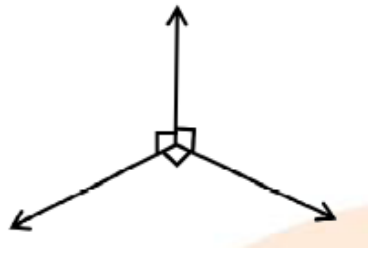


Chapter: Three dimensional Geometry.

Exercise: 11.2

1. Show that the three lines are mutually perpendicular if they have direction cosines be

$$\frac{12}{13}, \frac{-3}{13}, \frac{-4}{13}; \frac{4}{13}, \frac{12}{13}, \frac{3}{13}; \frac{3}{13}, \frac{-4}{13}, \frac{12}{13}$$



Solution: As we know, if $l_1l_2 + m_1m_2 + n_1n_2 = 0$, the lines are perpendicular

- i. Now, from direction cosines $\frac{12}{13}, \frac{-3}{13}, \frac{-4}{13}$ and $\frac{4}{13}, \frac{12}{13}, \frac{3}{13}$, we get

$$l_1l_2 + m_1m_2 + n_1n_2 = \frac{12}{13} \times \frac{4}{13} + \left(\frac{-3}{13}\right) \times \frac{12}{13} + \left(\frac{-4}{13}\right) \times \frac{3}{13}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{48}{169} - \frac{36}{169} - \frac{12}{169}$$

$$\Rightarrow 0$$

Therefore, the lines are perpendicular.

- ii. Similarly, if we take $\frac{4}{13}, \frac{12}{13}, \frac{3}{13}$ and $\frac{12}{13}, \frac{-3}{13}, \frac{-4}{13}$, we get

$$l_1l_2 + m_1m_2 + n_1n_2 = \frac{4}{13} \times \frac{3}{13} + \left(\frac{12}{13}\right) \times \left(\frac{-4}{13}\right) + \frac{3}{13} \times \left(\frac{12}{13}\right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{12}{169} - \frac{48}{169} - \frac{36}{169} = 0$$

Therefore, the lines are perpendicular.

- iii. Again, if we consider $\frac{-3}{13}, \frac{-4}{13}, \frac{12}{13}$ and $\frac{12}{13}, \frac{-3}{13}, \frac{-4}{13}$, we get

$$l_1l_2 + m_1m_2 + n_1n_2 = \frac{3}{13} \times \frac{12}{13} + \left(\frac{-4}{13}\right) \times \left(\frac{-4}{13}\right) + \frac{12}{13} \times \left(\frac{-4}{13}\right)$$

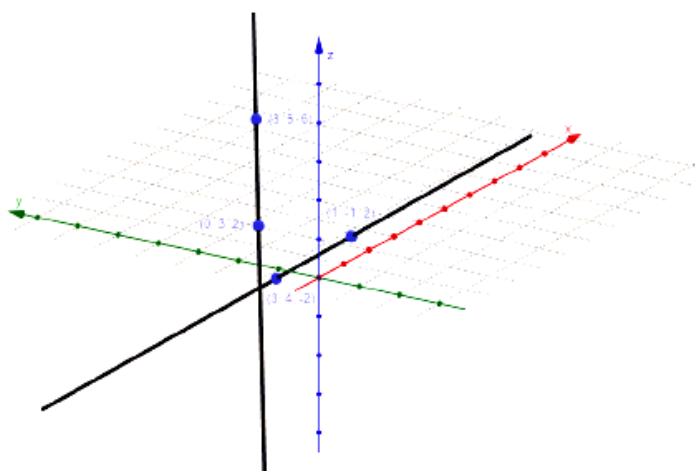
$$\Rightarrow \frac{36}{169} - \frac{12}{169} - \frac{48}{169} = 0$$

Therefore, the lines are perpendicular.

Therefore, we can say that all the lines are mutually perpendicular.

2. How can you show that the line passing through the points $(1, -1, 2)$ and $(3, 4, -2)$ is perpendicular to the line through the points $(0, 3, 2)$ and $(3, 5, 6)$?

