

Today: • Three ways to represent the equation for a line  $L \subseteq \mathbb{R}^3$ .

- $\boxed{r(t) = r_0 + tv}$ ,  $r_0 \in \mathbb{R}^3$ ,  $v \in V_3$ , each  $r(t)$  is a position vector for a point on the line  $L$ .

↑ Vector Equation of the line  $L$

- For  $v = \langle a, b, c \rangle$ ,  $r_0 = \langle x_0, y_0, z_0 \rangle$ ,  $r(t) = \langle x, y, z \rangle$

We have  $\langle x, y, z \rangle = \langle x_0, y_0, z_0 \rangle + t \langle a, b, c \rangle$

$\Leftrightarrow$

$$x = x_0 + at$$

$$y = y_0 + bt$$

$$z = z_0 + ct$$

← Parametric Equations of the line  $L$

- Solve for  $t$ :

$$\boxed{\frac{x - x_0}{a} = \frac{y - y_0}{b} = \frac{z - z_0}{c}}$$

← Symmetric Equations of  $L$ .

- Line segment  $[r_0, r_1] = \{(1-t)r_0 + tr_1 \mid 0 \leq t \leq 1\}$

- Vector equation for a plane:

$$\boxed{n \cdot (r - r_0) = 0}$$

OR

$$\boxed{n \cdot r = n \cdot r_0}$$

where  $\vec{n}$  is a normal vector to the plane

•  $r_0$  is the position vector for the point on the plane.

- $n = \langle a, b, c \rangle$ ,  $r = \langle x, y, z \rangle$ ,  $r_0 = \langle x_0, y_0, z_0 \rangle \rightarrow \langle a, b, c \rangle \cdot \langle x - x_0, y - y_0, z - z_0 \rangle = 0$

$$\Leftrightarrow a(x-x_0) + b(y-y_0) + c(z-z_0) = 0$$

↑ Scalar equation of the plane

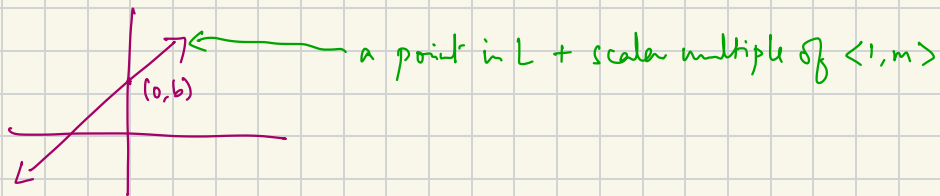
Collect terms:  $ax + by + cz + d = 0$  ( $d = -ax_0 - by_0 - cz_0$ )

↑  
Linear Equation

## Section 12.5: Equations of lines and planes.

Define: In  $\mathbb{R}^2$  a line is a set of points  $L = \{(x, y) : y = mx + b\}$  for some  $m \in \mathbb{R}, b \in \mathbb{R}$ .  
 ↗ slope  
 ↘ y-intercept.

Note:  $(x, mx + b) = (0, b) + x \langle 1, m \rangle$



Definition: Vector equation for a line in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ :

$$\mathbf{r}(t) = \mathbf{r}_0 + t \mathbf{\bar{v}}$$

↗ direction  
 ↘ point on the line  
 ↙ position vector of any

other point on the line

• Let  $\mathbf{r}(t) = (x, y, z)$ ,  $\mathbf{r}_0 = (x_0, y_0, z_0)$ ,  $\vec{v} = \langle a, b, c \rangle$ .

$$\text{So } \mathbf{r}(t) = \mathbf{r}_0 + t\vec{v} \Leftrightarrow (x, y, z) = (x_0, y_0, z_0) + t\langle a, b, c \rangle$$

$$\Leftrightarrow (x, y, z) = (x_0 + ta, y_0 + tb, z_0 + tc)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \left. \begin{array}{l} x = x_0 + ta \\ y = y_0 + tb \\ z = z_0 + tc \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{Parametric Equations} \\ \text{for the line } L. \end{array}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \left. \begin{array}{l} \text{Solving for } t: \\ \frac{x - x_0}{a} = t \\ \frac{y - y_0}{b} = t \\ \frac{z - z_0}{c} = t \end{array} \right\} \frac{x - x_0}{a} = \frac{y - y_0}{b} = \frac{z - z_0}{c}$$

$\downarrow$   
Symmetric Equation for  $L$ .

