

Lecture #3

\* Organization

- 1<sup>st</sup> hwk should be submitted in class
- 2<sup>nd</sup> hwk will be posted today
- Office Hours: Tue 2-3, Wed 2<sup>30</sup>-3<sup>30</sup>, LOM 219-C

\* Last time

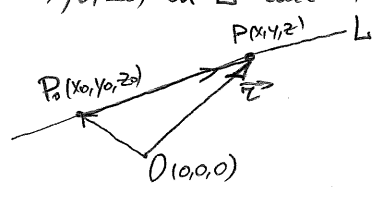
- Cross product → explicit formula  
↳ geometric meaning

! For  $\vec{a}, \vec{b}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , the dot product  $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} \in \mathbb{R}$  is a number, the cross product  $\vec{a} \times \vec{b}$  is a vector in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

- Compare the answers to the last problem we had in class
- Discuss the scalar triple product (see the end of Lecture 2 Notes)
  - ↳ computation as a determinant
  - ↳ geometric meaning of its absolute value.
  - ↳ Ex 11 from the Notes.

\* Equations of Lines

A line  $L$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  (similarly in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ ) is determined uniquely once we know a point  $P_0(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  on  $L$  and the direction of  $L$ , which is described by a vector  $\vec{v} = \langle a, b, c \rangle$  parallel to  $L$ .



$$\vec{OP} = \vec{OP_0} + \vec{P_0P}$$

$\langle x_0, y_0, z_0 \rangle + t\vec{v} = \langle a, b, c \rangle, t \in \mathbb{R}$

So:  $P$  has coordinates  $P(x_0 + ta, y_0 + tb, z_0 + tc)$

Moral: (1) A vector equation of the line  $L$  is  $\vec{r} = \vec{r_0} + t\vec{v}, t \in \mathbb{R}$

(2) Once the coordinate system is fixed, we get a parametric equation of  $L$ :  
 $x = x_0 + at, y = y_0 + bt, z = z_0 + ct$

Warning: Each line has a lot of different parametric eqs as you may:  
 (a) change a "starting point  $P_0$ "  
 (b) change the vector  $\vec{v}$  by multiplying it by any number

E.g.:  $(x=t, y=2t, z=3t+1)$  and  $(x=1+3s, y=2+6s, z=4+9s)$  determine the same line!

Ex 1: (a) Find a vector and parametric equations of the line  $L$  passing through  $P_0(2, 4, 1)$  and parallel to the vector  $\vec{v} = \langle 1, -2, 3 \rangle$ .  
 (b) Find a point on this line whose  $x$ -coordinate is ZERO.

Def: The numbers  $a, b, c$  are called direction numbers of the line  $L$ .

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Ex 2: (a) Find parametric equation of the line that passes through  $A(2,1,3)$  &  $B(3,4,5)$

Take  $P_0 = A$ ,  $\vec{v} = \vec{AB} = \langle 1, 3, 2 \rangle \Rightarrow$  get  $(2+t, 1+3t, 3+2t)$  with  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ .

(b) Find an equation of the line segment between A and B in part (a)

Same as in (a), but  $0 \leq t \leq 1$ .

! In general, the line segment between points A and B (with  $\vec{OA} = \vec{r}_0$ ,  $\vec{OB} = \vec{r}_1$ ) is

$$\vec{r}(t) = \vec{r}_0 + t(\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_0) = (1-t)\vec{r}_0 + t\vec{r}_1, \quad 0 \leq t \leq 1$$

Ex 3: Determine whether the lines  $L_1, L_2$  are parallel, skew, or intersecting:

$$L_1: x = -2+t, y = 1-2t, z = 3t$$

$$L_2: x = 1-s, y = 2+3s, z = -2s$$

! Warning: When working with two lines, you must use different parameters, e.g.  $t$  and  $s$  but never the same parameter  $t$ !

$\vec{v}_1 = \langle 1, -2, 3 \rangle$   
 $\vec{v}_2 = \langle -1, 3, -2 \rangle$  } not parallel  $\Rightarrow L_1$  &  $L_2$  are either skew or intersecting.

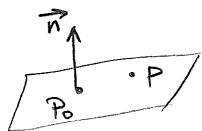
If they do intersect, there should be some  $t, s$  such that

$$\begin{cases} -2+t = 1-s \\ 1-2t = 2+3s \\ 3t = -2s \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} s = 3-t \\ 1-2t = 2+3(3-t) \\ 3t = -2(3-t) \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} s = 3-t \\ 1-2t = 11-3t \\ 3t = -6+2t \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} s = 3-t \\ t = 10 \\ t = -6 \end{cases} \text{ not compatible!}$$

So:  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  must be skew.

### \* Equations of Planes

A plane in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  is determined by a point  $P_0(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  in the plane and a vector  $\vec{n}$  that is orthogonal to the plane.  $\vec{n}$  is called normal vector.