Solution: Let us consider that AB and CD are the lines that pass through the points, $(1, -1, 2), (3, 4, -2)$ and $(0, 3, 2), (3, 5, 6)$, respectively,



Now, we have $a_1 = (2), b_1 = (5), c_1 = (-4)$ and $a_2 = (3), b_2 = (2), c_2 = (4)$

As we know that if $AB \perp CD$ then $a_1a_2 + b_1b_2 + c_1c_2 = 0$

Now,

$$a_1a_2 + b_1b_2 + c_1c_2 = 2 \times 3 + 5 \times 2 + (-4) \times 4$$

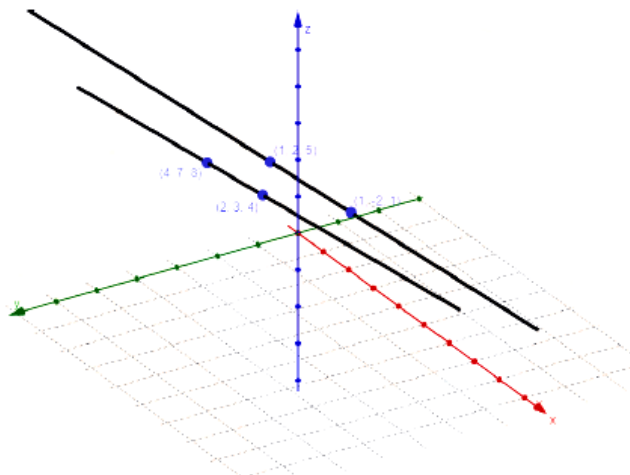
$$\Rightarrow 2 \times 3 + 5 \times 2 - 4 \times 4 = 6 + 10 - 16$$

$$\Rightarrow 0$$

Therefore, AB and CD are perpendicular to each other.

3. Show that the line through the points $(4, 7, 8)$ and $(2, 3, 4)$ is parallel to the line through the points $(1, -2, 1)$ and $(1, 2, 5)$.

Solution: Let us consider the lines AB and CD that pass through points $(4, 7, 8), (2, 3, 4)$, and $(1, -2, 1), (1, 2, 5)$ respectively.



Now, we get

$$a_1 = (2-4), b_1 = (3-7), c_1 = (4-8) \text{ and } a_2 = (1+1), b_2 = (2+2), c_2 = (5-1)$$

$$a_1 = (-2), b_1 = (-4), c_1 = (-4) \text{ and } a_2 = (2), b_2 = (4), c_2 = (4)$$

Now, we know that if $AB \parallel CD$ then $\frac{a_1}{a_2} = \frac{b_1}{b_2} = \frac{c_1}{c_2}$,

Now,

$$\frac{a_1}{a_2} = \frac{-2}{2} \Rightarrow -1, \frac{b_1}{b_2} = \frac{-4}{4} \Rightarrow -1, \frac{c_1}{c_2} = \frac{-4}{4} = -1$$

We got $\frac{a_1}{a_2} = \frac{b_1}{b_2} = \frac{c_1}{c_2}$

Therefore, AB is parallel to CD.

4. Find the equation of the line if it is parallel to vector $3i + 2j - 2k$ and which passes through point $(1, 2, 3)$.

Solution: Now, let us consider the position vector A be $a = i + 2j + 3k$ and let $\vec{b} = 3\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} - 2\hat{k}$

Now, we know that the line passes through A and is parallel to \vec{b} ,

As we know $\vec{r} = \vec{a} + \lambda\vec{b}$ where λ is a constant

$$\Rightarrow \vec{r} = \hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k} + \lambda(3\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} - 2\hat{k})$$

Therefore, the equation of the line is $\vec{r} = \hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k} + \lambda(3\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} - 2\hat{k})$

5. If the line passes through the point with position vector $2\hat{i} - \hat{j} - 4\hat{k}$ and is in the direction $\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} - \hat{k}$. Find the equation of the line in vector and in Cartesian form.

