

Chapter 2

Three Dimensional Geometry

Day – 1

Three Dimensional Co-ordinate System

Position vector of a point on space

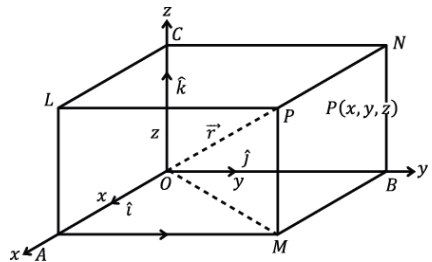
Let $\hat{i}, \hat{j}, \hat{k}$ be unit vectors (called base vectors) along OX, OY and OZ respectively. Let P(x,y,z) be a point in space, let the position of P be \vec{r} .

Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{r} &= \overrightarrow{OP} \\ \Rightarrow \vec{r} &= \overrightarrow{OM} + \overrightarrow{MP} \\ \Rightarrow \vec{r} &= (\overrightarrow{OA} + \overrightarrow{AM}) + \overrightarrow{MP} \\ \Rightarrow \vec{r} &= \overrightarrow{OA} + \overrightarrow{OB} + \overrightarrow{OC} \\ \vec{r} &= x\hat{i} + y\hat{j} + z\hat{k} \end{aligned}$$

Thus the position vector of a point P is;

$$x\hat{i} + y\hat{j} + z\hat{k}$$



Signs of Co-ordinates of a Point in Various Octants

Octant / Co-ordinate	OXYZ	OX'YZ	OXY'Z	OXYZ'	OX'Y'Z	OX'YZ'	OXY'Z'	OX'Y'Z'
X	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
Y	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-
Z	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-

Illustration

Planes are drawn parallel to the co-ordinate planes through the points (1,2,3) and (3,-4,-5). Find the lengths of the edges of the parallelepiped so formed.

Solution

Let P=(1,2,3), Q=(3,-4,-5) through which planes are drawn parallel to the co-ordinate planes shown as,

$\therefore PE = \text{distance between parallel planes}$

Vectors

ABCP and FQDE, i.e.(along z-axis)

$$\Rightarrow |-5 - 3|$$

$$\Rightarrow 8$$

PA= distance between parallel planes ABQF and PCDE

$$\Rightarrow |3 - 2|$$

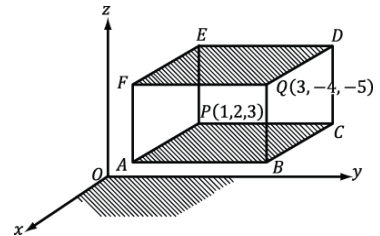
$$\Rightarrow 1$$

PC= distance between parallel planes BCDQ and APEF

$$\Rightarrow |-4 - 2|$$

$$\Rightarrow 6$$

\therefore lengths of edges of the parallelepiped are; 2,6,8



Distance Formula

The distance between the points $P(x_1, y_1, z_1)$ and $Q(x_2, y_2, z_2)$ is given by

$$PQ = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2 + (z_2 - z_1)^2}$$

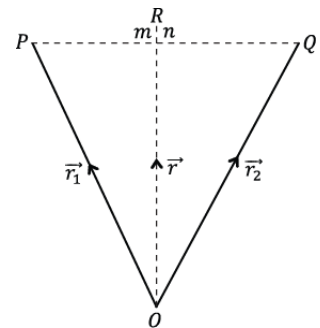
Section Formula

(i):- **Section formula for internal division**

If $R(x, y, z)$ is a point dividing the join of $P(x_1, y_1, z_1)$ and $Q(x_2, y_2, z_2)$ in the ratio $m:n$ (**Internal Div.**)

Then,

$$x = \frac{mx_2 + nx_1}{m+n}, y = \frac{my_2 + ny_1}{m+n}, z = \frac{mz_2 + nz_1}{m+n}$$



