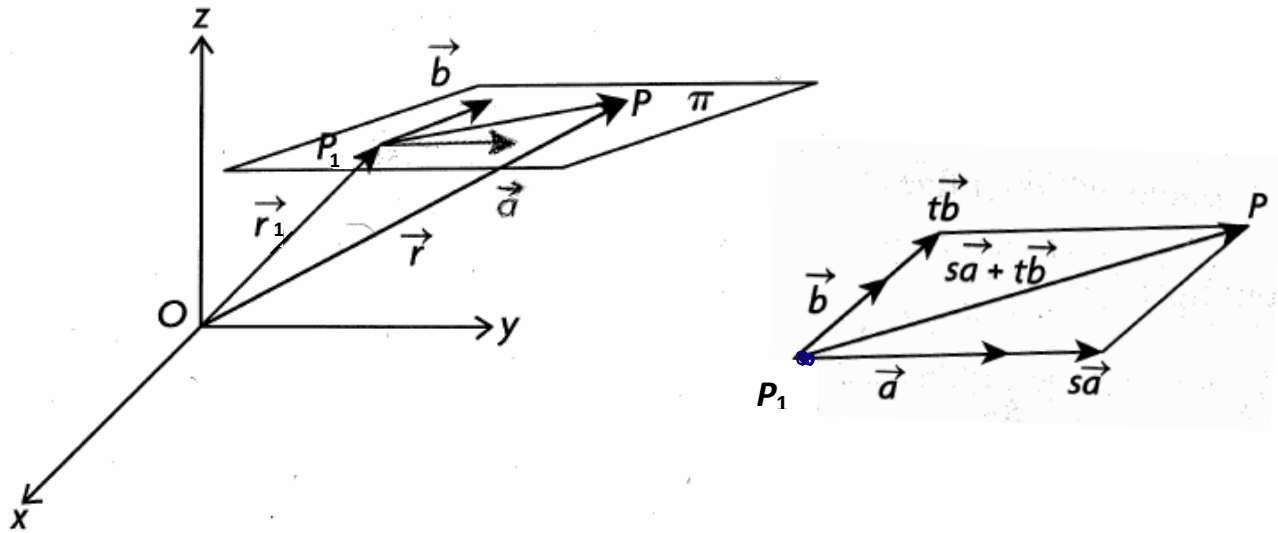


**UNIT 10 – EQUATIONS OF PLANES**  
**Section 8.1 – The Vector Equation of a Line in Space**



The **vector equation** of a plane can be determined by **one point** and **two non-parallel vectors**.

Let  $P(x, y, z)$  be any point in the plane  $\pi$ ,  $P_1(x_1, y_1, z_1)$  be a particular point in the plane and vectors  $\vec{a}$  and  $\vec{b}$  be two non-parallel direction vectors in the plane.

$$\vec{OP} = \vec{OP}_1 + s\vec{a} + t\vec{b}, \quad s, t \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$\vec{r} = \vec{r}_1 + s\vec{a} + t\vec{b}$$

**SUMMARY OF EQUATIONS OF PLANES IN 3-SPACE:**

**Vector Equation**

$$\vec{r} = \vec{r}_1 + s\vec{a} + t\vec{b}$$

or

$$(x, y, z) = (x_1, y_1, z_1) + s(a_1, a_2, a_3) + t(b_1, b_2, b_3)$$

**Parametric Equations**

$$x = x_1 + a_1s + b_1t$$

$$y = y_1 + a_2s + b_2t$$

$$z = z_1 + a_3s + b_3t$$

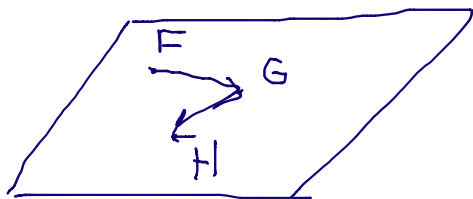
where  $(x, y, z)$  is the position vector of any point in the plane

$(x_1, y_1, z_1)$  is the position vector of some particular point in the plane

$\vec{a}$  and  $\vec{b}$  are two non-parallel *direction vectors* for the plane

and  $s, t \in \mathbb{R}$  are the parameters.