Solution: We know that the line passes through the point with position vector

$$\text{Now, let us consider } \vec{a} = 2\hat{i} - \hat{j} + 4\hat{k} \text{ and } \vec{b} = \hat{i} + 2\hat{j} - \hat{k}$$

Now, line passes through point A and parallel to \vec{b} , we get

$$\vec{r} = 2\hat{i} - \hat{j} + 4\hat{k} + \lambda(\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} - \hat{k})$$

Therefore, the equation of the line in vector form is $\vec{r} = 2\hat{i} - \hat{j} + 4\hat{k} + \lambda(\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} - \hat{k})$.

Now, we know

$$\vec{r} = x\hat{i} - y\hat{j} + z\hat{k} \Rightarrow x\hat{i} - y\hat{j} + z\hat{k} = (\lambda + 2)\hat{i} + (2\lambda - 1)\hat{j} + (-\lambda + 4)\hat{k}$$

Therefore, the equation of the line in Cartesian form will be $\frac{x-2}{1} = \frac{y+1}{2} = \frac{z-4}{-1}$.

6. If the line passes through the point $(-2, 4, -5)$ and parallel to the line given by

$$\frac{x+3}{3} = \frac{y-4}{5} = \frac{z+8}{6}, \text{ find the Cartesian equation of the line.}$$

Solution: We know that the line passes through point $(-2, 4, -5)$ and also parallel to

$$\frac{x+3}{3} = \frac{y-4}{5} = \frac{z+8}{6}$$

Now, as we can see the direction ratios of the line are 3, 5 and 6.

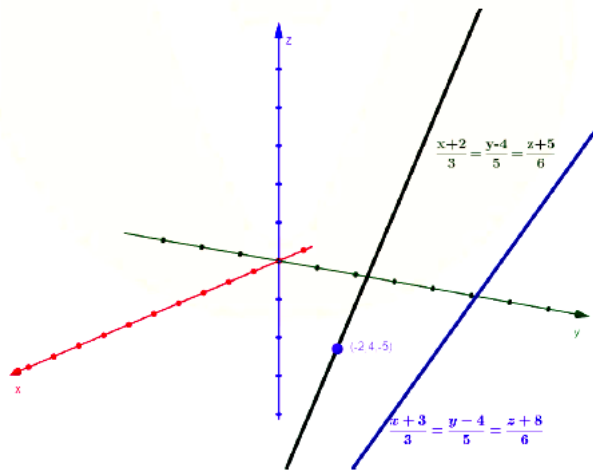
As we know the required line is parallel to $\frac{x+3}{3} = \frac{y-4}{5} = \frac{z+8}{6}$

Therefore, the direction ratios will be $3k, 5k$ and $6k$

As we know that the equation of the line through the point and with direction ratio is

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

Therefore, the equation of the line $\frac{x+2}{3} = \frac{y-4}{5} = \frac{z+5}{6}$.



7. Write the vector form of the line if the Cartesian equation of a line is

$$\frac{x-5}{3} = \frac{y+4}{7} = \frac{z-6}{2}.$$

Solution: As we can see the Cartesian equation of the line, we can tell that the line is passing through $(5, 4, -6)$, and the direction ratios are 3, 7 and 2.

Now, we got the position vector $\vec{a} = 5\hat{i} - 4\hat{j} + 6\hat{k}$

From this we got the direction of the vector be $\vec{b} = 3\hat{i} + 7\hat{j} + 2\hat{k}$

Therefore, the vector form of the line will be $\vec{r} = 5\hat{i} - 4\hat{j} + 6\hat{k} + \lambda(3\hat{i} + 7\hat{j} + 2\hat{k})$

