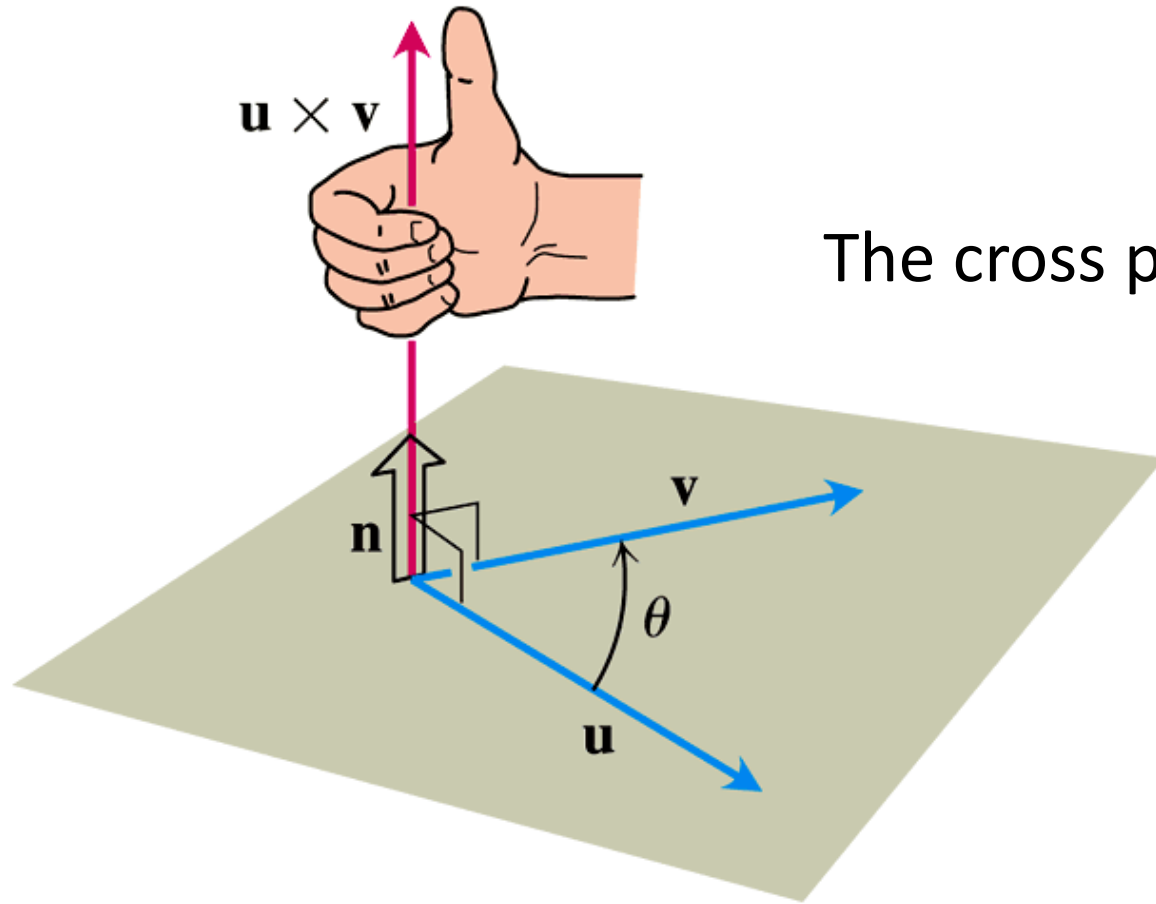


12.4

## **Cross Product**

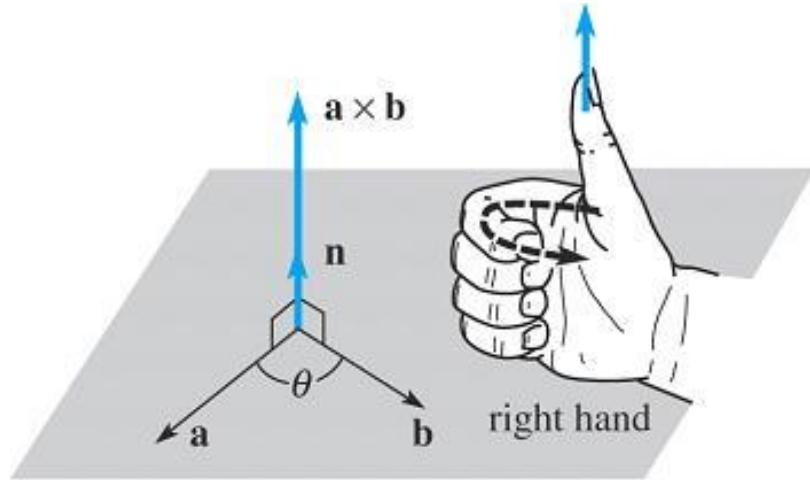
## Geometric description of the cross product of the vectors $\mathbf{u}$ and $\mathbf{v}$



The cross product of two vectors is a vector!

- $\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v}$  is perpendicular to  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$
- The length of  $\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v}$  is  $|\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v}| = |\mathbf{u}| |\mathbf{v}| \sin \theta$
- The direction is given by the right hand side rule

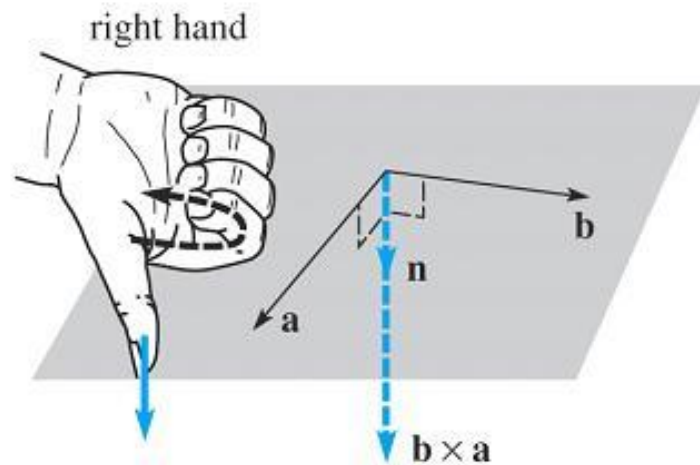
# Right – hand rule



Place your 4 fingers in the direction of the first vector,

curl them in the direction of the second vector,

Your thumb will point in the direction of the cross product



## Algebraic description of the cross product of the vectors $\mathbf{u}$ and $\mathbf{v}$

The **cross product** of  $\mathbf{u} = \langle u_1, u_2, u_3 \rangle$  and  $\mathbf{v} = \langle v_1, v_2, v_3 \rangle$  is

$$\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v} = \langle u_2 v_3 - u_3 v_2, u_3 v_1 - u_1 v_3, u_1 v_2 - u_2 v_1 \rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{check: } (\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v}) \cdot \mathbf{u} &= \langle u_2 v_3 - u_3 v_2, u_3 v_1 - u_1 v_3, u_1 v_2 - u_2 v_1 \rangle \cdot \langle u_1, u_2, u_3 \rangle \\ &= u_2 v_3 u_1 - u_3 v_2 u_1 + u_3 v_1 u_2 - u_1 v_3 u_2 + u_1 v_2 u_3 - u_2 v_1 u_3 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{similary: } (\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v}) \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0$$

length.....

