

Adapted from Question 1 on Exam 1 for Math 212 Fall 2014.

a. (1 point) Show that the equation of the plane \mathcal{P} that containing the points $A(1, 0, 0)$, $B(1, 2, -2)$, and $C(0, -3, 4)$ is $x + y + z = 1$. HINT: You do NOT have to compute a vector cross product to answer this question!

$$1 + 0 + 0 = 1 = 1 \checkmark$$

$$1 + 2 - 2 = 1 = 1 \checkmark$$

$$0 + -3 + 4 = 1 = 1 \checkmark$$

$$\vec{n} \cdot (\vec{C} - \vec{A}) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} = 0 \checkmark$$

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

$$\vec{C} - \vec{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\vec{n} \cdot (\vec{B} - \vec{A}) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} = 0 \checkmark$$

a. (1 point) Consider the plane \mathcal{Q} given by the equation $x + y + z = 0$ and the plane \mathcal{P} given by the equation $x + y + z = 1$. What can you say about the points of intersection of planes \mathcal{P} and \mathcal{Q} ? EXPLAIN YOUR ANSWER.

Planes \mathcal{P} and \mathcal{Q} must be parallel since they have the same normal vector, $\vec{n} = (1, 1, 1)$. Thus they have NO points of intersection.

c. (3 points) What is the minimum distance between the planes \mathcal{P} and \mathcal{Q} ? SHOW ALL YOUR WORK AND GIVE AN EXPLANATION FOR HOW YOU KNOW THIS IS THE MINIMUM DISTANCE BETWEEN THE PLANES.

$\vec{x} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} t$ is the equation of the line in the direction of the normal to the plane

When this line intersects plane \mathcal{Q}

we know $x + y + z = 1$

$$\text{so } t + t + t = 1$$

$$3t = 1$$

$$t = 1/3$$

$(1/3, 1/3, 1/3)$ is the point on plane \mathcal{P}

Pick point on \mathcal{P} and project onto normal and take magnitude

$$\vec{w} = \text{proj}_{\vec{n}}(\vec{OB}) = \frac{\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}}{\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\|\vec{w}\| = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}$$

Distance between planes is $\| (1/3, 1/3, 1/3) - (0, 0, 0) \|$

$$= \| (1/3, 1/3, 1/3) \|$$

$$= \sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^2} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}$$

Since the planes are parallel, their distance is CONSTANT.

