

4.3.46

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Question : Find the coordinates of the point where the line through $(3, -4, -5)$ and $(2, -3, 1)$ crosses the plane $2x + y + z = 7$.

Solution :

Description	Value
Line	$\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + k \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}$
Plane	$\mathbf{n}^T \mathbf{x} = 7$ where $\mathbf{n} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

Table : Line and Plane

Let the point of intersection be \mathbf{P} .
The line is written as

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{h} + k \mathbf{m} \quad (1)$$

$$\mathbf{h} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{m} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix} \quad (2)$$

So,

$$\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{h} + k \mathbf{m} \quad (3)$$

The point also lies on the plane , so

$$\mathbf{n}^T \mathbf{P} = c \quad (4)$$

$$\mathbf{n}^T (\mathbf{h} + k \mathbf{m}) = c \quad (5)$$

$$\mathbf{n}^T \mathbf{h} + k \mathbf{n}^T \mathbf{m} = c \quad (6)$$

$$k = \frac{c - \mathbf{n}^T \mathbf{h}}{\mathbf{n}^T \mathbf{m}} \quad (7)$$

here $c = 7$, by substituting the vectors for \mathbf{n}, \mathbf{h} and \mathbf{m}

$$k = \frac{7 - (2 \ 1 \ 1) \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}}{(2 \ 1 \ 1) \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}} \quad (8)$$

$$k = \frac{7 - 2}{5} = 1 \quad (9)$$

Substitute $k = 1$ in the line equation to obtain the point of intersection \mathbf{P}

$$\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{h} + \mathbf{m} \quad (10)$$

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 - 1 \\ -3 + 1 \\ 1 + 6 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (11)$$

Answer:

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix} \quad (12)$$

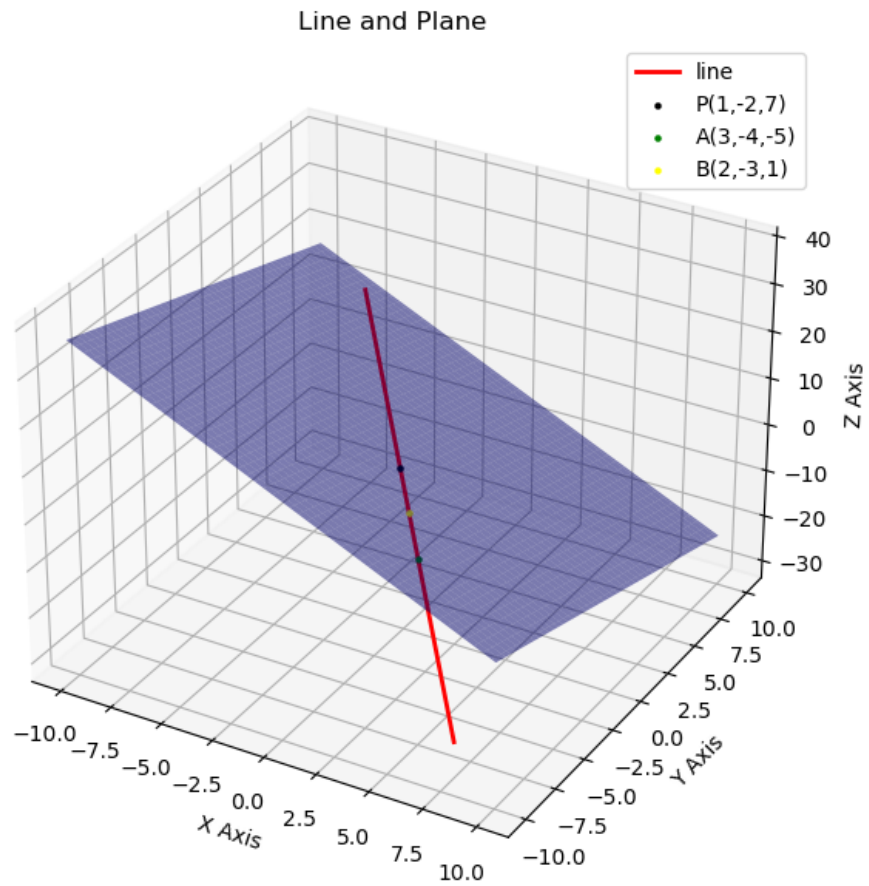


Fig : Line and Plane