

Subject – Math(Higher Level)
Topic - Vector
Year - Nov 2011 – Nov 2019

Question 1

[Maximum mark: 15]

(a) For non-zero vectors \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} , show that

(i) if $|\mathbf{a}-\mathbf{b}|=|\mathbf{a}+\mathbf{b}|$, then \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} are perpendicular;

(ii) $|\mathbf{a}\times\mathbf{b}|^2=|\mathbf{a}|^2|\mathbf{b}|^2-(\mathbf{a}\cdot\mathbf{b})^2$. [8 marks]

(b) The points A, B and C have position vectors \mathbf{a} , \mathbf{b} and \mathbf{c} .

(i) Show that the area of triangle ABC is $\frac{1}{2}|\mathbf{a}\times\mathbf{b}+\mathbf{b}\times\mathbf{c}+\mathbf{c}\times\mathbf{a}|$.

(ii) Hence, show that the shortest distance from B to AC is

$$\frac{|\mathbf{a}\times\mathbf{b}+\mathbf{b}\times\mathbf{c}+\mathbf{c}\times\mathbf{a}|}{|\mathbf{c}-\mathbf{a}|}. \quad [7 \text{ marks}]$$

Question 2

[Maximum mark: 5]

Find the values of x for which the vectors $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2\cos x \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2\sin x \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ are perpendicular,

$$0 \leq x \leq \frac{\pi}{2}.$$

Question 3

[Maximum mark: 6]

Two boats, A and B , move so that at time t hours, their position vectors, in kilometres, are $\mathbf{r}_A=(9t)\mathbf{i}+(3-6t)\mathbf{j}$ and $\mathbf{r}_B=(7-4t)\mathbf{i}+(7t-6)\mathbf{j}$.

(a) Find the coordinates of the common point of the paths of the two boats. [4 marks]

(b) Show that the boats do not collide. [2 marks]

Question 4

[Maximum mark: 21]

The vertices of a triangle ABC have coordinates given by A(-1, 2, 3), B(4, 1, 1) and C(3, -2, 2).

- (a) (i) Find the lengths of the sides of the triangle.
- (ii) Find $\cos \hat{BAC}$. [6 marks]
- (b) (i) Show that $\vec{BC} \times \vec{CA} = -7\mathbf{i} - 3\mathbf{j} - 16\mathbf{k}$.
- (ii) Hence, show that the area of the triangle ABC is $\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{314}$. [5 marks]
- (c) Find the Cartesian equation of the plane containing the triangle ABC. [3 marks]
- (d) Find a vector equation of (AB). [2 marks]
- The point D on (AB) is such that \vec{OD} is perpendicular to \vec{BC} where O is the origin.
- (e) (i) Find the coordinates of D.
- (ii) Show that D does not lie between A and B. [5 marks]

Question 5

[Maximum mark: 20]

Consider the points A(1, 0, 0), B(2, 2, 2) and C(0, 2, 1).

- (a) Find the vector $\vec{CA} \times \vec{CB}$. [4]
- (b) Find an exact value for the area of the triangle ABC. [3]
- (c) Show that the Cartesian equation of the plane Π_1 , containing the triangle ABC, is $2x + 3y - 4z = 2$. [3]

A second plane Π_2 is defined by the Cartesian equation $\Pi_2: 4x - y - z = 4$. L_1 is the line of intersection of the planes Π_1 and Π_2 .

- (d) Find a vector equation for L_1 . [5]

A third plane Π_3 is defined by the Cartesian equation $16x + \alpha y - 3z = \beta$.

- (e) Find the value of α if all three planes contain L_1 . [3]
- (f) Find conditions on α and β if the plane Π_3 does **not** intersect with L_1 . [2]

Question 6

[Maximum mark: 22]

- (a) Show that the points $O(0, 0, 0)$, $A(6, 0, 0)$, $B(6, -\sqrt{24}, \sqrt{12})$, $C(0, -\sqrt{24}, \sqrt{12})$ form a square. [3]
- (b) Find the coordinates of M , the mid-point of $[OB]$. [1]
- (c) Show that an equation of the plane Π , containing the square $OABC$, is $y + \sqrt{2}z = 0$. [3]
- (d) Find a vector equation of the line L , through M , perpendicular to the plane Π . [3]
- (e) Find the coordinates of D , the point of intersection of the line L with the plane whose equation is $y = 0$. [3]
- (f) Find the coordinates of E , the reflection of the point D in the plane Π . [3]
- (g) (i) Find the angle \hat{ODA} .
(ii) State what this tells you about the solid $OABCDE$. [6]

