

Chapter 13:  
Section B:

APPLICATIONS OF VECTOR LINES. Notes and examples:

(Have sketch pad grid also)

1.  $\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} -6 \\ -8 \end{pmatrix}$  is the vector equation of the path of a particle.

$t$  is the time in seconds,  $t \geq 0$ . The distance is measured in units of meters.

a.) Find the particles initial position.

When  $t = 0$ , position vector =  $\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$  or  
coordinates  $\rightarrow (3, 4)$

b.) Find the velocity vector of the particle.

$$\begin{pmatrix} -6 \\ -8 \end{pmatrix}$$

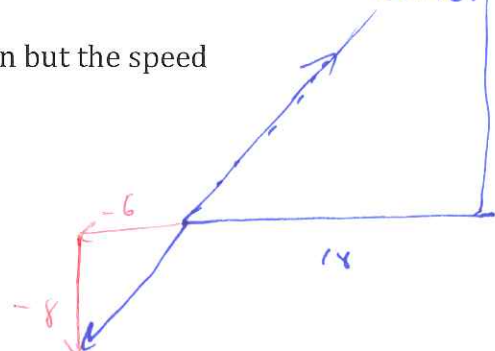
c.) Find the speed of the particle.

$$\text{Speed} = \left| \begin{pmatrix} -6 \\ -8 \end{pmatrix} \right| = \sqrt{(-6)^2 + (-8)^2} = \sqrt{36 + 64} = \sqrt{100} = 10 \text{ m/s}$$

units!

d.) If the particle continues in the **opposite direction** but the speed increases to 30m/s, state the new velocity vector.

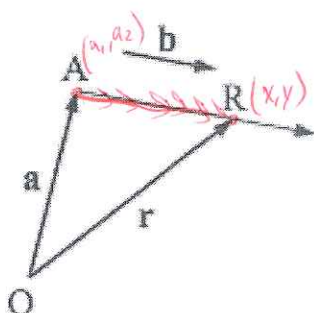
$$-3 \begin{pmatrix} -6 \\ -8 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 18 \\ 24 \end{pmatrix}$$



### CONSTANT VELOCITY PROBLEMS

If a body has initial position vector  $\mathbf{a}$  and moves with constant velocity  $\mathbf{b}$ , its position at time  $t$  is given by

$$\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{a} + t\mathbf{b}, \text{ for } t \geq 0.$$



2. An object is **initially** at  $(2,6)$  and moves with **velocity vector**  $2\hat{i} - \hat{j}$  Find:

a.) the position of the object at any time  $t$  ( $t$  is in minutes)

$$\vec{r} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\therefore \begin{cases} x = 2 + 2t \\ y = 6 - t \end{cases}$$

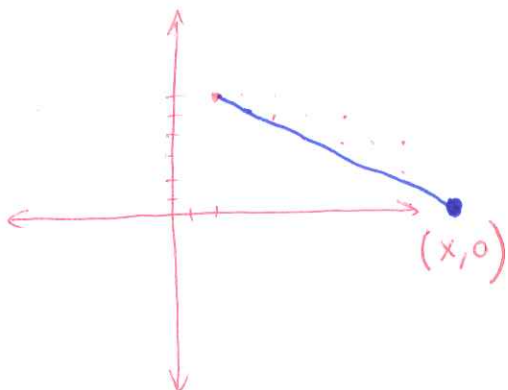
→ position  $(x, y) \rightarrow (2 + 2t, 6 - t)$  for any  $t$ .

b.) the position after 5 minutes.  $t = 5$

$$\therefore (2 + 2(5), 6 - 5)$$

$$= (12, 1)$$

c.) The time when the object is due east of the origin.



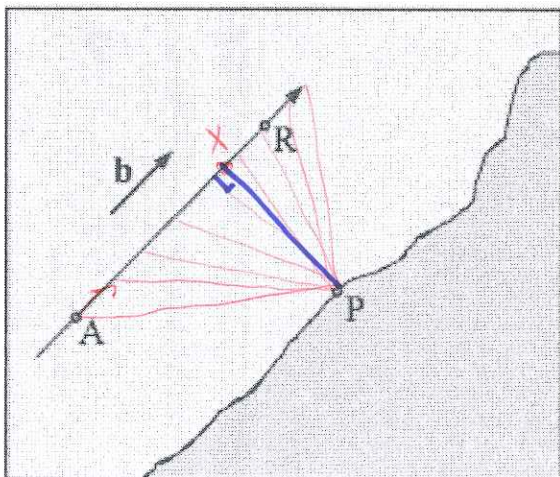
$$\therefore y = 0$$

$$\therefore 6 - t = 0$$

$$\therefore t = 6$$

Note: if  $t = 6$   
then  $x = 2 + 2(6)$   
 $x = 14$ .

