

1 | Problem 1

The plane that passes through the vector \vec{P}_o and is perpendicular to \vec{n} is defined by:

$$\{\vec{r} : (\vec{r} - \vec{P}_o) \cdot \vec{n} = 0, \vec{P}_o \in \mathbb{R}, \vec{n} \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

This works because:

- The $(\vec{r} - \vec{P}_o)$ term is similar to when you subtract some value from x (in a cartesian plane) to shift it over to the right. In a sense, here you are subtracting the position vector from every single vector on the plane defined by \vec{r} , thus shifting the plane to \vec{P}_o .
- Setting the dot product between the term above and \vec{n} to 0, ensures that the plane is perpendicular to the normal vector \vec{n}

2 | Problem 2

First we can define:

- $\vec{n} = (n_x, n_y, n_z)$
- $\vec{P}_o = (P_{ox}, P_{oy}, P_{oz})$
- $\vec{r} = (x, y, z)$

Then we can evaluate: $(\vec{r} - \vec{P}_o) \cdot \vec{n} = 0$:

$$(\vec{r} - \vec{P}_o) \cdot \vec{n} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{r} \cdot \vec{n} - \vec{P}_o \cdot \vec{n} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{r} \cdot \vec{n} = \vec{P}_o \cdot \vec{n}$$

$$\Rightarrow xn_x + yn_y + zn_z = P_{ox}n_x + P_{oy}n_y + P_{oz}n_z$$

so we see that the cartesian definition of a plane is: $xn_x + yn_y + zn_z = P_{ox}n_x + P_{oy}n_y + P_{oz}n_z$

From this we see:

- $A = n_x$
- $B = n_y$
- $C = n_z$
- $D = P_{ox}n_x + P_{oy}n_y + P_{oz}n_z$

Therefore, the normal vector is (A, B, C)

3 | Problem 3

First we can define:

- $\hat{n} = \frac{\vec{n}}{|\vec{n}|} = \left\langle \frac{n_x}{|\vec{n}|}, \frac{n_y}{|\vec{n}|}, \frac{n_z}{|\vec{n}|} \right\rangle$
- $\vec{r} = \langle x, y, z \rangle$

Then we can evaluate the equation:

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{n} \cdot \vec{r} &= D \\ \Rightarrow \left\langle \frac{n_x}{|\vec{n}|}, \frac{n_y}{|\vec{n}|}, \frac{n_z}{|\vec{n}|} \right\rangle \cdot \langle x, y, z \rangle &= D \\ \Rightarrow \frac{n_x}{|\vec{n}|}x + \frac{n_y}{|\vec{n}|}y + \frac{n_z}{|\vec{n}|}z &= D\end{aligned}$$

This is the equation for a cartesian definition of a plane, with \hat{n} representing the normal vector and D representing $\frac{\vec{P}_o \cdot \vec{n}}{|\vec{n}|}$ which is the distance from the origin to the plane.

The value of D is found by starting with the original vector definition of a plane:

$$\begin{aligned}(\vec{r} - \vec{P}_o) \cdot \vec{n} &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow \vec{r} \cdot \vec{n} - \vec{P}_o \cdot \vec{n} &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow \vec{r} \cdot \vec{n} &= \vec{P}_o \cdot \vec{n} \\ \Rightarrow \frac{\vec{r} \cdot \vec{n}}{|\vec{n}|} &= \frac{\vec{P}_o \cdot \vec{n}}{|\vec{n}|} \\ \Rightarrow \vec{r} \cdot \hat{n} &= \frac{\vec{P}_o \cdot \vec{n}}{|\vec{n}|} \\ \Rightarrow D &= \frac{\vec{P}_o \cdot \vec{n}}{|\vec{n}|}\end{aligned}$$

Looking at problem 4 we see that this is the distance from the plane to the origin.

4 | Problem 4

We can start with this drawing:

IMAGE

In the image we see that there are multiple "point \vec{P}_o 's" that go from point P_o to the plane. We are trying to solve for d which is the shortest distance from the plane to the point, it can also be defined as the length of the \vec{P}_o that is perpendicular to the plane. Because all of the \vec{P}_o 's come from the same point and \vec{n} is perpendicular to the plane we can find d by finding $\text{comp}_{\hat{n}} \vec{P}_o$:

$$\begin{aligned}d &= \text{comp}_{\hat{n}} \vec{P}_o = 1 \cdot |\vec{P}_o| \cos(\theta) \\ &= |\hat{n}| |\vec{P}_o| \cos(\theta) \\ &= \vec{P}_o \cdot \hat{n} \\ &= \frac{\vec{P}_o \cdot \vec{n}}{|\vec{n}|}\end{aligned}$$