(ii):- **Section formula for external division**

The co-ordinates of a point R which divides the join of $P(x_1, y_1, z_1)$ and $Q(x_2, y_2, z_2)$ externally in the ratio

$m:n$ are ;

$$\left(\frac{mx_2 - nx_1}{m - n}, \frac{my_2 - ny_1}{m - n}, \frac{mz_2 - nz_1}{m - n} \right)$$

(iii):- **Mid – point formula**

The co-ordinates of the mid-point of the join of $P(x_1, y_1, z_1)$ and $Q(x_2, y_2, z_2)$ are

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

Illustration

Find the ratio in which $2x+3y+5z=1$ divides the line joining the points $(1,0,-3)$ and $(1,-5,7)$

Vectors

Solution

Here, $2x+3y+5z=1$ divides $(1,0,-3)$ and $(1,-5,7)$ in the ratio of $k:1$ at point P.

Then,

$$P = \left(\frac{k+1}{k+1}, \frac{-5k}{k+1}, \frac{7k-3}{k+1} \right)$$

Which must satisfy $2x+3y+5z=1$

$$\Rightarrow 2 \left(\frac{k+1}{k+1} \right) + 3 \left(\frac{-5k}{k+1} \right) + 5 \left(\frac{7k-3}{k+1} \right) = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow 2k + 2 - 15k + 35k - 15 = k + 1$$

$$\Rightarrow 21k = 14$$

$$\Rightarrow k = \frac{2}{3}$$

$\therefore 2x+3y+5z=1$ divides $(1,0,-3)$ and $(1,-5,7)$ in the ratio of $2:3$.

Illustration

Find the locus of a point the sum of whose distance from $(1,0,0)$ and $(-1,0,0)$ is equal to 10.

Solution

Let the points $A(1,0,0)$, $B(-1,0,0)$ and $P(x,y,z)$

Given: $PA+PB=10$

$$\sqrt{(x-1)^2 + (y-0)^2 + (z-0)^2} + \sqrt{(x+1)^2 + (y-0)^2 + (z-0)^2} = 10$$

$$\Rightarrow \sqrt{(x-1)^2 + y^2 + z^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow 10 - \sqrt{(x+1)^2 + y^2 + z^2}$$

Squaring both sides we get

$$\Rightarrow (x-1)^2 + y^2 + z^2$$

$$\Rightarrow 100 + (x+1)^2 + y^2 + z^2 - 20\sqrt{(x+1)^2 + y^2 + z^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow -4x - 100 = -20\sqrt{(x+1)^2 + y^2 + z^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow x + 25 = 5\sqrt{(x+1)^2 + y^2 + z^2}$$

Again squaring both sides we get

$$\Rightarrow x^2 + 50x + 625$$

$$\Rightarrow 25\{(x^2 + 2x + 1) + y^2 + z^2\}$$

$$\Rightarrow 24x^2 + 25y^2 + 25z^2 - 600 = 0$$

i.e. required equation of locus.

Illustration

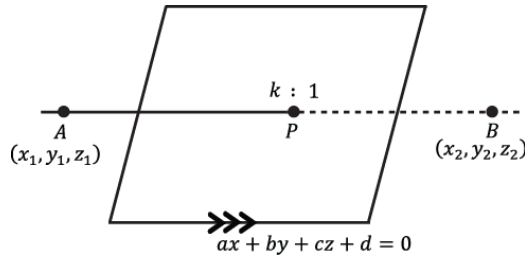
Show that the plane $ax+by+cz+d=0$ divides the line joining (x_1,y_1,z_1) and (x_2,y_2,z_2) in the ratio of

$$\left(-\frac{ax_1+by_1+cz_1+d}{ax_2+by_2+cz_2+d} \right)$$

Vectors

Solution

Let the plane $ax+by+cz+d=0$ divides the line joining (x_1, y_1, z_1) and (x_2, y_2, z_2) in the ratio of $k:1$ as shown in figure;