An easier way to remember the formula for the cross products is in terms of *determinants*:

2x2 determinant:  $\begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix} = ad - bc$

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{vmatrix} = 4 - 6 = -2$$

3x3 determinants: An example

Copy 1<sup>st</sup> 2 columns

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 6 & -2 \\ 3 & -1 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 2 \end{vmatrix} \quad \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 6 & -2 \\ 3 & -1 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 2 \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 6 \\ 3 & -1 \\ 4 & 5 \end{vmatrix} \quad \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{sum of} \\ \text{forward} \\ \text{diagonal} \\ \text{products} \end{array} \right) - \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{sum of} \\ \text{backward} \\ \text{diagonal} \\ \text{products} \end{array} \right)$$

$$\text{determinant} = (-2 + 72 - 30) - (36 + 15 + 8) = 40 - 59 = -19$$

$$\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ u_1 & u_2 & u_3 \\ v_1 & v_2 & v_3 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ u_1 & u_2 & u_3 \\ v_1 & v_2 & v_3 \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} \\ u_1 & u_2 \\ v_1 & v_2 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \mathbf{i}u_2v_3 + \mathbf{j}u_3v_1 + \mathbf{k}u_1v_2 - \mathbf{k}u_2v_1 - \mathbf{i}u_3v_2 - \mathbf{j}u_1v_3$$

$$\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v} = (u_2v_3 - u_3v_2)\mathbf{i} - (u_1v_3 - u_3v_1)\mathbf{j} + (u_1v_2 - u_2v_1)\mathbf{k}$$

$$\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v} = \langle u_2v_3 - u_3v_2, u_3v_1 - u_1v_3, u_1v_2 - u_2v_1 \rangle$$

Let  $\mathbf{u} = \langle 1, -2, 1 \rangle$  and  $\mathbf{v} = \langle 3, 1, -2 \rangle$  Find  $\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v}$ .

$$\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 3 & 1 & -2 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 3 & 1 & -2 \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} \\ 1 & -2 \\ 3 & 1 \end{vmatrix}$$

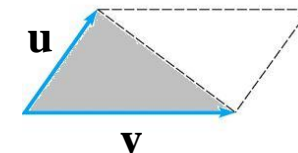
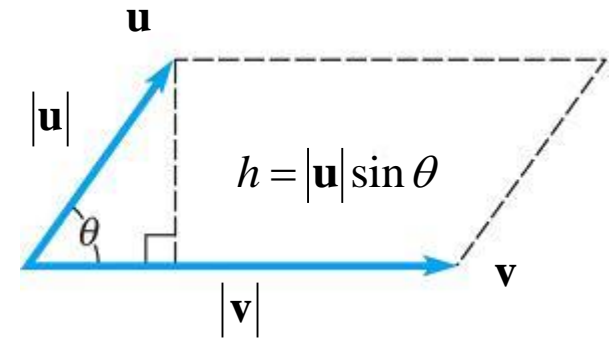
$$\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v} = (4 - 1)\mathbf{i} + (3 + 2)\mathbf{j} + (1 + 6)\mathbf{k}$$

$$\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v} = \langle 3, 5, 7 \rangle$$

## Geometric Properties of the cross product:

Let  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  be nonzero vectors and let  $\theta$  be the angle between  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$ .

1.  $\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v}$  is orthogonal to both  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$ .
2.  $|\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v}| = |\mathbf{u}| |\mathbf{v}| \sin \theta$
3.  $\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$  if and only if  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  are scalar multiples of each other.
4.  $|\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v}| = \text{area of the parallelogram determined by } \mathbf{u} \text{ and } \mathbf{v}.$
5.  $\frac{1}{2} |\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v}| = \text{area of the triangle having } \mathbf{u} \text{ and } \mathbf{v} \text{ as adjacent sides.}$





**Problem:** Compute the area of the triangle two of whose sides are given by the vectors

$$\mathbf{u} = \langle 1, 0, 2 \rangle \text{ and } \mathbf{v} = \langle -1, 3, -2 \rangle$$

$$\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ 1 & 0 & 2 \\ -1 & 3 & -2 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ 1 & 0 & 2 \\ -1 & 3 & -2 \end{vmatrix} \quad \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} \\ 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 3 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= (0 - 6)\mathbf{i} + (-2 + 2)\mathbf{j} + (3 - 0)\mathbf{k}$$

$$= -6\mathbf{i} + 3\mathbf{k}$$

$$= \langle -6, 0, 3 \rangle$$

$$|\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v}| = \sqrt{36 + 9} = \sqrt{45}$$

$$\text{area} = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{45}$$

## Algebraic Properties of the cross product:

Let  $\mathbf{u}$ ,  $\mathbf{v}$ , and  $\mathbf{w}$  be vectors and let  $c$  be a scalar.