Question 7

[Maximum mark: 6]

$PQRS$ is a rhombus. Given that $\vec{PQ} = \mathbf{a}$ and $\vec{QR} = \mathbf{b}$,

- (a) express the vectors \vec{PR} and \vec{QS} in terms of \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} ; [2]
- (b) hence show that the diagonals in a rhombus intersect at right angles. [4]

Question 8

[Maximum mark: 18]

Given the points $A(1, 0, 4)$, $B(2, 3, -1)$ and $C(0, 1, -2)$,

- (a) find the vector equation of the line L_1 passing through the points A and B . [2]

The line L_2 has Cartesian equation $\frac{x-1}{3} = \frac{y+2}{1} = \frac{z-1}{-2}$.

- (b) Show that L_1 and L_2 are skew lines. [5]

Consider the plane Π_1 , parallel to both lines L_1 and L_2 . Point C lies in the plane Π_1 .

- (c) Find the Cartesian equation of the plane Π_1 . [4]

The line L_3 has vector equation $\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} k \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$.

The plane Π_2 has Cartesian equation $x + y = 12$.

The angle between the line L_3 and the plane Π_2 is 60° .

(d) (i) Find the value of k .

(ii) Find the point of intersection P of the line L_3 and the plane Π_2 .

[7]

Question 9

[Maximum mark: 5]

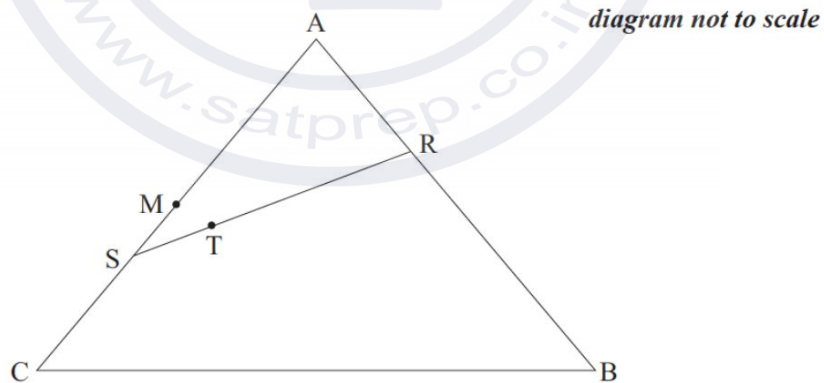
A point P, relative to an origin O, has position vector $\vec{OP} = \begin{pmatrix} 1+s \\ 3+2s \\ 1-s \end{pmatrix}$, $s \in \mathbb{R}$.

Find the minimum length of \vec{OP} .

Question 10

[Maximum mark: 14]

The position vectors of the points A, B and C are \mathbf{a} , \mathbf{b} and \mathbf{c} respectively, relative to an origin O. The following diagram shows the triangle ABC and points M, R, S and T.



M is the midpoint of [AC].

R is a point on [AB] such that $\vec{AR} = \frac{1}{3} \vec{AB}$.

S is a point on [AC] such that $\vec{AS} = \frac{2}{3} \vec{AC}$.

T is a point on [RS] such that $\vec{RT} = \frac{2}{3} \vec{RS}$.

- (a) (i) Express \vec{AM} in terms of \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{c} .
- (ii) Hence show that $\vec{BM} = \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b} + \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{c}$. [4]
- (b) (i) Express \vec{RA} in terms of \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} .
- (ii) Show that $\vec{RT} = -\frac{2}{9}\mathbf{a} - \frac{2}{9}\mathbf{b} + \frac{4}{9}\mathbf{c}$. [5]
- (c) Prove that T lies on [BM]. [5]

Question 11

[Maximum mark: 21]

Two lines l_1 and l_2 are given respectively by the equations $\mathbf{r}_1 = \vec{OA} + \lambda\mathbf{v}$ and $\mathbf{r}_2 = \vec{OB} + \mu\mathbf{w}$ where $\vec{OA} = \mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} + 3\mathbf{k}$, $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}$, $\vec{OB} = 2\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k}$, $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k}$ and O is the origin. Let P be a point on l_1 and let Q be a point on l_2 .

