . To understand it we require the following result from trigonometry.

### Law of Cosines

If a triangle has sides  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$ , and if  $\theta$  is the interior angle opposite  $c$  then

$$c^2 = a^2 + b^2 - 2ab \cos \theta$$

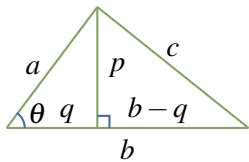


Figure 4.2.2

**Proof.** We prove it when  $\theta$  is acute, that is  $0 \leq \theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$ ; the obtuse case is similar. In Figure 4.2.2 we have  $p = a \sin \theta$  and  $q = a \cos \theta$ . Hence Pythagoras' theorem gives

$$\begin{aligned} c^2 &= p^2 + (b - q)^2 = a^2 \sin^2 \theta + (b - a \cos \theta)^2 \\ &= a^2(\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta) + b^2 - 2ab \cos \theta \end{aligned}$$

The law of cosines follows because  $\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta = 1$  for any angle  $\theta$ .  $\square$

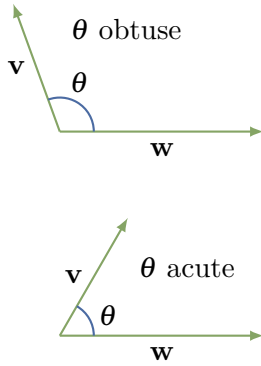


Figure 4.2.3

Note that the law of cosines reduces to Pythagoras' theorem if  $\theta$  is a right angle (because  $\cos \frac{\pi}{2} = 0$ ).

Now let  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  be nonzero vectors positioned with a common tail as in Figure 4.2.3. Then they determine a unique angle  $\theta$  in the range

$$0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$$

This angle  $\theta$  will be called the **angle between  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$** . Figure 4.2.3 illustrates when  $\theta$  is acute (less than  $\frac{\pi}{2}$ ) and obtuse (greater than  $\frac{\pi}{2}$ ). Clearly  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  are parallel if  $\theta$  is either 0 or  $\pi$ . Note that we do not define the angle between  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  if one of these vectors is  $\mathbf{0}$ .

The next result gives an easy way to compute the angle between two nonzero vectors using the dot product.

#### Theorem 4.2.2

Let  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  be nonzero vectors. If  $\theta$  is the angle between  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$ , then

$$\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w} = \|\mathbf{v}\| \|\mathbf{w}\| \cos \theta$$

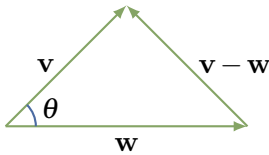


Figure 4.2.4

**Proof.** We calculate  $\|\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{w}\|^2$  in two ways. First apply the law of cosines to the triangle in Figure 4.2.4 to obtain:

$$\|\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{w}\|^2 = \|\mathbf{v}\|^2 + \|\mathbf{w}\|^2 - 2\|\mathbf{v}\| \|\mathbf{w}\| \cos \theta$$

On the other hand, we use Theorem 4.2.1:

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{w}\|^2 &= (\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{w}) \cdot (\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{w}) \\ &= \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{w} \\ &= \|\mathbf{v}\|^2 - 2(\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w}) + \|\mathbf{w}\|^2 \end{aligned}$$

Comparing these we see that  $-2\|\mathbf{v}\| \|\mathbf{w}\| \cos \theta = -2(\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w})$ , and the result follows.  $\square$

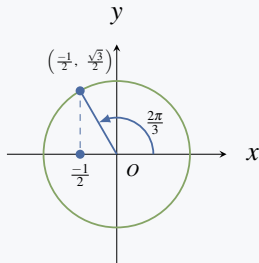
If  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  are nonzero vectors, Theorem 4.2.2 gives an intrinsic description of  $\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w}$  because  $\|\mathbf{v}\|$ ,  $\|\mathbf{w}\|$ , and the angle  $\theta$  between  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  do not depend on the choice of coordinate system. Moreover, since  $\|\mathbf{v}\|$  and  $\|\mathbf{w}\|$  are nonzero ( $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  are nonzero vectors), it gives a formula for the cosine of the angle  $\theta$ :

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w}}{\|\mathbf{v}\| \|\mathbf{w}\|} \quad (4.1)$$

Since  $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$ , this can be used to find  $\theta$ .

## Example 4.2.3

Compute the angle between  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$ .



**Solution.** Compute  $\cos \theta = \frac{\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w}}{\|\mathbf{v}\| \|\mathbf{w}\|} = \frac{-2+1-2}{\sqrt{6}\sqrt{6}} = -\frac{1}{2}$ . Now recall that  $\cos \theta$  and  $\sin \theta$  are defined so that  $(\cos \theta, \sin \theta)$  is the point on the unit circle determined by the angle  $\theta$  (drawn counterclockwise, starting from the positive  $x$  axis). In the present case, we know that  $\cos \theta = -\frac{1}{2}$  and that  $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$ . Because  $\cos \frac{\pi}{3} = \frac{1}{2}$ , it follows that  $\theta = \frac{2\pi}{3}$  (see the diagram).

If  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  are nonzero, equation (4.1) shows that  $\cos \theta$  has the same sign as  $\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w}$ , so

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w} > 0 & \text{ if and only if } \theta \text{ is acute } (0 \leq \theta < \frac{\pi}{2}) \\ \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w} < 0 & \text{ if and only if } \theta \text{ is obtuse } (\frac{\pi}{2} < \theta \leq \pi) \\ \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w} = 0 & \text{ if and only if } \theta = \frac{\pi}{2} \end{aligned}$$

In this last case, the (nonzero) vectors are perpendicular. The following terminology is used in linear algebra:

Definition 4.5 Orthogonal Vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ 

Two vectors  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  are said to be **orthogonal** if  $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$  or  $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{0}$  or the angle between them is  $\frac{\pi}{2}$ .

Since  $\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w} = 0$  if either  $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$  or  $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{0}$ , we have the following theorem:

## Theorem 4.2.3

Two vectors  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  are orthogonal if and only if  $\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w} = 0$ .

## Example 4.2.4

Show that the points  $P(3, -1, 1)$ ,  $Q(4, 1, 4)$ , and  $R(6, 0, 4)$  are the vertices of a right triangle.