8. If the line passes through the origin and $(5, -2, 3)$, find the vector and the Cartesian equation of the line.

Solution: According to the question, line passes through the origin,

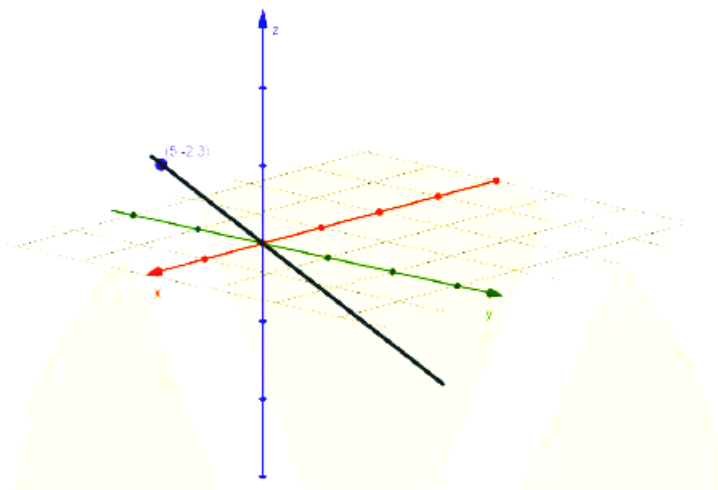
Now, the position vector will be $\vec{a} = 0$

As the line pass through the point $(5, 2, 3)$, the direction ratios of the line through origin will be 5, 2, 3

As the line is parallel to the vector $\vec{b} = 5\hat{i} - 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}$

We can say that the equation of the line in vector form will be $\vec{r} = \lambda(5\hat{i} - 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k})$

And, the equation of the line in the Cartesian form will be $\frac{x}{5} = \frac{y}{2} = \frac{z}{3}.$



9. If the line passes through the point $(3, -2, -5), (3, -2, 6)$, find the vector and the Cartesian equation of the line.

Solution: Let us consider the points be $P(3, -2, -5)$ and $Q(3, -2, 6)$, so the line passing through the point will be PQ.

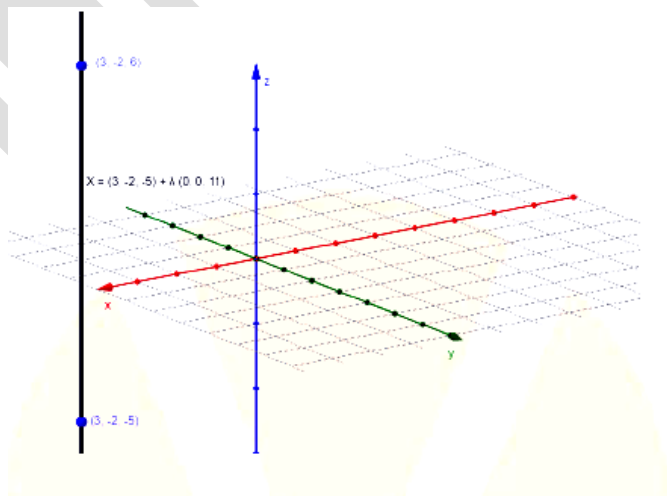
Therefore, the position vector will be $\vec{a} = 3\hat{i} - 2\hat{j} - 5\hat{k}$ and the direction ratios will be $(3-3)=0, (-2+2)=0, (6+5)=11$

As the equation of the vector in the same direction as PQ, we get

$$\vec{b} = 0\hat{i} - 0\hat{j} + 11\hat{k} = 11\hat{k}$$

Therefore, the equation of the line in vector form will be $\vec{r} = 3\hat{i} - 2\hat{j} - 5\hat{k} + 11k\lambda$ and

in Cartesian form it will be $\frac{x-3}{11} = \frac{y+2}{11} = \frac{z+5}{11}$



10. Find the angle between the lines

$$(i) \vec{r} = 2\hat{i} - 5\hat{j} + \hat{k} + \lambda(3\hat{i} - 2\hat{j} + 6\hat{k}) \text{ and } \vec{r} = 7\hat{i} - 6\hat{k} + \mu(\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 2\hat{k})$$

Solution: Let us consider the angle be θ ,

As we know that the angle between the lines can be found by $\cos \theta = \frac{|\vec{b}_1 \vec{b}_2|}{|\vec{b}_1| |\vec{b}_2|}$