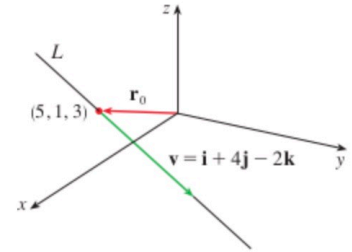
### Example 1

- (a) Find a vector equation and parametric equations for the line that passes through the point  $(5, 1, 3)$  and is parallel to the vector  $\mathbf{i} + 4\mathbf{j} - 2\mathbf{k}$ .
- (b) Find two other points on the line.

$$(a) \mathbf{r}(t) = (5, 1, 3) + t \langle 1, 4, -2 \rangle$$

Alternatively:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{r} &= 5\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + 3\mathbf{k} + t(\mathbf{i} + 4\mathbf{j} - 2\mathbf{k}) \\ &= (5+t)\mathbf{i} + (1+4t)\mathbf{j} + (3-2t)\mathbf{k} \end{aligned}$$



$\Rightarrow$  Parametric Equations are :  $x = 5+t, y = 1+4t, z = 3-2t$

(b)  $t = 1 \Rightarrow x = 6, y = 5, z = 1 \Rightarrow (6, 5, 1)$  is on the line.

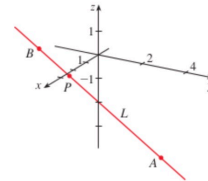
$t = -1 \Rightarrow x = 4, y = -3, z = 5 \Rightarrow (4, -3, 5)$  is on the line.

### Example 2

- (a) Find parametric equations and symmetric equations of the line that passes through the points  $A(2, 4, -3)$  and  $B(3, -1, 1)$ .
- (b) At what point does this line intersect the  $xy$ -plane?

(a)  $\vec{AB}$  and  $\vec{BA}$  are direction vectors for the line that passes through  $A$  and  $B$ .

$$\vec{AB} = \langle 3-2, -1-4, 1+3 \rangle$$



$$= \langle 1, -5, 4 \rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow r(t) = 2i + 4j - 3k + t(i - 5j + 4k)$$

$$= (2+t)i + (4-5t)j + (-3+4t)k$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Parametric Equations are: } x = 2+t, y = 4-5t, z = -3+4t$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Symmetric equations: } \frac{x-2}{1} = \frac{y-4}{-5} = \frac{z+3}{4}$$

$$(b) \text{ xy-plane} = \{ (x, y, 0) : x, y \in \mathbb{R} \}$$

$$\text{Use the fact that } z = 0 : \frac{x-2}{1} = \frac{y-4}{-5} = \frac{3}{4}$$

$$\Rightarrow x-2 = \frac{3}{4} \Rightarrow x = \frac{11}{4}, y-4 = -\frac{15}{4} \Rightarrow y = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{the line intersects the xy-plane at } \left( \frac{11}{4}, \frac{1}{4}, 0 \right)$$

### Example 3

Show that the lines  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  with parametric equations

$$L_1: \quad x = 1+t \quad y = -2+3t \quad z = 4-t$$

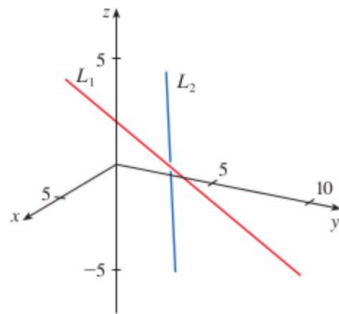
$$L_2: \quad x = 2s \quad y = 3+s \quad z = -3+4s$$

are **skew lines**; that is, they do not intersect and are not parallel (and therefore do not lie in the same plane).

In 2-D:



Recall: two vectors are parallel  $\Leftrightarrow$  one is a scalar multiple of the other.



Vector equations for  $L_1$  &  $L_2$ :

$$L_1: \mathbf{r}(t) = (1+t)\mathbf{i} + (-2+3t)\mathbf{j} + (4-t)\mathbf{k}$$

$$= \mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j} + 4\mathbf{k} + t(\mathbf{i} + 3\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k}) \Rightarrow L_1 \text{ has direction vector } \vec{v}_1 = \langle 1, 3, -1 \rangle$$

$$L_2: \mathbf{r}(t) = (2s)\mathbf{i} + (3+s)\mathbf{j} + (-3+4s)\mathbf{k}$$

$$= 3\mathbf{j} - 3\mathbf{k} + s(2\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + 4\mathbf{k}) \Rightarrow L_2 \text{ has direction vector } \vec{v}_2 = \langle 2, 1, 4 \rangle$$

Claim:  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  are not parallel.

Proof: Suppose that they were. Then  $v_1 = cv_2$  for some  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ .

$$\langle 1, 3, -1 \rangle = c \langle 2, 1, 4 \rangle \Leftrightarrow 1 = 2c, \underbrace{3 = c, -1 = 4c}_{\Downarrow}$$

$$2c = 6 \neq 1$$

$\Rightarrow$  you need two different  $c$  values for this to work  $\Rightarrow$  not parallel.