**Ex. 1.** Determine the **vector** and **parametric equations** of the plane through the points  $F(-3, 7, 1)$ ,  $G(-1, 2, -3)$  and  $H(5, -1, -2)$ .



vector equation:

$$\vec{r} = \vec{r}_1 + s\vec{a} + t\vec{b}$$

$$\therefore \vec{r} = (-3, 7, 1) + s(2, -5, -4) + t(6, -3, 1), s, t \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$\vec{r}_1 = \vec{OF}$$

$$= (-3, 7, 1)$$

$$\vec{a} = \vec{FG}$$

$$= \vec{OG} - \vec{OF}$$

$$= (-1, 2, -3) - (-3, 7, 1)$$

$$= (2, -5, -4)$$

$$\vec{b} = \vec{GH}$$

$$= \vec{OH} - \vec{OG}$$

$$= (5, -1, -2) - (-1, 2, -3)$$

$$= (6, -3, 1)$$

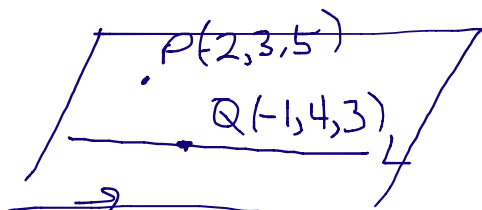
parametric equations:

$$x = -3 + 2s + 6t$$

$$y = 7 - 5s - 3t$$

$$z = 1 - 4s + t$$

**Ex. 2.** Determine the **vector equation** of the plane containing the point  $P(-2, 3, 5)$  and the line  $\vec{r} = (-1, 4, 3) + t(-1, -3, 6)$ ,  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ .



$$\vec{r} = (-1, 4, 3) + t(-1, -3, 6)$$

$$\vec{r}_1 = \vec{OP}$$

$$= (-2, 3, 5)$$

$$\vec{a} = (-1, -3, 6)$$

$$\vec{b} = \vec{PQ}$$

$$= \vec{OQ} - \vec{OP}$$

$$= (-1, 4, 3) - (-2, 3, 5)$$

$$= (1, 1, -2)$$

vector equation:

$$\vec{r} = \vec{r}_1 + s\vec{a} + t\vec{b}, s, t \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$\therefore \vec{r} = (-2, 3, 5) + s(-1, -3, 6) + t(1, 1, -2),$$

$$s, t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Ex. 3. Find the **vector equation** of the plane that contains the two lines  
 $\vec{r} = (1, 2, 3) + s(2, 4, -1)$ ,  $s \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\vec{r} = (4, 5, 1) + t(-2, -4, 1)$ ,  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Note:  $L_1 \parallel L_2$

Let points  
 $P(1, 2, 3) \in Q(4, 5, 1)$

be points in the plane.  $\therefore \vec{r} = (1, 2, 3) + s(2, 4, -1) + t(3, 3, -2)$ ,  
 $s, t \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Vector Equation:  
 $\vec{r} = \vec{r}_1 + s\vec{a} + t\vec{b}$ ,  $s, t \in \mathbb{R}$

$$\vec{r}_1 = \vec{OP} = (1, 2, 3)$$

$$\vec{a} = (2, 4, -1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{b} &= \vec{PQ} \\ &= \vec{OQ} - \vec{OP} \\ &= (4, 5, 1) - (1, 2, 3) \\ &= (3, 3, -2) \end{aligned}$$

Ex. 4. Does the point  $(1, 5, 3)$  lie in the plane  $\vec{r} = (4, -3, 1) + s(3, 1, -2) + t(6, 5, -1)$ ,  $s, t \in \mathbb{R}$ ?

