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## Matrix 4.8.11

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## Question

Find the vector equation of the plane determined by the points

$$A(3, -1, 2), \quad B(5, 2, 4), \quad C(-1, -1, 6),$$

and hence find the distance of this plane from the origin.

## Step 1: Position vectors

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (1)$$

## Step 1: Position vectors

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$$\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{C} - \mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ 0 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2)$$

## Step 2: Normal via cross product

$$(\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A}) \times (\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{A}) = \begin{pmatrix} \left| \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} & \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \right| \\ \left| \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} & \begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \right| \\ \left| \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} & \begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right| \end{pmatrix}. \quad (3)$$

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$$= \begin{pmatrix} 12 \\ 16 \\ 12 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (4)$$

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$$= \begin{pmatrix} 12 \\ 16 \\ 12 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (4)$$

Simplify by dividing through 4:

$$\mathbf{N} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -4 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (5)$$

## Step 3: Finding place Eqn

Using  $\mathbf{A}$ :

$$d = \mathbf{N}^T \mathbf{A} = (3 \quad -4 \quad 3) \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (6)$$



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$$d = 9 + 4 + 6 = 19. \quad (7)$$

### Step 3: Finding plane Eqn

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$$d = 9 + 4 + 6 = 19. \quad (7)$$

Equation of plane:

$$\mathbf{N}^T \mathbf{x} = 19. \quad (8)$$

Step 4: Normalize to  $N^\top x = 1$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{N}} = \frac{1}{19} \mathbf{N} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{3}{19} \\ -\frac{4}{19} \\ \frac{3}{19} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (9)$$

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$$\boxed{\tilde{\mathbf{N}}^T x = 1} \quad (10)$$

## Step 5: Distance from origin

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$$D = \frac{|1|}{\|\tilde{\mathbf{N}}\|}. \quad (11)$$

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$$D = \frac{19}{\sqrt{34}} \approx 3.260. \quad (14)$$



# Final Answer

$$\tilde{\mathbf{N}}^T \mathbf{x} = 1, \quad \tilde{\mathbf{N}} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{3}{19} \\ -\frac{4}{19} \\ \frac{3}{19} \end{pmatrix} \quad (15)$$

$$D = \frac{19}{\sqrt{34}} \approx 3.260 \quad (16)$$

Plane through A, B, C and its distance from origin

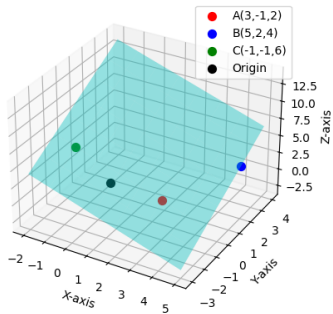


Figure: