

THE DISTANCE FROM A POINT TO A LINE

DANIEL SITARU - ROMANIA

Let be $A(2, -1, 1); B(0, 1, 3); C(-1, 2, 2)$.

Find the distance from the point A to the line BC .

$$\begin{aligned}\overrightarrow{AB} &= (x_B - x_A)\vec{i} + (y_B - y_A)\vec{j} + (z_B - z_A)\vec{k} = \\ &= (0 - 2)\vec{i} + (1 + 1)\vec{j} + (3 - 1)\vec{k} = -2\vec{i} + 2\vec{j} + 2\vec{k} \\ \overrightarrow{AC} &= (x_C - x_A)\vec{i} + (y_C - y_A)\vec{j} + (z_C - z_A)\vec{k} \\ &= (-1 - 2)\vec{i} + (2 + 1)\vec{j} + (2 - 1)\vec{k} = -3\vec{i} + 3\vec{j} + \vec{k} \\ \overrightarrow{AB} \times \overrightarrow{AC} &= \begin{vmatrix} \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ -2 & 2 & 2 \\ -3 & 3 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 2\vec{i} - 6\vec{j} - 6\vec{k} + 6\vec{k} - 6\vec{i} + 2\vec{j} \\ \overrightarrow{AB} \times \overrightarrow{AC} &= -4\vec{i} - 4\vec{j} \\ A[ABC] &= \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{(-4)^2 + (-4)^2} = \frac{32}{2} = 2\sqrt{2} \\ BC &= \sqrt{(x_C - x_B)^2 + (y_C - y_B)^2 + (z_C - z_B)^2} = \\ &= \sqrt{(-1 - 0)^2 + (2 - 1)^2 + (2 - 3)^2} = \sqrt{3} \\ d(A, BC) &= \frac{2A[ABC]}{BC} = \frac{2 \cdot 2\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}} = \frac{4\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}} = \frac{4\sqrt{6}}{3}\end{aligned}$$

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT, NATIONAL ECONOMIC COLLEGE "THEODOR COSTESCU", DROBETA
TURNU - SEVERIN, ROMANIA

Email address: dansitaru63@yahoo.com