\therefore co-ordinates of $P \left(\frac{kx_2 + x_1}{k+1}, \frac{ky_2 + y_1}{k+1}, \frac{kz_2 + z_1}{k+1} \right)$ must satisfy $ax + by + cz + d = 0$

$$a \left(\frac{kx_2 + x_1}{k+1} \right) + b \left(\frac{ky_2 + y_1}{k+1} \right) + c \left(\frac{kz_2 + z_1}{k+1} \right) + d = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow a(kx_2 + x_1) + b(ky_2 + y_1) + c(kz_2 + z_1) + d(k+1) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow k(ax_2 + by_2 + cz_2 + d) + (ax_1 + by_1 + cz_1 + d) = 0$$

$$k = - \frac{(ax_1 + by_1 + cz_1 + d)}{(ax_2 + by_2 + cz_2 + d)}$$

Direction Cosines and Direction Ratio's of a Vector

1. Direction cosines

If α, β, γ are the angles which a vector \vec{OP} makes with the positive directions of the co-ordinate axes OX, OY, OZ respectively, then $\cos \alpha, \cos \beta, \cos \gamma$ are known as direction cosines of \vec{OP} and are generally denoted by letters l, m, n respectively.

Thus, $l = \cos \alpha, m = \cos \beta, n = \cos \gamma$. The angles α, β, γ are known as direction angles and they satisfy the condition $0 \leq \alpha, \beta, \gamma \leq \pi$

Direction cosines of x-axis are $(1, 0, 0)$

Direction cosines of y-axis are $(0, 1, 0)$

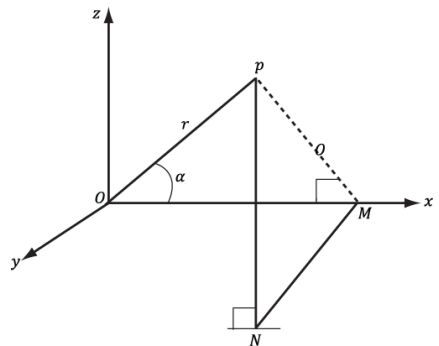
Direction cosines of z-axis are $(0, 0, 1)$

Co-ordinates of P are $(r \cos \alpha, r \cos \beta, r \cos \gamma)$

$$x = r \cos \alpha = lr$$

$$y = r \cos \beta = mr$$

$$z = r \cos \gamma = nr$$



Vectors

(a) If l, m, n are direction cosines of a vector, then $l^2 + m^2 + n^2 = 1$

(b) $\vec{r} = |\vec{r}|(l\hat{i} + m\hat{j} + n\hat{k})$ and $\hat{r} = l\hat{i} + m\hat{j} + n\hat{k}$

2. Direction Ratios

Let l, m, n be the direction cosines of a vector \vec{r} and a, b, c be three numbers such that a, b, c are proportional to l, m, n

i.e.,

$$\frac{l}{a} = \frac{m}{b} = \frac{n}{c} = k \text{ or } (l, m, n) = (ka, kb, kc)$$

$\Rightarrow (a, b, c)$ are direction ratios.

“That shows there can be infinitely many direction ratios for a given vector, but the direction cosines are unique”

Let a, b, c be direction ratios of a vector \vec{r} having direction cosines l, m, n

Then,

$$\begin{aligned} l &= \lambda a, m = \lambda b, n = \lambda c \text{ (by definition)} \\ \therefore l^2 + m^2 + n^2 &= 1 \\ \Rightarrow a^2 \lambda^2 + b^2 \lambda^2 + c^2 \lambda^2 &= 1 \\ \Rightarrow \lambda &= \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + c^2}} \end{aligned}$$

So,

$$\begin{aligned} l &= \pm \frac{a}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + c^2}}, m = \pm \frac{b}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + c^2}}, n \\ &= \pm \frac{c}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + c^2}} \end{aligned}$$

(a) If $\vec{r} = a\hat{i} + b\hat{j} + c\hat{k}$ be a vector having direction cosines l, m, n Then

$$l = \frac{a}{|\vec{r}|}, m = \frac{b}{|\vec{r}|}, n = \frac{c}{|\vec{r}|}$$

(b) Direction ratios of the line joining two given points (x_1, y_1, z_1) and (x_2, y_2, z_2) is given by $x_2 - x_1, y_2 - y_1, z_2 - z_1$.

