

Lecture 05

12.5 Lines and Planes in space

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Things to note

MW 2:40-3:40

T 9:30-10:30

R 12:30-1:30

F 8:30-9:30

Also any time after class or by appointment

'Direction in textbook' comment

$\text{proj}_{\vec{v}}(\vec{u})$

Last Class

Cross Products

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{u} \times \vec{v} &= (\|\vec{u}\| \|\vec{v}\| \sin(\theta)) \vec{n} = (u_2 v_3 - u_3 v_2) \vec{i} - (u_1 v_3 - u_3 v_1) \vec{j} + (u_1 v_2 - u_2 v_1) \vec{k} \\ &= \begin{vmatrix} \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ u_1 & u_2 & u_3 \\ v_1 & v_2 & v_3 \end{vmatrix}.\end{aligned}$$

Lines

$$\vec{r}(t) = \vec{r}_0 + t\vec{v} = \langle x_0, y_0, z_0 \rangle + t \langle v_1, v_2, v_3 \rangle = \langle x_0 + tv_1, y_0 + tv_2, z_0 + tv_3 \rangle.$$

Line example

Example

Find a vector equation for the line through $(4, -3, 5)$ parallel to the line $\vec{r}(t) = \langle 2 + t, 8 - 2t, 3 \rangle$.

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$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle 4, -3, 5 \rangle + t\langle 1, -2, 0 \rangle = \langle 4 + t, -3 - 2t, 5 \rangle.$$

Line example

Example

Find parametric equations for the line L through $(3, 5, 6)$ perpendicular to both $\vec{r}_1(t) = \langle 1 - t, 2 - 3t, 5 - t \rangle$ and $\vec{r}_2(t) = \langle -1 - 2t, 2, 7 + 2t \rangle$.

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The direction vector is the cross product of the direction vectors of $\vec{r}_1(t)$ and $\vec{r}_2(t)$.

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Thus the parametric equations for L are
 $x = 3 - 6t, y = 5 + 4t, z = 6 - 6t$.

Planes

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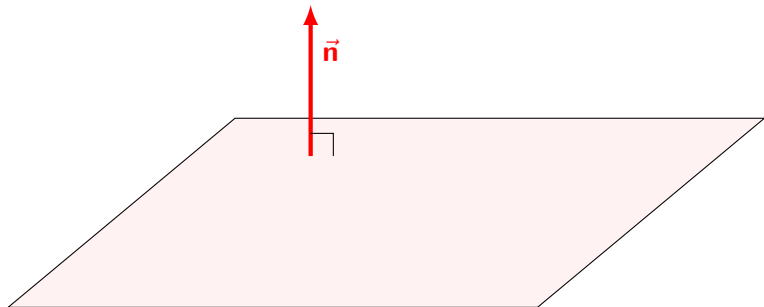
Whereas we need a point and a direction to define a 3D line, we need a *point* and a *tilt* to define a plane. We will describe the tilt of a plane by its *normal vector*.

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Definition

A vector is normal to a plane if it is orthogonal (perpendicular) to the plane.

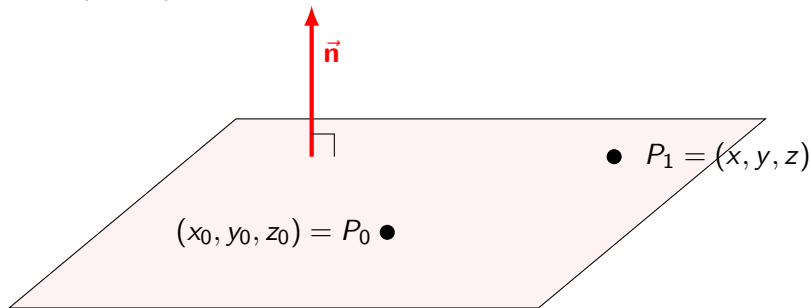


Planes

We will take $P_0 = (x_0, y_0, z_0)$ to be a fixed point in the plane and $P_1 = (x, y, z)$ to be any other point in the plane.

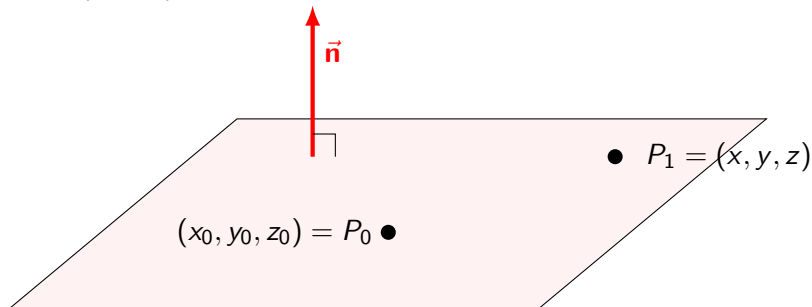
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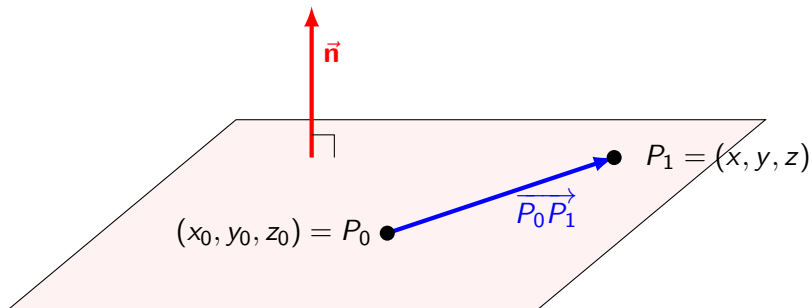
Question

What does it mean for P_1 to be a point in the plane? What vector is in the plane?

