Exercise 28

Find an equation for the plane that passes through the point (2, -1, 3) and is perpendicular to the line $\mathbf{v} = (1, -2, 2) + t(3, -2, 4)$.

Solution

The equation for a plane is

$$\mathbf{n} \cdot (\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_0) = 0,$$

where **n** is a vector normal to the plane and \mathbf{r}_0 is the position vector for any point in the plane. The direction vector of the line, (3, -2, 4), serves as a normal vector to the plane, and (2, -1, 3) is the needed position vector.

$$(3,-2,4) \cdot (x-2,y+1,z-3) = 0$$
$$3(x-2) - 2(y+1) + 4(z-3) = 0$$
$$3x - 6 - 2y - 2 + 4z - 12 = 0$$
$$3x - 2y + 4z = 20$$