

Lines and planes

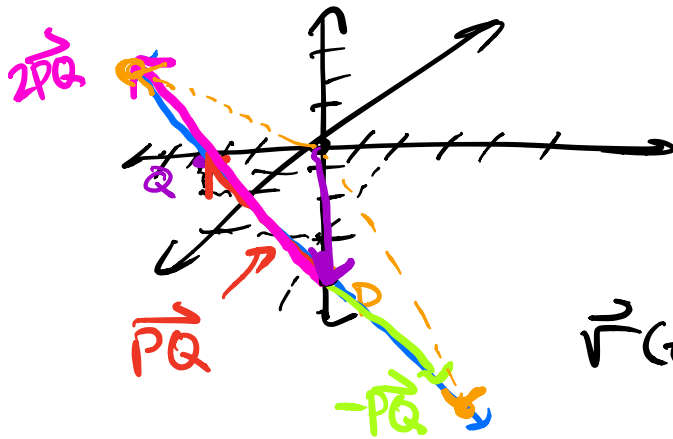
June 1, 2020

Big Picture for today

- Big Picture:** 1) Lines can be written in vector form. Two lines may intersect at different “times”.
- 2) For a plane, need 3 points or a “normal vector” and a point.

Examples

Let $P(3, 2, -1)$ and $Q(2, -2, 1)$. Find a parametric equation for a line through P and Q .



$$t \underline{\underline{PQ}} + \underline{\underline{P}} = \underline{\underline{r}}(t)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{\underline{PQ}} &= \langle \underline{\underline{2}}, \underline{\underline{-2}}, \underline{\underline{1}} \rangle - \langle \underline{\underline{3}}, \underline{\underline{2}}, \underline{\underline{-1}} \rangle \\ &= \langle \underline{\underline{-1}}, \underline{\underline{-4}}, \underline{\underline{2}} \rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$\underline{\underline{r}}(t) = t \langle \underline{\underline{-1}}, \underline{\underline{-4}}, \underline{\underline{2}} \rangle + \langle \underline{\underline{3}}, \underline{\underline{2}}, \underline{\underline{-1}} \rangle$$

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$$\mathbf{r}(t) = \underbrace{\langle 3, 2, -1 \rangle}_{\vec{x}_0} + t \underbrace{\langle -1, -4, 2 \rangle}_{\vec{a}}$$

or $x = 3 - t$, $y = 2 - 4t$, $z = -1 + 2t$.

Question: Other ways to write?

direction $\langle a, b, c \rangle$ and point (x_0, y_0, z_0)

$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle 3, 2, -1 \rangle + \lambda \langle -1, -4, 2 \rangle$$

Symmetric form

$$= \langle 3, 2, -1 \rangle + t \langle -2, -8, 4 \rangle$$

$$t = 3 - x, \quad t = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{y}{4}, \quad t = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{z}{2}$$

$$\frac{x - x_0}{a} = \frac{y - y_0}{b} = \frac{z - z_0}{c}$$

$$\frac{x - 3}{-1} = \frac{y - 2}{-4} = \frac{z - (-1)}{2}$$

Symmetric form

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$$\mathbf{r}_2(t) = \langle \underbrace{2}_{Q}, \underbrace{-2}_{Q}, \underbrace{1}_{Q} \rangle + t \langle \underbrace{+1}_{QP}, \underbrace{-4}_{QP}, \underbrace{2}_{QP} \rangle$$

$QP = -PQ$

starts at \underline{Q} and goes *backwards* to \underline{P} ($t = -1$).

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$$\mathbf{r}_3(t) = \langle 6, 14, -7 \rangle + t \langle -1, -4, 2 \rangle$$

parametrizes same line.

Examples

Let $P(3, 2, -1)$ and $Q(2, -2, 1)$. Find a parametric equation for a line through P and Q .

$$\underline{\mathbf{r}(t)} = \langle 3, 2, -1 \rangle + t \langle -1, -4, 2 \rangle, \quad \text{at } P \text{ when } t=0$$

or $x = 3 - t$, $y = 2 - 4t$, $z = -1 + 2t$.

