

1.10.24

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Question: Find the direction cosines of the unit vector perpendicular to the plane

$$\vec{r} \cdot (6\hat{i} - 3\hat{j} - 2\hat{k}) + 1 = 0$$

passing through the origin.

Solution:

Given:

Plane equation,

$$\vec{r} \cdot (6\hat{i} - 3\hat{j} - 2\hat{k}) + 1 = 0 \quad (1)$$

Let the unit vector perpendicular to the plane passing through the origin be \vec{u} .

From above,

The plane's normal vector,

$$\vec{n} = \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ -3 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (2)$$

Norm of the vector \vec{n} ,

$$\vec{u} = \frac{1}{\|\vec{n}\|} \vec{n} = \frac{1}{7} \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ -3 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{6}{7} \\ -\frac{3}{7} \\ -\frac{2}{7} \end{pmatrix} \quad (3)$$

The direction cosines of the unit vector perpendicular to the plane are

$$\left(\frac{6}{7}, -\frac{3}{7}, -\frac{2}{7} \right)$$

Plane $6x - 3y - 2z + 1 = 0$ and its Normal Vector

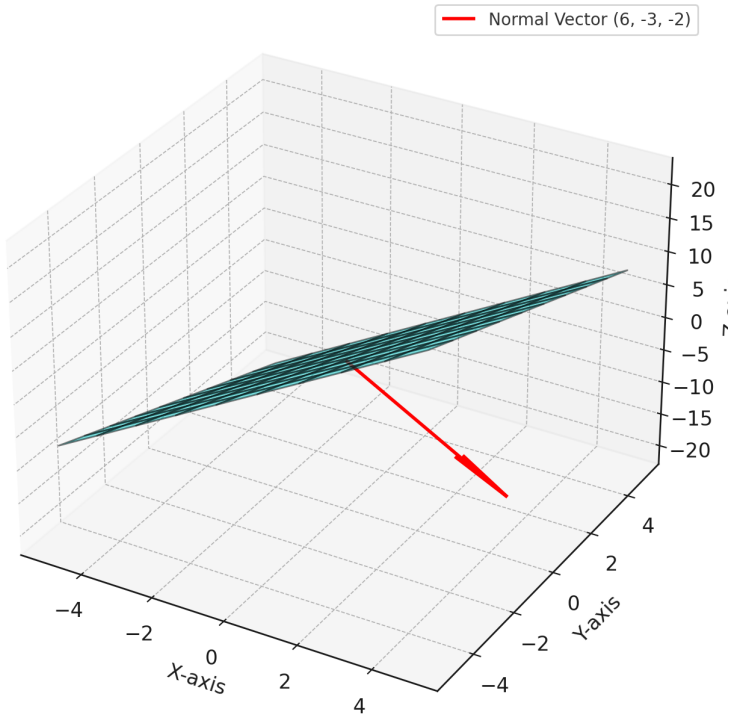


Fig. 0: Plane with Perpendicular Normal Vector