3. Directions cosines of parallel vectors

Let \vec{a} and \vec{b} two parallel vectors, Then $\vec{b} = \lambda \vec{a}$ for some λ .

If $\vec{a} = a_1\hat{i} + a_2\hat{j} + a_3\hat{k}$, then $\vec{b} = \lambda \vec{a}$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{b} = (\lambda a_1)\hat{i} + (\lambda a_2)\hat{j} + (\lambda a_3)\hat{k}$$

This show that \vec{b} has direction ratios $\lambda a_1, \lambda a_2, \lambda a_3$

I.e.,

$$a_1, a_2, a_3 \text{ becous } \lambda a_1 : \lambda a_2 : \lambda a_3 = a_1 : a_2 : a_3$$

Vectors

Thus \vec{a} and \vec{b} have equal direction ratios and hence equal direction cosines also.

4. If direction ratios of \vec{r} are a, b, c

$$\vec{r} = \frac{|\vec{r}|}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + c^2}} (a\hat{i} + b\hat{j} + c\hat{k})$$

5. Projection of \vec{r} on the co-ordinate axes are

$$l|\vec{r}|, m|\vec{r}|, n|\vec{r}|$$

6. The projection of segment joining the points $p(x_1, y_1, z_1)$ and $Q(x_2, y_2, z_2)$ on a line with direction cosines l, m, n

is

$$(x_2 - x_1)l + (y_2 - y_1)m + (z_2 - z_1)n$$

7. If l_1, m_1, n_1 and l_2, m_2, n_2 are the direction cosines of two concurrent lines, then the direction cosines of the lines bisecting the angles between them are proportional to $l_1 \pm l_2, m_1 \pm m_2, n_1 \pm n_2$

Angle between two vectors in terms of direction cosines and direction ratios

Let \vec{a} and \vec{b} two given vectors with direction cosines l_1, m_1, n_1 and l_2, m_2, n_2 respectively. Then,

$$\hat{a} = l_1\hat{i} + m_1\hat{j} + n_1\hat{k} \text{ and } \hat{b} = l_2\hat{i} + m_2\hat{j} + n_2\hat{k}$$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\hat{a} \cdot \hat{b}}{|\hat{a}| |\hat{b}|}$$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{l_1 l_2 + m_1 m_2 + n_1 n_2}{\sqrt{l_1^2 + m_1^2 + n_1^2} \sqrt{l_2^2 + m_2^2 + n_2^2}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \cos \theta = l_1 l_2 + m_1 m_2 + n_1 n_2$$

1. Acute angle θ between the two lines having direction cosines l_1, m_1, n_1 and l_2, m_2, n_2 is given by

$$\cos \theta = |l_1 l_2 + m_1 m_2 + n_1 n_2|$$

2. If a_1, b_1, c_1 and a_2, b_2, c_2 be the direction ratios of two lines then the acute angle θ between them is given by

$$\cos \theta = \frac{|a_1 a_2 + b_1 b_2 + c_1 c_2|}{\sqrt{a_1^2 + b_1^2 + c_1^2} \sqrt{a_2^2 + b_2^2 + c_2^2}}$$

3. Two lines having direction cosines l_1, m_1, n_1 and l_2, m_2, n_2 are

(a) Perpendicular if and only if $l_1 l_2 + m_1 m_2 + n_1 n_2 = 0$

(b) Parallel if and only if $l_1/l_2 = m_1/m_2 = n_1/n_2$

4. Two lines having direction ratios a_1, b_1, c_1 and a_2, b_2, c_2

Vectors

- (a) Perpendicular if and only if $a_1a_2 + b_1b_2 + c_1c_2 = 0$
 (b) Parallel if and only if $a_1/a_2 = b_1/b_2 = c_1/c_2$

Illustration

What are the direction cosines of line which is equally inclined to axes.