$$1. \quad \mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v} = -(\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{u})$$

$$2. \quad \mathbf{u} \times (\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{w}$$

$$3. \quad c(\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v}) = (c\mathbf{u}) \times \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{u} \times (c\mathbf{v})$$

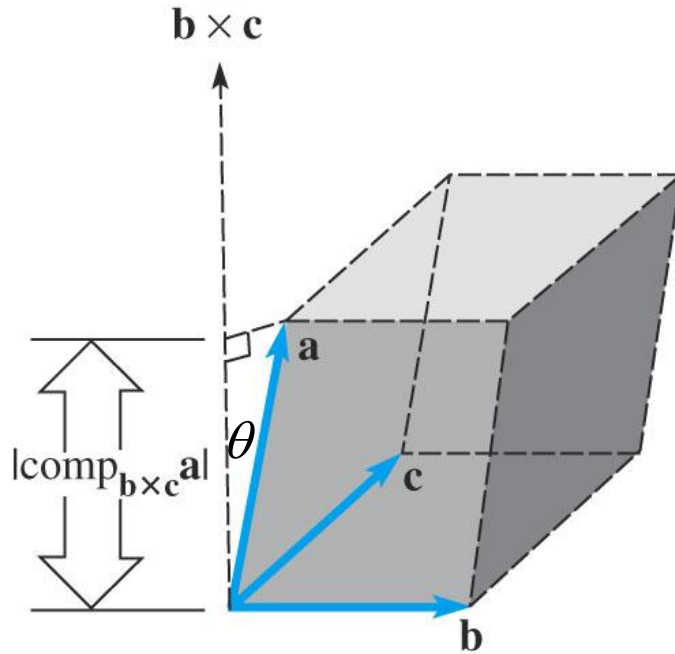
$$4. \quad \mathbf{0} \times \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{0} = \mathbf{0}$$

$$5. \quad (c\mathbf{v}) \times \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$$

$$6. \quad \mathbf{u} \cdot (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{w}) = (\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v}) \cdot \mathbf{w}$$

$$7. \quad \mathbf{u} \times (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{w}) = (\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{w}) \mathbf{v} - (\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}) \mathbf{w}$$

Volume of the parallelepiped determined by the vectors  $\mathbf{a}$ ,  $\mathbf{b}$ , and  $\mathbf{c}$ .



$$\text{Area of the base} = |\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}|$$

$$\text{Height} = \text{comp}_{\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}} \mathbf{a} = |\mathbf{a}| \cos \theta$$

$$\text{Volume} = |\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}| |\mathbf{a}| \cos \theta$$

$$\text{Volume} = |\mathbf{a} \cdot (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c})| \leftarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{this stands} \\ \text{for absolute value} \end{array}$$

$\mathbf{a} \cdot (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c})$  is called the scalar triple product

The vectors are in the same plane (**coplanar**) if the scalar triple product is 0.

**Problem:** Compute the volume of the parallelepiped spanned by the 3 vectors

$$\mathbf{u} = \langle 1, 0, 2 \rangle, \mathbf{v} = \langle -1, 3, -2 \rangle \text{ and } \mathbf{w} = \langle -1, 3, -4 \rangle$$

**Solution:**

From slide 9:  $\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v} = \langle -6, 0, 3 \rangle$

$$\begin{aligned} &\langle -6, 0, 3 \rangle \cdot \langle -1, 3, -4 \rangle \\ &= 6 - 12 = -6 \quad \text{Volume} = 6 \end{aligned}$$

