

# Equation of a line in 2-d

- 1  $y = k(x - x_0) + y_0$  (coordinate equation: point-slope)  $k$ : slope,
- 2  $x = At + x_0, y = Bt + y_0$ , (parametric equation)  
 $\langle A, B \rangle$ : direction of line
- 3  $\langle a, b \rangle \cdot \langle x - x_0, y - y_0 \rangle = 0$ ,  
(vector equation)  $\langle a, b \rangle$ : normal direction  
(meaning: all points such that  $\langle x - x_0, y - y_0 \rangle$  is orthogonal to  $\langle a, b \rangle$ )
- 4  $ax + by = c$  (a general form)

**Example 1:** Find the three forms of the equations of the line passing through  $(1, 2)$  and  $(-3, 7)$ .

# Equation of a plane in 3-d

vector equation:  $\langle a, b, c \rangle \cdot \langle x - x_0, y - y_0, z - z_0 \rangle = 0$

$\langle a, b, c \rangle$ : normal vector,  $(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  a point on the plane  
(one point and one direction can determine a plane)

a general form:  $ax + by + cz = d$  ( $\langle a, b, c \rangle$ : normal vector)

## Example 2:

- 1 Find the equation of the plane that passes through the points  $P(1, 2, 3)$ ,  $Q(2, -4, 9)$  and  $R(0, 5, -4)$ .
- 2 Find the angle between the planes  $x - y + z = 4$  and  $3x + 4y - 5z = 0$ .
- 3 Find the equation of the plane through the point  $P(1, 2, 3)$  and parallel to  $2x + 4y + 7z = 18$

# Equation of a line in 3-d

Parametric equation:  $x = At + x_0$ ,  $y = Bt + y_0$ ,  $z = Ct + z_0$   
 $\langle A, B, C \rangle$ : direction of line

Vector version:  $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{r}_0 + t\mathbf{v}$ , where  $\mathbf{r}_0$  is a vector from origin to one of the points on the line, and  $\mathbf{v}$  is the direction of the line.

Symmetric equation:  $t = \frac{x - x_0}{A} = \frac{y - y_0}{B} = \frac{z - z_0}{C}$   
(IF  $A \neq 0$ ,  $B \neq 0$ ,  $C \neq 0$ )

## Example 3:

- 1 Find the parametric and symmetric equations of the line passing through  $P(1, 2, 3)$  and  $Q(-4, 7, 0)$ .
- 2 Find the parametric and symmetric equations of the line of  $z$ -axis.
- 3 Find the equation of the line where the planes  $x + y + z = 0$  and  $2x - 3y + 7z = 9$  intersect.

## Summary:

Equation of plane:  $\vec{n} \cdot \overrightarrow{r - r_0} = 0$ , where  $\vec{n}$  is the normal vector,  $r_0$  is a point on the plane.

Equation of the line:  $\overrightarrow{r - r_0} = t\vec{n}$ , where  $r_0$  is a point on the line and  $\vec{n}$  is the direction of the line.

# The relations of lines and planes

In 2-d, two lines are either parallel or intersecting

In 3-d, two planes are either parallel or intersecting  
(parallel if their normal vectors are parallel)

In 3-d, two lines can be parallel, intersecting, or neither (skew)

## Example 4:

- 1 Determine the relation of planes  $x + 2y + 3z = 10$  and  $3x + 6y + 9z = 0$
- 2 Determine the relation of lines  $x = 2t + 3, y = -3t - 4, z = 5t + 7$  and  $x = 4s - 9, y = 8s - 3, z = -3s + 5$ .
- 3 Determine the relation of lines  $x = 2t + 3, y = -3t - 4, z = 5t + 7$  and  $x = 4s + 3, y = -6s - 4, z = 10s + 7$ .

# Distances

The distance from a point  $P(x_1, y_1, z_1)$  to a plane  $ax + by + cz + d = 0$ :

$$d = \frac{|ax_1 + by_1 + cz_1 + d|}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + c^2}}$$

**Example 5:**

- 1 Find the distance from  $P(1, 2, 3)$  to the plane  $5x - 7y + z = 22$ .
- 2 Find the distance between two parallel planes  $5x - 7y + z = 22$  and  $5x - 7y + z = 1$ .
- 3 Find the distance between the lines  $x = 2t + 3, y = -3t - 4, z = 5t + 7$  and  $x = 4s - 9, y = 8s - 3, z = -3s + 5$ .