**Solution.** The vectors along the sides of the triangle are

$$\vec{PQ} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \vec{PR} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{QR} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Evidently  $\vec{PQ} \cdot \vec{QR} = 2 - 2 + 0 = 0$ , so  $\vec{PQ}$  and  $\vec{QR}$  are orthogonal vectors. This means sides

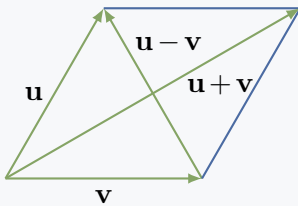


$PQ$  and  $QR$  are perpendicular—that is, the angle at  $Q$  is a right angle.

Example 4.2.5 demonstrates how the dot product can be used to verify geometrical theorems involving perpendicular lines.

### Example 4.2.5

A parallelogram with sides of equal length is called a **rhombus**. Show that the diagonals of a rhombus are perpendicular.



**Solution.** Let  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  denote vectors along two adjacent sides of a rhombus, as shown in the diagram. Then the diagonals are  $\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}$ , and we compute

$$\begin{aligned}(\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}) \cdot (\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) &= \mathbf{u} \cdot (\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) - \mathbf{v} \cdot (\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) \\ &= \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{v} \\ &= \|\mathbf{u}\|^2 - \|\mathbf{v}\|^2 \\ &= 0\end{aligned}$$

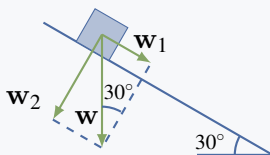
because  $\|\mathbf{u}\| = \|\mathbf{v}\|$  (it is a rhombus). Hence  $\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}$  are orthogonal.

## Projections

In applications of vectors, it is frequently useful to write a vector as the sum of two orthogonal vectors. Here is an example.

### Example 4.2.6

Suppose a ten-kilogram block is placed on a flat surface inclined  $30^\circ$  to the horizontal as in the diagram. Neglecting friction, how much force is required to keep the block from sliding down the surface?



**Solution.** Let  $\mathbf{w}$  denote the weight (force due to gravity) exerted on the block. Then  $\|\mathbf{w}\| = 10$  kilograms and the direction of  $\mathbf{w}$  is vertically down as in the diagram. The idea is to write  $\mathbf{w}$  as a sum  $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{w}_1 + \mathbf{w}_2$  where  $\mathbf{w}_1$  is parallel to the inclined surface and  $\mathbf{w}_2$  is perpendicular to the surface. Since there is no friction, the force required is  $-\mathbf{w}_1$  because

the force  $\mathbf{w}_2$  has no effect parallel to the surface. As the angle between  $\mathbf{w}$  and  $\mathbf{w}_2$  is  $30^\circ$  in the diagram, we have  $\frac{\|\mathbf{w}_1\|}{\|\mathbf{w}\|} = \sin 30^\circ = \frac{1}{2}$ . Hence  $\|\mathbf{w}_1\| = \frac{1}{2}\|\mathbf{w}\| = \frac{1}{2}10 = 5$ . Thus the required force has a magnitude of 5 kilograms weight directed up the surface.

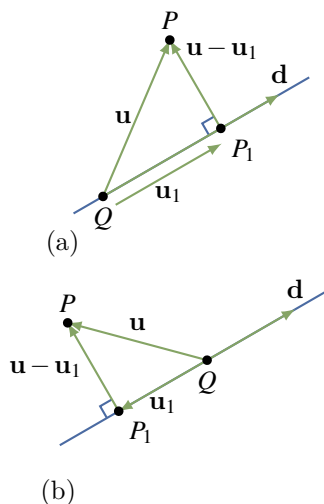


Figure 4.2.5

If a nonzero vector  $\mathbf{d}$  is specified, the key idea in Example 4.2.6 is to be able to write an arbitrary vector  $\mathbf{u}$  as a sum of two vectors,

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}_1 + \mathbf{u}_2$$

where  $\mathbf{u}_1$  is parallel to  $\mathbf{d}$  and  $\mathbf{u}_2 = \mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_1$  is orthogonal to  $\mathbf{d}$ . Suppose that  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{d} \neq \mathbf{0}$  emanate from a common tail  $Q$  (see Figure 4.2.5). Let  $P$  be the tip of  $\mathbf{u}$ , and let  $P_1$  denote the foot of the perpendicular from  $P$  to the line through  $Q$  parallel to  $\mathbf{d}$ .

Then  $\mathbf{u}_1 = \overrightarrow{QP_1}$  has the required properties:

1.  $\mathbf{u}_1$  is parallel to  $\mathbf{d}$ .
2.  $\mathbf{u}_2 = \mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_1$  is orthogonal to  $\mathbf{d}$ .
3.  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}_1 + \mathbf{u}_2$ .

#### Definition 4.6 Projection in $\mathbb{R}^3$

The vector  $\mathbf{u}_1 = \overrightarrow{QP_1}$  in Figure 4.2.5 is called **the projection** of  $\mathbf{u}$  on  $\mathbf{d}$ . It is denoted

$$\mathbf{u}_1 = \text{proj}_{\mathbf{d}} \mathbf{u}$$

In Figure 4.2.5(a) the vector  $\mathbf{u}_1 = \text{proj}_{\mathbf{d}} \mathbf{u}$  has the same direction as  $\mathbf{d}$ ; however,  $\mathbf{u}_1$  and  $\mathbf{d}$  have opposite directions if the angle between  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{d}$  is greater than  $\frac{\pi}{2}$  (Figure 4.2.5(b)). Note that the projection  $\mathbf{u}_1 = \text{proj}_{\mathbf{d}} \mathbf{u}$  is zero if and only if  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{d}$  are orthogonal.

Calculating the projection of  $\mathbf{u}$  on  $\mathbf{d} \neq \mathbf{0}$  is remarkably easy.

#### Theorem 4.2.4

Let  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{d} \neq \mathbf{0}$  be vectors.

1. The projection of  $\mathbf{u}$  on  $\mathbf{d}$  is given by  $\text{proj}_{\mathbf{d}} \mathbf{u} = \frac{\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{d}}{\|\mathbf{d}\|^2} \mathbf{d}$ .
2. The vector  $\mathbf{u} - \text{proj}_{\mathbf{d}} \mathbf{u}$  is orthogonal to  $\mathbf{d}$ .