THE CLOSEST DISTANCE FROM A POINT TO A LINE

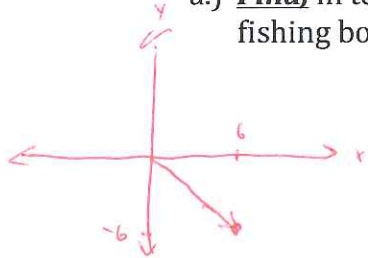


→ closest when perpendicular!

$$\therefore \vec{AR} \cdot \vec{PX} = 0$$

3. An ocean liner is at  $(6, -6)$ , cruising at  $10\text{km/h}$  in the direction  $\begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$ . A fishing boat is anchored at  $(0,0)$  (Distances in km)

- a.) **Find**, in terms of  $\mathbf{i}$  and  $\mathbf{j}$ , the "O.G." position vector of the liner from the fishing boat.



$$\therefore \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ -6 \end{pmatrix} \text{ or } 6\mathbf{i} - 6\mathbf{j}$$

- b.) Write an expression for the position vector of the liner at any time  $t$  hours after it has sailed from  $(6, -6)$ .

$$\vec{r} = \vec{a} + t\vec{v}$$

point  $\nearrow$  Velocity vector  
(speed =  $10\text{km/h}$ )

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \right| \\ &= \sqrt{(-3)^2 + (4)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{9 + 16} \\ &= \sqrt{25} = 5 \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore$  Velocity vector must be

$$2 \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -6 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\therefore \text{position } \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ -6 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} -6 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix}$$

- c.) **Find** when the liner is due east of the fishing boat.

$$\text{Vector} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} x = 6 - 6t \\ y = -6 + 8t \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\therefore y = 0 = -6 + 8t$$

$$6 = 8t$$

$$t = \frac{6}{8}$$

$$t = \frac{3}{4} = 0.75 \text{ hours}$$

- d.) **Find** the time and position of the liner when it is nearest to the fishing boat.

Nearest when perpendicular

$$\therefore \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} (6-6t)-0 \\ (-6+8t)-0 \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 6-6t \\ -6+8t \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$-3(6-6t) + 4(-6+8t) = 0$$

$$-18 + 18t - 24 + 32t = 0$$

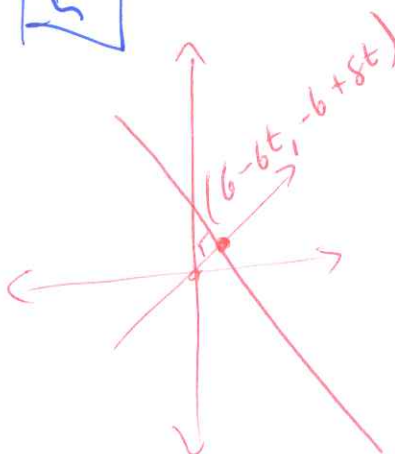
$$-42 + 50t = 0$$

$$50t = 42$$

$$t = \frac{42}{50} = 0.84 \text{ hours}$$

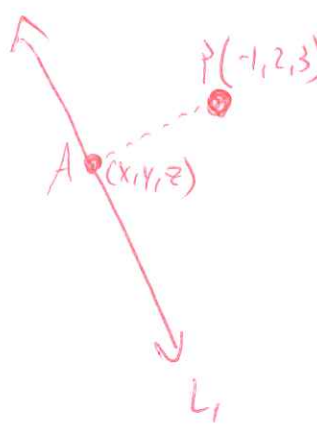
$$\begin{aligned} & P(6 - 6(0.84), -6 + 8(0.84)) \\ & P(0.96, 0.72) \end{aligned}$$

Sketch graph (Xtograph)



4. Consider the point  $P(-1, 2, 3)$  and the line with parametric equations  
 $x = 1 + 2t$ ,  $y = -4 + 3t$ ,  $z = 3 + t$ .

a.) **Find** the coordinates of the foot of the perpendicular from  $P$  to the line.



$$\begin{cases} x = 1 + 2t \\ y = -4 + 3t \\ z = 3 + t \end{cases} \quad \therefore \vec{PA} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x - (-1) \\ y - 2 \\ z - 3 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$\downarrow \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -4 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore x &= 1 + 2(1) = 3 \\ y &= -4 + 3(1) = -1 \\ z &= 3 + 1 = 4 \\ \text{or } (3, -1, 4) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \begin{pmatrix} (1+2t) + 1 \\ (-4+3t) - 2 \\ (3+t) - 3 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 0 \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 2+2t \\ -6+3t \\ t \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 0 \\ &2(2+2t) + 3(-6+3t) + t = 0 \\ &4+4t - 18+9t + t = 0 \\ &-14+14t = 0 \\ &\therefore t = 1 \end{aligned}$$

b.) **HENCE**, find the shortest distance from  $P$  to the line.

