



ANSWER BOOK

Intersections, angles and distances

Further vectors · Year FM

6 questions · 20 marks

NAVY EDITION

SECTION A · Warm-up

- A1** Parametrise: $x = 2 + \lambda$, $y = 2\lambda$, $z = 1 + 2\lambda$. Substituting: $(2 + \lambda) + 2\lambda + (1 + 2\lambda) = 13$, so $5\lambda + 3 = 13$ and $\lambda = 2$. The point is $(4, 4, 5)$, and $4 + 4 + 5 = 13$ confirms it.
- A2** Line and plane: $\sin \theta = |\mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{n}| / (|\mathbf{b}| |\mathbf{n}|)$ with the line's direction and the plane's normal. Two planes: $\cos \theta = |\mathbf{n}_1 \cdot \mathbf{n}_2| / (|\mathbf{n}_1| |\mathbf{n}_2|)$ with the two normals. Sine for the first because the normal stands at right angles to the plane.

SECTION B · Standard

- B1** $\mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{n} = 1 + 2 + 2 = 5$, $|\mathbf{b}| = 3$ and $|\mathbf{n}| = \sqrt{3}$. So $\sin \theta = 5 / (3\sqrt{3}) = 5\sqrt{3}/9$, giving $\theta = 74.2^\circ$. Using cosine by habit would give the complement 15.8° , the angle to the normal instead of to the plane.
- B2** Distance = $|2 - 2 + 6 - 3| / \sqrt{4 + 1 + 4} = 3/3 = 1$. Substitute the point, subtract d, divide by the normal's length, and keep the modulus.
- B3** Normals $(1, 0, 1)$ and $(0, 1, 1)$: dot product 1, lengths $\sqrt{2}$ and $\sqrt{2}$. $\cos \theta = 1/2$, so $\theta = 60^\circ$. The planes' angle is their normals' angle; no point of intersection is ever needed.

SECTION C · Stretch

- C1** $\mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0$ means the line runs at right angles to the normal, so it is parallel to the plane: either inside it or clear of it. Test the anchor point $(0, 0, 5)$: $0 + 0 + 5 = 5 \neq 1$, so the line misses the plane entirely, staying parallel at a fixed distance. One substituted point settles which of the two parallel cases holds.