From problem 2 we know that $\vec{P}_o \cdot \vec{n} = 4$ and that $\vec{n} = \langle 1, 2, 3 \rangle$ and thus:

$$d = \frac{4}{\sqrt{14}}$$

5 | Problem 5

We can do something similar to what was done in the problem above in which the \hat{n} component of \vec{P}_o can be used as the distance d , but because \vec{P}_o is center at the origin and the plane may not pass through the origin, the position vector of the plane, we'll call it \vec{P}_1 , has to be subtracted from \vec{P}_o . To find the length of \vec{P}_1 we can do what we did in problem 4.

We'll break this problem into three parts: 1) finding the length of \vec{P}_o parallel to \hat{n} 2) finding the distance of \vec{P}_1 parallel to \hat{n} 3) subtracting the two:

5.1 | Finding length of \vec{P}_o

From problem 2 we know that $\vec{n} = \langle A, B, C \rangle$. From problem 4 we know that we can find the length of \vec{P}_o parallel to \hat{n} by:

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{P}_o \cdot \hat{n} &= \frac{\vec{P}_o \cdot \vec{n}}{|\vec{n}|} \\ &= \frac{\langle x_o, y_o, z_o \rangle \cdot \langle A, B, C \rangle}{|\langle A, B, C \rangle|} \\ &= \frac{Ax_o + By_o + Cz_o}{\sqrt{A^2 + B^2 + C^2}}\end{aligned}$$

5.2 | Finding the length of \vec{P}_1

From problem 2 we know that $\vec{n} = \langle A, B, C \rangle$. From problem 4 we know that we can find the length of \vec{P}_1 parallel to \hat{n} by:

$$\vec{P}_1 \cdot \hat{n} = \frac{\vec{P}_1 \cdot \vec{n}}{|\vec{n}|}$$

From problem 2 we know that the dot product between the position vector and the normal vector is D . Thus:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{length of } \vec{P}_1 &= \vec{P}_1 \cdot \hat{n} \\ &= \frac{\vec{P}_1 \cdot \vec{n}}{|\vec{n}|} \\ &= \frac{D}{|\vec{n}|} \\ &= \frac{D}{|\langle A, B, C \rangle|} \\ &= \frac{D}{\sqrt{A^2 + B^2 + C^2}}\end{aligned}$$

5.3 | Subtracting the two:

$$\begin{aligned}d &= \vec{P}_o - \vec{P}_1 \\ &= \frac{Ax_o + By_o + Cz_o}{\sqrt{A^2 + B^2 + C^2}} - \frac{D}{\sqrt{A^2 + B^2 + C^2}} \\ &= \frac{Ax_o + By_o + Cz_o - D}{\sqrt{A^2 + B^2 + C^2}}\end{aligned}$$

Lastly, you would take the absolute value of the numerator because distances are positive (and the denominator is already positive due to the squaring of A, B, and C). Thus:

$$d = \frac{|Ax_o + By_o + Cz_o - D|}{\sqrt{A^2 + B^2 + C^2}}$$

6 | Problem 6

First we can define:

- $\vec{A}(t) = A_x(t)\hat{i} + A_y(t)\hat{j} + A_z(t)\hat{k}$
- $\vec{B}(t) = B_x(t)\hat{i} + B_y(t)\hat{j} + B_z(t)\hat{k}$

Thus:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{dt}(\vec{A}(t) \cdot \vec{B}(t)) &= \frac{d}{dt}(A_x(t)B_x(t) + A_y(t)B_y(t) + A_z(t)B_z(t)) \\ &= \frac{d}{dt}(A_x(t)B_x(t)) + \frac{d}{dt}(A_y(t)B_y(t)) + \frac{d}{dt}(A_z(t)B_z(t))\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= A'_x(t)B_x(t) + A_x(t)B'_x(t) + A'_y(t)B_y(t) + A_y(t)B'_y(t) + A'_z(t)B_z(t) + A_z(t)B'_z(t) \\
&= (A'_x(t)B_x(t) + A'_y(t)B_y(t) + A'_z(t)B_z(t)) + (A_x(t)B'_x(t) + A_y(t)B'_y(t) + A_z(t)B'_z(t)) \\
&= \vec{A}'(t) \cdot \vec{B}(t) + \vec{A}(t) \cdot \vec{B}'(t) \\
&= \frac{d\vec{A}(t)}{dt} \cdot \vec{B} + \vec{A} \cdot \frac{d\vec{B}(t)}{dt}
\end{aligned}$$