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore |\vec{PA}| &= \text{size} \\ &= \left| \begin{pmatrix} 2+2(1) \\ -6+3(1) \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right| \\ &= \left| \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right| \\ &= \sqrt{4^2 + (-3)^2 + 1^2} \\ &= \sqrt{16 + 9 + 1} \\ &= \sqrt{26} \text{ units} \end{aligned}$$



5.

The line  $L_1$  passes through the points  $P(2, 4, 8)$  and  $Q(4, 5, 4)$ .

(a) (i) Find  $\vec{PQ}$ .

(ii) Hence write down a vector equation for  $L_1$  in the form  $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{a} + s\mathbf{b}$ .

[4 marks]

The line  $L_2$  is perpendicular to  $L_1$ , and parallel to  $\begin{pmatrix} 3p \\ 2p \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$ , where  $p \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

(b) (i) Find the value of  $p$ .

(ii) Given that  $L_2$  passes through  $R(10, 6, -40)$ , write down a vector equation for  $L_2$ .

[7 marks]

(c) The lines  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  intersect at the point  $A$ . Find the  $x$ -coordinate of  $A$ .

[7 marks]

$$a) i) \vec{PQ} = \begin{pmatrix} 4-2 \\ 5-4 \\ 4-8 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$ii) L_1: \vec{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix}$$

b) (i) If  ~~$L_2$~~   $L_2 \perp L_1$ , then

$$\begin{pmatrix} 3p \\ 2p \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$6p + 2p - 16 = 0$$

$$8p = 16$$

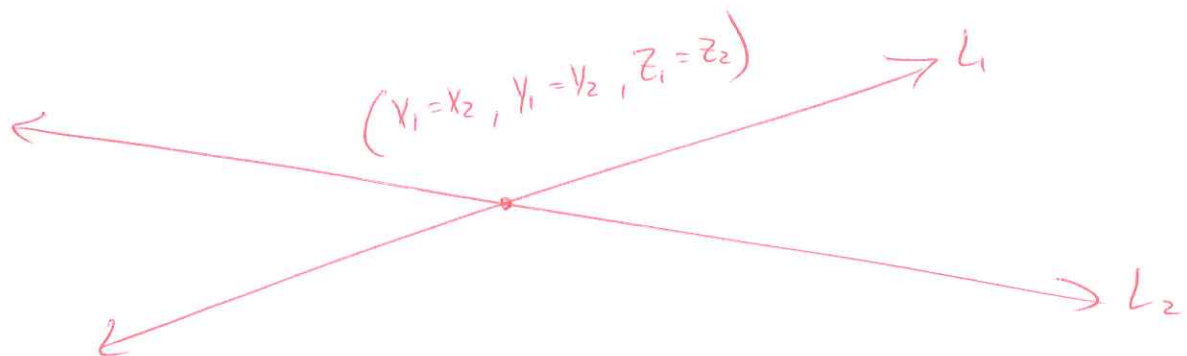
$$p = 2$$

$$ii) \therefore L_2: \vec{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 10 \\ 6 \\ -40 \end{pmatrix} + s \begin{pmatrix} 3 \cdot 2 \\ 2 \cdot 2 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\vec{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 10 \\ 6 \\ -40 \end{pmatrix} + s \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 4 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$L_1: \begin{cases} x_1 = 2 + 2t \\ y_1 = 4 + t \\ z_1 = 8 - 4t \end{cases}$$

$$L_2: \begin{cases} x_2 = 10 + 6s \\ y_2 = 6 + 4s \\ z_2 = -40 + 4s \end{cases}$$



$$\therefore \begin{cases} x = 2 + 2t = 10 + 6s \\ y = 4 + t = 6 + 4s \\ z = 8 - 4t = -40 + 4s \end{cases}$$

2 eq: 2 unknowns:

$$\begin{aligned} 2 + 2t &= 10 + 6s \\ 4 + t &= 6 + 4s \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\rightarrow \begin{cases} 2t - 6s = 8 \\ (t - 4s = 2) \cdot 2 \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 2t - 6s &= 8 \\ + -2t + 8s &= -4 \\ \hline +2s &= -4 \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore s = -2$$

$$\therefore t - 4(-2) = 2$$

$$t + 8 = 2$$

$$t = -6$$

$$\therefore x = 2 + 2(-6) = -10$$

$$\text{or } x = 10 + 6(-2) = -2 \quad \checkmark$$