As the line are parallel to $\vec{b}_1 = 3\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 6\hat{k}$ and $\vec{b}_2 = \hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 2\hat{k}$, we got

$$|\vec{b}_1| = \sqrt{3^2 + 2^2 + 6^2} = 7, |\vec{b}_2| = \sqrt{1^2 + 2^2 + 2^2} = 3 \text{ and}$$

$$\vec{b}_1 \vec{b}_2 = (3\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 6\hat{k})(\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 2\hat{k}) = 19$$

Therefore, the angle between the lines will be

$$\cos \theta = \frac{19}{7 \times 3}$$

$$\Rightarrow \theta = \cos^{-1} \frac{19}{21}$$

$$(ii) \vec{r} = 3\hat{i} + \hat{j} - 2\hat{k} + \lambda(\hat{i} - \hat{j} - 2\hat{k}) \text{ and } \vec{r} = 3\hat{i} - \hat{j} - 5\hat{k} + \mu(3\hat{i} - 5\hat{j} - 4\hat{k})$$

Solution: As the lines are parallel to the vectors $\vec{b}_1 = \hat{i} - \hat{j} - 2\hat{k}$ and $\vec{b}_2 = 3\hat{i} - 5\hat{j} - 4\hat{k}$,

we get $|\vec{b}_1| = \sqrt{1^2 + (-1)^2 + (-2)^2} = \sqrt{6}, |\vec{b}_2| = \sqrt{3^2 + (-5)^2 + (-4)^2} = 5\sqrt{2}$ and

$$\vec{b}_1 \vec{b}_2 = (\hat{i} - \hat{j} - 2\hat{k})(3\hat{i} - 5\hat{j} - 4\hat{k}) = 16$$

Therefore, the angle between them will be,

$$\cos \theta = \frac{16}{10\sqrt{3}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \cos \theta = \frac{8}{5\sqrt{3}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \theta = \cos^{-1} \frac{8}{5\sqrt{3}}$$

11. Find the angle between the lines

$$(i) \frac{x-2}{2} = \frac{y-1}{5} = \frac{z+3}{-3} \text{ and } \frac{x+2}{-1} = \frac{y-4}{8} = \frac{z-5}{4}$$

Solution: Let us take \vec{b}_1 and \vec{b}_2 be the vectors parallel to the lines, we get

$$\vec{b}_1 = 2\hat{i} + 5\hat{j} - 3\hat{k} \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{b}_2 = \hat{i} + 8\hat{j} + 4\hat{k}$$

$$\text{Now } |\vec{b}_1| = \sqrt{2^2 + 5^2 + (-3)^2} = \sqrt{38}, |\vec{b}_2| = \sqrt{(-1)^2 + 8^2 + 4^2} = 9$$

And,

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{b}_1 \vec{b}_2 &= (2\hat{i} + 5\hat{j} - 3\hat{k}) \cdot (-\hat{i} + 8\hat{j} + 4\hat{k}) \\ &= 2(-1) + 5(8) + 4(-3) \\ &= 26 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{We can find the angle by using } \cos \theta = \frac{|\vec{b}_1 \vec{b}_2|}{|\vec{b}_1| |\vec{b}_2|}$$

Therefore,

$$\cos \theta = \frac{26}{9\sqrt{38}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \theta = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{26}{9\sqrt{38}} \right)$$

Therefore, the angle will be $\cos^{-1} \left(\frac{26}{9\sqrt{38}} \right)$.

$$\text{ii. } \frac{x}{2} = \frac{y}{2} = \frac{z}{1} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{x-5}{4} = \frac{y-2}{1} = \frac{z-3}{8}$$

Solution: Similarly let us consider \vec{b}_1 and \vec{b}_2 be the vectors parallel to lines, we get

$$\vec{b}_1 = 2\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + \hat{k} \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{b}_2 = 4\hat{i} + \hat{j} + 8\hat{k}$$

$$\text{Now, } |\vec{b}_1| = \sqrt{2^2 + 2^2 + (1)^2} = 3, |\vec{b}_2| = \sqrt{4^2 + 1^2 + 8^2} = 9 \quad \text{and}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{b}_1 \vec{b}_2 &= (2\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + \hat{k}) \cdot (4\hat{i} + \hat{j} + 8\hat{k}) \\ &= 2(4) + 2(1) + 1(8) \\ &= 18 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{As we know the angle can be found by } \cos \theta = \frac{|\vec{b}_1 \vec{b}_2|}{|\vec{b}_1| |\vec{b}_2|}$$