Planes

Answer

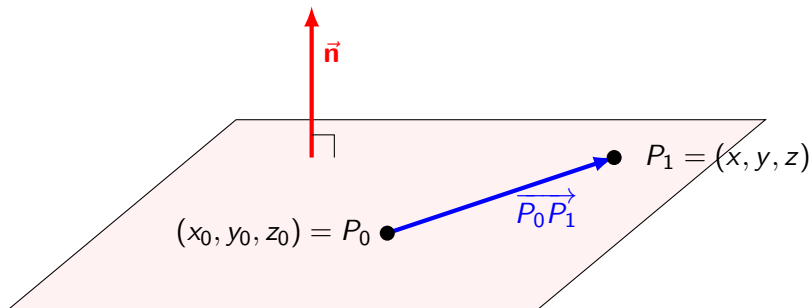
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Planes

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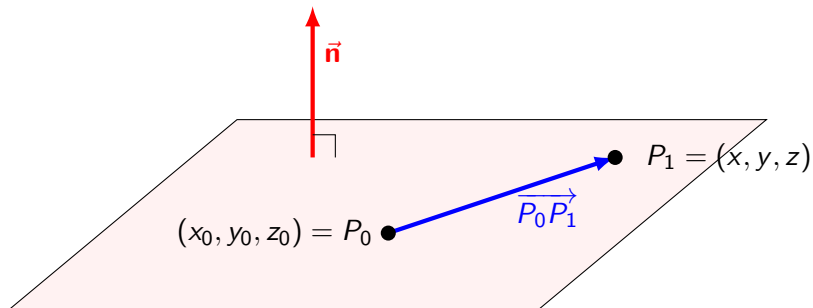
Question

What relationship do \vec{n} and $\overrightarrow{P_0P_1}$ have?

Planes

Answer

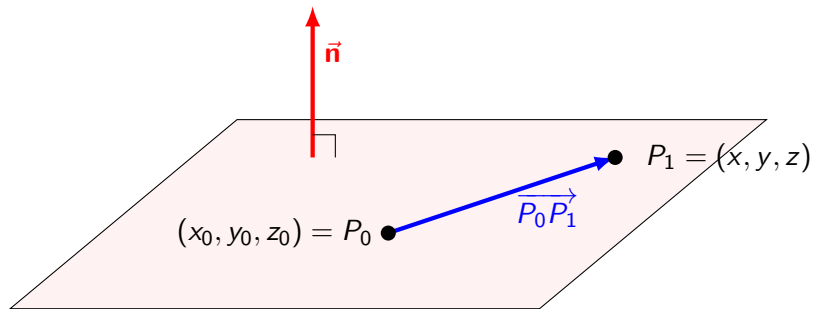
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Planes

Answer

\vec{n} and $\overrightarrow{P_0P_1}$ are orthogonal.



This means that $\vec{n} \cdot \overrightarrow{P_0P_1} = 0$.

Equation of a plane

Definition

Let $\vec{n} = \langle A, B, C \rangle$ be a normal vector to a plane containing the point $P_0 = (x_0, y_0, z_0)$. Then the equation of the plane (where $P_1 = (x, y, z)$) is

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or

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or

$A(x - x_0) + B(y - y_0) + C(z - z_0) = 0$ the coordinate form of a plane

or

$Ax + By + Cz = Ax_0 + By_0 + Cz_0$ the coordinate form simplified.

Plane example

Example

Find the equation of the plane through $(-3, 0, 7)$ with normal vector $\vec{n} = 5\vec{i} + 2\vec{j} - \vec{k}$.

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The vector equation is $\langle 5, 2, -1 \rangle \cdot \langle x + 3, y - 0, z - 7 \rangle = 0$. We can simplify this to its coordinate form

$$5(x + 3) + 2(y) - (z - 7) = 0, \text{ or } 5x + 2y - z = -22.$$

Plane example

Question

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\vec{k} and $\langle 3, -6, -1 \rangle$ (or $\langle -3, 6, 1 \rangle$).

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Example

Find the equation of the plane through $R = (0, 0, 1)$, $S = (2, 0, 0)$, and $T = (0, 3, 0)$.

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$$\overrightarrow{RS} \times \overrightarrow{RT} = \begin{vmatrix} \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ 2 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 3 & -1 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 3 & -1 \end{vmatrix} \vec{i} - \begin{vmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 \end{vmatrix} \vec{j} + \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{vmatrix} \vec{k} = \langle 3, 2, 6 \rangle.$$

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Thus the equation of the plane is

$$\langle 3, 2, 6, \rangle \cdot \langle x - 0, y - 0, z - 1 \rangle = 0, \text{ or } 3x + 2y + 6z = 6.$$

Notice you could use any of the given points.