Question: Other ways to write?

$$\mathbf{r}_2(t) = \langle 2, -2, 1 \rangle + t \langle -1, -4, 2 \rangle$$

starts at Q and goes *backwards* to P ($t = -1$).

$$\underline{\mathbf{r}_3(t)} = \langle 6, 14, -7 \rangle + t \langle -1, -4, 2 \rangle \quad \text{at } P \text{ when } t=3$$

parametrizes same line. (goes through P at $t = 3$).

Intersections of lines

Different parametrizations \rightsquigarrow 2 lines could go through same point at different “times”.

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$$\underline{\mathbf{r}_1(t)} = \langle 1, 2, 3 \rangle + t \langle 2, 3, 4 \rangle$$

and ℓ_2 the line given by

$$\mathbf{r}_2(t) = \langle 7, 3, 3 \rangle + t \langle 2, -1, -2 \rangle$$

Do these lines intersect?

Intersections of lines

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Do these lines intersect? What about l_1 and l_3 :

$$\mathbf{r}_3(t) = \langle 0, 8, -1 \rangle + t \langle 1, 4, 1 \rangle?$$

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... l_1 and l_4 :

$$\langle -4, -6, -8 \rangle = -2 \langle 2, 3, 4 \rangle$$

$$\underline{\mathbf{r}_4(t)} = \langle \underline{1, 5, 2} \rangle + t \langle \underline{-4, -6, -8} \rangle$$

do not intersect

Solution

Need 2 different parameters! Go through same point if $\mathbf{r}_1(t) = \mathbf{r}_2(s)$ for some t and s , (not necessarily $t = s$).

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Then compare x components:

$$\vec{r}_1(t) = \langle x_1(t), y_1(t), z_1(t) \rangle \quad \vec{r}_2(s) = \langle x_2(s), y_2(s), z_2(s) \rangle$$

$$x_1(t) = 1 + 2t, \quad x_2(s) = 7 + 2s \rightsquigarrow 1 + 2t = 7 + 2s$$

$$\vec{r}_1(t) = \langle 1, 2, 3 \rangle + t \langle 2, 3, 4 \rangle = \langle 1+2t, 2+3t, 3+4t \rangle$$

or $s = -3 + t$.

$$\vec{r}_2(s) = \langle 7, 3, 3 \rangle + s \langle 2, -1, -2 \rangle$$

$$= \langle 7+2s, 3-s, 3-2s \rangle$$

$$t=1 \quad s=-2$$

$$\vec{r}_1(1) = \langle 1+2, 2+3, 3+4 \rangle = \langle 3, 5, 7 \rangle$$

$$\vec{r}_2(-2) = \langle 7+2(-2), 3-(-2), 3-2(-2) \rangle$$

$$= \langle 3, 5, 7 \rangle$$

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Need 2 different parameters! Go through same point if $\mathbf{r}_1(t) = \mathbf{r}_2(s)$ for some t and s , (not necessarily $t = s$).
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$$\underline{x_1(t)} = 1 + 2t, \quad \underline{x_2(s)} = 7 + 2s \rightsquigarrow \underline{1 + 2t = 7 + 2s}$$

or $s = -3 + t$. Compare y :

$$\underline{y_1(t)} = 2 + 3t, \quad \underline{y_2(s)} = 3 - s \rightsquigarrow \underline{2 + 3t = 3 - s = 3 - (-3 + t)}$$

$$\underline{\text{or } t = 1.} \rightsquigarrow \underline{s = -2}$$

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or $\underline{t = 1}$. \rightsquigarrow $\underline{s = -2}$ Check z components:

$$\underline{z_1(t)} = \underline{3 + 4t}, \quad \underline{z_2(s)} = \underline{3 - 2s}$$

