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 $|\vec{P}_1 - \vec{P}_0| = \frac{17}{38} \sqrt{2^2 + 3^2 + (-5)^2} = \frac{17}{-5}$.

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