Therefore,

$$\cos \theta = \frac{18}{17} = \frac{2}{3}$$

$$\Rightarrow \theta = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{2}{3}\right)$$

Therefore, the angle is $\cos^{-1}\left(\frac{2}{3}\right)$

12. We needed to find the values of p so the line $\frac{1-x}{3} = \frac{7y-14}{2p} = \frac{z-3}{2}$ and

$$\frac{7-7x}{3p} = \frac{y-5}{1} = \frac{6-z}{2} \text{ are at right angles.}$$

Solution: As we know that the correct form of the equation is as follows,

$$\frac{x-1}{-3} = \frac{y-2}{2p} = \frac{z-3}{2} \text{ and } \frac{x-1}{-3p} = \frac{y-5}{1} = \frac{z-6}{-5}$$

From this we get the direction ratios as

$$a_1 = -3, b_1 = \frac{2p}{7}, c_1 = 2 \text{ and } a_2 = \frac{-3p}{7}, b_2 = 1, c_2 = -5$$

As we know the lines are perpendicular, we get

$$a_1 a_2 + b_1 b_2 + c_1 c_2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{9p}{7} + \frac{2p}{7} = 10$$

$$\Rightarrow 11p = 70$$

$$\Rightarrow p = \frac{70}{11}$$

Therefore, the value of p is $\frac{70}{11}$.

13. We needed to show that the lines $\frac{x-5}{7} = \frac{y+2}{-5} = \frac{z}{1}$ and $\frac{x}{1} = \frac{y}{2} = \frac{z}{3}$ are perpendicular to each other.

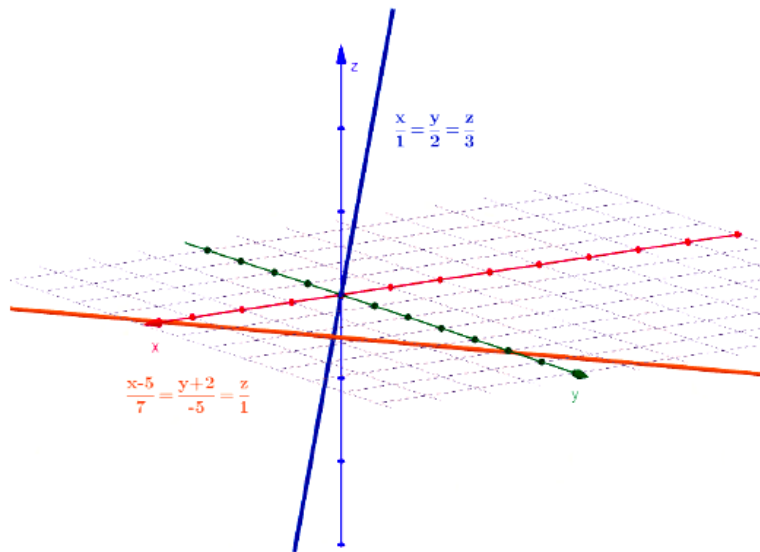
Solution: From the given equation, we get the direction ratios as,

$$a_1 = 7, b_1 = -5, c_1 = 1, a_2 = 1, b_2 = 2, c_2 = 3$$

As we know, if $a_1 a_2 + b_1 b_2 + c_1 c_2 = 0$, the lines are perpendicular to each other

Now,

$$7(1) + (-5)2 + 1(3) \Rightarrow 7 - 10 + 3 = 0$$



Therefore, the lines are perpendicular.

14. If the lines are $\vec{r} = \hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + \hat{k} + \lambda(\hat{i} - \hat{j} + \hat{k})$ and $\vec{r} = 2\hat{i} - \hat{j} - \hat{k} + \mu(2\hat{i} + \hat{j} + 2\hat{k})$, find the shortest distance between them.