Point  $P \in \mathbb{R}^3$  is in the plane iff  $\vec{P_0P} \perp \vec{n} \Leftrightarrow (\underbrace{\vec{OP} - \vec{OP_0}}_{\vec{r} - \vec{r_0}}) \cdot \vec{n} = 0$

So: A vector equation of the plane is  $\boxed{\vec{n} \cdot (\vec{r} - \vec{r_0}) = 0} \Leftrightarrow \boxed{\vec{n} \cdot \vec{r} = \vec{n} \cdot \vec{r_0}}$

If we fix a coordinate system and write  $\vec{n} = \langle a, b, c \rangle$ , then we immediately get a scalar equation of the plane through  $P_0(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  and perpendicular to  $\vec{n} = \langle a, b, c \rangle$

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

Finally setting  $d = -ax_0 - by_0 - cz_0$ , we arrive to the linear equation of the plane:

$$\boxed{ax + by + cz + d = 0}$$

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Ex 4: Find an equation of the plane through the point  $(3, -1, 4)$  and perpendicular to the line  $L: x=2-t, y=3+2t, z=1-7t$ .

► For  $\vec{n}$  we can take the direction vector of  $L$ , i.e.  $\vec{n} = \langle -1, 2, -7 \rangle$

So:  $-1(x-3) + 2(y+1) - 7(z-4) = 0$  □

Ex 5: Find an equation of the plane that passes through the points  $P(1, 2, 3), Q(2, 1, 1), R(3, 0, 1)$ .

► Can take  $P_0 = P$  and  $\vec{n} = \vec{PQ} \times \vec{PR} = \langle -2, -2, 0 \rangle$  (see last problem in the previous class)

So:  $-2(x-1) - 2(y-2) = 0$  □

Ex 6: Find the point at which the line  $L: x=-1-t, y=2+3t, z=-10t$  intersects the plane  $2x+y+\frac{z}{5}-1=0$

► Plugging expressions for  $x, y, z$  in terms of  $t$  into equation of the plane, we get:  
 $-2-2t+2+3t-2t-1=0 \Rightarrow -t-1=0 \Rightarrow t=-1 \Rightarrow x=-1-(-1)=0, y=2-3=-1, z=-10(-1)=10$   
 $\Rightarrow (0, -1, 10)$  □

Given two planes, they are either parallel (may coincide) or intersect in a line. In the latter case, we note that:

- (1) the direction of the line of intersection may be chosen as  $\vec{n}_1 \times \vec{n}_2$ , where  $\vec{n}_1$  &  $\vec{n}_2$  are the normal vectors to the planes
- (2) to find a point on that line, you need to find a solution of two linear equations in  $x, y, z$ .
- (3) the angle between the planes is the acute angle between  $\vec{n}_1$  and  $\vec{n}_2$ .

Ex 7: (a) Find an angle between the planes  $x-y+z=2$  and  $2x+y-2z=1$

(b) Find a parametric equation for the line of their intersection.

► (a)  $\vec{n}_1 = \langle 1, -1, 1 \rangle, \vec{n}_2 = \langle 2, 1, -2 \rangle \Rightarrow \cos \theta = \frac{\vec{n}_1 \cdot \vec{n}_2}{\|\vec{n}_1\| \|\vec{n}_2\|} = \frac{-1}{3\sqrt{3}} \Rightarrow \boxed{\text{angle b/w the planes is } \cos^{-1}(1/3\sqrt{3})}$

(b)  $\vec{v} = \vec{n}_1 \times \vec{n}_2 = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & -2 \end{vmatrix} = \hat{i} + 4\hat{j} + 3\hat{k} = \langle 1, 4, 3 \rangle$

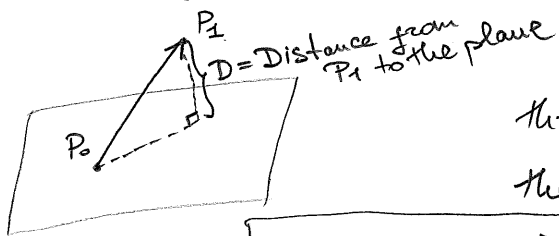
To find any common solution of  $\begin{cases} x-y+z=2 \\ 2x+y-2z=1 \end{cases}$  first express  $x=2+y-z$  from the 1<sup>st</sup> equation and plugging into the 2<sup>nd</sup> get  $4+2y-2z+y-2z=1 \Rightarrow 3y-4z=-3 \Rightarrow$  can pick  $z=0, y=-1 \Rightarrow x=1 \Rightarrow P_0(1, -1, 0)$

So: The equation of the line is

$L: x=1+t, y=-1+4t, z=3t$  □

### Lecture #3

#### \* Distance from a point to a plane



Given a point  $P_1(x_1, y_1, z_1)$  and a plane passing through  $P_0(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  and with a normal vector  $\vec{n} = \langle a, b, c \rangle$  the distance from  $P_1$  to this plane equals

$$D = \left| \text{comp}_{\vec{n}} \vec{P_0P_1} \right| = \frac{|\vec{P_0P_1} \cdot \vec{n}|}{\|\vec{n}\|} = \frac{|a(x_1 - x_0) + b(y_1 - y_0) + c(z_1 - z_0)|}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + c^2}}$$

Thus, if the plane is given by a linear equation  $ax + by + cz + d = 0$ , then

$$D = \frac{|ax_1 + by_1 + cz_1 + d|}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + c^2}}$$

Ex 8: Compute a distance from  $P(1, 2, -3)$  to the plane  $x - 2y + 3z = 8$ .

$$\triangleright D = \frac{|1 - 4 - 9 - 8|}{\sqrt{1 + 4 + 9}} = \frac{20}{\sqrt{14}}$$

Note: To find the closest point on the plane to the point  $P_1$ , you just need to find the point of intersection of the plane and the line  $L$  passing through  $P_1$  in the direction  $\vec{n}$ .