Plugging in:

$$z_1(\underline{1}) = \underline{7}, \quad z_2(\underline{-2}) = \underline{7}$$

$$\vec{r}_1(t) = \langle 1, 2, 3 \rangle + t \langle 2, 3, 4 \rangle = \langle \overset{x_1(t)}{1+2t}, \overset{y_1(t)}{2+3t}, \overset{z_1(t)}{3+4t} \rangle$$

$$\vec{r}_2(s) = \langle 0, 8, -1 \rangle + s \langle 1, 4, 1 \rangle = \langle \overset{x_2(s)}{s}, \overset{y_2(s)}{8+4s}, \overset{z_2(s)}{-1+s} \rangle$$

$$x_1(t) = x_2(s) \Rightarrow 1+2t = s$$

$$y_1(t) = y_2(s) \Rightarrow 2+3t = 8+4s = 8+4(1+2t)$$

$$2+3t = 8+4+8t \Rightarrow 2 = 12+5t \Rightarrow -10 = 5t$$

$$t = -2 \quad s = 1 + 2(-2) = -3$$

$$z_1(-2) = 3+4(-2) = 3-8 = \underline{-5}$$

$$z_2(-3) = -1+(-3) = \underline{-4} \quad \text{These lines do not intersect.}$$

Skew.

$$\begin{cases} x_1(t) - x_2(s) = 0 \\ y_1(t) - y_2(s) = 0 \\ z_1(t) - z_2(s) = 0 \end{cases}$$

Solution

Need 2 different parameters! Go through same point if $\mathbf{r}_1(t) = \mathbf{r}_2(s)$ for some t and s , (not necessarily $t = s$).
Then compare x components:

$$x_1(t) = 1 + 2t, \quad x_2(s) = 7 + 2s \rightsquigarrow 1 + 2t = 7 + 2s$$

or $s = -3 + t$. Compare y :

$$y_1(t) = 2 + 3t, \quad y_2(s) = 3 - s \rightsquigarrow 2 + 3t = 3 - s = 3 - (-3 + t)$$

\implies

or $t = 1$. $\rightsquigarrow s = -2$ Check z components:

$$z_1(t) = 3 + 4t, \quad z_2(s) = 3 - 2s$$

Plugging in:

$$z_1(1) = 7, \quad z_2(-2) = 7$$

\rightsquigarrow intersect at $\underline{(3, 5, 7)}$. $\mathbf{r}_1(1) = (3, 5, 7) = \mathbf{r}_2(-2)$

Exercise

l_1 :

$$\mathbf{r}_1(t) = \langle 1, 2, 3 \rangle + t \langle 2, 3, 4 \rangle$$

l_3 :

$$\mathbf{r}_3(t) = \langle 0, 8, -1 \rangle + t \langle 1, 4, 1 \rangle?$$

Intersect?

Exercise

l_1 :

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l_3 :

$$\mathbf{r}_3(t) = \langle 0, 8, -1 \rangle + t \langle 1, 4, 1 \rangle?$$

Intersect?

$x_1(t) = 1 + 2t$, $x_2(s) = s$, so $1 + 2t = s$. $y_1(t) = 2 + 3t$,
 $y_2(s) = 8 + 4s$, so $2 + 3t = 8 + 4(1 + 2t)$, or $t = -2$ and $s = -3$.
Plug into z : $z_1(-2) = -5$, $z_2(-3) = -4$. Lines do not intersect.

Definitions

l_1 and l_2 *intersect at one point*.

l_3 does not intersect l_1 and is *skew* - not parallel and not intersecting. l_4 is *parallel* but not equal to l_1 .

Planes

Specify a plane by 1) a point on the plane and 2) a perpendicular direction.

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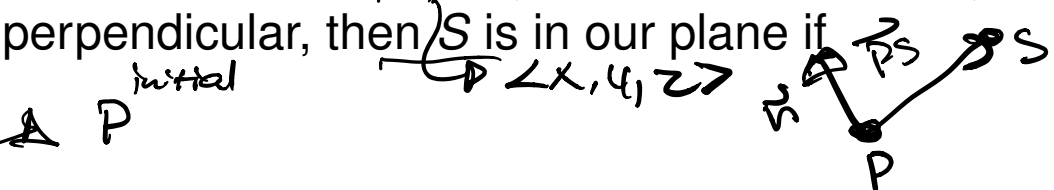
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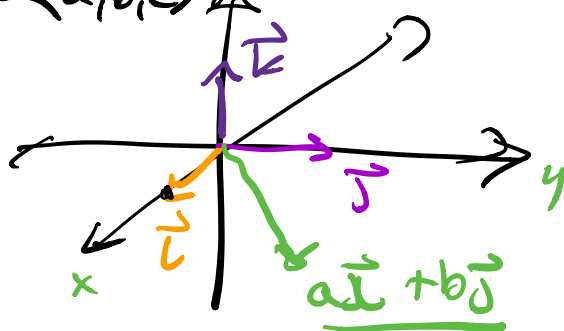
$\mathbf{n} = \langle a, b, c \rangle$ is perpendicular, then S is in our plane if

$\vec{PS} \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0$, or



$\langle x - x_1, y - y_1, z - z_1 \rangle \cdot \langle a, b, c \rangle = a(x - x_1) + b(y - y_1) + c(z - z_1) = 0$.

