

CW2



1(a)  $\vec{r}$  denotes (any) position vector on the plane given by  
 $(\vec{r} - \vec{r}_0) \cdot \vec{N} = 0$  (\*)

(b)  $\vec{r}_0$  denotes (one) position vector on the plane (\*)

(c)  $\vec{N}$  is (not) unique.

If  $\vec{N}$  is a normal vector, then  $k\vec{N}$  is also a normal vector, where  $k$  is (any) (non-zero) real no.

(d) Let  $\vec{r} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix}$  & We know that  $\vec{N} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ . Therefore  
&  $\vec{r}_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$  [∵ the plane passes through  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ .]

(\*) takes the form

$$\left( \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right) \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 0 \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

$\uparrow \quad \uparrow \quad \uparrow \quad \uparrow$   
 $\vec{r} \quad \vec{r}_0 \quad \vec{r} \quad \vec{N}$   
dot product.

After simplification, we get

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

i.e.  $x + y + z = 0$ .

2. (a) The plane  $x - 2y + 3z = 1$  does (not) pass through the origin, because

$$x=0, y=0, z=0$$

doesn't satisfy the equation, since

$$\begin{array}{r} 0 - 2 \cdot 0 + 3 \cdot 0 \\ \parallel \\ 0 \end{array} \neq 1$$

(b) Rewriting the equation of the plane in the form  $\mathcal{L}$

$$x - 2y + 3z - 1 = 0$$

Name the left-hand side as  $F(x, y, z)$ .

Then we learned from one of the lectures that

$\vec{\nabla} F$  is the normal vector to this plane.

But what is  $\vec{\nabla} F$ ?

$$\vec{\nabla} F = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial F}{\partial x} \\ \frac{\partial F}{\partial y} \\ \frac{\partial F}{\partial z} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial (x - 2y + 3z - 1)}{\partial x} \\ \frac{\partial (x - 2y + 3z - 1)}{\partial y} \\ \frac{\partial (x - 2y + 3z - 1)}{\partial z} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

Therefore ANS:  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$ .

(c) Since  $\vec{n} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$ .

If we denote any (position) vector  $\vec{r}$  on the plane by  $\vec{r} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix}$ , then

"all we need to do is to find (one) (position) vector on the plane!"

This is done by trial-and-error!

Since  $x - 2y + 3z = 1$

If we put  $x=0$ ,  $y=0$ , then  $z = \frac{1}{3}$ . Therefore we can choose  $\vec{r}_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \frac{1}{3} \end{pmatrix}$ .

Then we have

$$\left( \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \frac{1}{3} \end{pmatrix} \right) \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$\uparrow$                      $\uparrow$                      $\uparrow$   
 $\vec{r}$                      $\vec{r}_0$                      $\vec{n}$

$\frac{3}{2}$

3. We can choose, for example,  
the vector  
 $\vec{u}$  &  $\vec{v}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{u} &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

$$\vec{v} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

