


Proposition 4.1. Let π and π' be two planes in \mathbf{A} with Cartesian equations

$$\begin{aligned} ax + by + cz + d &= 0 \\ a'x + b'y + c'z + d' &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad (4.6)$$

respectively. Then

1. π and π' are parallel if and only if the matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ a' & b' & c' \end{bmatrix} \quad (4.7)$$

has rank 1.

- The proposition discusses the intersection of π and π' which in coordinates is described by the system (4.6)

[has matrix of coeff. $M = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ a' & b' & c' \end{bmatrix}$ and $\tilde{M} = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c & d \\ a' & b' & c' & d' \end{bmatrix}$ is the extended matrix
- The associated vector subspaces are given by the homogeneous equations

$$W: ax + by + cz = 0$$

$$W': a'x + b'y + c'z = 0$$

$\pi \parallel \pi' \Leftrightarrow W = W' \Leftrightarrow$ the homogeneous equations are proportional $\Leftrightarrow \text{rank } M = 1$

2. If the matrix (4.7) has rank 1 then π and π' are disjoint if the augmented matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b & c & d \\ a' & b' & c' & d' \end{bmatrix} \quad (4.8)$$

has rank 2; if its rank is 1 then they coincide.

If $\text{rank } M = 1 \ (\Rightarrow \pi \parallel \pi')$ then

either [$\text{rank } \tilde{M} = 2 \Leftrightarrow$ system (4.6) is incompatible $\Leftrightarrow \pi \cap \pi' = \emptyset$

$\text{rank } \tilde{M} = 1 \Rightarrow$ system (4.6) has a sol $\Leftrightarrow \pi = \pi'$ since $W = W'$

3. If π and π' are not parallel then they intersect, and $\pi \cap \pi'$ is a line; this occurs if and only if the matrix (4.7) has rank 2.

$\Leftrightarrow \text{rank } M = 2 \Rightarrow \text{rank } \tilde{M} = 2 \Rightarrow$ system (4.6) compatible and has a 1-parametric family of solutions

Proposition 4.2. Let ℓ be a line with parametric equations (4.3) and Cartesian equations (4.4). Let π'' be a plane with equation

$$a''x + b''y + c''z + d'' = 0. \quad (4.9)$$

Then

1. ℓ and π'' are parallel if and only if

$$\begin{vmatrix} a & b & c \\ a' & b' & c' \\ a'' & b'' & c'' \end{vmatrix} = 0 \quad (4.10)$$

or equivalently, if and only if

$$a''v_x + b''v_y + c''v_z = 0. \quad (4.11)$$

- If

$$\begin{vmatrix} a & b & c \\ a' & b' & c' \\ a'' & b'' & c'' \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

then the system $\begin{cases} ax + by + cz = 0 \\ a'x + b'y + c'z = 0 \\ a''x + b''y + c''z = 0 \end{cases}$

$$\ell: \begin{cases} x = x_Q + tv_x \\ y = y_Q + tv_y \\ z = z_Q + tv_z \end{cases} \quad (4.3)$$

$$\ell: \begin{cases} ax + by + cz + d = 0 \\ a'x + b'y + c'z + d' = 0 \end{cases} \quad (4.4)$$

is equivalent to the system $\begin{cases} a^x + b^y + c^z = 0 \\ a'^x + b'^y + c'^z = 0 \\ a''x + b''y + c''z = 0 \end{cases}$

$$v_x = \begin{vmatrix} b & c \\ b' & c' \end{vmatrix}, \quad v_y = -\begin{vmatrix} a & c \\ a' & c' \end{vmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad v_z = \begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ a' & b' \end{vmatrix}.$$

which describes the direction of $\ell \Rightarrow$ every direction vector of ℓ is a solution to (4.4)

In particular the dir. vector of ℓ satisfies $a^x + b^y + c^z = 0$ which is the eq. of

the vector subspace W'' associated to $\pi'' \Rightarrow \ell \parallel \pi''$

- (4.10) \Leftrightarrow (4.11) since $\begin{vmatrix} a & b & c \\ a' & b' & c' \\ a'' & b'' & c'' \end{vmatrix} = a'' \underbrace{\begin{vmatrix} bc \\ b'c' \end{vmatrix}}_{v_y} - b'' \underbrace{\begin{vmatrix} ac \\ a'c' \end{vmatrix}}_{v_y} + c'' \underbrace{\begin{vmatrix} ab \\ a'b' \end{vmatrix}}_{v_z}$

2. If (4.10) is satisfied, then $\ell \subseteq \pi''$ if and only if the matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b & c & d \\ a' & b' & c' & d' \\ a'' & b'' & c'' & d'' \end{bmatrix} \quad (4.12)$$

has rank 2, otherwise they are disjoint (and the matrix has rank 3).