Sub  $(1, 5, 3)$  for  $\vec{r}$  & solve for  $s$  &  $t$

$$\begin{aligned} (1, 5, 3) &= (4, -3, 1) + s(3, 1, -2) + t(6, 5, -1) \\ (1, 5, 3) - (4, -3, 1) &= s(3, 1, -2) + t(6, 5, -1) \\ (-3, 8, 2) &= s(3, 1, -2) + t(6, 5, -1) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} -3 &= 3s + 6t \quad \textcircled{1} \\ 8 &= s + 5t \quad \textcircled{2} \\ 2 &= -2s - t \quad \textcircled{3} \end{aligned}$$

Solve  $\textcircled{2}$  &  $\textcircled{3}$   
 Eliminate "t"  
 $\textcircled{2} \times 1 \quad 8 = s + 5t$   
 $\textcircled{3} \times 5 \quad 10 = -10s - 5t$   
 Add  $18 = -9s$   
 $\boxed{-2 = s}$   
 Sub in  $\textcircled{3}$   
 $2 = -2(-2) - t$   
 $t = 4 - 2$   
 $\boxed{t = 2}$

Check in  $\textcircled{1}$   
 $s = -2$  &  $t = 2$   

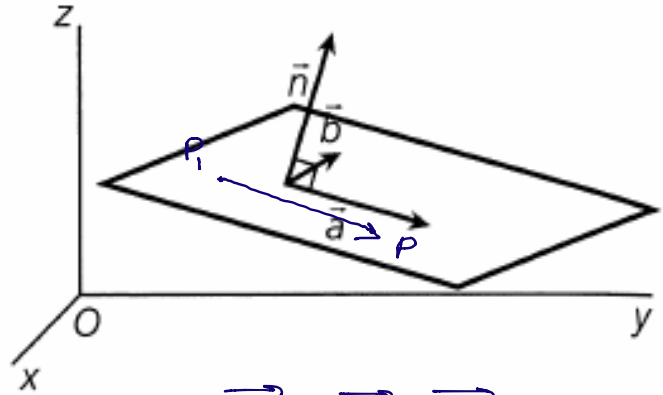
L.S.	R.S.
$= -3$	$= 3s + 6t$
	$= 3(-2) + 6(2)$
	$= -6 + 12$
	$= 6$

$\therefore$  L.S  $\neq$  R.S.  
 $\therefore$  the point  $(1, 5, 3)$  does not lie in the plane.

Date: June 4/14 **Section 8.2 – The Scalar Equation of a Plane in Space**

A **normal vector** to a plane is a vector that is perpendicular to every vector in the plane.

Find the general equation of a plane containing the point  $P_1(x_1, y_1, z_1)$  with normal vector  $\vec{n} = (A, B, C)$ .



Let  $P(x, y, z)$  be any point in the plane.

$$\vec{P_1P} \cdot \vec{n} = 0$$

$$(x - x_1, y - y_1, z - z_1) \cdot (A, B, C) = 0$$

$$Ax - Ax_1 + By - By_1 + Cz - Cz_1 = 0$$

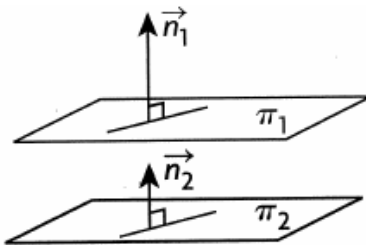
$$Ax + By + Cz - \underbrace{Ax_1 - By_1 - Cz_1}_{D} = 0, \text{ let } D = -Ax_1 - By_1 - Cz_1$$

$\therefore Ax + By + Cz + D = 0$  is the scalar or Cartesian equation of a plane.