**Quicker:**

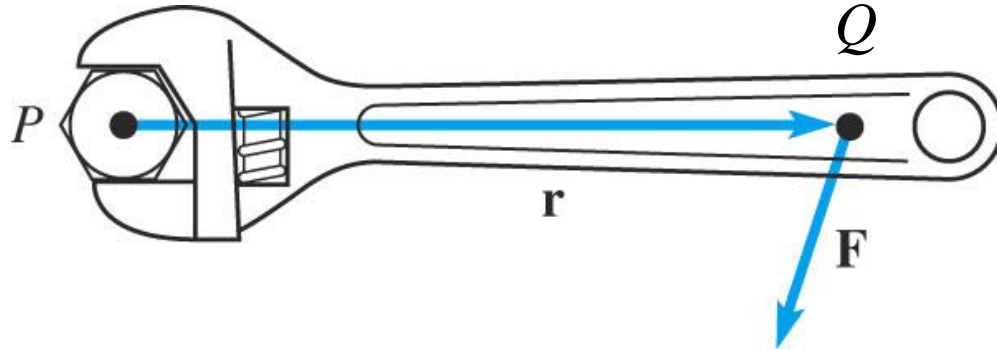
$$(\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v}) \cdot \mathbf{w} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ u_1 & u_2 & u_3 \\ v_1 & v_2 & v_3 \end{vmatrix} \cdot \langle w_1, w_2, w_3 \rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v}) \cdot \mathbf{w} &= \begin{vmatrix} -1 & 3 & -4 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 \\ -1 & 3 & -2 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= 0 - 6 - 12 + 6 + 6 - 0 = -6 \end{aligned}$$

$$= \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ u_1 & u_2 & u_3 \\ v_1 & v_2 & v_3 \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} \\ w_1 & w_2 \end{vmatrix} \cdot \langle w_1, w_2, w_3 \rangle = \begin{vmatrix} w_1 & w_2 & w_3 \\ u_1 & u_2 & u_3 \\ v_1 & v_2 & v_3 \end{vmatrix} = \text{Triple scalar product}$$

(take absolute value)

In physics, the cross product is used to measure **torque**.



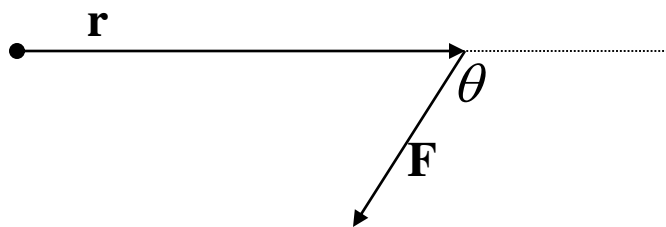
Consider a force  $\mathbf{F}$  acting on a rigid body at a point given by a position vector  $\mathbf{r}$ .

The torque ( $\tau$ ) measures the tendency of the body to rotate about the origin (point  $P$ )

$$\boldsymbol{\tau} = \mathbf{r} \times \mathbf{F}$$

$$|\boldsymbol{\tau}| = |\mathbf{r} \times \mathbf{F}| = |\mathbf{r}| |\mathbf{F}| \sin \theta$$

( $\theta$  is the angle between the force and position vectors)



12.5

## **Lines and Planes**

Recall how to describe lines in the plane (e.g. tangent lines to a graph):

$$y = mx + b \quad m \text{ is the slope}$$
$$b \text{ is the } y \text{ intercept}$$

Point slope formula:  $\frac{y - y_0}{x - x_0} = m$   $(x_0, y_0)$  is on the line

Two point formula:  $\frac{y - y_0}{x - x_0} = \frac{y_1 - y_0}{x_1 - x_0}$   $(x_0, y_0)$  and  $(x_1, y_1)$  are on the line