$\Leftrightarrow \ell \parallel \pi''$ so, either $\begin{cases} \text{they have a point in common} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} a^x + b^y + c^z + d = 0 \\ a'^x + b'^y + c'^z + d' = 0 \\ a''x + b''y + c''z + d'' = 0 \end{cases} \text{ has a sol.} \Leftrightarrow \text{rank of } (4.12) = 2 \end{cases}$

\Leftrightarrow they don't have a point in common \Rightarrow rank of (4.12) is 3

3. If ℓ and π'' are not parallel, then they are incident, and $\ell \cap \pi''$ consists of only one point; this occurs if and only if

$$\begin{vmatrix} a & b & c \\ a' & b' & c' \\ a'' & b'' & c'' \end{vmatrix} \neq 0 \quad (4.13)$$

or equivalently, if and only if,

$$a''v_x + b''v_y + c''v_z \neq 0. \quad (4.14)$$

- as noted for 1. (4.13) and (4.14) are equivalent
- If $\begin{vmatrix} a & b & c \\ a' & b' & c' \\ a'' & b'' & c'' \end{vmatrix} \neq 0 \Rightarrow$ rank of matrix of coefficients of $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} ax + by + cz + d = 0 \\ a'x + b'y + c'z + d' = 0 \\ a''x + b''y + c''z + d'' = 0 \end{array} \right. \begin{array}{l} \ell \\ \pi \\ \bar{\pi} \end{array}$
is 3
 $\Rightarrow \ell$ and $\bar{\pi}$ have a point in common, the coordinates of which are the solutions to the sys

Proposition 4.4. Two lines ℓ_1 and ℓ_2 in A are coplanar if and only if one of the following conditions is satisfied:

- ℓ_1 and ℓ_2 are parallel.
- ℓ_1 and ℓ_2 are incident.

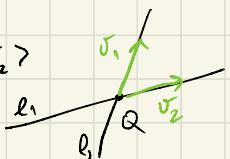
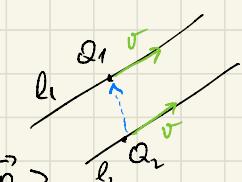
In particular, two lines ℓ_1 and ℓ_2 in A are coplanar if and only if they are not skew.

- Two lines in an affine plane are either incident (they meet in a point) or parallel
 \Rightarrow two coplanar lines are either incident or parallel

- Conversely
 - if $\ell_2 = \ell_1$ clearly they are coplanar

if $\ell_2 \neq \ell_1$ and $\ell_1 \parallel \ell_2$ then $\ell_1, \ell_2 \in Q_1 + \langle v, \overrightarrow{Q_1 Q_2} \rangle$

if $\ell_2 \neq \ell_1$ and $\ell_1 \cap \ell_2 \neq 0$ then $\ell_1, \ell_2 \in Q + \langle v_1, v_2 \rangle$



Proposition 4.5. Let ℓ and ℓ_1 be two lines in \mathbf{A} and suppose that ℓ has Cartesian equations (4.4) and ℓ_1 has equations

$$\ell_1: \begin{cases} a_1x + b_1y + c_1z + d_1 = 0 \\ a'_1x + b'_1y + c'_1z + d'_1 = 0 \end{cases}. \quad (4.15)$$

Let $Q(x_0, y_0, z_0) \in \ell$ and $Q_1(x_1, y_1, z_1) \in \ell_1$, let $\mathbf{v}(v_x, v_y, v_z)$ and $\mathbf{u}(u_x, u_y, u_z)$ be direction vectors for ℓ and ℓ_1 respectively. The following conditions are equivalent

1. ℓ and ℓ' are coplanar;

$$2. \begin{vmatrix} x_0 - x_1 & y_0 - y_1 & z_0 - z_1 \\ v_x & v_y & v_z \\ u_x & u_y & u_z \end{vmatrix} = 0; \quad (*)$$

$$3. \begin{vmatrix} a & b & c & d \\ a' & b' & c' & d' \\ a_1 & b_1 & c_1 & d_1 \\ a'_1 & b'_1 & c'_1 & d'_1 \end{vmatrix} = 0. \quad (**)$$

$$\ell: \begin{cases} ax + by + cz + d = 0 \\ a'x + b'y + c'z + d' = 0 \end{cases} \quad (4.4)$$