**Proof.** The vector  $\mathbf{u}_1 = \text{proj}_{\mathbf{d}} \mathbf{u}$  is parallel to  $\mathbf{d}$  and so has the form  $\mathbf{u}_1 = t\mathbf{d}$  for some scalar  $t$ . The requirement that  $\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_1$  and  $\mathbf{d}$  are orthogonal determines  $t$ . In fact, it means that  $(\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_1) \cdot \mathbf{d} = 0$  by Theorem 4.2.3. If  $\mathbf{u}_1 = t\mathbf{d}$  is substituted here, the condition is

$$0 = (\mathbf{u} - t\mathbf{d}) \cdot \mathbf{d} = \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{d} - t(\mathbf{d} \cdot \mathbf{d}) = \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{d} - t\|\mathbf{d}\|^2$$

It follows that  $t = \frac{\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{d}}{\|\mathbf{d}\|^2}$ , where the assumption that  $\mathbf{d} \neq \mathbf{0}$  guarantees that  $\|\mathbf{d}\|^2 \neq 0$ . □

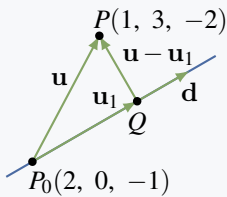
**Example 4.2.7**

Find the projection of  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$  on  $\mathbf{d} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$  and express  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}_1 + \mathbf{u}_2$  where  $\mathbf{u}_1$  is parallel to  $\mathbf{d}$  and  $\mathbf{u}_2$  is orthogonal to  $\mathbf{d}$ .

**Solution.** The projection  $\mathbf{u}_1$  of  $\mathbf{u}$  on  $\mathbf{d}$  is

$$\mathbf{u}_1 = \text{proj}_{\mathbf{d}} \mathbf{u} = \frac{\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{d}}{\|\mathbf{d}\|^2} \mathbf{d} = \frac{2+3+3}{1^2+(-1)^2+3^2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{8}{11} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Hence  $\mathbf{u}_2 = \mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_1 = \frac{1}{11} \begin{bmatrix} 14 \\ -25 \\ -13 \end{bmatrix}$ , and this is orthogonal to  $\mathbf{d}$  by Theorem 4.2.4 (alternatively, observe that  $\mathbf{d} \cdot \mathbf{u}_2 = 0$ ). Since  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}_1 + \mathbf{u}_2$ , we are done.

**Example 4.2.8**

Find the shortest distance (see diagram) from the point  $P(1, 3, -2)$  to the line through  $P_0(2, 0, -1)$  with direction vector  $\mathbf{d} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ . Also find the point  $Q$  that lies on the line and is closest to  $P$ .

**Solution.** Let  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 3 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$  denote the vector from  $P_0$  to  $P$ , and let  $\mathbf{u}_1$  denote the projection of  $\mathbf{u}$  on  $\mathbf{d}$ . Thus

$$\mathbf{u}_1 = \frac{\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{d}}{\|\mathbf{d}\|^2} \mathbf{d} = \frac{-1-3+0}{1^2+(-1)^2+0^2} \mathbf{d} = -2\mathbf{d} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

by Theorem 4.2.4. We see geometrically that the point  $Q$  on the line is closest to  $P$ , so the distance is

$$\|\overrightarrow{QP}\| = \|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_1\| = \left\| \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \right\| = \sqrt{3}$$

To find the coordinates of  $Q$ , let  $\mathbf{p}_0$  and  $\mathbf{q}$  denote the vectors of  $P_0$  and  $Q$ , respectively.

Then  $\mathbf{p}_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\mathbf{q} = \mathbf{p}_0 + \mathbf{u}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$ . Hence  $Q(0, 2, -1)$  is the required point. It can be checked that the distance from  $Q$  to  $P$  is  $\sqrt{3}$ , as expected.

## Planes

It is evident geometrically that among all planes that are perpendicular to a given straight line there is exactly one containing any given point. This fact can be used to give a very simple description of a plane. To do this, it is necessary to introduce the following notion:

### Definition 4.7 Normal Vector in a Plane

A nonzero vector  $\mathbf{n}$  is called a **normal** for a plane if it is orthogonal to every vector in the plane.

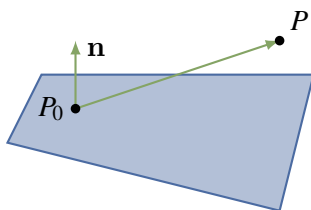


Figure 4.2.6

For example, the coordinate vector  $\mathbf{k}$  is a normal for the  $x$ - $y$  plane.

Given a point  $P_0 = P_0(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  and a nonzero vector  $\mathbf{n}$ , there is a unique plane through  $P_0$  with normal  $\mathbf{n}$ , shaded in Figure 4.2.6. A point  $P = P(x, y, z)$  lies on this plane if and only if the vector  $\overrightarrow{P_0P}$  is orthogonal to  $\mathbf{n}$ —that is, if and only if  $\mathbf{n} \cdot \overrightarrow{P_0P} = 0$ . Because  $\overrightarrow{P_0P} = \begin{bmatrix} x - x_0 \\ y - y_0 \\ z - z_0 \end{bmatrix}$  this gives the following result:

### Scalar Equation of a Plane

The plane through  $P_0(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  with normal  $\mathbf{n} = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix} \neq \mathbf{0}$  as a normal vector is given by

$$a(x - x_0) + b(y - y_0) + c(z - z_0) = 0$$

In other words, a point  $P(x, y, z)$  is on this plane if and only if  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  satisfy this equation.

### Example 4.2.9

Find an equation of the plane through  $P_0(1, -1, 3)$  with  $\mathbf{n} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$  as normal.

**Solution.** Here the general scalar equation becomes

$$3(x - 1) - (y + 1) + 2(z - 3) = 0$$

This simplifies to  $3x - y + 2z = 10$ .

If we write  $d = ax_0 + by_0 + cz_0$ , the scalar equation shows that every plane with normal  $\mathbf{n} = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix}$  has a linear equation of the form

$$ax + by + cz = d \quad (4.2)$$

for some constant  $d$ . Conversely, the graph of this equation is a plane with  $\mathbf{n} = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix}$  as a normal vector (assuming that  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  are not all zero).

### Example 4.2.10

Find an equation of the plane through  $P_0(3, -1, 2)$  that is parallel to the plane with equation  $2x - 3y = 6$ .

**Solution.** The plane with equation  $2x - 3y = 6$  has normal  $\mathbf{n} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ . Because the two planes are parallel,  $\mathbf{n}$  serves as a normal for the plane we seek, so the equation is  $2x - 3y = d$  for some  $d$  by Equation 4.2. Insisting that  $P_0(3, -1, 2)$  lies on the plane determines  $d$ ; that is,  $d = 2 \cdot 3 - 3(-1) = 9$ . Hence, the equation is  $2x - 3y = 9$ .