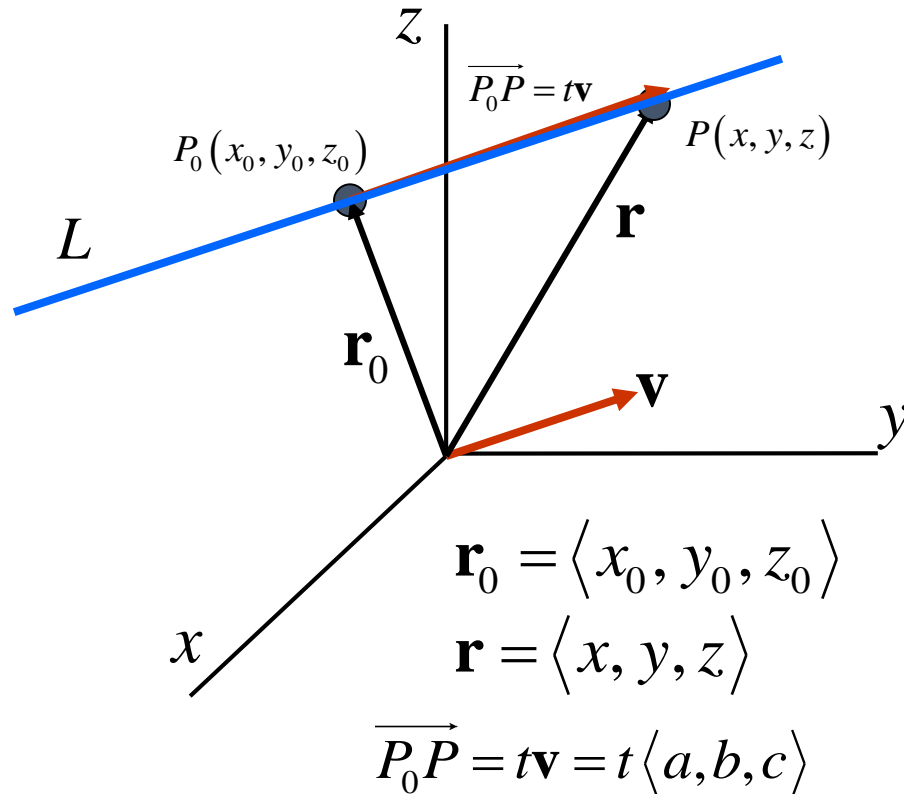
# Equations of Lines and Planes

In order to find the equation of a line, we need :

A) a point on the line  $P_0(x_0, y_0, z_0)$

B) a direction vector for the line  $\mathbf{v} = \langle a, b, c \rangle$

$\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{r}_0 + t\mathbf{v}$  vector equation of line  $L$



Here  $\mathbf{r}_0$  is the vector from the origin to a *specific* point  $P_0$  on the line

$\mathbf{r}$  is the vector from the origin to a *general* point  $P = (x, y, z)$  on the line

$\mathbf{v}$  is a vector which is *parallel* to a vector that lies on the line

$\mathbf{v}$  is *not* unique:  $2\mathbf{v}$ , or  $-\mathbf{v}$  will also do



**vector equation** of the line  $L$

$$\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{r}_0 + t\mathbf{v} \quad \text{or} \quad \langle x, y, z \rangle = \langle x_0, y_0, z_0 \rangle + t \langle a, b, c \rangle$$

equating components we get the **parametric equations** of the line  $L$

$$x = x_0 + at, \quad y = y_0 + bt, \quad z = z_0 + ct$$

Solving for  $t$  we get the **symmetric equations** of the line  $L$

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

### Problem:

Find the parametric equations of the line containing  $P_0 = (5, 1, 3)$  and  $P_1 = (3, -2, 4)$ .

- A) a point on the line  $P_0(x_0, y_0, z_0)$       choose  $P_0 = (5, 1, 3)$       (could also choose  $P_0 = (3, -2, 4)$  )
- B) a direction vector for the line  $\mathbf{v} = \langle a, b, c \rangle$

$$\mathbf{v} = \overrightarrow{P_0P_1} = P_1 - P_0 = \langle 3 - 5, -2 - 1, 4 - 3 \rangle = \langle -2, -3, 1 \rangle$$

