

## PDF 8.050 Cartesian Equation of a Plane (aka Scalar Equation of a Plane)

The Cartesian (or scalar) equation of a plane in  $R^3$  is of the form  $Ax + By + Cz + D = 0$ .  
The vector  $\overrightarrow{(A, B, C)}$  is a normal vector (perpendicular to all of the vectors in the plane)

\* This is derived in your powerpoint

### Example 1

Express the plane  $\vec{r} = \overrightarrow{(-5, -1, 10)} + s\overrightarrow{(3, -4, 6)} + t\overrightarrow{(1, 7, 4)}$  in Cartesian equation form.

### Example 2

Determine the Cartesian equation of the plane that contains the points A(5,2,3), B(-1,3,-9) and C(7,8,2)

### Angle Between Two Planes

The angle between two planes is equal to the angle between the normal vectors of the two planes

### Example 3

Show that the two planes  $\pi_1: 2x + 3y - 4z + 19 = 0$  and  $\pi_2: 5x + 2y + 4z - 9 = 0$  are perpendicular

#### Example 4

Show that the planes  $\pi_1: 3x - 9y + 3z - 5 = 0$  and  $\pi_2: 2x - 6y + 2z - 4 = 0$  are parallel but not coincident.

#### Example 5

Determine the acute and the obtuse angle of intersection of the planes

$$\pi_1: 4x - 8y - 3z + 64 = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \pi_2: x - 5y + 15z - 11 = 0$$

#### Example 6

State the equation of the plane  $6x + 3y - z + 12 = 0$  in vector equation form and in parametric equation form.