

4.7.15

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Question Find the vector equation of the plane which is at a distance of $\frac{6}{\sqrt{29}}$ from the origin and its normal vector from the origin is $2\hat{i} - 3\hat{j} + 4\hat{k}$.

Solution Given details

$$\text{distance of plane from the origin} = d = \frac{6}{\sqrt{29}} \quad (1)$$

$$\text{normal vector} = \mathbf{n} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \quad (2)$$

Generally a plane can be represented as:

$$\hat{\mathbf{n}}^T (\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_0) = 0 \quad (3)$$

For our convenience we can choose \mathbf{r}_0 to be the point closest to origin. Therefore:

$$\mathbf{r}_0 = d\hat{\mathbf{n}} \quad (4)$$

Substituting this in the plane equation:

$$\hat{\mathbf{n}}^T (\mathbf{r} - d\hat{\mathbf{n}}) = 0 \quad (5)$$

$$(\hat{\mathbf{n}}^T \mathbf{r}) - (d\hat{\mathbf{n}}^T \hat{\mathbf{n}}) = 0 \quad (6)$$

$$\therefore \hat{\mathbf{n}}^T \hat{\mathbf{n}} = 1 \quad (7)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{n}}^T \mathbf{r} = d \quad (8)$$

The unit normal vector is:

$$\hat{\mathbf{n}} = \frac{\mathbf{n}}{\|\mathbf{n}\|} \quad (9)$$

$$\|\mathbf{n}\| = \sqrt{\mathbf{n}^T \mathbf{n}} = \sqrt{2^2 + (-3)^2 + 4^2} = \sqrt{29} \quad (10)$$

$$\therefore \hat{\mathbf{n}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{29}} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \quad (11)$$

Substituting it in the plane equation:

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{29}} (2 \quad -3 \quad 4)^T \mathbf{r} = \frac{6}{\sqrt{29}} \quad (12)$$

The final plane equation is:

$$(2 \quad -3 \quad 4)^T \mathbf{r} = 6 \quad (13)$$

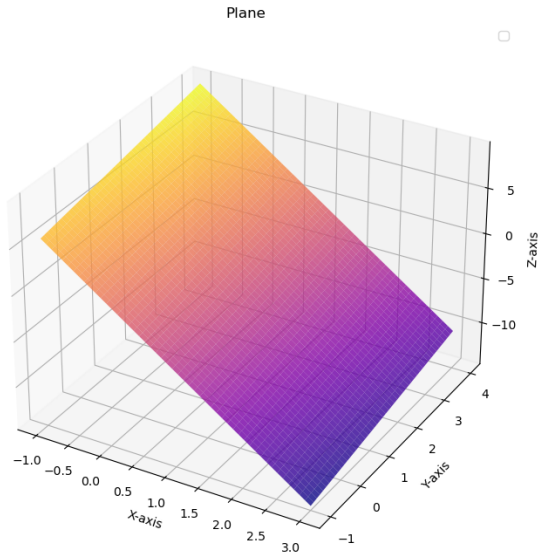


Fig. 0. plane