Coordinates in \mathbb{R}^2 and \mathbb{R}^3 Lecture 1

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12.1: Three-dimensional coordinate systems



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Three-dimensional coordinate systems

- We chose a fixed point O (the origin)
- We also chose three directed lines through *O* that are perpendicular to each other: **the coordinate axes**
- We label them the x-axis, y-axis, and z-axis.

Three-dimensional coordinate systems

- A point P in space is represented by a triple (a, b, c)
- *a* is the *x*-coordinate
- *b* is the *y*-coordinate
- *c* is the *z*-coordinate
- This correspondence between points and triples (a, b, c) in \mathbb{R}^3 is called a three dimensional rectangular coordinate system.

Distance between two points



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• The distance $|P_1P_2|$ between the points $P_1(x_1, y_1, z_1)$ and $P(x_2, y_2, z_2)$ is

$$|P_1P_2| = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2 + (z_2 - z_1)^2}$$

Equation of a sphere



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• An equation of a sphere with center C(h, k, l) and radius r is

$$(x-h)^2 + (y-k)^2 + (z-l)^2 = r^2.$$

• If the center is the origin

$$x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = r^2.$$

12.2: Vectors

- A vector has initial point A and terminal point B
- We write \vec{AB} or \vec{u} or **u**.



• Two vectors **u** and **v** are **equivalent** (or **equal**) and we write **u** = **v** if the have the same length and the same direction



 If u and v are vectors positioned so the initial point of v is at the terminal point of u, then the sum u + v is the vector from the initial point of u to the terminal point of v.

- If c is a scalar and v is a vector, then the scalar multiple cv is the vector whose length is |c| times the length of v and whose direction is the same as v if c > 0 and is opposite to v if c < 0.
- We call -v the **negative** of v.
- The difference u v of two vectors is

$$\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{u} + (-\mathbf{v})$$

Components

- If we place the initial point of a vector a at the origin, then the terminal point of a has coordinates of the form (a₁, a₂) or (a₁, a₂, a₃).
- These coordinates are called components of a

$$\mathbf{a} = \langle a_1, a_2 \rangle$$
 or $\mathbf{a} = \langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle$.

The length of a vector

Definition

The length of a vector $\mathbf{a} = \langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle$ is

$$|\mathbf{a}| = \sqrt{a_1^2 + a_2^2 + a_3^2}.$$

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Definition

The vectors

$$\mathbf{i} = \langle 1, 0, 0 \rangle, \ \mathbf{j} = \langle 0, 1, 0 \rangle, \ \mathbf{k} = \langle 0, 0, 1 \rangle$$

are called the standard basis vectors.