$\bullet \langle a, b, c \rangle$



$$\begin{aligned} \vec{i} \cdot \vec{k} &= 0 & \vec{k} &= (a\vec{i} + b\vec{j}) \\ \vec{j} \cdot \vec{k} &= 0 & &= a(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{i}) + b(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{j}) \\ & & &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

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Given a plane, we want an equation that determines if a point $S(x, y, z)$ is on the plane.

If $P(x_1, y_1, z_1)$ is our point, then $\overrightarrow{PS} = \langle x - x_1, y - y_1, z - z_1 \rangle$. If $\mathbf{n} = \langle a, b, c \rangle$ is perpendicular, then S is in our plane if $\overrightarrow{PS} \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0$, or

$$a(x - x_1) + b(y - y_1) + c(z - z_1) = 0. \quad *$$

↪ equation for a plane:

$$\mathbf{n} = \langle a, b, c \rangle$$

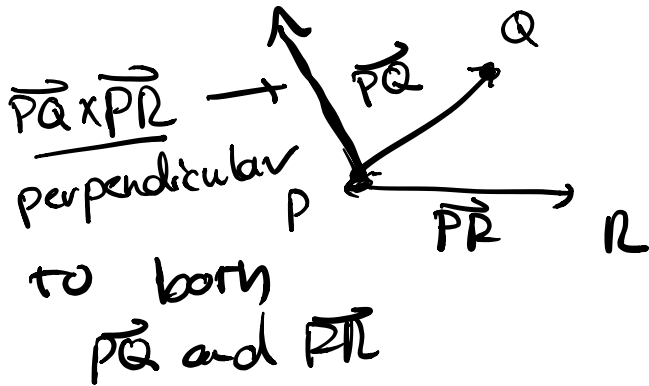
$$\underline{ax + by + cz} = \underline{d} = ax_1 + by_1 + cz_1 \quad **$$

$$\underline{ax + by + cz - d}$$

Example

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Example: Find the plane determined by the points $P(1, 0, 1)$, $Q(1, 2, 3)$ and $R(2, 3, 2)$.



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How to find a normal vector \mathbf{n} ?

3 distinct points P, Q, R . \rightsquigarrow vectors \vec{PQ} and \vec{PR} in the plane.