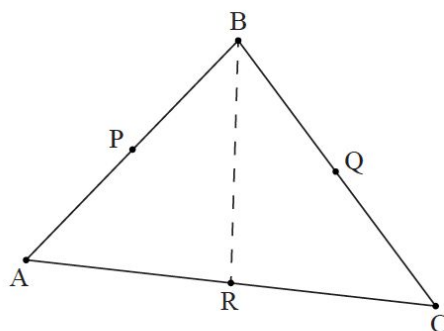
- (a) Find \vec{PQ} , in terms of λ and μ . [2]
- (b) Find the value of λ and the value of μ for which \vec{PQ} is perpendicular to the direction vectors of both l_1 and l_2 . [5]
- (c) Hence find the shortest distance between l_1 and l_2 . [3]
- (d) Find the Cartesian equation of the plane Π , which contains line l_1 and is parallel to the direction vector of line l_2 . [5]

Let $\vec{OT} = \vec{OB} + \eta(\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{w})$.

- (e) Find the value of η for which the point T lies in the plane Π . [2]
- (f) For this value of η , calculate $\left| \vec{BT} \right|$. [2]
- (g) State what you notice about your answers to (c) and (f), and give a geometrical interpretation of this result. [2]

Question 12

[Maximum mark: 23]



Consider the triangle ABC . The points P , Q and R are the midpoints of the line segments $[AB]$, $[BC]$ and $[AC]$ respectively.

Let $\vec{OA} = \mathbf{a}$, $\vec{OB} = \mathbf{b}$ and $\vec{OC} = \mathbf{c}$.

(a) Find \vec{BR} in terms of \mathbf{a} , \mathbf{b} and \mathbf{c} . [2]

(b) (i) Find a vector equation of the line that passes through B and R in terms of \mathbf{a} , \mathbf{b} and \mathbf{c} and a parameter λ .

(ii) Find a vector equation of the line that passes through A and Q in terms of \mathbf{a} , \mathbf{b} and \mathbf{c} and a parameter μ .

(iii) Hence show that $\vec{OG} = \frac{1}{3}(\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{c})$ given that G is the point where $[BR]$ and $[AQ]$ intersect. [9]

(c) Show that the line segment $[CP]$ also includes the point G . [3]

The coordinates of the points A , B and C are $(1, 3, 1)$, $(3, 7, -5)$ and $(2, 2, 1)$ respectively.

A point X is such that $[GX]$ is perpendicular to the plane ABC .

(d) Given that the tetrahedron $ABCX$ has volume 12 units^3 , find possible coordinates of X . [9]

Question 13

[Maximum mark: 21]

Two planes have equations

$$\Pi_1: 4x + y + z = 8 \text{ and } \Pi_2: 4x + 3y - z = 0$$

- (a) Find the cosine of the angle between the two planes in the form $\sqrt{\frac{p}{q}}$ where $p, q \in \mathbb{Z}$. [4]

Let L be the line of intersection of the two planes.

- (b) (i) Show that L has direction $\begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$.

(ii) Show that the point $A(1, 0, 4)$ lies on both planes.

(iii) Write down a vector equation of L . [6]

B is the point on Π_1 with coordinates $(a, b, 1)$.

- (c) Given the vector \vec{AB} is perpendicular to L find the value of a and the value of b . [5]

(d) Show that $AB = 3\sqrt{2}$. [1]

The point P lies on L and $\hat{AP} = 45^\circ$.

- (e) Find the coordinates of the two possible positions of P . [5]

Question 14

[Maximum mark: 5]

Consider the vectors $\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{i} - 3\mathbf{j} - 2\mathbf{k}$, $\mathbf{b} = -3\mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k}$.

