

Section 12.3 The Dot Product

■ Definition

If $\mathbf{a} = \langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle$ and $\mathbf{b} = \langle b_1, b_2, b_3 \rangle$, then, the **dot product** of \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} is defined by

$$\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = a_1 b_1 + a_2 b_2 + a_3 b_3$$

Similarly, the dot product of two-dimension vectors is defined:

$$\langle a_1, a_2 \rangle \cdot \langle b_1, b_2 \rangle = a_1 b_1 + a_2 b_2$$

Example 1 (1) $\langle 2, 4 \rangle \cdot \langle 3, -1 \rangle =$ _____

(2) $\langle -1, 7, 4 \rangle \cdot \left\langle 6, 2, -\frac{1}{2} \right\rangle =$ _____

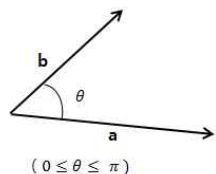
(3) $(\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} - 3\mathbf{k}) \cdot (2\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k}) =$ _____

■ Properties of the dot product

If \mathbf{a} , \mathbf{b} , and \mathbf{c} are vectors in V_3 and c is a scalar, then

1. $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a} = |\mathbf{a}|^2$
2. $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{a}$ (교환법칙)
3. $\mathbf{a} \cdot (\mathbf{b} + \mathbf{c}) = \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c}$
4. $(c\mathbf{a}) \cdot \mathbf{b} = c(\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}) = \mathbf{a} \cdot (c\mathbf{b})$
5. $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{0} = 0$

■ Theorem(a geometric interpretation of the dot product)



If θ is the angle between the vectors \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} , then

$$\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = |\mathbf{a}| |\mathbf{b}| \cos \theta.$$

Example 2 If the vectors \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} have length 4 and 6, and the angle between them is $\frac{\pi}{3}$.
find $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}$.

Solution.

■ Corollary If θ is the angle between the nonzero vectors \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} , then

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}}{|\mathbf{a}| |\mathbf{b}|}$$

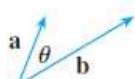
Example 3 Find the angle between the vectors $\mathbf{a} = \langle 2, 2, -1 \rangle$ and $\mathbf{b} = \langle 5, -3, 2 \rangle$.

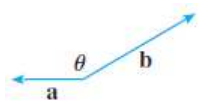
Solution.

■ Definition Two nonzero vectors \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} are called **perpendicular**(or **orthogonal**) if the angle between them is $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$.

■ Theorem \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} are orthogonal if and only if $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = 0$.

Example 4 Show that $2\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k}$ is perpendicular to $5\mathbf{i} - 4\mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k}$.

■ Remark (1)  If $0 \leq \theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$, then $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} > 0$.

(2)  If $\frac{\pi}{2} < \theta \leq \pi$, then $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} < 0$.

■ Projections

For the given vectors **a** and **b** with the same initial point *P*:

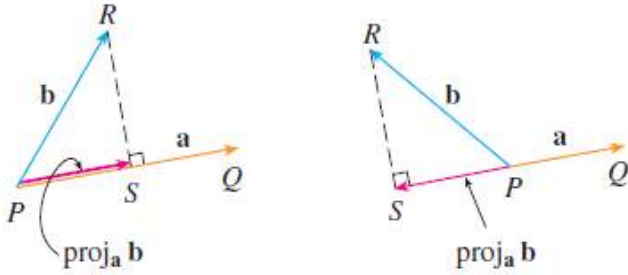


Figure 4 Vector projection

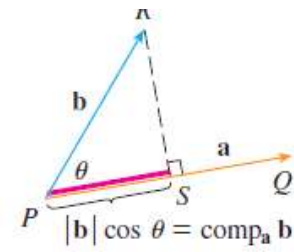


Figure 5 Scalar projection

Scalar projection of **b** onto **a** : $\text{comp}_a \mathbf{b} = |\mathbf{b}| \cos \theta = \frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}}{|\mathbf{a}|}$

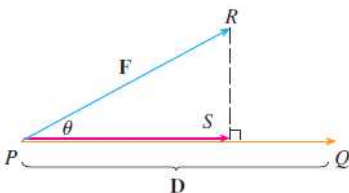
Vector projection of **b** onto **a** : $\text{proj}_a \mathbf{b} = \left(\frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}}{|\mathbf{a}|} \right) \frac{\mathbf{a}}{|\mathbf{a}|} = \frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}}{|\mathbf{a}|^2} \mathbf{a}$

(설명)

Example 6 Find the scalar projection and vector projection of $\mathbf{b} = \langle 1, 1, 2 \rangle$ onto $\mathbf{a} = \langle -2, 3, 1 \rangle$.

■ Work

Suppose that the constant **force** is a vector $\mathbf{F} = \overrightarrow{PR}$ and the force moves the object from *P* to *Q*. Let $\mathbf{D} = \overrightarrow{PQ}$ be the **displacement** vector. Then we defined:



the **work** done by the force $\mathbf{F} = \text{comp}_D \mathbf{F} \times \text{the distance moved}$
 $= (|\mathbf{F}| \cos \theta) |\mathbf{D}|$
 $= \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{D}$

Example 8 A force is given by a vector $\mathbf{F} = \langle 3, 4, 5 \rangle$ and moves a particle from the point $P(2, 1, 0)$ to the point $Q(4, 6, 2)$. Find the work done.