Consider points  $P_0(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  and  $P(x, y, z)$  with vectors  $\mathbf{p}_0 = \begin{bmatrix} x_0 \\ y_0 \\ z_0 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\mathbf{p} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$ . Given a nonzero vector  $\mathbf{n}$ , the scalar equation of the plane through  $P_0(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  with normal  $\mathbf{n} = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix}$  takes the vector form:

### Vector Equation of a Plane

The plane with normal  $\mathbf{n} \neq \mathbf{0}$  through the point with vector  $\mathbf{p}_0$  is given by

$$\mathbf{n} \cdot (\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{p}_0) = 0$$

In other words, the point with vector  $\mathbf{p}$  is on the plane if and only if  $\mathbf{p}$  satisfies this condition.

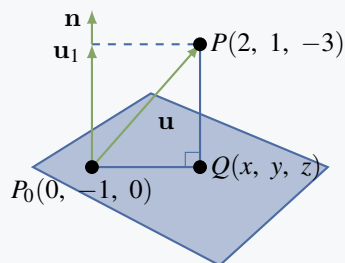
Moreover, Equation 4.2 translates as follows:

Every plane with normal  $\mathbf{n}$  has vector equation  $\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{p} = d$  for some number  $d$ .

This is useful in the second solution of Example 4.2.11.

## Example 4.2.11

Find the shortest distance from the point  $P(2, 1, -3)$  to the plane with equation  $3x - y + 4z = 1$ . Also find the point  $Q$  on this plane closest to  $P$ .



**Solution 1.** The plane in question has normal  $\mathbf{n} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$ .

Choose any point  $P_0$  on the plane—say  $P_0(0, -1, 0)$ —and let  $Q(x, y, z)$  be the point on the plane closest to  $P$  (see the

diagram). The vector from  $P_0$  to  $P$  is  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}$ . Now erect

$\mathbf{n}$  with its tail at  $P_0$ . Then  $\overrightarrow{QP} = \mathbf{u}_1$  and  $\mathbf{u}_1$  is the projection of

$\mathbf{u}$  on  $\mathbf{n}$ :

$$\mathbf{u}_1 = \frac{\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{u}}{\|\mathbf{n}\|^2} \mathbf{n} = \frac{-8}{26} \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{-4}{13} \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

Hence the distance is  $\|\overrightarrow{QP}\| = \|\mathbf{u}_1\| = \frac{4\sqrt{26}}{13}$ . To calculate the point  $Q$ , let  $\mathbf{q} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$  and

$\mathbf{p}_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$  be the vectors of  $Q$  and  $P_0$ . Then

$$\mathbf{q} = \mathbf{p}_0 + \mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix} + \frac{4}{13} \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{38}{13} \\ \frac{9}{13} \\ \frac{-23}{13} \end{bmatrix}$$

This gives the coordinates of  $Q(\frac{38}{13}, \frac{9}{13}, \frac{-23}{13})$ .

**Solution 2.** Let  $\mathbf{q} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\mathbf{p} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}$  be the vectors of  $Q$  and  $P$ . Then  $Q$  is on the

line through  $P$  with direction vector  $\mathbf{n}$ , so  $\mathbf{q} = \mathbf{p} + t\mathbf{n}$  for some scalar  $t$ . In addition,  $Q$  lies on the plane, so  $\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{q} = 1$ . This determines  $t$ :

$$1 = \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{q} = \mathbf{n} \cdot (\mathbf{p} + t\mathbf{n}) = \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{p} + t\|\mathbf{n}\|^2 = -7 + t(26)$$

This gives  $t = \frac{8}{26} = \frac{4}{13}$ , so

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{q} = \mathbf{p} + t\mathbf{n} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix} + \frac{4}{13} \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} + \frac{1}{13} \begin{bmatrix} 38 \\ 9 \\ -23 \end{bmatrix}$$

as before. This determines  $Q$  (in the diagram), and the reader can verify that the required distance is  $\|\overrightarrow{QP}\| = \frac{4}{13}\sqrt{26}$ , as before.

## The Cross Product

If  $P$ ,  $Q$ , and  $R$  are three distinct points in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  that are not all on some line, it is clear geometrically that there is a unique plane containing all three. The vectors  $\overrightarrow{PQ}$  and  $\overrightarrow{PR}$  both lie in this plane, so finding a normal amounts to finding a nonzero vector orthogonal to both  $\overrightarrow{PQ}$  and  $\overrightarrow{PR}$ . The cross product provides a systematic way to do this.

### Definition 4.8 Cross Product

Given vectors  $\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \\ z_1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} x_2 \\ y_2 \\ z_2 \end{bmatrix}$ , define the **cross product**  $\mathbf{v}_1 \times \mathbf{v}_2$  by

$$\mathbf{v}_1 \times \mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 z_2 - z_1 y_2 \\ -(x_1 z_2 - z_1 x_2) \\ x_1 y_2 - y_1 x_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

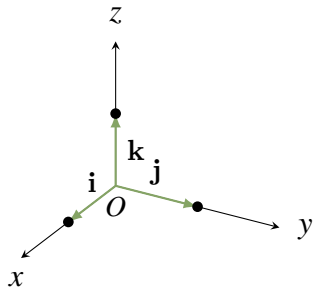


Figure 4.2.7

(Because it is a vector,  $\mathbf{v}_1 \times \mathbf{v}_2$  is often called the **vector product**.) There is an easy way to remember this definition using the **coordinate vectors**:

$$\mathbf{i} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{j} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{k} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

They are vectors of length 1 pointing along the positive  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  axes, respectively, as in Figure 4.2.7. The reason for the name is that any vector can be written as

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = x\mathbf{i} + y\mathbf{j} + z\mathbf{k}$$

With this, the cross product can be described as follows:

### Determinant Form of the Cross Product

If  $\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \\ z_1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} x_2 \\ y_2 \\ z_2 \end{bmatrix}$  are two vectors, then

$$\mathbf{v}_1 \times \mathbf{v}_2 = \det \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{i} & x_1 & x_2 \\ \mathbf{j} & y_1 & y_2 \\ \mathbf{k} & z_1 & z_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} y_1 & y_2 \\ z_1 & z_2 \end{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} - \begin{vmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \\ z_1 & z_2 \end{vmatrix} \mathbf{j} + \begin{vmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \\ y_1 & y_2 \end{vmatrix} \mathbf{k}$$

where the determinant is expanded along the first column.