- (a) Find $\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}$. [2]

(b) Hence find the Cartesian equation of the plane containing the vectors \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} , and passing through the point $(1, 0, -1)$. [3]

Question 15

[Maximum mark: 6]

Consider the lines l_1 and l_2 defined by

$$l_1: \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ -2 \\ a \end{pmatrix} + \beta \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } l_2: \frac{6-x}{3} = \frac{y-2}{4} = 1-z \text{ where } a \text{ is a constant.}$$

Given that the lines l_1 and l_2 intersect at a point P,

- (a) find the value of a ; [4]
- (b) determine the coordinates of the point of intersection P. [2]

Question 16

[Maximum mark: 7]

ABCD is a parallelogram, where $\vec{AB} = -\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} + 3\mathbf{k}$ and $\vec{AD} = 4\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} - 2\mathbf{k}$.

- (a) Find the area of the parallelogram ABCD. [3]
- (b) By using a suitable scalar product of two vectors, determine whether $\hat{A}BC$ is acute or obtuse. [4]

Question 17

[Maximum mark: 6]

The points A and B are given by A(0, 3, -6) and B(6, -5, 11).

The plane Π is defined by the equation $4x - 3y + 2z = 20$.

- (a) Find a vector equation of the line L passing through the points A and B. [3]
- (b) Find the coordinates of the point of intersection of the line L with the plane Π . [3]

Question 18

[Maximum mark: 5]

- (a) Show that the following system of equations has an infinite number of solutions. [2]

$$\begin{aligned} x + y + 2z &= -2 \\ 3x - y + 14z &= 6 \\ x + 2y &= -5 \end{aligned}$$

The system of equations represents three planes in space.

- (b) Find the parametric equations of the line of intersection of the three planes. [3]

Question 19

[Maximum mark: 6]

The following system of equations represents three planes in space.

$$\begin{aligned}x + 3y + z &= -1 \\x + 2y - 2z &= 15 \\2x + y - z &= 6\end{aligned}$$

Find the coordinates of the point of intersection of the three planes.

Question 20

[Maximum mark: 5]

O, A, B and C are distinct points such that $\vec{OA} = \mathbf{a}$, $\vec{OB} = \mathbf{b}$ and $\vec{OC} = \mathbf{c}$.
It is given that \mathbf{c} is perpendicular to \vec{AB} and \mathbf{b} is perpendicular to \vec{AC} .

Prove that \mathbf{a} is perpendicular to \vec{BC} .

Question 21

[Maximum mark: 18]

A line L has equation $\frac{x-2}{p} = \frac{y-q}{2} = z-1$ where $p, q \in \mathbb{R}$.

A plane Π has equation $x + y + 3z = 9$.

(a) Show that L is not perpendicular to Π . [3]

(b) Given that L lies in the plane Π , find the value of p and the value of q . [4]

Consider the different case where the acute angle between L and Π is θ

where $\theta = \arcsin\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{11}}\right)$.

(c) (i) Show that $p = -2$.

(ii) If L intersects Π at $z = -1$, find the value of q . [11]

Question 22

[Maximum mark: 5]

Find the coordinates of the point of intersection of the planes defined by the equations $x + y + z = 3$, $x - y + z = 5$ and $x + y + 2z = 6$.

Question 23

[Maximum mark: 6]

Consider the lines l_1 and l_2 defined by

$$l_1: \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ -2 \\ a \end{pmatrix} + \beta \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } l_2: \frac{6-x}{3} = \frac{y-2}{4} = 1-z \text{ where } a \text{ is a constant.}$$

Given that the lines l_1 and l_2 intersect at a point P,

- (a) find the value of a ; [4]
- (b) determine the coordinates of the point of intersection P. [2]

Question 24

[Maximum mark: 7]

Consider the following equations, where $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$:

$$\begin{aligned} x + 3y + (a-1)z &= 1 \\ 2x + 2y + (a-2)z &= 1 \\ 3x + y + (a-3)z &= b. \end{aligned}$$

- (a) If each of these equations defines a plane, show that, for any value of a , the planes do not intersect at a unique point. [3 marks]
- (b) Find the value of b for which the intersection of the planes is a straight line. [4 marks]

Question 25

[Maximum mark: 6]

Consider the points A(1, 2, 3), B(1, 0, 5) and C(2, -1, 4).