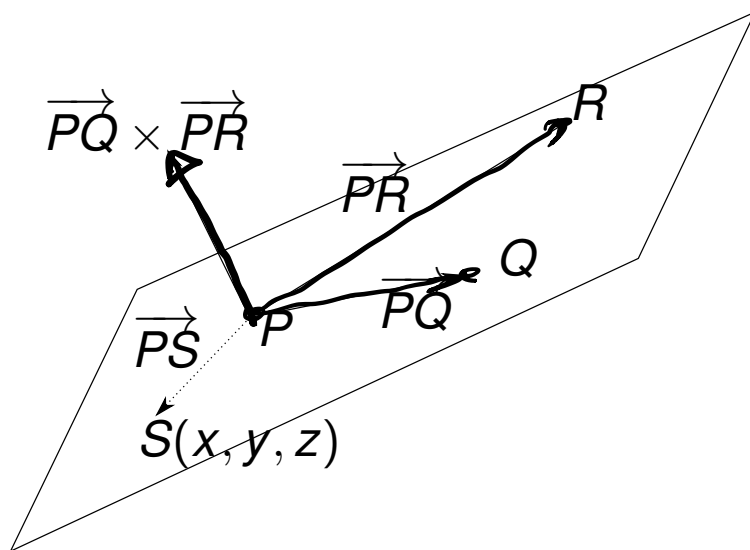


Figure: 3 points, *normal vector* and a point in the plane

$$P(1,0,1), Q(1,2,3) R(2,3,2)$$

$$\vec{QP}, \vec{QR}$$

$$\vec{QP} = \langle 0, -2, -2 \rangle$$

$$\vec{QR} = \langle 1, 1, -1 \rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{QP} \times \vec{QR} &= \begin{vmatrix} \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ 0 & -2 & -2 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 \end{vmatrix} = \vec{i}(4) - \vec{j}(2) \\ &\quad + \vec{k}(2) \\ &= 4\vec{i} - 2\vec{j} + 2\vec{k} \\ &= \langle 4, -2, 2 \rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$P = (1, 0, 1), \quad Q = (1, 2, 3) \quad R = (2, 3, 2)$$

$$\vec{PQ} = (0, 2, 2) \quad \vec{PR} = (1, 3, 1)$$

$$\vec{PQ} \times \vec{PR} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ 0 & 2 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = \hat{i}(-4) - \hat{j}(-2) + \hat{k}(-2)$$

$$\underline{\underline{\vec{PQ} \times \vec{PR} = \langle -4, 2, -2 \rangle}}$$

$(1, 1), \langle 1, 1 \rangle$
 \uparrow points \uparrow vector

so

$$\langle x-1, y-0, z-1 \rangle \cdot \langle -4, 2, -2 \rangle = 0$$

or

Using Q

$$\underline{\underline{-4x + 2y - 2z = -6}} \rightarrow$$

$$\langle x-1, y-2, z-3 \rangle \cdot \langle -4, 2, -2 \rangle = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} (-4x + 4) + (2y - 4) + (-2z + 6) &= 0 \\ -4x + 2y - 2z &= -4 + 4 - 6 \\ -4x + 2y - 2z &= -6 \end{aligned}$$

Exercise

Find the plane determined by the points $P(1, 2, 2)$, $Q(2, 3, -1)$, and $R(-2, 3, 3)$.

$$\vec{PQ} = \langle 1, 1, -3 \rangle$$

$$\vec{PR} = \langle -3, 1, 1 \rangle$$

$$\vec{PQ} \times \vec{PR} = \begin{vmatrix} \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ 1 & 1 & -3 \\ -3 & 1 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = \vec{i}(1+3) - \vec{j}(1-9) + \vec{k}(1+3)$$

$$= 4\vec{i} + 8\vec{j} + 4\vec{k}$$

$$\langle x-1, y-2, z-2 \rangle \cdot \langle 4, 8, 4 \rangle = 0$$

Exercise

$$(4x - \underline{4}) + (8y - \underline{16}) + (4z - \underline{8}) = \underline{0}$$

$$\boxed{4x + 8y + 4z - 28 = 0}$$

Find the plane determined by the points $P(1, 2, 2)$, $Q(2, 3, -1)$, and $R(-2, 3, 3)$.

$$\overrightarrow{PQ} \times \overrightarrow{PR} = \langle 1, 1, -3 \rangle \times \langle -3, 1, 1 \rangle = \langle 4, 8, 4 \rangle,$$

so

$$\langle x - 1, y - 2, z - 2 \rangle \cdot \langle 4, 8, \underline{4} \rangle = 0,$$

or

$$4(x - 1) + 8(y - 2) + 4(z - 2) = 0$$

$$\underline{4x + 8y + 4z = 28}$$

$$4x - \underline{4} + 8y - \underline{16} + 4z - \underline{8} = 0$$

$$4x + 8y + 4z - 28 = 0$$

Intersections of Planes

If \mathcal{P} and \mathcal{Q} are two planes, they are either the same plane, parallel, or intersect at a line.

