

# Planes

The Vector Product ("cross product")  
(3D vectors only)

$$\vec{u} = \vec{i} + 2\vec{j} - \vec{k}$$

$$\vec{v} = 2\vec{i} - \vec{j} + 3\vec{k}$$

$$(\vec{i} + 2\vec{j} - \vec{k}) \times (2\vec{i} - \vec{j} + 3\vec{k})$$

$$\vec{u} \times \vec{v} = \det \begin{pmatrix} \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 2 & -1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & -1 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

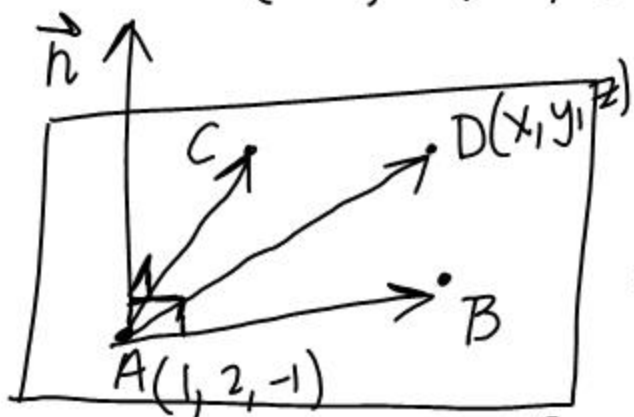
$$= 5\vec{i} - 5\vec{j} - 5\vec{k}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{u} \cdot (\vec{u} \times \vec{v}) &= (\vec{i} + 2\vec{j} - \vec{k}) \cdot (5\vec{i} - 5\vec{j} - 5\vec{k}) \\ &= 5 - 10 + 5 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{v} \cdot (\vec{u} \times \vec{v}) &= (2\vec{i} - \vec{j} + 3\vec{k}) \cdot (5\vec{i} - 5\vec{j} - 5\vec{k}) \\ &= 10 + 5 - 15 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$\vec{u} \times \vec{v}$  is normal to both  $\vec{u}$  and  $\vec{v}$

Ex. Write a Cartesian Equation for the plane through  $A(1, 2, -1)$ ,  $B(2, 3, 4)$ , and  $C(-1, 3, 5)$ . "terminal-initial"



$$\vec{AB} = \vec{i} + \vec{j} + 5\vec{k}$$

$$\vec{AC} = -2\vec{i} + \vec{j} + 6\vec{k}$$

$$\vec{n} = \vec{AB} \times \vec{AC} = \det \begin{pmatrix} \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ 1 & 1 & 5 \\ -2 & 1 & 6 \end{pmatrix} = (6\vec{i} - 10\vec{j} + \vec{k}) - (-2\vec{i} + 5\vec{j} + 6\vec{k})$$

normal vector:  $\vec{n} = \vec{i} - 16\vec{j} + 3\vec{k}$

$$\vec{AD} = (x-1)\vec{i} + (y-2)\vec{j} + (z+1)\vec{k}$$

$$\vec{n} \cdot \vec{AD} = 0$$

$$\vec{n} \cdot \vec{AD} = 0$$

$$(\vec{i} - 16\vec{j} + 3\vec{k}) \cdot ((x-1)\vec{i} + (y-2)\vec{j} + (z+1)\vec{k}) = 0$$

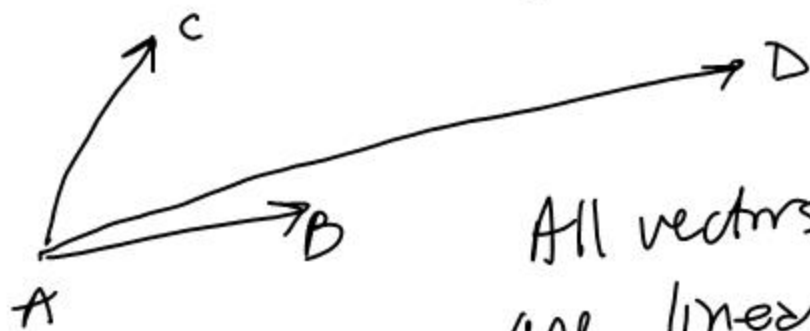
$$x-1 + (-16)(y-2) + 3(z+1) = 0$$

$$\boxed{x - 16y + 3z = -34}$$

$$x - 16y + 3z$$

Cartesian Eq. for  
the plane through  
A, B, and C.

Find the vector equation for this plane.



All vectors in this plane  
are linear combinations  
of  $\vec{AB}$  and  $\vec{AC}$ .

$$\text{EX. } 3\vec{AB} - 2\vec{AC}$$

$$\boxed{\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} + \alpha \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \beta \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}}$$

↑ point A      ↑  $\vec{AB}$       ↑  $\vec{AC}$

$$\vec{r} = (1 + \alpha - 2\beta)\vec{i} + (2 + \alpha + \beta)\vec{j} + (-1 + 5\alpha + 6\beta)\vec{k}$$

parametric eqs

$$\begin{cases} x = 1 + \alpha - 2\beta \\ y = 2 + \alpha + \beta \\ z = -1 + 5\alpha + 6\beta \end{cases}$$

Ex. Find a Cartesian Equation for the plane through P(2, 4, 1),

Q(1, 1, 1) and R(3, 2, 2)

$$\vec{n} = \det \begin{pmatrix} \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ -3 & -3 & 0 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = -3\vec{i} + \vec{j} + 5\vec{k}$$

$(-3\vec{i} + 2\vec{k}) - (-3\vec{i} - \vec{j})$

$$\boxed{-3x + y + 5z = 3}$$

plug  
in Q

$$-3(1) + (1) + 5(1)$$

plug in P  $-3(2) + (4) + 5(1) = 3$

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HW  $U (-2, 4, 6)$

$$V (1, 2, 1)$$

$$W (3, 3, 4)$$

Write the vector, parametric, and Cartesian equations for the plane through  $U, V,$  and  $W$ .