## Example 4.2.12

If  $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{v}_1 \times \mathbf{v}_2 &= \det \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{i} & 2 & 1 \\ \mathbf{j} & -1 & 3 \\ \mathbf{k} & 4 & 7 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} -1 & 3 \\ 4 & 7 \end{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} - \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 4 & 7 \end{vmatrix} \mathbf{j} + \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ -1 & 3 \end{vmatrix} \mathbf{k} \\ &= -19\mathbf{i} - 10\mathbf{j} + 7\mathbf{k} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} -19 \\ -10 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Observe that  $\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{w}$  is orthogonal to both  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  in Example 4.2.12. This holds in general as can be verified directly by computing  $\mathbf{v} \cdot (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{w})$  and  $\mathbf{w} \cdot (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{w})$ , and is recorded as the first part of the following theorem. It will follow from a more general result which, together with the second part, will be proved in Section 4.3 where a more detailed study of the cross product will be undertaken.

## Theorem 4.2.5

Let  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  be vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

1.  $\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{w}$  is a vector orthogonal to both  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$ .
2. If  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  are nonzero, then  $\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{0}$  if and only if  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  are parallel.

It is interesting to contrast Theorem 4.2.5(2) with the assertion (in Theorem 4.2.3) that

$$\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w} = 0 \quad \text{if and only if } \mathbf{v} \text{ and } \mathbf{w} \text{ are orthogonal.}$$

## Example 4.2.13

Find the equation of the plane through  $P(1, 3, -2)$ ,  $Q(1, 1, 5)$ , and  $R(2, -2, 3)$ .

**Solution.** The vectors  $\overrightarrow{PQ} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -2 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\overrightarrow{PR} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -5 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$  lie in the plane, so

$$\overrightarrow{PQ} \times \overrightarrow{PR} = \det \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{i} & 0 & 1 \\ \mathbf{j} & -2 & -5 \\ \mathbf{k} & 7 & 5 \end{bmatrix} = 25\mathbf{i} + 7\mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k} = \begin{bmatrix} 25 \\ 7 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

is a normal for the plane (being orthogonal to both  $\overrightarrow{PQ}$  and  $\overrightarrow{PR}$ ). Hence the plane has equation

$$25x + 7y + 2z = d \quad \text{for some number } d.$$



Since  $P(1, 3, -2)$  lies in the plane we have  $25 \cdot 1 + 7 \cdot 3 + 2(-2) = d$ . Hence  $d = 42$  and the equation is  $25x + 7y + 2z = 42$ . Incidentally, the same equation is obtained (verify) if  $\overrightarrow{QP}$  and  $\overrightarrow{QR}$ , or  $\overrightarrow{RP}$  and  $\overrightarrow{RQ}$ , are used as the vectors in the plane.

### Example 4.2.14

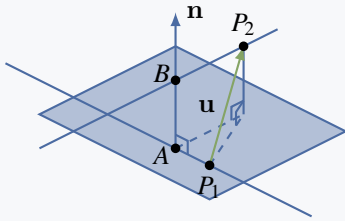
Find the shortest distance between the nonparallel lines

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + s \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Then find the points  $A$  and  $B$  on the lines that are closest together.

**Solution.** Direction vectors for the two lines are  $\mathbf{d}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\mathbf{d}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$ , so

$$\mathbf{n} = \mathbf{d}_1 \times \mathbf{d}_2 = \det \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{i} & 2 & 1 \\ \mathbf{j} & 0 & 1 \\ \mathbf{k} & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$



is perpendicular to both lines. Consider the plane shaded in the diagram containing the first line with  $\mathbf{n}$  as normal. This plane contains  $P_1(1, 0, -1)$  and is parallel to the second line. Because  $P_2(3, 1, 0)$  is on the second line, the distance in question is just the shortest distance between  $P_2(3, 1, 0)$  and

this plane. The vector  $\mathbf{u}$  from  $P_1$  to  $P_2$  is  $\mathbf{u} = \overrightarrow{P_1P_2} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

and so, as in Example 4.2.11, the distance is the length of the projection of  $\mathbf{u}$  on  $\mathbf{n}$ .

$$\text{distance} = \left\| \frac{\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{n}}{\|\mathbf{n}\|^2} \mathbf{n} \right\| = \frac{|\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{n}|}{\|\mathbf{n}\|} = \frac{3}{\sqrt{14}} = \frac{3\sqrt{14}}{14}$$

Note that it is necessary that  $\mathbf{n} = \mathbf{d}_1 \times \mathbf{d}_2$  be nonzero for this calculation to be possible. As is shown later (Theorem 4.3.4), this is guaranteed by the fact that  $\mathbf{d}_1$  and  $\mathbf{d}_2$  are *not* parallel.

The points  $A$  and  $B$  have coordinates  $A(1 + 2t, 0, t - 1)$  and  $B(3 + s, 1 + s, -s)$  for some

$s$  and  $t$ , so  $\overrightarrow{AB} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 + s - 2t \\ 1 + s \\ 1 - s - t \end{bmatrix}$ . This vector is orthogonal to both  $\mathbf{d}_1$  and  $\mathbf{d}_2$ , and the

conditions  $\overrightarrow{AB} \cdot \mathbf{d}_1 = 0$  and  $\overrightarrow{AB} \cdot \mathbf{d}_2 = 0$  give equations  $5t - s = 5$  and  $t - 3s = 2$ . The solution is  $s = \frac{-5}{14}$  and  $t = \frac{13}{14}$ , so the points are  $A(\frac{40}{14}, 0, \frac{-1}{14})$  and  $B(\frac{37}{14}, \frac{9}{14}, \frac{5}{14})$ . We have  $\|\overrightarrow{AB}\| = \frac{3\sqrt{14}}{14}$ , as before.

## Exercises for 4.2

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**Exercise 4.2.1** Compute  $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}$  where:

a.  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

b.  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{u}$

c.  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

d.  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ -7 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix}$

e.  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix}$

f.  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$

---

b. 6

d. 0

f. 0

**Exercise 4.2.2** Find the angle between the following pairs of vectors.

a.  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

b.  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} -6 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

c.  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$

d.  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$

e.  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

f.  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 5\sqrt{2} \\ -7 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$

---

b.  $\pi$  or  $180^\circ$

d.  $\frac{\pi}{3}$  or  $60^\circ$

f.  $\frac{2\pi}{3}$  or  $120^\circ$

**Exercise 4.2.3** Find all real numbers  $x$  such that:

a.  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$  are orthogonal.

b.  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ x \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$  are at an angle of  $\frac{\pi}{3}$ .

