Ouestion:

Let **P** be the image of the point (3, 1, 7) with respect to the plane x - y + z = 3. Then the equation of the plane passing through **P** and containing the straight line $\frac{x}{1} = \frac{y}{2} = \frac{z}{1}$ is

- 1) x + y 3z = 0
- 2) x 4y + 7z = 0
- 3) x + 3z = 0
- 4) 2x y = 0

Solution:

Let the vector $\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix}$.

The given plane can be written as;

$$\mathbf{n_1}^T \mathbf{X} = 3$$
 where, $\mathbf{n_1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ (4.1)

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And the line has the direction vector $\mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

Now, the image of point A with respect to the plane can be found out by the formula;

$$\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{A} - \frac{2\left(\mathbf{n}^{T}\mathbf{A} - 3\right)}{\|\mathbf{n}\|}\mathbf{n}$$
 (4.2)

From putting the values in the formula, we get the point **P** to be $\begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 5 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$

Let the equation of the required plane be $\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{n} = 0$ since the plane contains the line and the line passes through the origin.

From the given constraints we can get the following equations;

$$\mathbf{P}^T \mathbf{n} = 0 \qquad \qquad \mathbf{b}^T \mathbf{n} = 0 \tag{4.3}$$

If we combine the two equations we get;

$$\begin{pmatrix} P & b \end{pmatrix}^T \mathbf{n} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \tag{4.4}$$

On solving this equation we get $\mathbf{n} = n. \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -4 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix}$. The parameter can be taken as 1. Thus, the equation of the required plane is $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -4 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix}^T \mathbf{X} = 0$ or x - 4y + 7z = 0.