Note:  $\vec{n} = (A, B, C)$

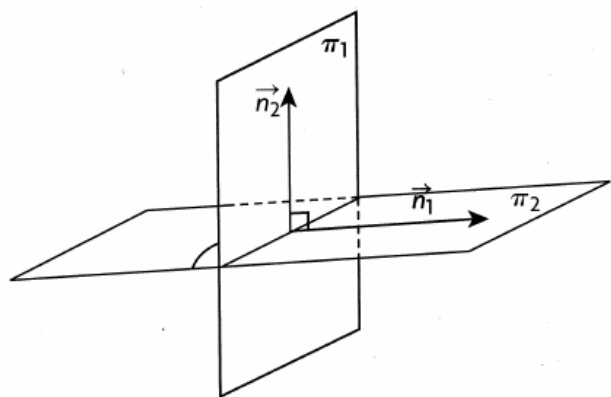
$$\begin{aligned} \vec{P_1P} &= \vec{OP} - \vec{OP_1} \\ &= (x, y, z) - (x_1, y_1, z_1) \\ &= (x - x_1, y - y_1, z - z_1) \end{aligned}$$

**Parallel Planes**



If  $\pi_1 \parallel \pi_2$  then  $\vec{n}_1 \parallel \vec{n}_2$  where  $\vec{n}_1 = k\vec{n}_2$ .

**Perpendicular Planes**



If  $\pi_1 \perp \pi_2$  then  $\vec{n}_1 \perp \vec{n}_2$  where  $\vec{n}_1 \cdot \vec{n}_2 = 0$ .

**SUMMARY:** The scalar or Cartesian equation of a plane in space has the form

$$Ax + By + Cz + D = 0$$

where  $(A, B, C)$  is a vector normal to the plane.

**Ex. 1.** Find the *scalar equation* of the plane through the point  $A(-2, 1, 3)$  having a normal vector

$$\vec{n} = (4, -2, 5)$$

A B C

$$Ax + By + Cz + D = 0$$

$$4x - 2y + 5z + D = 0$$

Find if  $x = -2, y = 1, z = 3$

$$4(-2) - 2(1) + 5(3) + D = 0$$

$$D = -5$$

$\therefore$  the scalar equation of the plane is

$$4x - 2y + 5z - 5 = 0$$

**Ex. 2.** Find the *Cartesian equation* of the plane that passes through the points

$A(-2, 3, 1)$ ,  $B(-1, 2, -1)$  and  $C(1, -2, 3)$ .

$$\vec{a} = \vec{AB}$$

$$= \vec{OB} - \vec{OA}$$

$$= (-1, 2, -1) - (-2, 3, 1)$$

$$\therefore \vec{a} = (1, -1, -2)$$

$$\vec{b} = \vec{AC}$$

$$= \vec{OC} - \vec{OA}$$

$$= (1, -2, 3) - (-2, 3, 1)$$

$$\therefore \vec{b} = (3, -5, 2)$$

$$\vec{n} = \vec{a} \times \vec{b}$$

$$= (-2, -8, 2)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} -1 & -2 & 1 \\ -5 & 2 & -2 \end{array}$$

Use  $\vec{n} = (6, 4, 1)$  &  $B(-1, 2, -1)$

A B C    x y z

$$Ax + By + Cz + D = 0$$

Find D

$$6(-1) + 4(2) + 1(-1) + D = 0$$

$$-6 + 8 - 1 + D = 0$$

$$D = -1$$

$\therefore$  the Cartesian equation of the plane is

$$6x + 4y + z - 1 = 0$$

**Ex. 3.** Find the *scalar equation* of the plane containing the point  $Q(1, 2, -1)$  and the line

$$\vec{r} = (2, 1, -1) + t(1, 0, -3), t \in \mathbb{R}, P(2, 1, -1)$$

$$\vec{a} = (1, 0, -3)$$

$$\vec{b} = \vec{PQ}$$

$$= \vec{OQ} - \vec{OP}$$

$$= (1, 2, -1) - (2, 1, -1)$$

$$\vec{b} = (-1, 1, 0)$$

$$\vec{n} = \vec{a} \times \vec{b}$$

$$= (3, 3, 1)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} 1 & 0 & -3 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 \end{array}$$

Use  $\vec{n} = (3, 3, 1)$  &  $Q(1, 2, -1)$

A B C    x y z

$$Ax + By + Cz + D = 0$$

Find D

$$3(1) + 3(2) + 1(-1) + D = 0$$

$$8 + D = 0$$

$$D = -8$$

$\therefore 3x + 3y + z - 8 = 0$  is the scalar equation of the plane.