Solution

If α, β, γ are the angles that a line makes with the co-ordinate axes, then if they are equally inclined

$$\Rightarrow \alpha = \beta = \gamma$$

Also

$$l^2 + m^2 + n^2 = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \cos^2 \alpha + \cos^2 \beta + \cos^2 \gamma = 1$$

Or

$$\cos^2 \alpha + \cos^2 \alpha + \cos^2 \alpha = 1$$

Or

$$3 \cos^2 \alpha = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \cos \alpha = \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} = \cos \beta = \cos \gamma$$

\therefore direction cosines are

$$\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right) \text{ or } \left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right)$$

Illustration

A line OP through origin O is inclined at 30° and 45° to OX and OY respectively. Find the angle at which is inclined to OZ.

Solution

Let l, m, n be the direction cosine of the given vector.

$$l^2 + m^2 + n^2 = 1$$

Where

$$\alpha = 30^\circ, \beta = 45^\circ$$

$$\therefore \cos^2 \alpha + \cos^2 \beta + \cos^2 \gamma = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \cos^2 30^\circ + \cos^2 45^\circ + \cos^2 \gamma = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^2 + \cos^2 \gamma = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \cos^2 \gamma = 1 - \frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \cos^2 \gamma = \frac{4 - 3 - 2}{4}$$

Vectors

$$\Rightarrow \cos^2 \gamma = -\frac{1}{4} \text{ which is not possible.}$$

\therefore There exists no point which is inclined to 30° to x-axis and 45° to y-axis

Illustration

A vector \vec{r} has length 21 and direction ratios 2,-3,6. Find the direction cosines and components of \vec{r} , given that \vec{r} makes an obtuse angle with x-axis.

Solution

Here, direction ratio's are 2,-3,6

\therefore Direction cosines can be written as

$$\left\{ \frac{l}{a} = \frac{m}{b} = \frac{n}{c} = \lambda \right\}$$

$$2\lambda, -3\lambda, 6\lambda$$

Where

$$(2\lambda)^2 + (-3\lambda)^2 + (6\lambda)^2 = 1$$

As

$$49\lambda^2 = 1 \quad (\because l^2 + m^2 + n^2 = 1)$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda = \pm \frac{1}{7}$$

\therefore Direction cosines are

$$\left(\pm \frac{2}{7}, \pm \frac{3}{7}, \pm \frac{6}{7} \right)$$

But it makes obtuse angle with x-axis $\Rightarrow l < 0$.

\therefore Direction cosines are

$$\left(-\frac{2}{7}, \frac{3}{7}, -\frac{6}{7} \right)$$

Also

$$\vec{r} = |\vec{r}|(l\hat{i} + m\hat{j} + n\hat{k})$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{r} = 21 \left(-\frac{2}{7}\hat{i} + \frac{3}{7}\hat{j} - \frac{6}{7}\hat{k} \right) \text{ given } |\vec{r}| = 21$$

$$\vec{r} = 3(-2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} - 6\hat{k})$$

So the component of \vec{r} along x, y and z-axis are $-6\hat{i}$, $9\hat{j}$ and $-18\hat{k}$ respectively.

Illustration

ABC is a triangle where $A=(2,3,5)$ $B=(-1,3,2)$ and $C= (\lambda, 5, \mu)$. If the median through A is equally inclined to the axis then find the values of λ and μ . Also, find the area of the ΔABC .