---

b. 1 or  $-17$

**Exercise 4.2.4** Find all vectors  $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$  orthogonal to both:

a.  $\mathbf{u}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{u}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

b.  $\mathbf{u}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{u}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

c.  $\mathbf{u}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{u}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -4 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\text{d. } \mathbf{u}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{u}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{b. } t \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{d. } s \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

**Exercise 4.2.5** Find two orthogonal vectors that are both orthogonal to  $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ .

**Exercise 4.2.6** Consider the triangle with vertices  $P(2, 0, -3)$ ,  $Q(5, -2, 1)$ , and  $R(7, 5, 3)$ .

- Show that it is a right-angled triangle.
- Find the lengths of the three sides and verify the Pythagorean theorem.

$$\text{b. } 29 + 57 = 86$$

**Exercise 4.2.7** Show that the triangle with vertices  $A(4, -7, 9)$ ,  $B(6, 4, 4)$ , and  $C(7, 10, -6)$  is not a right-angled triangle.

**Exercise 4.2.8** Find the three internal angles of the triangle with vertices:

- $A(3, 1, -2)$ ,  $B(3, 0, -1)$ , and  $C(5, 2, -1)$
- $A(3, 1, -2)$ ,  $B(5, 2, -1)$ , and  $C(4, 3, -3)$

$$\text{b. } A = B = C = \frac{\pi}{3} \text{ or } 60^\circ$$

**Exercise 4.2.9** Show that the line through  $P_0(3, 1, 4)$  and  $P_1(2, 1, 3)$  is perpendicular to the line through  $P_2(1, -1, 2)$  and  $P_3(0, 5, 3)$ .

**Exercise 4.2.10** In each case, compute the projection of  $\mathbf{u}$  on  $\mathbf{v}$ .

$$\text{a. } \mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 7 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{b. } \mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{c. } \mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{d. } \mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} -6 \\ 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{b. } \frac{11}{18}\mathbf{v}$$

$$\text{d. } -\frac{1}{2}\mathbf{v}$$

**Exercise 4.2.11** In each case, write  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}_1 + \mathbf{u}_2$ , where  $\mathbf{u}_1$  is parallel to  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{u}_2$  is orthogonal to  $\mathbf{v}$ .

$$\text{a. } \mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{b. } \mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{c. } \mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{d. } \mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} -6 \\ 4 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{b. } \frac{5}{21} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ -4 \end{bmatrix} + \frac{1}{21} \begin{bmatrix} 53 \\ 26 \\ 20 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{d. } \frac{27}{53} \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ -4 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + \frac{1}{53} \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 2 \\ 26 \end{bmatrix}$$

**Exercise 4.2.12** Calculate the distance from the point  $P$  to the line in each case and find the point  $Q$  on the line closest to  $P$ .

a.  $P(3, 2-1)$

$$\text{line: } \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}$$

b.  $P(1, -1, 3)$

$$\text{line: } \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

b.  $\frac{1}{26}\sqrt{5642}$ ,  $Q(\frac{71}{26}, \frac{15}{26}, \frac{34}{26})$

**Exercise 4.2.13** Compute  $\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v}$  where:

a.  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$

b.  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} -6 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

c.  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$

d.  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}$

b.  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

b.  $\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ -15 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix}$

**Exercise 4.2.14** Find an equation of each of the following planes.

a. Passing through  $A(2, 1, 3)$ ,  $B(3, -1, 5)$ , and  $C(1, 2, -3)$ .

b. Passing through  $A(1, -1, 6)$ ,  $B(0, 0, 1)$ , and  $C(4, 7, -11)$ .

c. Passing through  $P(2, -3, 5)$  and parallel to the plane with equation  $3x - 2y - z = 0$ .

d. Passing through  $P(3, 0, -1)$  and parallel to the plane with equation  $2x - y + z = 3$ .

e. Containing  $P(3, 0, -1)$  and the line

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

f. Containing  $P(2, 1, 0)$  and the line  $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} =$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

g. Containing the lines  $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} +$

$$t \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

h. Containing the lines  $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} +$

$$t \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -2 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

i. Each point of which is equidistant from  $P(2, -1, 3)$  and  $Q(1, 1, -1)$ .

j. Each point of which is equidistant from  $P(0, 1, -1)$  and  $Q(2, -1, -3)$ .

b.  $-23x + 32y + 11z = 11$

d.  $2x - y + z = 5$

f.  $2x + 3y + 2z = 7$

h.  $2x - 7y - 3z = -1$

j.  $x - y - z = 3$

**Exercise 4.2.15** In each case, find a vector equation of the line.

a. Passing through  $P(3, -1, 4)$  and perpendicular to the plane  $3x - 2y - z = 0$ .

b. Passing through  $P(2, -1, 3)$  and perpendicular to the plane  $2x + y = 1$ .

c. Passing through  $P(0, 0, 0)$  and perpendicular to the lines  $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$ .

d. Passing through  $P(1, 1, -1)$ , and perpendicular to the lines  $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 5 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}$ .

e. Passing through  $P(2, 1, -1)$ , intersecting the line  $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ , and perpendicular to that line.

f. Passing through  $P(1, 1, 2)$ , intersecting the line  $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ , and perpendicular to that line.

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b.  $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

d.  $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

f.  $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 1 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix}$

**Exercise 4.2.16** In each case, find the shortest distance from the point  $P$  to the plane and find the point  $Q$  on the plane closest to  $P$ .

a.  $P(2, 3, 0)$ ; plane with equation  $5x + y + z = 1$ .

b.  $P(3, 1, -1)$ ; plane with equation  $2x + y - z = 6$ .

---

b.  $\frac{\sqrt{6}}{3}, Q(\frac{7}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{-2}{3})$

**Exercise 4.2.17**

a. Does the line through  $P(1, 2, -3)$  with direction vector  $\mathbf{d} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}$  lie in the plane  $2x - y - z = 3$ ? Explain.

b. Does the plane through  $P(4, 0, 5)$ ,  $Q(2, 2, 1)$ , and  $R(1, -1, 2)$  pass through the origin? Explain.