Ex. 4. Find the acute angle between the planes

$$\pi_1: x+2y-3z-4=0 \text{ and } \pi_2: x-3y+5z+7=0.$$

For  $\pi_1$ :  $\vec{n}_1 = (1, 2, -3)$ , For  $\pi_2$ :  $\vec{n}_2 = (1, -3, 5)$

$$\vec{n}_1 \cdot \vec{n}_2 = |\vec{n}_1| |\vec{n}_2| \cos \theta$$

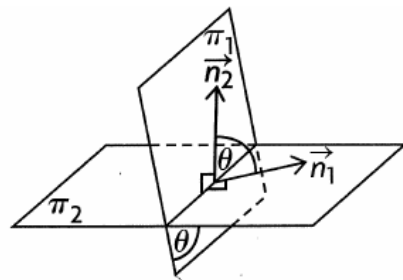
$$(1, 2, -3) \cdot (1, -3, 5) = \sqrt{14} \cdot \sqrt{35} \cdot \cos \theta$$

$$1 - 6 - 15 = \sqrt{14} \cdot \sqrt{35} \cdot \cos \theta$$

$$\frac{-20}{\sqrt{14} \cdot \sqrt{35}} = \cos \theta$$

$$\frac{-20}{\sqrt{14} \cdot \sqrt{35}}$$

$$\theta = 155^\circ$$



$\therefore$  the acute angle between the planes is approximately  $25^\circ$ .

Ex. 5. Use vector projections to find the exact distance from the point  $Q(1, 2, 3)$  to the plane

$$4x - 5y + 7z - 10 = 0.$$

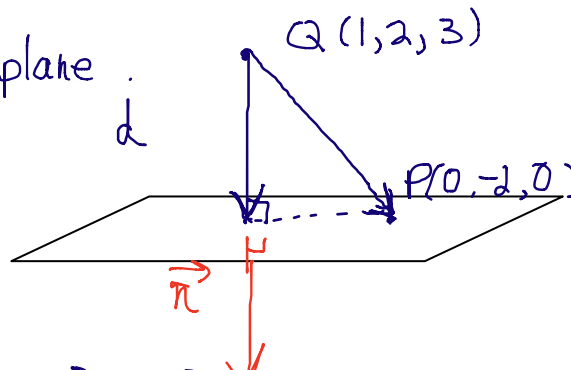
$$\vec{n} = (4, -5, 7)$$

Find a point,  $P$ , in the plane.  
 $x=0, z=0$ , find  $y$

$$-5y = 10$$

$$y = -2$$

$$P(0, -2, 0)$$



$$\vec{QP} = \vec{OP} - \vec{OQ}$$

$$= (0, -2, 0) - (1, 2, 3)$$

$$= (-1, -4, -3)$$

$$d = \left| \frac{\vec{QP} \cdot \vec{n}}{|\vec{n}|} \right|$$

$$= \frac{|\vec{QP} \cdot \vec{n}|}{|\vec{n}|}$$

$$= \frac{|(-1, -4, -3) \cdot (4, -5, 7)|}{\sqrt{16+25+49}}$$

$$= \frac{|-4+20-21|}{\sqrt{90}}$$

$$= \frac{|-5|}{3\sqrt{10}}$$

$$= \frac{5}{3\sqrt{10}}$$

$$= \frac{5}{3\sqrt{10}} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{10}}{\sqrt{10}}$$

$$= \frac{5\sqrt{10}}{3(10)^2}$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{10}}{6}$$

$\therefore Q(1, 2, 3)$  is exactly  $\frac{\sqrt{10}}{6}$  units from the plane.