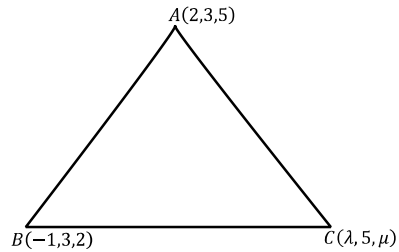
Vectors

Solution

Here, $A(2,3,5)$ $B(-1,3,2)$ $C(\lambda, 5, \mu)$

\therefore mid-point of

$$BC = (\lambda - 1/2, 4, 2 + \mu/2)$$



Dr's of median through A

$$\left(\frac{\lambda-1}{2} - 2, 4 - 3, \frac{2+\mu}{2} - 5\right)$$

i.e.,

$$\left(\frac{\lambda-5}{2}, 1, \frac{\mu-8}{2}\right)$$

As the median through A is equally inclined to the axis.

\therefore dr's will be constant and equals to k.

$$\frac{\lambda-5}{2} = \frac{1}{k} = \frac{\mu-8}{2} \Rightarrow \frac{\lambda-5}{2} = \frac{1}{k} = \frac{\mu-8}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda = 7, \mu = 10$$

$$\therefore C = (7, 5, 10)$$

Now, area of $\Delta ABC = 1/2 |\vec{AB} \times \vec{AC}|$

$$= \frac{1}{2} |(-3\hat{i} - 3\hat{k}) \times (5\hat{i} + 2\hat{j})| = \frac{1}{2} \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ -3 & 0 & -3 \\ 5 & 2 & 5 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} |6\hat{i} - 6\hat{k}| = 3\sqrt{2}$$

Illustration

If Q be the foot of perpendicular from $P(2,4,3)$ on the line joining the points $A(1,2,4)$ and $B(3,4,5)$ find the co-ordinates of Q

Solution

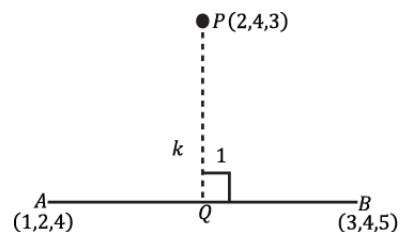
Let Q divides AB internally in the ratio k:1

$$\Rightarrow Q = \left(\frac{3k+1}{k+1}, \frac{4k+2}{k+1}, \frac{5k+4}{k+1}\right)$$

\therefore Direction ratios of PQ are

$$\Rightarrow \frac{3k+1}{k+1} - 2, \frac{4k+2}{k+1} - 4, \frac{5k+4}{k+1} - 3$$

Or



Vectors

$$\Rightarrow \frac{k-1}{k+1}, \frac{-2}{k+1}, \frac{2k+1}{k+1}$$

And direction ratios of AB are (3-1, 4-2, 5-4) or (2, 2, 1)

Since

$$PQ \perp AB$$

$$\Rightarrow 2 \left(\frac{k-1}{k+1} \right) + 2 \left(\frac{-2}{k+1} \right) + 1 \left(\frac{2k+1}{k+1} \right) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 2k - 2 - 4 + 2k + 1 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 4k - 5 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow k = \frac{5}{4}$$

$$\therefore Q = \left(\frac{3 \cdot \frac{5}{4} + 1}{\frac{5}{4} + 1}, \frac{4 \cdot \frac{5}{4} + 2}{\frac{5}{4} + 1}, \frac{5 \cdot \frac{5}{4} + 4}{\frac{5}{4} + 1} \right) \quad Q = \left(\frac{19}{9}, \frac{28}{9}, \frac{41}{9} \right)$$

\therefore foot of perpendicular

$$\left(\frac{19}{9}, \frac{28}{9}, \frac{41}{9} \right)$$

Illustration

If l_1, m_1, n_1 and l_2, m_2, n_2 be the direction cosines of two mutually perpendicular lines, shows that the direction cosines of the line perpendicular to both of them are $m_2n_2 - m_2n_1; n_1l_2 - n_2l_1; l_1m_2 - l_2m_1$