---

b. Yes. The equation is  $5x - 3y - 4z = 0$ .

**Exercise 4.2.18** Show that every plane containing  $P(1, 2, -1)$  and  $Q(2, 0, 1)$  must also contain  $R(-1, 6, -5)$ .

**Exercise 4.2.19** Find the equations of the line of intersection of the following planes.

a.  $2x - 3y + 2z = 5$  and  $x + 2y - z = 4$ .

b.  $3x + y - 2z = 1$  and  $x + y + z = 5$ .

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b.  $(-2, 7, 0) + t(3, -5, 2)$

**Exercise 4.2.20** In each case, find all points of intersection of the given plane and the line

$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$ .

- a)  $x - 3y + 2z = 4$       b)  $2x - y - z = 5$   
 c)  $3x - y + z = 8$       d)  $-x - 4y - 3z = 6$

- b. None  
 d.  $P\left(\frac{13}{19}, \frac{-78}{19}, \frac{65}{19}\right)$

**Exercise 4.2.21** Find the equation of *all* planes:

- a. Perpendicular to the line  

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}.$$
- b. Perpendicular to the line  

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}.$$
- c. Containing the origin.
- d. Containing  $P(3, 2, -4)$ .
- e. Containing  $P(1, 1, -1)$  and  $Q(0, 1, 1)$ .
- f. Containing  $P(2, -1, 1)$  and  $Q(1, 0, 0)$ .
- g. Containing the line  

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$
- h. Containing the line  

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

- b.  $3x + 2z = d$ ,  $d$  arbitrary
- d.  $a(x-3) + b(y-2) + c(z+4) = 0$ ;  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  not all zero
- f.  $ax + by + (b-a)z = a$ ;  $a$  and  $b$  not both zero
- h.  $ax + by + (a-2b)z = 5a - 4b$ ;  $a$  and  $b$  not both zero

**Exercise 4.2.22** If a plane contains two distinct points  $P_1$  and  $P_2$ , show that it contains every point on the line through  $P_1$  and  $P_2$ .

**Exercise 4.2.23** Find the shortest distance between the following pairs of parallel lines.

- a. 
$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix};$$
  

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$$
- b. 
$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix};$$
  

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- b.  $\sqrt{10}$

**Exercise 4.2.24** Find the shortest distance between the following pairs of nonparallel lines and find the points on the lines that are closest together.

- a. 
$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + s \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix};$$
  

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$
- b. 
$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + s \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix};$$
  

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$
- c. 
$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} + s \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix};$$
  

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{d. } \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} + s \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}; \\ \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

b.  $\frac{\sqrt{14}}{2}, A(3, 1, 2), B(\frac{7}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, 3)$

d.  $\frac{\sqrt{6}}{6}, A(\frac{19}{3}, 2, \frac{1}{3}), B(\frac{37}{6}, \frac{13}{6}, 0)$

**Exercise 4.2.25** Show that two lines in the plane with slopes  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  are perpendicular if and only if

$$m_1 m_2 = -1. \text{ [Hint: Example 4.1.11.]}$$

**Exercise 4.2.26**

- Show that, of the four diagonals of a cube, no pair is perpendicular.
- Show that each diagonal is perpendicular to the face diagonals it does not meet.

b. Consider the diagonal  $\mathbf{d} = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ a \\ a \end{bmatrix}$ . The six

face diagonals in question are  $\pm \begin{bmatrix} a \\ 0 \\ -a \end{bmatrix}$ ,

$$\pm \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ a \\ -a \end{bmatrix}, \pm \begin{bmatrix} a \\ -a \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}. \text{ All of these are orthog-}$$

onal to  $\mathbf{d}$ . The result works for the other diagonals by symmetry.

**Exercise 4.2.27** Given a rectangular solid with sides of lengths 1, 1, and  $\sqrt{2}$ , find the angle between a diagonal and one of the longest sides.

**Exercise 4.2.28** Consider a rectangular solid with sides of lengths  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$ . Show that it has two orthogonal diagonals if and only if the sum of two of  $a^2$ ,  $b^2$ , and  $c^2$  equals the third.

The four diagonals are  $(a, b, c)$ ,  $(-a, b, c)$ ,  $(a, -b, c)$  and  $(a, b, -c)$  or their negatives. The dot products

are  $\pm(-a^2 + b^2 + c^2)$ ,  $\pm(a^2 - b^2 + c^2)$ , and  $\pm(a^2 + b^2 - c^2)$ .

**Exercise 4.2.29** Let  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C(2, -1, 1)$  be the vertices of a triangle where  $\overrightarrow{AB}$  is parallel to  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ ,

$\overrightarrow{AC}$  is parallel to  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$ , and angle  $C = 90^\circ$ . Find

the equation of the line through  $B$  and  $C$ .

**Exercise 4.2.30** If the diagonals of a parallelogram have equal length, show that the parallelogram is a rectangle.

**Exercise 4.2.31** Given  $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$  in component

form, show that the projections of  $\mathbf{v}$  on  $\mathbf{i}$ ,  $\mathbf{j}$ , and  $\mathbf{k}$  are  $x\mathbf{i}$ ,  $y\mathbf{j}$ , and  $z\mathbf{k}$ , respectively.

**Exercise 4.2.32**

- Can  $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = -7$  if  $\|\mathbf{u}\| = 3$  and  $\|\mathbf{v}\| = 2$ ? Defend your answer.

- Find  $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}$  if  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\|\mathbf{v}\| = 6$ , and the angle between  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  is  $\frac{2\pi}{3}$ .

**Exercise 4.2.33** Show  $(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) \cdot (\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}) = \|\mathbf{u}\|^2 - \|\mathbf{v}\|^2$  for any vectors  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$ .

**Exercise 4.2.34**

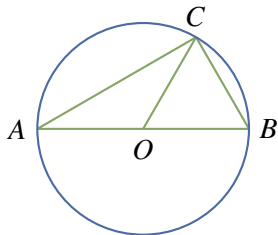
- Show  $\|\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}\|^2 + \|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}\|^2 = 2(\|\mathbf{u}\|^2 + \|\mathbf{v}\|^2)$  for any vectors  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$ .
- What does this say about parallelograms?

- The sum of the squares of the lengths of the diagonals equals the sum of the squares of the lengths of the four sides.

**Exercise 4.2.35** Show that if the diagonals of a parallelogram are perpendicular, it is necessarily a rhombus. [Hint: Example 4.2.5.]

