

4. Find an equation for the plane passing through the point $P_0(3, 2, 1)$ and containing the line of intersection of the planes $\mathcal{P}_1 : x + y + z = 3$ and $\mathcal{P}_2 : x + 2y + 3z = 6$.

↑
①

↑
②

Consider the equation $a \times \textcircled{1} + b \times \textcircled{2}$ where a, b are constants, not both 0:

$$\mathcal{P}: a \cdot (x + y + z) + b \cdot (x + 2y + 3z) = 3a + 6b \quad \textcircled{3}$$

This equation defines a plane in space.

Since every point (x, y, z) which satisfies both equation ① and equation ② also satisfies equation ③, this plane contains the line of intersection of \mathcal{P}_1 and \mathcal{P}_2 .

\mathcal{P} contains the point P_0 exactly when $a \cdot (3 + 2 + 1) + b \cdot (3 + 2 \cdot 2 + 3 \cdot 1) = 3a + 6b$.

⇕

$$3a + 4b = 0$$

Let us choose $a = 4$ and $b = -3$. Then

$$\mathcal{P}: x - 2y - 5z = -6$$

is the equation for the plane we seek.