

## 1 REVIEW

### 1.1 VECTORS IN TWO AND THREE-DIMENSIONAL SPACE

- **Basic vector operations:** addition and scalar multiplication.
- **Standard bases:** The unit vectors  $\mathbf{i} = (1, 0, 0)$ ,  $\mathbf{j} = (0, 1, 0)$ ,  $\mathbf{k} = (0, 0, 1)$  correspond to the standard basis vectors for the  $x$ -,  $y$ -, and  $z$ -axes, respectively.
- **Parametric equation of a line** through the point  $\mathbf{a}$  (based at the origin) in the direction of  $\mathbf{v}$  (based at  $\mathbf{a}$ ) is  $l(t) = \mathbf{a} + t\mathbf{v}$ .

### 1.2 THE INNER PRODUCT, LENGTH, AND DISTANCE

- The **inner product** (or **dot product**) of the vectors  $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, a_2, a_3)$  and  $\mathbf{b} = (b_1, b_2, b_3)$  is defined as

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \rangle &= \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = a_1b_1 + a_2b_2 + a_3b_3 \\ &= \|\mathbf{a}\| \|\mathbf{b}\| \cos \theta.\end{aligned}$$

where  $\|\mathbf{a}\| = \sqrt{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a}}$  is the **length** or **norm** of  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\theta$  is the angle between the vectors  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$ .

- The **orthogonal projection** of  $\mathbf{v}$  onto  $\mathbf{a}$  ( $\neq \mathbf{0}$ ) is

$$\mathbf{p} = \frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{v}}{\|\mathbf{a}\|^2} \mathbf{a}.$$

### 1.3 MATRICES, DETERMINANTS, AND THE CROSS PRODUCT

- The **cross product** of the vectors  $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, a_2, a_3)$  and  $\mathbf{b} = (b_1, b_2, b_3)$  is defined as

$$\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \end{vmatrix}$$

and the length of  $\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}$  is  $\|\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}\| = \|\mathbf{a}\| \|\mathbf{b}\| \sin \theta$ , where  $\theta$  is the angle with  $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$  between  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$ .

- The **equation of a plane** through the points  $(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  and normal to the vector  $\mathbf{n} = (A, B, C)$  is  $A(x - x_0) + B(y - y_0) + C(z - z_0) = 0$ .

## PRACTICE PROBLEMS

- Find the distance from  $(2, 8, -1)$  to the line that passes through  $(1, 1, 1)$  in the direction of the vector  $(1/\sqrt{3})\mathbf{i}+(1/\sqrt{3})\mathbf{j}+(1/\sqrt{3})\mathbf{k}$ .
- Sketch and compute the volume of the parallelepiped spanned by:

$$\mathbf{u} = \langle 2, 2, 1 \rangle, \quad \mathbf{v} = \langle 1, 0, 3 \rangle, \quad \mathbf{w} = \langle 0, -4, 0 \rangle$$

- Which of the following is a parametrization of the line through  $P = (4, 9, 8)$  perpendicular to the  $xz$ -plane (Figure 1)?
  - $\vec{r}(t) = \langle 4, 9, 8 \rangle + t\langle 1, 0, 1 \rangle$
  - $\vec{r}(t) = \langle 4, 9, 8 \rangle + t\langle 0, 0, 1 \rangle$
  - $\vec{r}(t) = \langle 4, 9, 8 \rangle + t\langle 0, 1, 0 \rangle$
  - $\vec{r}(t) = \langle 4, 9, 8 \rangle + t\langle 1, 1, 0 \rangle$

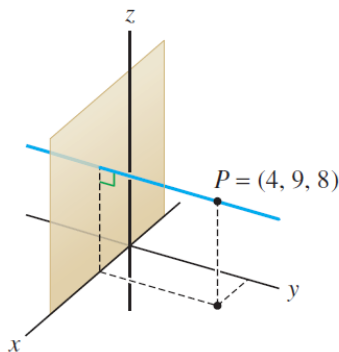


Figure 1: Question 3.

- In this exercise we will prove the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality: If  $\vec{v}$  and  $\vec{w}$  are any two vectors, then

$$|\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w}| \leq \|\vec{v}\| \|\vec{w}\|$$

- Let  $f(x) = \|x\vec{v} + \vec{w}\|^2$  for a scalar  $x$ . Show that  $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$ , where  $a = \|\vec{v}\|^2$ ,  $b = 2\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w}$  and  $c = \|\vec{w}\|^2$ .
  - Conclude that  $b^2 - 4ac \leq 0$ . *Hint:* Does the quadratic polynomial have any real roots?
- Find the equation of the plane containing the three points  $P = (3, 0, 3)$ ,  $Q = (4, 3, 2)$  and  $R = (1, 1, 2)$ . Find the point of its intersection with the line  $\mathbf{r}(t) = \langle -1 + \frac{3}{2}t, 1, -t \rangle$ .