Solution: We have been given lines, $\vec{r} = \hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + \hat{k} + \lambda(\hat{i} - \hat{j} - \hat{k})$ and

$$\vec{r} = 2\hat{i} - \hat{j} - \hat{k} + \mu(2\hat{i} + \hat{j} + 2\hat{k})$$

As we know that the shortest distance can be found as $d = \frac{|\vec{b}_1 \times \vec{b}_2| (\vec{a}_2 - \vec{a}_1)}{|\vec{b}_1 \times \vec{b}_2|}$

Now, from the given lines we get that

$$\vec{a}_1 = \hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + \hat{k},$$

$$\vec{b}_1 = \hat{i} - \hat{j} - \hat{k}$$

$$\vec{a}_2 = 2\hat{i} - \hat{j} - \hat{k},$$

$$\vec{b}_2 = 2\hat{i} + \hat{j} + 2\hat{k}$$

$$\vec{a}_2 - \vec{a}_1 = (2\hat{i} - \hat{j} - \hat{k}) - (\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + \hat{k})$$

$$= \hat{i} - 3\hat{j} - 2\hat{k},$$

$$\vec{b}_1 \times \vec{b}_2 = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 2 & -1 & 2 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{b}_1 \times \vec{b}_2 = -3\hat{i} + 3\hat{k}$$

$$\text{Then, } |\vec{b}_1 \times \vec{b}_2| = \sqrt{(-3)^2 + 3^2} = 3\sqrt{2}$$

Now, if we put all the values in their places, we get

$$d = \left| \frac{(-3\hat{i} + 3\hat{k})(\hat{i} - 3\hat{j} - 2\hat{k})}{3\sqrt{2}} \right| \Rightarrow d = \left| \frac{-3(1) + 3(2)}{3\sqrt{2}} \right|$$

$$d = \left| \frac{-9}{3\sqrt{2}} \right| \Rightarrow d = \frac{3\sqrt{2}}{2}$$

Therefore, the shortest distance between the lines is $\frac{3\sqrt{2}}{2}$ units.

15. Find the shortest distance between the lines $\frac{x+1}{7} = \frac{y+1}{-6} = \frac{z+1}{1}$ and

$$\frac{x-3}{1} = \frac{y-5}{-2} = \frac{z-7}{1}$$

Solution: As we know that the shortest distance can be found by,

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

Now, from the given lines we got that

$$x_1 = -1, y_1 = -1, z_1 = -1, a_1 = 7, b_1 = -6, c_1 = 1$$

$$x_2 = 3, y_2 = 5, z_2 = 7, a_2 = 1, b_2 = -2, c_2 = 1.$$

And,

$$\begin{vmatrix} x_2 - x_1 & y_2 - y_1 & z_2 - z_1 \\ a_1 & b_1 & c_1 \\ a_2 & b_2 & c_2 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} 4 & 6 & 8 \\ 7 & -6 & 1 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= 4(-6+2) - 6(1+7) + 8(-14+6)$$

$$= -16 - 36 - 64$$

$$= -116$$

And,

$$\sqrt{(b_1c_2 - b_2c_1)^2 + (c_1a_2 - c_2a_1)^2 + (a_1b_2 - a_2b_1)^2} = \sqrt{(-6+2)^2 + (1+7)^2 + (-14+6)^2}$$

$$\sqrt{(b_1c_2 - b_2c_1)^2 + (c_1a_2 - c_2a_1)^2 + (a_1b_2 - a_2b_1)^2} = 2\sqrt{29}$$

Putting all the values, we get

$$d = \frac{-116}{2\sqrt{29}}$$

$$d = \frac{-58}{\sqrt{29}} \Rightarrow \frac{-58\sqrt{29}}{29}$$

$$d = \frac{-58}{\sqrt{29}} \Rightarrow |d| = 2\sqrt{29}$$

Therefore, the distance between the lines is $2\sqrt{29}$ units.