**Ex. 6. a)** Show that the *shortest distance* from a point  $Q(x_1, y_1, z_1)$  to a plane with a scalar equation

$$Ax + By + Cz + D = 0 \text{ is given by the formula } d = \frac{|Ax_1 + By_1 + Cz_1 + D|}{\sqrt{A^2 + B^2 + C^2}}.$$

**b)** Use the formula to find the distance from the point  $Q(1, 2, 3)$  to the plane  $4x - 5y + 7z - 10 = 0$ .

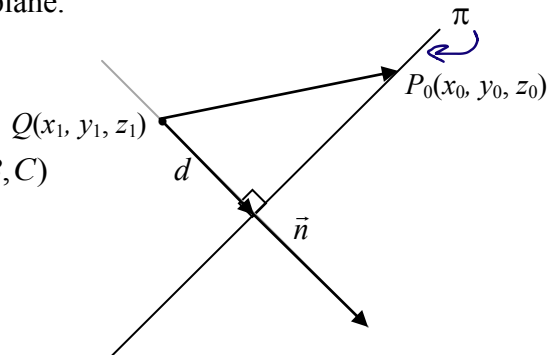
**a)** Let  $P_0(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  be a specific point in the plane.

$$\overrightarrow{QP_0} = \overrightarrow{OP_0} - \overrightarrow{OQ}$$

$$\overrightarrow{QP_0} = (x_0, y_0, z_0) - (x_1, y_1, z_1)$$

$$\therefore \overrightarrow{QP_0} = (x_0 - x_1, y_0 - y_1, z_0 - z_1) \text{ and } \vec{n} = (A, B, C)$$

$$\begin{aligned} d &= \frac{|\overrightarrow{QP_0} \cdot \vec{n}|}{|\vec{n}|} \\ &= \frac{|(x_0 - x_1, y_0 - y_1, z_0 - z_1) \cdot (A, B, C)|}{\sqrt{A^2 + B^2 + C^2}} \\ &= \frac{|Ax_0 - Ax_1 + By_0 - By_1 + Cz_0 - Cz_1|}{\sqrt{A^2 + B^2 + C^2}} \end{aligned}$$



**Note:** Since the point  $P_0(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  is in the plane  $Ax + By + Cz + D = 0$ , it satisfies the equation.

**ie.**  $Ax_0 + By_0 + Cz_0 + D = 0$ , so  $Ax_0 + By_0 + Cz_0 = -D$

\* see Note above

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{|-Ax_1 - By_1 - Cz_1 - D|}{\sqrt{A^2 + B^2 + C^2}} \\ &= \frac{|-(Ax_1 + By_1 + Cz_1 + D)|}{\sqrt{A^2 + B^2 + C^2}} \\ \therefore d &= \frac{|Ax_1 + By_1 + Cz_1 + D|}{\sqrt{A^2 + B^2 + C^2}} \end{aligned}$$

b)  $Q(1, 2, 3)$   $\vec{n} = (4, -5, 7)$   
 $x, y, z,$   $A \ B \ C \ D = -10$

$$\begin{aligned} d &= \frac{|Ax_1 + By_1 + Cz_1 + D|}{\sqrt{A^2 + B^2 + C^2}} \\ &= \frac{|4(1) - 5(2) + 7(3) - 10|}{\sqrt{(4)^2 + (-5)^2 + (7)^2}} \\ &= \frac{15}{\sqrt{90}} \\ &= \frac{5}{3\sqrt{10}} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{10}}{\sqrt{10}} \\ &= \frac{\sqrt{10}}{6} \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore Q(1, 2, 3)$  is  $\frac{\sqrt{10}}{6}$  units from the plane.

**HW: pg. 285 #1-13 & Additional Questions**

1. What is the exact distance from the point  $Q(1, 3, -2)$  to the plane  $4x - y - z + 6 = 0$ ?

2. What is the exact distance between the planes  $2x - y - 2z + 3 = 0$  and  $4x - 2y - 4z - 9 = 0$ ?

**Answers:** 1.  $\frac{3\sqrt{2}}{2}$     2.  $\frac{5}{2}$

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 8.3 – The Intersection of a Line and a Plane**

**Warm-up:**

Given  $A(1,5,9)$ ,  $B(-2,6,8)$  and  $C(12,7,16)$  are points in a plane, find:

- a) the vector, parametric and scalar equations of the plane.
- b) the exact distance the point  $Q(1,-2,1)$  is from the plane.

a) vector equation:

$$\vec{r} = \vec{r}_1 + s\vec{a} + t\vec{b}, \quad s, t \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{r}_1 &= \vec{OA} \\ &= (1, 5, 9) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{a} &= \vec{AB} \\ &= \vec{OB} - \vec{OA} \\ &= (-2, 6, 8) - (1, 5, 9) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= (-3, 1, -1) \\ \vec{b} &= \vec{BC} \\ &= \vec{OC} - \vec{OB} \\ &= (12, 7, 16) - (-2, 6, 8) \\ &= (14, 1, 8) \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \vec{r} = (1, 5, 9) + s(-3, 1, -1) + t(14, 1, 8), \quad s, t \in \mathbb{R}$$

parametric equations:

$$\begin{aligned} x &= 1 - 3s + 14t \\ y &= 5 + s + t \\ z &= 9 - s + 8t \end{aligned}$$

Scalar equation:

$$Ax + By + Cz + D = 0$$

$$\vec{n} = (9, 10, -17) \quad \begin{matrix} A & B & C \\ x & y & z \end{matrix} \quad A(1, 5, 9)$$

$$\vec{n} = \vec{a} \times \vec{b}$$

$$= (9, 10, -17)$$

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & -1 & -3 & 1 \\ 1 & 8 & 14 & 1 \end{vmatrix}$$

Find D

$$9(1) + 10(5) - 17(9) + D = 0$$

$$9 + 50 - 153 + D = 0$$

$$D - 94 = 0$$

$$D = 94$$

$\therefore$  the scalar equation is  $9x + 10y - 17z + 94 = 0$

b)  $Q(1, -2, 1)$ ;  $9x + 10y - 17z + 94 = 0$

$$d = \frac{|Ax_1 + By_1 + Cz_1 + D|}{\sqrt{A^2 + B^2 + C^2}}$$

$$= \frac{|9(1) + 10(-2) - 17(1) + 94|}{\sqrt{(9)^2 + (10)^2 + (-17)^2}}$$

$$= \frac{|66|}{\sqrt{470}}$$

$$d = \frac{66}{\sqrt{470}} \times \frac{\sqrt{470}}{\sqrt{470}}$$

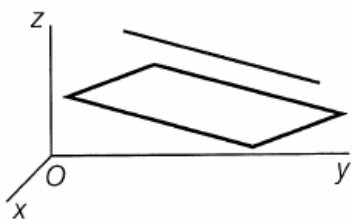
$$= \frac{66\sqrt{470}}{470}$$

$$= \frac{33\sqrt{470}}{235}$$



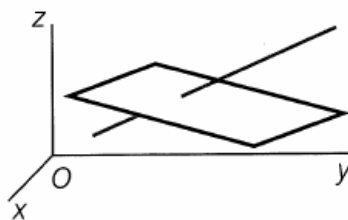
There are three possible ways that a line and a plane in three dimensions can intersect.

**The line is parallel and distinct from the plane.**



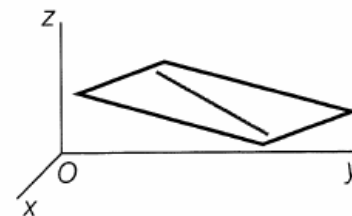
There is no intersection.

**The line intersects the plane.**



The intersection is a point.

**The line lies in the plane.**



The intersection is the line.