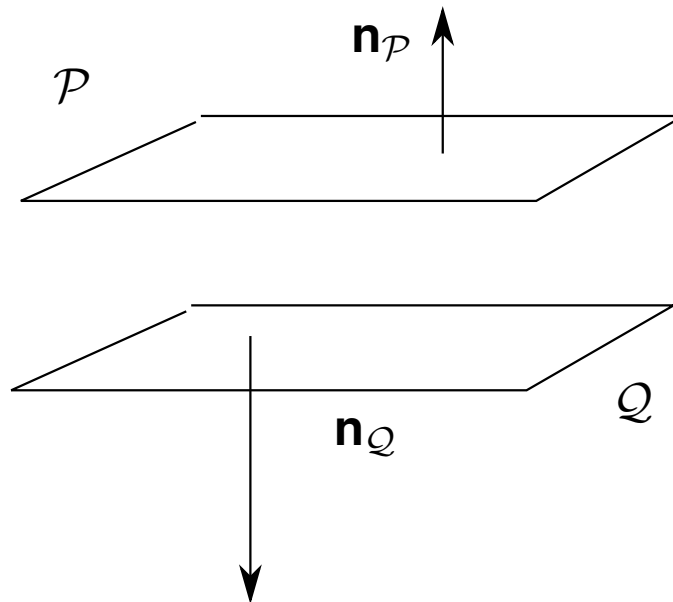


Figure: Two planes with *parallel* normals.

Intersecting planes

Non-parallel normals \rightsquigarrow planes intersect at a line.

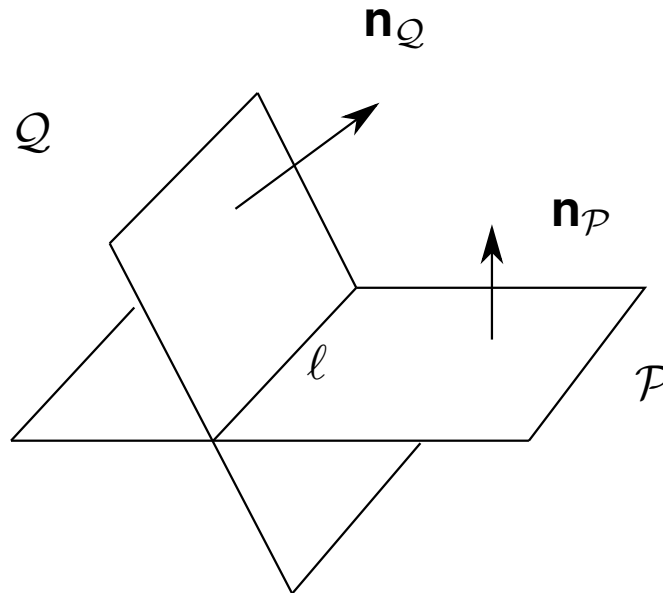


Figure: Two planes with *non-parallel* normals intersect at a line.

Line of intersection

If $\underline{\ell}$ is a line in *any* plane \mathcal{P} , then its *direction* vector is perpendicular to $\underline{\mathbf{n}}_{\mathcal{P}}$.

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If ℓ is a line in *any* plane \mathcal{P} , then its *direction* vector is perpendicular to $\mathbf{n}_{\mathcal{P}}$. \rightsquigarrow if ℓ lives in *two* planes \mathcal{P} and \mathcal{Q} , its direction is perp to *both* $\mathbf{n}_{\mathcal{P}}$ and $\mathbf{n}_{\mathcal{Q}}$.

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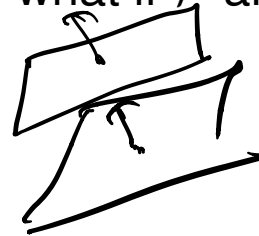
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\rightsquigarrow A direction vector is $\mathbf{n}_{\mathcal{P}} \times \mathbf{n}_{\mathcal{Q}}$. (Question: what if \mathcal{P} and \mathcal{Q} are parallel?)

$$\vec{n}_{\mathcal{P}} \times \vec{n}_{\mathcal{Q}} = \vec{0}$$



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Example: Let \mathcal{P} be the plane given by $\underline{2}x + \underline{3}y - \underline{2}z = 4$ and \mathcal{Q} the plane given by $\underline{4}x - \underline{1}y + \underline{7}z = 1$. Find the line of intersection.

$$\mathbf{n}_{\mathcal{P}} = \langle 2, 3, -2 \rangle$$

$$\mathbf{n}_{\mathcal{Q}} = \langle 4, -1, 7 \rangle$$

$$\begin{cases} 2x + 3y = 4 \\ 4x - y = 1 \end{cases}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} & \begin{cases} 2x + 3y = 4, \\ 4x - y = 1 \end{cases} & 4\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) - 1 = y \\ & \underline{x = 1/2, y = 1.} & \underline{y = 2 - 1 = 1} \\ & 4x - 1 = y & \\ & 2x + 3(4x - 1) = 4 & \\ & 2x + 12x - 3 = 4 & \\ & 14x = 7 & \\ & \underline{x = 1/2} & \end{aligned}$$

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$x = 1/2, y = 1$. $(1/2, 1, 0)$ is on line.