- (a) Find $\vec{AB} \times \vec{AC}$. [4 marks]
- (b) Hence find the area of the triangle ABC. [2 marks]

Question 26

[Maximum mark: 24]

The points A, B, C and D have position vectors \mathbf{a} , \mathbf{b} , \mathbf{c} and \mathbf{d} , relative to the origin O.

It is given that $\vec{AB} = \vec{DC}$.

(a) (i) Explain why ABCD is a parallelogram.

(ii) Using vector algebra, show that $\vec{AD} = \vec{BC}$. [4]

The position vectors \vec{OA} , \vec{OB} , \vec{OC} and \vec{OD} are given by

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{a} &= \mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} - 3\mathbf{k} \\ \mathbf{b} &= 3\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + p\mathbf{k} \\ \mathbf{c} &= q\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k} \\ \mathbf{d} &= -\mathbf{i} + r\mathbf{j} - 2\mathbf{k}\end{aligned}$$

where p , q and r are constants.

(b) Show that $p = 1$, $q = 1$ and $r = 4$. [5]

(c) Find the area of the parallelogram ABCD. [4]

The point where the diagonals of ABCD intersect is denoted by M.

(d) Find the vector equation of the straight line passing through M and normal to the plane Π containing ABCD. [4]

(e) Find the Cartesian equation of Π . [3]

The plane Π cuts the x , y and z axes at X, Y and Z respectively.

(f) (i) Find the coordinates of X, Y and Z.

(ii) Find YZ. [4]

Question 27

[Maximum mark: 4]

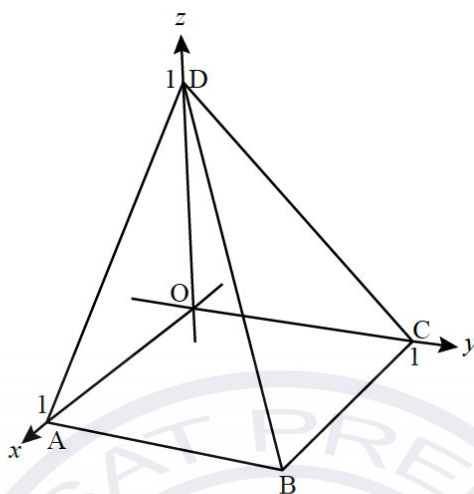
The acute angle between the vectors $3\mathbf{i} - 4\mathbf{j} - 5\mathbf{k}$ and $5\mathbf{i} - 4\mathbf{j} + 3\mathbf{k}$ is denoted by θ .

Find $\cos\theta$.

Question 28

[Maximum mark: 19]

The following figure shows a square based pyramid with vertices at $O(0, 0, 0)$, $A(1, 0, 0)$, $B(1, 1, 0)$, $C(0, 1, 0)$ and $D(0, 0, 1)$.



- (a) Find the Cartesian equation of the plane Π_1 , passing through the points A, B and D. [3]

The Cartesian equation of the plane Π_2 , passing through the points B, C and D, is $y + z = 1$.

- (b) Find the angle between the faces ABD and BCD. [4]

The plane Π_3 passes through O and is normal to the line BD.

- (c) Find the Cartesian equation of Π_3 . [3]

Π_3 cuts AD and BD at the points P and Q respectively.

- (d) Show that P is the midpoint of AD. [4]

- (e) Find the area of the triangle OPQ. [5]

Question 29

[Maximum mark: 15]

Consider a triangle OAB such that O has coordinates $(0, 0, 0)$, A has coordinates $(0, 1, 2)$ and B has coordinates $(2b, 0, b - 1)$ where $b < 0$.

- (a) Find, in terms of b , a Cartesian equation of the plane Π containing this triangle. [5]

Let M be the midpoint of the line segment [OB].

- (b) Find, in terms of b , the equation of the line L which passes through M and is perpendicular to the plane Π . [3]

- (c) Show that L does not intersect the y -axis for any negative value of b . [7]

Question 30

[Maximum mark: 6]

The vectors \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} are defined by $\mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ t \end{pmatrix}$, $\mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -t \\ 4t \end{pmatrix}$, where $t \in \mathbb{R}$.

