

Analytical geometry of three dimensions (1)

Q.) The plane: -
Find the intercept form of the equation of a plane

OR
Find the equation of a plane which makes intercepts a, b and c from x, y and z axis respectively.

OR
Find the equation of the plane in the form of $\frac{x}{a} + \frac{y}{b} + \frac{z}{c} = 1$.

Ans. Let the equation of the plane be

$$lx + my + nz = p \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

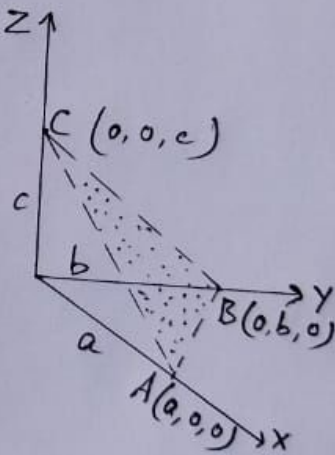
Let a, b, c be the parts of the axis of x, y, z intercepted between the origin and the plane.

Now the plane (1) cuts the axis of x in the point $A(a, 0, 0)$

$$\therefore la + m \cdot 0 + n \cdot 0 = p,$$

$$\text{i.e. } l = p/a.$$

Also, the plane (1) cuts the y and the z axis at the points $B(0, b, 0)$ and $C(0, 0, c)$ respectively.



$\therefore l \cdot 0 + m \cdot b + n \cdot 0 = p$, i.e. $m = p/b$ (2)
 and $l \cdot 0 + m \cdot 0 + n \cdot c = p$, i.e. $n = p/c$
 substituting the values of l, m and n in
 (1), we get

$$\frac{p}{a}x + \frac{p}{b}y + \frac{p}{c}z = p.$$

Hence
$$\frac{x}{a} + \frac{y}{b} + \frac{z}{c} = 1.$$

This is the required equation of the plane.

Q.) Find the equation of the plane passing through the intersection of the planes $x+y+z=6$ and $2x+3y+4z+5=0$ and the point $(1, 1, 1)$

Sol: Any plane through the intersection of the given planes is

$$x+y+z-6 + k(2x+3y+4z+5) = 0$$

If it passes through $(1, 1, 1)$

then

$$1+1+1-6 + k(2+3+4+5) = 0$$

$$\therefore k = \frac{3}{14}$$

Hence the required equation of the plane is

$$x+y+z-6 + \frac{3}{14}(2x+3y+4z+5) = 0$$

$$\text{or, } 14(x+y+z-6) + 3(2x+3y+4z+5) = 0$$

$$\text{or, } 20x + 23y + 26z - 69 = 0$$