$$\text{or } \mathbf{v} = \langle 2, 3, -1 \rangle$$

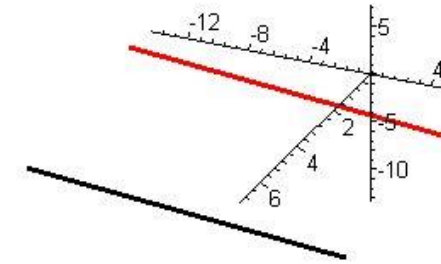
$$\langle x, y, z \rangle = \langle x_0, y_0, z_0 \rangle + t \langle a, b, c \rangle = \langle 5, 1, 3 \rangle + t \langle 2, 3, -1 \rangle$$

$$\text{The line is: } x = 5 + 2t, \quad y = 1 + 3t, \quad z = 3 - t$$

Two lines in 3 space can interact in 3 ways:

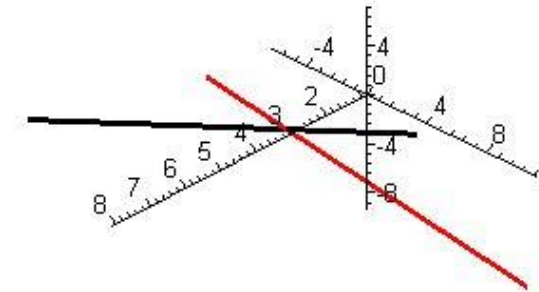
A) **Parallel Lines** -

their direction vectors are scalar multiples of each other



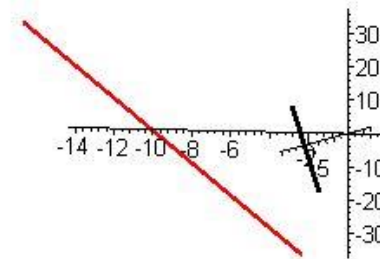
B) **Intersecting Lines** -

there is a specific  $t$  and  $s$ , so that the lines share the same point.



C) **Skew Lines** -

their direction vectors are **not** parallel and there is **no** values of  $t$  and  $s$  that make the lines share the same point.



**Problem:** Determine whether the lines  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  are parallel, skew or intersecting. If they intersect, find the point of intersection.

$$L_1 : x = 3 - t, \quad y = 5 + 3t, \quad z = -1 - 4t \qquad L_2 : x = 8 + 2s, \quad y = -6 - 4s, \quad z = 5 + s$$

**Set the x coordinate equal to each other:**  $3 - t = 8 + 2s$  , or  $2s + t = -5$

**Set the y coordinate equal to each other:**  $5 + 3t = -6 - 4s$  , or  $4s + 3t = -11$

**We get a system of equations:**

$$\begin{array}{llll} 2s + t = -5 & \text{or} & 4s + 2t = -10 & t = -1 \\ 4s + 3t = -11 & & 4s + 3t = -11 & s = -2 \end{array}$$

Check to make sure that the z values are equal for this  $t$  and  $s$ .

$$\begin{aligned} -1 - 4t &= 5 + s \\ -1 - 4(-1) &= 5 + (-2) \\ 3 &= 3 \quad \text{check} \end{aligned}$$

Find the point of intersection using  $L_1$  :

$$\begin{aligned} x &= 3 - (-1) \\ y &= 5 + 3(-1) \\ z &= -1 - 4(-1) \end{aligned} \quad (4, 2, 3)$$