16. Find the shortest distance between the lines whose vector equations are

$$\vec{r} = \hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k} + \lambda(\hat{i} - 3\hat{j} + 2\hat{k}) \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{r} = 4\hat{i} + 5\hat{j} + 6\hat{k} + \mu(2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} + \hat{k})$$

Solution: We have been given lines $\vec{r} = \hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k} + \lambda(\hat{i} - 3\hat{j} + 2\hat{k})$ and

$$\vec{r} = 4\hat{i} + 5\hat{j} + 6\hat{k} + \mu(2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} + \hat{k})$$

As we know that the shortest distance between the lines can be found by,

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

Now, from the given lines, we got

$$\vec{a}_1 = \hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}, \vec{b}_1 = \hat{i} - 3\hat{j} + 2\hat{k}$$

$$\vec{a}_2 = 4\hat{i} + 5\hat{j} + 6\hat{k}, \vec{b}_2 = 2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} + \hat{k}$$

$$\vec{a}_2 - \vec{a}_1 = (4\hat{i} + 5\hat{j} + 6\hat{k}) - (\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k})$$

$$= 3\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}$$

$$\vec{b}_1 \times \vec{b}_2 = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ 1 & -3 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{b}_1 \times \vec{b}_2 = -9\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} + 9\hat{k}$$

$$|\vec{b}_1 \times \vec{b}_2| = \sqrt{(-9)^2 + 3^2 + 9^2} = 3\sqrt{19}$$

Now, putting all the values, we get

$$d = \left| \frac{9}{3\sqrt{19}} \right| = \frac{3}{\sqrt{19}}$$

Therefore, the shortest distance between the lines is $\frac{3}{\sqrt{19}}$ units.

17. We needed to find the shortest distance between the lines whose vector equations are

$$\vec{r} = (1-t)\hat{i} + (t-2)\hat{j} + (3-2t)\hat{k} \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{r} = (s+1)\hat{i} + (2s-1)\hat{j} - (2s+1)\hat{k}$$

Solution: We have been given lines $\vec{r} = (1-t)\hat{i} + (t-2)\hat{j} + (3-2t)\hat{k}$ and

$$\vec{r} = (s+1)\hat{i} + (2s-1)\hat{j} - (2s+1)\hat{k}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{r} = \hat{i} - 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k} + t(-\hat{i} + \hat{j} - 2\hat{k}) \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{r} = \hat{i} - \hat{j} + \hat{k} + s(\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} - 2\hat{k})$$

Now, the shortest distance can be found by,

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

Now, from the given lines we got,

$$\vec{a}_1 = \hat{i} - 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}, \vec{b}_1 = -\hat{i} + \hat{j} - 2\hat{k},$$

$$\vec{a}_2 = \hat{i} - \hat{j} - \hat{k}, \vec{b}_2 = \hat{i} + 2\hat{j} - 2\hat{k}$$

$$\vec{a}_2 - \vec{a}_1 = (\hat{i} - \hat{j} - \hat{k}) - (\hat{i} - 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}) = \hat{j} - 4\hat{k},$$

$$\vec{b}_1 \times \vec{b}_2 = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ -1 & 1 & -2 \\ 1 & 2 & -2 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{b}_1 \times \vec{b}_2 = 2\hat{i} - 4\hat{j} - 3\hat{k},$$

$$|\vec{b}_1 \times \vec{b}_2| = \sqrt{(2)^2 + (-4)^2 + (-3)^2} = \sqrt{29}$$

$$(\vec{b}_1 \times \vec{b}_2) \cdot (\vec{a}_2 - \vec{a}_1) = (2\hat{i} - 4\hat{j} - 3\hat{k}) \cdot (\hat{j} - 4\hat{k})$$

$$= -4 + 12$$

$$= 8$$

Putting all the values, we get

$$d = \left| \frac{8}{\sqrt{29}} \right| = \frac{8}{\sqrt{29}}$$

Therefore, the shortest distance between the lines is $\frac{8}{\sqrt{29}}$ units.