- (a) Find and simplify an expression for $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}$ in terms of t . [2]
- (b) Hence or otherwise, find the values of t for which the angle between \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} is obtuse. [4]

Question 31

[Maximum mark: 6]

Three points in three-dimensional space have coordinates $A(0, 0, 2)$, $B(0, 2, 0)$ and $C(3, 1, 0)$.

- (a) Find the vector
- (i) \vec{AB} ;
- (ii) \vec{AC} . [2]
- (b) Hence or otherwise, find the area of the triangle ABC . [4]

Question 32

[Maximum mark: 20]

Two distinct lines, l_1 and l_2 , intersect at a point P . In addition to P , four distinct points are marked out on l_1 and three distinct points on l_2 . A mathematician decides to join some of these eight points to form polygons.

- (a) (i) Find how many sets of four points can be selected which can form the vertices of a quadrilateral.
- (ii) Find how many sets of three points can be selected which can form the vertices of a triangle. [6]

The line l_1 has vector equation $\mathbf{r}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ and the line l_2 has vector equation

$$\mathbf{r}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} + \mu \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 6 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \mu \in \mathbb{R}.$$

The point P has coordinates $(4, 6, 4)$.

- (b) Verify that P is the point of intersection of the two lines. [3]

The point A has coordinates $(3, 4, 3)$ and lies on l_1 .

- (c) Write down the value of λ corresponding to the point A . [1]

The point B has coordinates $(-1, 0, 2)$ and lies on l_2 .

- (d) Write down \vec{PA} and \vec{PB} . [2]

Let C be the point on l_1 with coordinates $(1, 0, 1)$ and D be the point on l_2 with parameter $\mu = -2$.

- (e) Find the area of the quadrilateral CDDBA. [8]

Question 33

[Maximum mark: 4]

Let $\mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ k \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ k+2 \\ k \end{pmatrix}$, $k \in \mathbb{R}$.

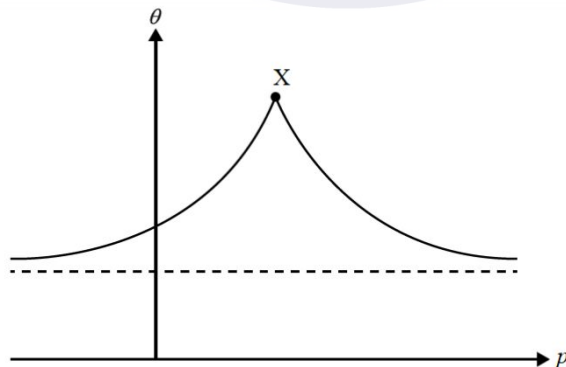
Given that \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} are perpendicular, find the possible values of k .

Question 34

[Maximum mark: 17]

Points $A(0, 0, 10)$, $B(0, 10, 0)$, $C(10, 0, 0)$, $V(p, p, p)$ form the vertices of a tetrahedron.

- (a) (i) Show that $\vec{AB} \times \vec{AV} = -10 \begin{pmatrix} 10-2p \\ p \\ p \end{pmatrix}$ and find a similar expression for $\vec{AC} \times \vec{AV}$.
 (ii) Hence, show that, if the angle between the faces ABV and ACV is θ , then $\cos \theta = \frac{p(3p-20)}{6p^2-40p+100}$. [8]
- (b) Consider the case where the faces ABV and ACV are perpendicular.
 (i) Find the two possible coordinates of V.
 (ii) Comment on the positions of V in relation to the plane ABC. [4]
- (c) The following diagram shows the graph of θ against p . The maximum point is shown by X.



- (i) At X, find the value p and the value of θ .
 (ii) Find the equation of the horizontal asymptote of the graph. Find the equation of the horizontal asymptote of the graph. [5]

Question 35

[Maximum mark: 6]

A straight line, L_θ , has vector equation $\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ \sin \theta \\ \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}$, $\lambda, \theta \in \mathbb{R}$.

The plane, Π_p , has equation $x = p$, $p \in \mathbb{R}$.

Show that the angle between L_θ and Π_p is independent of both θ and p .