7 | Problem 7

First we can define:

- $\vec{r} = |\vec{r}| \hat{r}$
 - this works because the unit vector $\hat{r} = \frac{\vec{r}}{|\vec{r}|}$, and so you can multiply both sides by $|\vec{r}|$

We can start by finding the derivative of \vec{r} with the definition above:

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{d}{dt}\vec{r}(t) &= \frac{d}{dt}(|\vec{r}(t)|\hat{r}(t)) \\
&= \left(\frac{d}{dt}|\vec{r}(t)|\right)\hat{r}(t) + |\vec{r}(t)|\left(\frac{d}{dt}\hat{r}(t)\right)
\end{aligned}$$

We can take this equation and solve for $\frac{d}{dt}|\vec{r}(t)|$:

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{d}{dt}\vec{r}(t) &= \left(\frac{d}{dt}|\vec{r}(t)|\right)\hat{r}(t) + |\vec{r}(t)|\left(\frac{d}{dt}\hat{r}(t)\right) \\
\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dt}\vec{r}(t) \cdot \hat{r}(t) &= \left(\frac{d}{dt}|\vec{r}(t)|\right)\hat{r}(t) \cdot \hat{r}(t) + |\vec{r}(t)|\left(\frac{d}{dt}\hat{r}(t)\right) \cdot \hat{r}(t) \\
\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dt}\vec{r}(t) \cdot \frac{\vec{r}(t)}{|\vec{r}(t)|} &= \left(\frac{d}{dt}|\vec{r}(t)|\right) \cdot 1 + |\vec{r}(t)| \cdot 0 \\
\Rightarrow \frac{1}{|\vec{r}(t)|}\vec{r}(t) \cdot \vec{r}'(t) &= \frac{d}{dt}|\vec{r}(t)|
\end{aligned}$$

This proof relied on the fact that the dot product between a vector and its derivative is zero. This is true because:

$$\vec{r}(t) \cdot \vec{r}'(t) = |\vec{r}(t)|^2 = C, \text{ where } C \text{ is some constant.}$$

If we differentiate this then we get:

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{d}{dt}\vec{r}(t)^2 &= \frac{d}{dt}C \\
\Rightarrow 2\vec{r}(t) \cdot \vec{r}'(t) &= 0 \\
\Rightarrow \vec{r}(t) \cdot \vec{r}'(t) &= 0
\end{aligned}$$

The chain rule applies to vectors (show in a different assignment).

Note: for this problem, I got Albert's help with the initial proof, and then I used this source to help with proving that the dot product between a vector and its derivative is zero: https://www.reddit.com/r/askmath/comments/aticz8/why_is_a_vector_of_constant_magnitude_always/?srllybrkr=5f034675.

8 | Problem 8

If we start with the vector equation for a 3D line we get:

$$(x, y, z) = (x_o, y_o, z_o) + t(a, b, c) = (x_o + ta, y_o + tb, z_o + tc)$$

Where (x_o, y_o, z_o) is the position vector of the line (the line passes through this point), and (a, b, c) is the direction in which the line is traveling.

We can take the x, y and z components of the vector form and convert them into the parametric form of the equation of a 3D line:

$$\begin{aligned}
(x, y, z) &= (x_o + ta, y_o + tb, z_o + tc) \\
\Rightarrow x &= x_o + ta
\end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow y = y_o + tb$$

$$\Rightarrow z = z_o + tc$$

Lastly, we can solve each of the parameterized components for t and set them equal to each other to get the symmetric form:

$$\Rightarrow t = \frac{x-x_o}{a}$$

$$\Rightarrow t = \frac{y-y_o}{b}$$

$$\Rightarrow t = \frac{z-z_o}{c}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{x-x_o}{a} = \frac{y-y_o}{b} = \frac{z-z_o}{c}$$

With this in mind we can look at the given symmetric equation:

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

$$\Rightarrow \frac{x-2}{2} = \frac{y-1}{3} = \frac{z-2}{-1}$$

From this we see that the position vector is $(2, 1, 2)$ and the direction of the line is the same direction as $(2, 3, -1)$

Note: for this problem I used this source to see what the different forms of the equation for a 3D line: but I proved that the vector form equaled the symmetric form myself: <https://math.stackexchange.com/questions/404440/what-is-the-equation-for-a-3d-line>.