

12.5, number 33: **Find the point on the line**

$$\begin{cases} x = 4t \\ y = -2t \\ z = 2t \end{cases}$$

**which is closest to the point**  $(0, 0, 12)$ .

**Answer:** We find the plane through  $(0, 0, 12)$  which is perpendicular to  $\vec{v} = 4\vec{i} - 2\vec{j} + 2\vec{k}$ . This plane is

$$4(x - 0) - 2(y - 0) + 2(z - 12) = 0$$

$$4x - 2y + 2z = 24$$

$$2x - y + z = 12$$

The answer is the intersection of the original line and the plane we just created. These objects intersect when

$$2(4t) - (-2t) + (2t) = 12$$

$$12t = 12$$

$$t = 1$$

At  $t = 1$ , the line hits the point  $\boxed{(4, -2, 2)}$ .

**Check.**

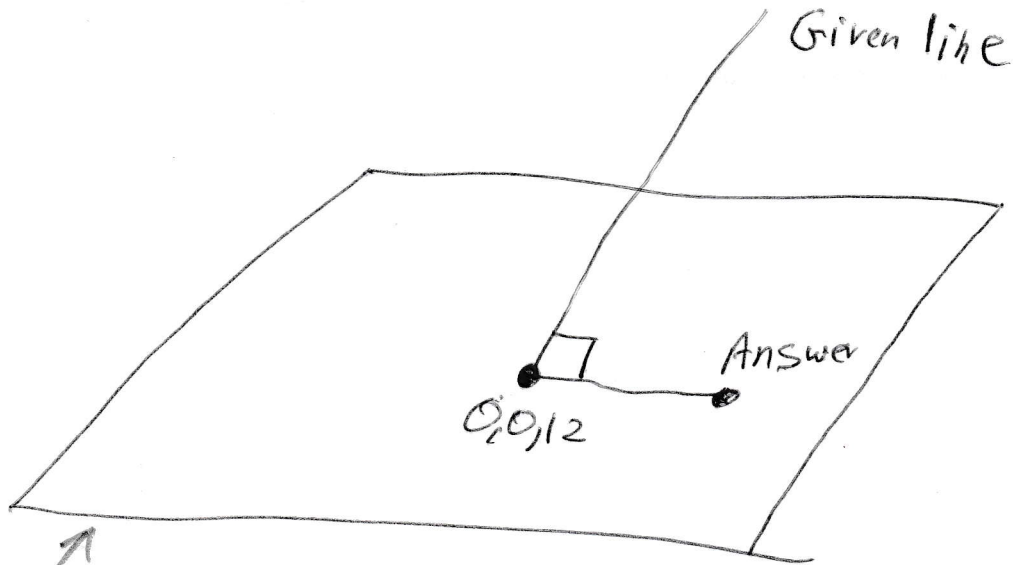
It is clear that the proposed answer is on the line.

We verify that the vector  $\overrightarrow{(0, 0, 12)(4, -2, 2)}$  is perpendicular to the line. We compute

$$(4\vec{i} - 2\vec{j} - 10\vec{k}) \cdot (4\vec{i} - 2\vec{j} + 2\vec{k}) = 16 + 4 - 20 = 0 \checkmark.$$

There is a picture on the next page.

Picture for 12.5 Number 33



we made  
this plane  
to find the  
answer.