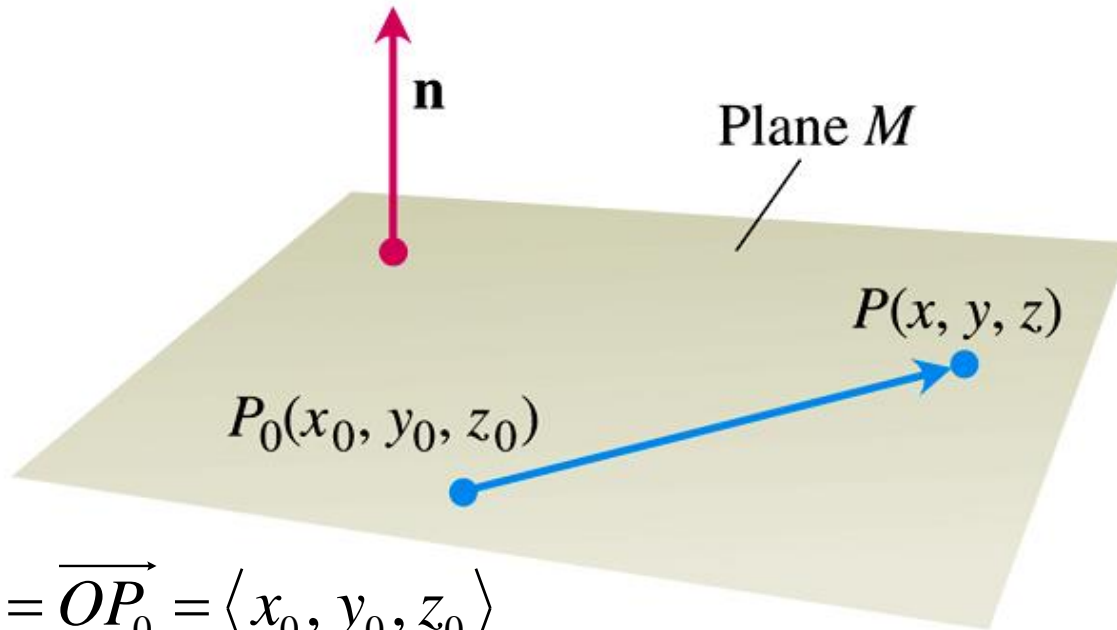
# Planes

In order to find the equation of a plane, we need :

A) a point on the plane  $P_0(x_0, y_0, z_0)$

B) a vector that is orthogonal to the plane  $\mathbf{n} = \langle a, b, c \rangle$

this vector is called  
the **normal vector**  
to the plane



$$\mathbf{r}_0 = \overrightarrow{OP_0} = \langle x_0, y_0, z_0 \rangle$$

$$\mathbf{r} = \overrightarrow{OP} = \langle x, y, z \rangle \quad \mathbf{n} = \langle a, b, c \rangle$$

$$\overrightarrow{P_0P} = \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_0 = \langle x - x_0, y - y_0, z - z_0 \rangle$$

$$\mathbf{n} \cdot (\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_0) = 0$$

$$\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{r}_0$$

vector equation of the plane

$$\mathbf{n} \cdot (\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_0) = 0 \Rightarrow$$

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

scalar equation of the plane

$$ax + by + cz = ax_0 + by_0 + cz_0 \quad \text{or}$$

$$ax + by + cz = d$$

linear equation of the plane

**Problem:** Determine the equation of the plane that contains the lines  $L_1$  and  $L_2$ .

$$L_1 : x = 3 - t, \quad y = 5 + 3t, \quad z = -1 - 4t \qquad L_2 : x = 8 + 2s, \quad y = -6 - 4s, \quad z = 5 + s$$

In order to find the equation of a plane, we need :

A) a point on the plane      can choose e.g.  $P_0 = (3, 5, -1)$

B) a vector that is orthogonal to the plane     $\mathbf{n} = \langle a, b, c \rangle$

We have two vectors in the plane: from  $L_1$  :  $\mathbf{u} = \langle -1, 3, -4 \rangle$  and from  $L_2$  :  $\mathbf{v} = \langle 2, -4, 1 \rangle$

$$\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{v} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ -1 & 3 & -4 \\ 2 & -4 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = (3 - 16)\mathbf{i} + (1 - 8)\mathbf{j} + (4 - 6)\mathbf{k} = -13\mathbf{i} - 7\mathbf{j} - 2\mathbf{k} \quad \text{is normal}$$

$$\mathbf{n} = \langle 13, 7, 2 \rangle \quad 13(x - 3) + 7(y - 5) + 2(z + 1) = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad 13x + 7y + 2z = 72$$