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Direction from cross product: $\mathbf{n}_P = \langle \underline{2}, \underline{3}, \underline{-2} \rangle$, $\mathbf{n}_Q = \langle \underline{4}, \underline{-1}, \underline{7} \rangle$

$$\underline{\mathbf{n}_P \times \mathbf{n}_Q} = \langle \underline{19}, \underline{-22}, \underline{-14} \rangle,$$

Solution

Solution: Need a direction and a point. for the point fix a z and solve for x and y . For example, $z = 0$ is easy. \rightsquigarrow

$$\begin{cases} 2x + 3y = 4, \\ 4x - y = 1 \end{cases} \quad \text{with } y = 0$$

$x = 1/2, y = 1$. $(1/2, 1, 0)$ is on line.

Direction from cross product: $\mathbf{n}_P = \langle 2, 3, -2 \rangle$, $\mathbf{n}_Q = \langle 4, -1, 7 \rangle$

$$\mathbf{n}_P \times \mathbf{n}_Q = \langle 19, -22, -14 \rangle,$$

Line is given by

$$\mathbf{r}(t) = \langle \underline{1/2}, \underline{1}, \underline{0} \rangle + t \langle \underline{19}, \underline{-22}, \underline{-14} \rangle.$$

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Line is given by

$$2x + 3y - 2z = 4$$

$$2(3/2) + 3(-2) - 2(-14) = \dots = 4$$

$$\mathbf{r}(t) = \langle 1/2, 1, 0 \rangle + t \langle 19, -22, -14 \rangle.$$

$$4x - y + 7z = 1 \quad 4(3/2) - (-2) + 7(-14) = \dots = 1$$

Can check by plugging in!

$$\mathbf{r}(1) = \langle 19 + 1/2, 1 - 22, 0 - 14 \rangle = \langle 39/2, -21, -14 \rangle$$

Exercise

Let P be the plane given by $x - y = 4$ and Q the plane given by $2x + y + 2z = -1$. Find line of intersection l .

$$\vec{n}_P = \langle 1, -1, 0 \rangle \quad \vec{n}_Q = \langle 2, 1, 2 \rangle$$

$$\text{Set } y=0 \quad \begin{cases} x - 0 = 4 \\ 2x + 0 + 2z = -1 \end{cases} \rightarrow \begin{cases} \underline{x=4} \\ \underline{2x + 2z = -1} \end{cases}$$

$$2z = -1 - 2x$$

$$z = \frac{-1 - 2x}{2} = \frac{-1 - 2(4)}{2} = -9/2$$

$$\text{point is } \underline{\langle 4, 0, -9/2 \rangle}$$

Exercise

Let \mathcal{P} be the plane given by $x - y = 4$ and \mathcal{Q} the plane given by $2x + y + 2z = -1$. Find line of intersection l .

Point $(1, -3, 0)$ is on l . $\mathbf{n}_{\mathcal{P}} = \langle 1, -1, 0 \rangle$ and $\mathbf{n}_{\mathcal{Q}} = \langle 2, 1, 2 \rangle$ so direction is

$$\mathbf{n}_{\mathcal{P}} \times \mathbf{n}_{\mathcal{Q}} = \langle -2, -2, 3 \rangle$$

so l is given by

$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle 1, -3, 0 \rangle + t \langle -2, -2, 3 \rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \vec{i}(-2t) - \vec{j}(2t) + \vec{k}(3t) \\ &= -2t\vec{i} - 2t\vec{j} + 3t\vec{k} \end{aligned}$$

$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle 4, 0, 9/2 \rangle + t \langle -2, -2, 3 \rangle$$

$$\vec{r}(-3/2) = \langle 1, -3, 0 \rangle + (-3/2) \langle -2, -2, 3 \rangle$$

$$= \langle 1+3, -3+3, 0-9/2 \rangle$$

$$= \underline{\langle 4, 0, -9/2 \rangle}$$