

The point $A(2, 4, -5)$ is reflected in the line with equation $\vec{r} = (0, 0, 1) + s(4, 2, 1)$, $s \in \mathbb{R}$, to give the point A' . Determine the coordinates of A' .

The line $\vec{r} = (0, 0, 1) + s(4, 2, 1)$ has parametric equations:

$$\begin{cases} x = 4s \\ y = 2s \\ z = 1 + s \end{cases} \quad s \in \mathbb{R}, \quad \text{Then any point on the line is of the form} \\ Q(4s, 2s, 1+s)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then } \vec{QA} &= (2, 4, -5) - (4s, 2s, 1+s) \\ \vec{QA} &= (2-4s, 4-2s, -6-s) \end{aligned}$$

If Q is at a minimal distance from A , then this vector will be perpendicular to the direction vector of the line, namely, $(4, 2, 1)$.

$$\text{Then } (4, 2, 1) \cdot (2-4s, 4-2s, -6-s) = 0$$

$$8 - 16s + 8 - 4s - 6 - s = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad 10 - 21s = 0$$

$$s = \frac{10}{21}$$

\therefore The point Q on the line at a minimal distance from A is:

$$Q(4s, 2s, 1+s) = Q\left(4\left(\frac{10}{21}\right), 2\left(\frac{10}{21}\right), 1 + \left(\frac{10}{21}\right)\right)$$

$$Q = \left(\frac{40}{21}, \frac{20}{21}, \frac{31}{21}\right) \quad \text{Then } \vec{QA} = \left(2 - \frac{40}{21}, 4 - \frac{20}{21}, -5 - \frac{31}{21}\right)$$

$$\vec{QA} = \left(\frac{2}{21}, \frac{64}{21}, -\frac{136}{21}\right) \quad \text{and } A' \text{ will satisfy } \vec{QA}' = -\vec{QA}$$

$$\vec{QA}' = \left(-\frac{2}{21}, -\frac{64}{21}, \frac{136}{21}\right) = \vec{OA}'(a, b, c) - \vec{OQ}$$

$$= \left(a - \frac{40}{21}, b - \frac{20}{21}, c - \frac{31}{21}\right) = \left(-\frac{2}{21}, -\frac{64}{21}, \frac{136}{21}\right)$$

$$\left. \begin{cases} a - \frac{40}{21} = -\frac{2}{21} \rightarrow a = \frac{38}{21} \\ b - \frac{20}{21} = -\frac{64}{21} \rightarrow b = -\frac{44}{21} \\ c - \frac{31}{21} = \frac{136}{21} \rightarrow c = \frac{167}{21} \end{cases} \right\} \rightarrow A'\left(\frac{38}{21}, -\frac{44}{21}, \frac{167}{21}\right)$$