

1. Consider the position vectors $\vec{A} = (-1, 0, 2)$, $\vec{B} = (2, 2, 0)$ and $\vec{C} = (4, -2, 2)$ in \mathbb{R}^3 .

a. (5 points) Find the general equation of the plane which goes through these three points in \mathbb{R}^3 .

$$\vec{AB} = \vec{B} - \vec{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\vec{AC} = \vec{C} - \vec{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$-4x - 10y - 16z = -28$$

$$\boxed{2x + 5y + 8z = 14}$$

$$\vec{n} = \vec{AB} \times \vec{AC} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ 3 & 2 & -2 \\ 5 & -2 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = \hat{i} \begin{vmatrix} 2 & -2 \\ -2 & 0 \end{vmatrix} - \hat{j} \begin{vmatrix} 3 & -2 \\ 5 & 0 \end{vmatrix} + \hat{k} \begin{vmatrix} 3 & 2 \\ 5 & -2 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= -4\hat{i} - 10\hat{j} - 16\hat{k}$$

Eqⁿ of Plane $\vec{n} \cdot \vec{x} = \vec{n} \cdot \vec{p}$

Pick ANY point

$$\vec{n} \cdot \vec{p} = \begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ -10 \\ -16 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = +4 + 0 - 32 = -28$$

$$\vec{n} \cdot \vec{p} = \begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ -10 \\ -16 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = -8 - 20 - 0 = -28$$

b. (2 points) Show that a normal vector for your plane in (a) is $\vec{n} = 2\hat{i} + 5\hat{j} + 8\hat{k}$.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix} = 6 + 10 - 16 = 0$$

is parallel to $\begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ -10 \\ -16 \end{pmatrix} = -2 \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix}$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix} = 10 - 10 + 0 = 0$$

We showed that $\begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ -10 \\ -16 \end{pmatrix}$ is a normal to the plane

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -4 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix} = 4 - 20 + 16 = 0$$

because $\vec{n} \cdot \vec{A} = \vec{n} \cdot \vec{B} = \vec{n} \cdot \vec{C} = D$ (same value for all points)

(3 points) Show that the normal vector for the plane given in part (b) is not orthogonal to any of the position vectors $\vec{A} = (-1, 0, 2)$, $\vec{B} = (2, 2, 0)$ or $\vec{C} = (4, -2, 2)$. Is this a surprise? EXPLAIN YOUR ANSWER!

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = -2 + 0 + 16 = 14$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = 4 + 10 + 0 = 14$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = 8 - 10 + 16 = 14$$

The normal is not orthogonal to the position vector if is orthogonal to the DISPLACEMENT VECTORS $\vec{AB}, \vec{BC}, \vec{CA}$