

Vector Equation of a Line

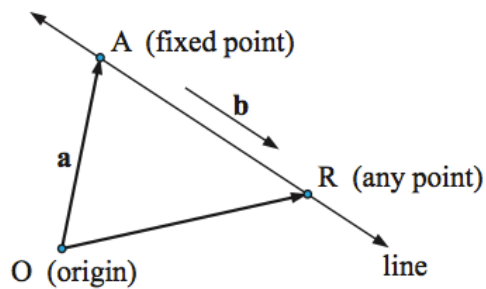
A line passes through point A (where A had position vector \mathbf{a}) and the line is parallel to vector \mathbf{b} .

R is any point on the line, then \overrightarrow{AR} is parallel to \mathbf{b} .

$$\overrightarrow{AR} \parallel \mathbf{b}, \quad \overrightarrow{AR} = t\mathbf{b} \text{ for some } t \in \mathbb{R}$$

Using vector addition we can see $\overrightarrow{OR} = \overrightarrow{OA} + \overrightarrow{AR}$.

$$\therefore \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{a} + t\mathbf{b}$$



→ The **vector equation** of a line is given by $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{a} + t\mathbf{b}$ where \mathbf{r} is the general position vector of a point on the line, \mathbf{a} is a given position vector of a point on the line and \mathbf{b} is a **direction vector** parallel to the line. t is called the parameter.

Find the vector equation through $A(1, 5)$ with direction $\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$

Find the vector equation through $(1, -2, 3)$ in the direction $4\mathbf{i} + 5\mathbf{j} - 6\mathbf{k}$.

Find the vector equation of the line through $A(2, -1, 4)$ and $B(-1, 0, 2)$.

Find the angle between the lines:

$$L_1 : \mathbf{r}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} + s \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad L_2 : \mathbf{r}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Find the angle between the lines:

$$L_1 : \mathbf{r}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 8 \\ 9 \\ 10 \end{pmatrix} + s \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -16 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad L_2 : \mathbf{r}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 15 \\ 29 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 8 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix}$$

- a** Find the vector equation of the line through $(1, -1, 3)$ and parallel to the vector $-\mathbf{i} + 3\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k}$
- b** Find the vector equation of the line through the points $A(1, 0, -4)$ and $B(-2, 1, 1)$.
- c** Find the acute angle between these two lines.

You can think of each part of the vector equation as separate components.

For example consider the following vector equation:

$$\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \text{ where } \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$$

Therefore:

$$x = 1 - t$$

$$y = 5 + 3t$$

This is called parametric form and can be useful when solving!

This extends to 3D too!

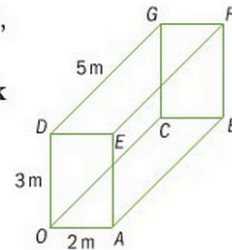
Another example:

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 20 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} \text{ then } x = 2 + 4t \text{ and } y = 20 - 3t.$$

Does $(3, -2)$ lie on the line with vector equation $\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix}$?

$(k, 4)$ lies on the line $r = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix}$ Find k .

- 10** The figure shows a cuboid in which $OA = 2\text{ m}$, $OC = 5\text{ m}$ and $OD = 3\text{ m}$. Take O as the origin and unit vectors \mathbf{i} , \mathbf{j} and \mathbf{k} in the direction OA , OC and OD respectively.



- a** Express these vectors in terms of the unit vectors.
i \overrightarrow{OF} **ii** \overrightarrow{AG}
- b** Calculate the value of
i $|\overrightarrow{OF}|$ **ii** $|\overrightarrow{AG}|$
iii Find the scalar product of \overrightarrow{OF} and \overrightarrow{AG} .
- c** Hence find the angle between the diagonals OF and AG .

Homework

Chapter 12.4

12J: 1 - 9, 11