**Exercise 4.2.36** Let  $A$  and  $B$  be the end points of a diameter of a circle (see the diagram). If  $C$  is any

point on the circle, show that  $\overrightarrow{AC}$  and  $\overrightarrow{BC}$  are perpendicular. [Hint: Express  $\overrightarrow{AB} \cdot (\overrightarrow{AB} \times \overrightarrow{AC}) = 0$  and  $\overrightarrow{BC}$  in terms of  $\mathbf{u} = \overrightarrow{OA}$  and  $\mathbf{v} = \overrightarrow{OC}$ , where  $O$  is the centre.]



**Exercise 4.2.37** Show that  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  are orthogonal, if and only if  $\|\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}\|^2 = \|\mathbf{u}\|^2 + \|\mathbf{v}\|^2$ .

**Exercise 4.2.38** Let  $\mathbf{u}$ ,  $\mathbf{v}$ , and  $\mathbf{w}$  be pairwise orthogonal vectors.

- Show that  $\|\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w}\|^2 = \|\mathbf{u}\|^2 + \|\mathbf{v}\|^2 + \|\mathbf{w}\|^2$ .
- If  $\mathbf{u}$ ,  $\mathbf{v}$ , and  $\mathbf{w}$  are all the same length, show that they all make the same angle with  $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w}$ .

- 
- The angle  $\theta$  between  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w})$  is given by  $\cos \theta = \frac{\mathbf{u} \cdot (\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w})}{\|\mathbf{u}\| \|\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w}\|} = \frac{\|\mathbf{u}\|^2}{\sqrt{\|\mathbf{u}\|^2 + \|\mathbf{v}\|^2 + \|\mathbf{w}\|^2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$  because  $\|\mathbf{u}\| = \|\mathbf{v}\| = \|\mathbf{w}\|$ . Similar remarks apply to the other angles.

**Exercise 4.2.39**

- Show that  $\mathbf{n} = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \end{bmatrix}$  is orthogonal to every vector along the line  $ax + by + c = 0$ .
- Show that the shortest distance from  $P_0(x_0, y_0)$  to the line is  $\frac{|ax_0 + by_0 + c|}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}}$ . [Hint: If  $P_1$  is on the line, project  $\mathbf{u} = \overrightarrow{P_1 P_0}$  on  $\mathbf{n}$ .]

- 
- Let  $\mathbf{p}_0, \mathbf{p}_1$  be the vectors of  $P_0, P_1$ , so  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{p}_0 - \mathbf{p}_1$ . Then  $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{n} = \mathbf{p}_0 \cdot \mathbf{n} - \mathbf{p}_1 \cdot \mathbf{n} = (ax_0 + by_0) - (ax_1 + by_1) = ax_0 + by_0 + c$ . Hence the distance is

$$\left\| \left( \frac{\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{n}}{\|\mathbf{n}\|^2} \right) \mathbf{n} \right\| = \frac{|\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{n}|}{\|\mathbf{n}\|}$$

as required.

**Exercise 4.2.40** Assume  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  are nonzero vectors that are not parallel. Show that  $\mathbf{w} = \|\mathbf{u}\|\mathbf{v} + \|\mathbf{v}\|\mathbf{u}$  is a nonzero vector that bisects the angle between  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$ .

**Exercise 4.2.41** Let  $\alpha, \beta$ , and  $\gamma$  be the angles a vector  $\mathbf{v} \neq \mathbf{0}$  makes with the positive  $x, y$ , and  $z$  axes, respectively. Then  $\cos \alpha, \cos \beta$ , and  $\cos \gamma$  are called the **direction cosines** of the vector  $\mathbf{v}$ .

- If  $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix}$ , show that  $\cos \alpha = \frac{a}{\|\mathbf{v}\|}$ ,  $\cos \beta = \frac{b}{\|\mathbf{v}\|}$ , and  $\cos \gamma = \frac{c}{\|\mathbf{v}\|}$ .

- Show that  $\cos^2 \alpha + \cos^2 \beta + \cos^2 \gamma = 1$ .

- 
- This follows from (a) because  $\|\mathbf{v}\|^2 = a^2 + b^2 + c^2$ .

**Exercise 4.2.42** Let  $\mathbf{v} \neq \mathbf{0}$  be any nonzero vector and suppose that a vector  $\mathbf{u}$  can be written as  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q}$ , where  $\mathbf{p}$  is parallel to  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{q}$  is orthogonal to  $\mathbf{v}$ . Show that  $\mathbf{p}$  must equal the projection of  $\mathbf{u}$  on  $\mathbf{v}$ . [Hint: Argue as in the proof of Theorem 4.2.4.]

**Exercise 4.2.43** Let  $\mathbf{v} \neq \mathbf{0}$  be a nonzero vector and let  $a \neq 0$  be a scalar. If  $\mathbf{u}$  is any vector, show that the projection of  $\mathbf{u}$  on  $\mathbf{v}$  equals the projection of  $\mathbf{u}$  on  $a\mathbf{v}$ .

**Exercise 4.2.44**

- Show that the **Cauchy-Schwarz inequality**  $|\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}| \leq \|\mathbf{u}\| \|\mathbf{v}\|$  holds for all vectors  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$ . [Hint:  $|\cos \theta| \leq 1$  for all angles  $\theta$ .]
- Show that  $|\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}| = \|\mathbf{u}\| \|\mathbf{v}\|$  if and only if  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  are parallel. [Hint: When is  $\cos \theta = \pm 1$ ?]
- Show that  $|x_1 x_2 + y_1 y_2 + z_1 z_2| \leq \sqrt{x_1^2 + y_1^2 + z_1^2} \sqrt{x_2^2 + y_2^2 + z_2^2}$  holds for all numbers  $x_1, x_2, y_1, y_2, z_1$ , and  $z_2$ .
- Show that  $|xy + yz + zx| \leq x^2 + y^2 + z^2$  for all  $x, y$ , and  $z$ .



- e. Show that  $(x + y + z)^2 \leq 3(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)$  holds for all  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$ . (c).

- 
- d. Take  $\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \\ z_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\begin{bmatrix} x_2 \\ y_2 \\ z_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} y \\ z \\ x \end{bmatrix}$  in

**Exercise 4.2.45** Prove that the **triangle inequality**  $\|\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}\| \leq \|\mathbf{u}\| + \|\mathbf{v}\|$  holds for all vectors  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$ . [*Hint*: Consider the triangle with  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  as two sides.]