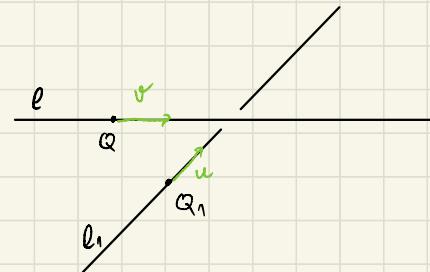
1. \Rightarrow 2. If $\ell \parallel \ell' \Rightarrow \mathbf{v}$ and \mathbf{u} are proportional

$$\Rightarrow (*)$$

If $\ell \cap \ell' \neq \emptyset \Rightarrow \overrightarrow{QQ_1} \in \langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u} \rangle$

$\Rightarrow \overrightarrow{QQ_1}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u}$ are linearly dependent

$$\Rightarrow (**) \quad \text{Diagram: Two parallel lines } \ell \text{ and } \ell_1 \text{ intersected by a transversal line. }$$



2. \Rightarrow 1. If $(*)$ is true then either

the last two rows in $(*)$ are proportional
 $\Rightarrow \langle \mathbf{v} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{u} \rangle$
 $\Rightarrow \ell \parallel \ell_1$

the first row is a linear combination of the last two

$$\begin{aligned} &\Rightarrow \overrightarrow{QQ_1} \in \langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u} \rangle \\ &\Rightarrow Q_1 \in Q + \langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u} \rangle = \pi \\ &\Rightarrow \ell, \ell_1 \subset \pi \end{aligned}$$

3 \Rightarrow 1. If the $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \ell: \begin{cases} ax + by + cz + d = 0 \\ a'x + b'y + c'z + d' = 0 \end{cases} \\ \ell_1: \begin{cases} a_1x + b_1y + c_1z + d_1 = 0 \\ a'_1x + b'_1y + c'_1z + d'_1 = 0 \end{cases} \end{array} \right.$ system

is compatible

then $\ell \cap \ell_1 \neq \emptyset \Rightarrow \ell, \ell_1$ coplanar

$$\text{Let } R = \text{rank} \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c & d \\ a' & b' & c' & d' \\ a_1 & b_1 & c_1 & d_1 \\ a'_1 & b'_1 & c'_1 & d'_1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } r = \text{rank} \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c \\ a' & b' & c' \\ a_1 & b_1 & c_1 \\ a'_1 & b'_1 & c'_1 \end{pmatrix}$$

• notice that $R \geq 2$ and $r \geq 2 \Rightarrow$ if $R=2 \Rightarrow r=2 \Rightarrow$ System $(*)$ is compatible

- Suppose (**) is incompatible $\Leftrightarrow R \leq r \Leftrightarrow$
 \downarrow
 $R \geq 3$ so $R=3$ or 4 but $R \neq 4$ by (***)
 \downarrow
 $R=3$ and $r=2$
- Since $r=2 \Rightarrow$ the last two rows in $\begin{pmatrix} a & b & c \\ a' & b' & c' \\ a_{11} & b_{11} & c_{11} \\ a_{12} & b_{12} & c_{12} \end{pmatrix}$ are linear combinations of the first two rows
 \Rightarrow the homogeneous systems describing directions of l and l_1 are equivalent
 $\Rightarrow \langle u \rangle = \langle v \rangle$
 $\Rightarrow l_1 \parallel l_2$
 $\Rightarrow l_1, l_2$ coplanar

(1) \Rightarrow (3) If $l \cap l_1 \neq \emptyset$ then the system (a) is compatible $\Rightarrow R \leq 3 \Rightarrow$ (**)

If $l \parallel l_1 \Rightarrow \text{rank} \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c \\ a' & b' & c' \\ a_{11} & b_{11} & c_{11} \\ a_{12} & b_{12} & c_{12} \end{pmatrix} = 2 \Rightarrow R \leq 3 \Rightarrow$ (**)

planes

Proposition 4.7. If $\pi_1 : ax + by + cz + d = 0$ and $\pi_2 : a'x + b'y + c'z + d' = 0$ are two distinct planes in the pencil Π_ℓ , then Π_ℓ consists of planes having equations of the form

$$\pi_{\lambda, \mu} : \lambda(ax + by + cz + d) + \mu(a'x + b'y + c'z + d') = 0.$$

where $\lambda, \mu \in \mathbf{K}$ not both zero.

proof similar to the analogue statement for pencils of lines