

10. Plane

- **Equation of a plane in normal form:**

- **Vector form:** Equation of a plane which is at a distance of d from the origin, and the unit vector \hat{n} normal to the plane through the origin is $\vec{r} \cdot \hat{n} = d$, where \vec{r} is the position vector of a point in the plane
- **Cartesian form:** Equation of a plane which is at a distance d from the origin and the d.c.'s of the normal to the plane as l, m, n is $lx + my + nz = d$

- **Equation of a plane perpendicular to a given vector and passing through a given point:**

- **Vector form:** Equation of a plane through a point whose position vector is \vec{a} and perpendicular to the vector \vec{N} is $(\vec{r} - \vec{a}) \cdot \vec{N} = 0$, where \vec{r} is the position vector of a point in the plane
- **Cartesian form:** Equation of plane passing through the point (x_1, y_1, z_1) and perpendicular to a given line whose d.r.'s are A, B, C is $A(x - x_1) + B(y - y_1) + C(z - z_1) = 0$

- **Equation of a plane passing through three non-collinear points:**

- **Cartesian form:** Equation of a plane passing through three non-collinear points (x_1, y_1, z_1) , (x_2, y_2, z_2) , and (x_3, y_3, z_3) is
$$\begin{vmatrix} x - x_1 & y - y_1 & z - z_1 \\ x_2 - x_1 & y_2 - y_1 & z_2 - z_1 \\ x_3 - x_1 & y_3 - y_1 & z_3 - z_1 \end{vmatrix} = 0$$
- **Vector form:** Equation of a plane that contains three non-collinear points having position vectors \vec{a} , \vec{b} , and \vec{c} is $(\vec{r} - \vec{a}) \cdot [(\vec{b} - \vec{a}) \times (\vec{c} - \vec{a})] = 0$, where \vec{r} is the position vector of a point in the plane

- **Planes passing through the intersection of two planes:**

- **Vector form:** Equation of the plane passing through intersection of two planes $\vec{r} \cdot \vec{n}_1 = d_1$ and $\vec{r} \cdot \vec{n}_2 = d_2$ is given by, $\vec{r} \cdot (\vec{n}_1 + \lambda \vec{n}_2) = d_1 + \lambda d_2$, where λ is a non-zero constant
- **Cartesian form:** Equation of a plane passing through the intersection of two planes $A_1x + B_1y + C_1z + D_1 = 0$ and $A_2x + B_2y + C_2z + D_2 = 0$, is given by, $(A_1x + B_1y + C_1z + D_1) + \lambda (A_2x + B_2y + C_2z + D_2) = 0$, where λ is a non-zero constant

- **Angle between two planes:** The angle between two planes is defined as the angle between their normals.

- **Vector form:** If θ is the angle between the two planes $\vec{r} \cdot \vec{n}_1 = d_1$ and $\vec{r} \cdot \vec{n}_2 = d_2$, then

$$\cos \theta = \frac{|\vec{n}_1 \cdot \vec{n}_2|}{|\vec{n}_1| |\vec{n}_2|}$$

Note that if two planes are perpendicular to each other, then $\vec{n}_1 \cdot \vec{n}_2 = 0$; and if they are parallel to each other, then \vec{n}_1 is parallel to \vec{n}_2 .

- **Cartesian form:** If θ is the angle between the two planes

$$A_1x + B_1y + C_1z + D_1 = 0 \text{ and } A_2x + B_2y + C_2z + D_2 = 0, \text{ then } \cos \theta = \left| \frac{A_1A_2 + B_1B_2 + C_1C_2}{\sqrt{A_1^2 + B_1^2 + C_1^2} \sqrt{A_2^2 + B_2^2 + C_2^2}} \right|$$

Note that if two planes are perpendicular to each other, then $A_1A_2 + B_1B_2 + C_1C_2 = 0$; and if they are parallel to each other, then $\frac{A_1}{A_2} = \frac{B_1}{B_2} = \frac{C_1}{C_2}$

- **Angle between a line and a plane:** The angle Φ between a line $\vec{r} = \vec{a} + \lambda \vec{b}$ and the plane $\vec{r} \cdot \vec{n} = d$ is the complement of the angle between the line and the normal to the plane and is given by

$$\Phi = \sin^{-1} \left| \frac{\vec{b} \cdot \vec{n}}{|\vec{b}| |\vec{n}|} \right|.$$

- **Co-planarity of two lines**

- **Vector form:** Two lines $\vec{r} = \vec{a}_1 + \lambda \vec{b}_1$ and $\vec{r} = \vec{a}_2 + \mu \vec{b}_2$ are co-planar, if $(\vec{a}_2 - \vec{a}_1) \cdot (\vec{b}_1 \times \vec{b}_2) = 0$

- **Cartesian form:** Two lines $\frac{x-x_1}{a_1} = \frac{y-y_1}{b_1} = \frac{z-z_1}{c_1}$ and $\frac{x-x_2}{a_2} = \frac{y-y_2}{b_2} = \frac{z-z_2}{c_2}$ and $\frac{x-x_2}{a_2} = \frac{y-y_2}{b_2} = \frac{z-z_2}{c_2}$ are co-planar, if $\begin{vmatrix} x_2 - x_1 & y_2 - y_1 & z_2 - z_1 \\ a_1 & b_1 & c_1 \\ a_2 & b_2 & c_2 \end{vmatrix} = 0$

- **Distance of a point from a plane:**

- **Vector form:** The distance of a point, whose position vector is \vec{a} , from the plane $\vec{r} \cdot \hat{n} = d$ is $|d - \vec{a} \cdot \hat{n}|$.

Note:

- If the equation of the plane is in the form of $\vec{r} \cdot \vec{N} = d$, where \vec{N} is the normal to the plane, then the perpendicular distance is $\frac{|\vec{a} \cdot \vec{N} - d|}{|\vec{N}|}$.

- Length of the perpendicular from origin to the plane $\vec{r} \cdot \vec{N} = d$ is $\frac{|d|}{|\vec{N}|}$.

- **Cartesian form:** The distance from a point (x_1, y_1, z_1) to the plane $Ax + By + Cz + D = 0$ is

$$\left| \frac{Ax_1 + By_1 + Cz_1 + D}{\sqrt{A^2 + B^2 + C^2}} \right|.$$