Claim:  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  do not intersect.

$$L_1: x = 1 + t, y = -2 + 3t, z = 4 - t \quad \leftarrow r_1(t) = X + t v_1$$

$$L_2: x = 2s, y = 3 + s, z = -3 + 4s \quad \leftarrow r_2(s) = Y + s v_2$$

Proof: Suppose they did intersect. Then there are  $s$  and  $t$  values such that  $r_1(t) = r_2(s)$

$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} 1 + t = 2s \\ -2 + 3t = 3 + s \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} t - 2s = -1 \\ 3t - s = 5 \end{cases} \rightarrow s = 3t - 5$$

$$4 - t = -3 + 4s$$


$$\Leftrightarrow t - 2(3t - 5) = -1$$

$$\Leftrightarrow t - 6t + 10 = -1$$

$$\Leftrightarrow -5t = -11 \Leftrightarrow t = 11/5$$

$$\Rightarrow s = \frac{33}{5} - 5 = \frac{8}{5}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 4 - \left(\frac{11}{5}\right) = -3 + 4\left(\frac{8}{5}\right)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \frac{20-11}{5} = \frac{-15+32}{5} \Leftrightarrow \frac{9}{5} = \frac{17}{5} \Rightarrow \text{contradiction!!}$$


$\Rightarrow L_1$  and  $L_2$  are not parallel nor do they intersect.  
(they are also not the same line).

Planes:

- Lines require one direction vector, what set do you get with 2 direction vectors?

Eg:  $xy$  plane has two direction vectors, namely,  $\hat{i}, \hat{j}$

Also, any point on the  $xy$ -plane is perpendicular to  $\hat{k}$ .



Proof:  $k \cdot \langle x, y, 0 \rangle = \langle 0, 0, 1 \rangle \cdot \langle x, y, 0 \rangle$   
 $= 0.$

Definition: Vector equation of the plane with point  $P(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  and normal vector  $\vec{n}$  is

$$\vec{n} \cdot (r - r_0) = 0$$

where  $r = (x, y, z)$  is a point on the plane.

• Let  $\vec{n} = \langle a, b, c \rangle$ ,  $r_0 = \langle x_0, y_0, z_0 \rangle$ . Then

$$\langle a, b, c \rangle \cdot \langle x - x_0, y - y_0, z - z_0 \rangle = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow a(x - x_0) + b(y - y_0) + c(z - z_0) = 0 \quad \leftarrow \text{scalar equation for the plane}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow ax + by + cz + d = 0 \quad \leftarrow \text{linear equation for the plane.}$$

$$\text{where } d = -ax_0 - by_0 - cz_0$$

Aside: Lines require one parameter, planes require two.

### Example 5

Find an equation of the plane that passes through the points  $P(1, 3, 2)$ ,  $Q(3, -1, 6)$ , and  $R(5, 2, 0)$ .

A: Find two direction vectors:

$$\vec{PQ} = \langle 3-1, -1-3, 6-2 \rangle = \langle 2, -4, 4 \rangle$$

$$\vec{PR} = \langle 5-1, 2-3, 0-2 \rangle = \langle 4, -1, -2 \rangle$$

Aside: plane is the set  $\{ P + s\vec{PQ} + t\vec{PR} : s, t \in \mathbb{R} \}$

In order to find the equation for this plane we need a vector orthogonal to  $\vec{PQ}$  and  $\vec{PR}$ : take  $\vec{PQ} \times \vec{PR}$ .

$$\vec{n} = \vec{PQ} \times \vec{PR} = \begin{vmatrix} i & j & k \\ 2 & -4 & 4 \\ 4 & -1 & -2 \end{vmatrix} = 12i + 20j + 14k.$$

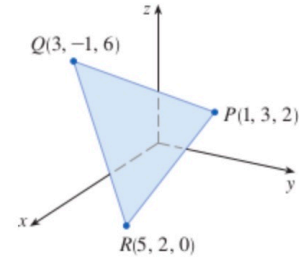
$\downarrow$   
DIY

$$\Rightarrow \text{Equation is } 12(x-1) + 20(y-3) + 14(z-2) = 0.$$

$$(P(1, 3, 2))$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 6x + 10y + 7z = 50$$

(Simplify)



#### Example 6

Find the point at which the line with parametric equations  $x = 2 + 3t$ ,  $y = -4t$ ,  $z = 5 + t$  intersects the plane  $4x + 5y - 2z = 18$ .

$$\underline{A}: x = 2 + 3t, y = -4t, z = 5 + t$$

$$4(2 + 3t) + 5(-4t) - 2(5 + t) = 18$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 8 + 12t - 20t - 10 - 2t = 18$$

$$\Leftrightarrow -10t = 20 \Leftrightarrow t = -2$$

$\Rightarrow$  point of intersection is  $(-4, 8, 3)$