Equations of Lines - §10.5

## Lines, Planes, and Automobiles!

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#### **Two Lines**

In three dimensions, two lines can

- be parallel
- intersect

be skew

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Example. Where does this line pass through the *xy*-plane? *Answer:* In other words, \_\_\_\_\_

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A plane is defined by a normal vector  $\vec{\mathbf{n}}$  and a point  $\vec{\mathbf{r}}_0 = (x_0, y_0, z_0)$ . For any point  $\vec{\mathbf{r}}$  on the plane,  $\vec{\mathbf{r}} - \vec{\mathbf{r}}_0$  is perpendicular to  $\vec{\mathbf{n}}$ .

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 $\vec{\mathbf{n}} \cdot (\vec{\mathbf{r}} - \vec{\mathbf{r}}_0) = 0.$   $\langle a, b, c \rangle \cdot \langle x - x_0, y - y_0, z - z_0 \rangle = 0$   $a(x - x_0) + b(y - y_0) + c(z - z_0) = 0$  ax + by + cz = d

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Alternate forms

$$\vec{\mathbf{n}} \cdot (\vec{\mathbf{r}} - \vec{\mathbf{r}}_0) = 0.$$
  
$$\langle a, b, c \rangle \cdot \langle x - x_0, y - y_0, z - z_0 \rangle = 0$$
  
$$a(x - x_0) + b(y - y_0) + c(z - z_0) = 0$$
  
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Use the equation of the line and the plane:  $2x + 3y - 5z + 10 = 0 \implies 2(1 + 2t) + 3(0 + 3t) - 5(-1 - 5t) + 10 = 0$ 

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Simplifying, the point  $P_1$  where the line hits the plane is when  $t = \frac{-17}{38}$ .  $\vec{P}_1 - \vec{P}_0 = \frac{-17}{38} \langle 2, 3, -5 \rangle$ , so  $|\vec{P}_1 - \vec{P}_0| = \frac{17}{38} \sqrt{2^2 + 3^2 + (-5)^2} = \frac{17}{-5}$ .

$$|P_1 - P_0| = \frac{11}{38}\sqrt{2^2 + 3^2} + (-5)^2 = \frac{11}{\sqrt{38}}$$