**Ex. 1.** For each of the following, find the intersection of the line and the plane.

a)  $L: \vec{r} = (1, -3, -2) + t(2, 1, 3), t \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\pi: 2x + 4y - z + 3 = 0$

For  $L$ ,

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

$$\begin{aligned} \text{If } t &= 1 \\ x &= 3 \\ y &= -2 \\ z &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

Sub parametric equations of line into equation of  $\pi$ .

$$\begin{aligned} 2(1+2t) + 4(-3+t) - (-2+3t) + 3 &= 0 \\ 2 + 4t - 12 + 4t + 2 - 3t + 3 &= 0 \\ 5t - 5 &= 0 \\ 5t &= 5 \\ t &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore$  the line intersects the plane at the point  $(3, -2, 1)$ .

b)  $L: \frac{x-2}{5} = \frac{y+1}{3} = z$  and  $\pi: 8x - 13y - z - 29 = 0$

$$\frac{x-2}{5} = \frac{y-(-1)}{3} = \frac{z-0}{1}$$

For  $L$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} x &= 2 + 5t \\ y &= -1 + 3t \\ z &= t \end{aligned}$$

Sub parametric equations into  $\pi$ :

$$\begin{aligned} 8(2+5t) - 13(-1+3t) - t - 29 &= 0 \\ 16 + 40t + 13 - 39t - t - 29 &= 0 \\ 0t &= 0 \\ t &\in \mathbb{R} \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore$  the line lies in the plane so the intersection is the line  $\frac{x-2}{5} = \frac{y+1}{3} = z$ .

c)  $L: \vec{r} = (2, 1, 5) + t(11, 9, 1), t \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\pi: 2x - 3y + 5z - 8 = 0$

For  $L$ ,  
 $x = 2 + 11t$   
 $y = 1 + 9t$   
 $z = 5 + t$

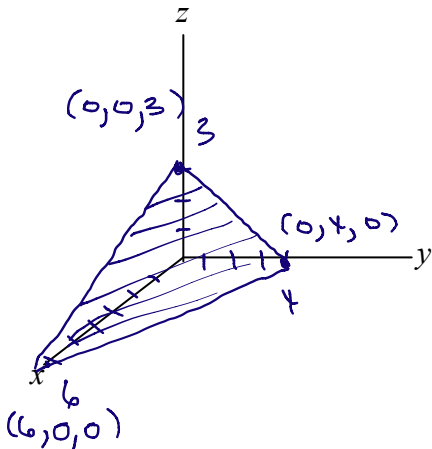
Sub in  $\pi$   
 $2(2 + 11t) - 3(1 + 9t) + 5(5 + t) - 8 = 0$   
 $4 + 22t - 3 - 27t + 25 + 5t - 8 = 0$   
 $0t + 18 = 0$   
 $0t = -18$   
 no solution

$\therefore$  no intersection since the line is parallel and distinct from the plane.

Ex. 2. For each of the following planes, find the  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $z$ -intercepts and sketch the plane.

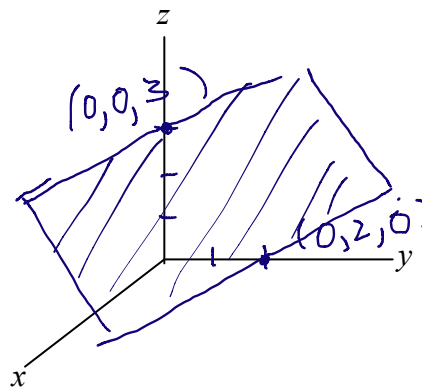
a)  $2x + 3y + 4z - 12 = 0$

For  $x$ -int,  $y=0, z=0$   
 $2x - 12 = 0$   
 $x = 6$   
 $\therefore x$ -int is 6  
 For  $y$ -int,  $x=0, z=0$   
 $3y - 12 = 0$   
 $y = 4$   
 $\therefore y$ -int is 4  
 For  $z$ -int,  $x=0, y=0$   
 $4z - 12 = 0$   
 $z = 3 \therefore z$ -int is 3



b)  $3y + 2z - 6 = 0$

No  $x$ -int,  
 For  $y$ -int,  $z=0$   
 $3y - 6 = 0$   
 $y = 2$   
 $\therefore y$ -int is 2  
 For  $z$ -int,  $y=0$   
 $2z - 6 = 0$   
 $z = 3$   
 $\therefore z$ -int is 3



c)  $y - 6 = 0$

No  $x$ -int,  
 $y$ -int is 6  
 No  $z$ -int,