Solution

Let l, m, n be the direction cosines of the line perpendicular to both the given lines

$$\therefore ll_1 + mm_1 + nn_1 = 0$$

$$ll_2 + mm_2 + nn_2 = 0$$

Solving by cross-multiplication method

$$\frac{l}{m_1n_2 - m_2n_1} = \frac{m}{n_1l_2 - n_2l_1} = \frac{n}{l_1m_2 - l_2m_1} = k$$

$$\therefore l = k(m_1n_2 - m_2n_1); m = k(n_1l_2 - n_2l_1); n = k(l_1m_2 - l_2m_1)$$

Squaring and adding; we have

$$l^2 + m^2 + n^2 = k^2 \{ (m_1n_2 - m_2n_1)^2 + (n_1l_2 - n_2l_1)^2 + (l_1m_2 - l_2m_1)^2 \}$$

$$\Rightarrow 1 = k^2 \{ \sin^2 \theta \}$$

Where θ is the angle between the given lines as we know

$$\sin \theta \sqrt{(a_1b_2 - a_2b_1)^2 + (b_1c_2 - b_2c_1)^2 + (c_1a_2 - c_2a_1)^2}$$

Where $a_1, b_1, c_1; a_2, b_2, c_2$ are direction cosines.

$$1 = k^2 \cdot 1 \quad (\text{as } \theta = 90^\circ, \text{ given})$$

$$\Rightarrow k = 1$$

Hence, direction cosines of a line perpendicular to both of them are

Vectors

$$m_1n_2 - m_2n_1, n_1l_2 - n_2l_1; l_1m_2 - l_2m_1$$

Illustration

If $l_1, m_1, n_1; l_2, m_2, n_2$ be the d.c.'s of two concurrent lines, show that the d.c.'s of the line bisecting the angles between them are proportional to $l_1 + l_2, m_1 + m_2, n_1 + n_2$

Solution

Let, direction cosines of $OA = (l_1, m_1, n_1)$ and direction cosines of $OB = (l_2, m_2, n_2)$ Taking two points on l and m such that $OA = OB = r$

Let C be the mid-point of AB

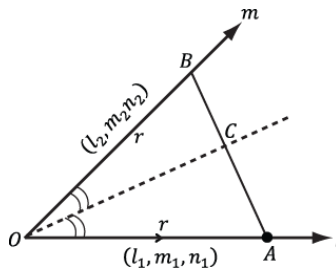
Then OC is the bisector of the angle AOB

Now, co-ordinates of A are (l_1r, m_1r, n_1r) coordinates of B are (l_2r, m_2r, n_2r)

\therefore The co-ordinates of C are

$$\frac{(l_1+l_2)r}{2}, \frac{(m_1+m_2)r}{2}, \frac{(n_1+n_2)r}{2}$$

Hence, the direction cosines of OC are proportional to $l_1 + l_2, m_1 + m_2, n_1 + n_2$.



Illustration

Find the direction cosines of the line which is perpendicular to the lines with direction cosines proportional to $(1, -2, -2)$ and $(0, 2, 1)$.

Solution

If l, m, n be the direction cosines of the line perpendicular to the given line, then

$$l(1) + m(-2) + n(-2) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow l - 2m - 2n = 0 \dots (i)$$

And

$$l \cdot 0 + m \cdot 2 + n \cdot 1 = 0$$

$$0 + 2m + n = 0 \dots (ii)$$

Then from (i) and (ii) by cross multiplication, we get

$$\frac{l}{2} = \frac{m}{-1} = \frac{n}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{l}{2} = \frac{m}{-1} = \frac{n}{2} = \frac{\sqrt{l^2 + m^2 + n^2}}{\sqrt{4 + 1 + 4}} = \frac{1}{3} (\because l^2 + m^2 + n^2 = 1)$$

$$\Rightarrow l = \frac{2}{3}, m = -\frac{1}{3}, n = \frac{2}{3}$$

Practice Question Online