

## 9. Line

- **Equation of a line through a given point and parallel to a given vector:**

- **Vector form:** Equation of a line that passes through the given point whose position vector is  $\vec{a}$  and which is parallel to a given vector  $\vec{b}$  is  $\vec{r} = \vec{a} + \lambda \vec{b}$ , where  $\lambda$  is a constant.

- **Cartesian form:**

- Equation of a line that passes through a point  $(x_1, y_1, z_1)$  having d.r.'s as  $a, b, c$  is given by

$$\frac{x-x_1}{a} = \frac{y-y_1}{b} = \frac{z-z_1}{c}$$

- Equation of a line that passes through a point  $(x_1, y_1, z_1)$  having d.c.'s as  $l, m, n$  is given by

$$\frac{x-x_1}{l} = \frac{y-y_1}{m} = \frac{z-z_1}{n}$$

- **Equation of a line passing through two given points:**

- **Vector form:** Equation of a line passing through two points whose position vectors are  $\vec{a}$  and  $\vec{b}$  is given by  $\vec{r} = \vec{a} + \lambda(\vec{b} - \vec{a})$ , where  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$

- **Cartesian form:** Equation of a line that passes through two given points  $(x_1, y_1, z_1)$  and  $(x_2, y_2, z_2)$

is given by,  $\frac{x-x_1}{x_2-x_1} = \frac{y-y_1}{y_2-y_1} = \frac{z-z_1}{z_2-z_1}$

- **Angle between two Non-skew lines:**

- **Cartesian form:**

- If  $l_1, m_1, n_1$ , and  $l_2, m_2, n_2$  are the d.c.'s of two lines and  $\theta$  is the acute angle between them, then  $\cos \theta = |l_1 l_2 + m_1 m_2 + n_1 n_2|$

- If  $a_1, b_1, c_1$  and  $a_2, b_2, c_2$  are the d.r.'s of two lines and  $\theta$  is the acute angle between them,

$$\text{then } \cos \theta = \left| \frac{a_1 a_2 + b_1 b_2 + c_1 c_2}{\sqrt{a_1^2 + b_1^2 + c_1^2} \cdot \sqrt{a_2^2 + b_2^2 + c_2^2}} \right|$$

- **Vector form:** If  $\theta$  is the acute angle between the lines  $\vec{r} = \vec{a}_1 + \lambda \vec{b}_1$  and  $\vec{r} = \vec{a}_2 + \mu \vec{b}_2$ , then

$$\cos \theta = \left| \frac{\vec{b}_1 \cdot \vec{b}_2}{|\vec{b}_1| |\vec{b}_2|} \right|$$

- Two lines with d.r.'s  $a_1, b_1, c_1$  and  $a_2, b_2, c_2$  are

- perpendicular, if  $a_1 a_2 + b_1 b_2 + c_1 c_2 = 0$

- parallel, if  $\frac{a_1}{a_2} = \frac{b_1}{b_2} = \frac{c_1}{c_2}$

- Two lines in space are said to be skew lines, if they are neither parallel nor intersecting. They lie in different planes.

- Angle between two skew lines is the angle between two intersecting lines drawn from any point (preferably from the origin) parallel to each of the skew lines.

- **Shortest Distance between two skew lines:** The shortest distance is the line segment perpendicular to both the lines.
  - **Vector form:** Distance between two skew lines  $\vec{r} = \vec{a}_1 + \lambda \vec{b}_1$  and  $\vec{r} = \vec{a}_2 + \mu \vec{b}_2$  is given by,

$$d = \left| \frac{(\vec{b}_1 \times \vec{b}_2) \cdot (\vec{a}_2 - \vec{a}_1)}{|\vec{b}_1 \times \vec{b}_2|} \right|$$

- **Cartesian form:** The shortest distance between two lines  $\frac{x-x_1}{a_1} = \frac{y-y_1}{b_1} = \frac{z-z_1}{c_1}$  and  $\frac{x-x_2}{a_2} = \frac{y-y_2}{b_2} = \frac{z-z_2}{c_2}$  is given by,

$$d = \frac{\begin{vmatrix} x_2-x_1 & y_2-y_1 & z_2-z_1 \\ a_1 & b_1 & c_1 \\ a_2 & b_2 & c_2 \end{vmatrix}}{\sqrt{(b_1c_2-b_2c_1)^2 + (c_1a_2-c_2a_1)^2 + (a_1b_2-a_2b_1)^2}}$$

- The shortest distance between two parallel lines  $\vec{r} = \vec{a}_1 + \lambda \vec{b}$  and  $\vec{r} = \vec{a}_2 + \mu \vec{b}$  is given by,

$$d = \left| \frac{\vec{b} \times (\vec{a}_2 - \vec{a}_1)}{|\vec{b}|} \right|$$