

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) $\langle 2, 4 \rangle \cdot \langle 3, -1 \rangle = \underline{\hspace{10em}}$

$$(2) \langle -1, 7, 4 \rangle \cdot \left\langle 6, 2, -\frac{1}{2} \right\rangle = \underline{\hspace{10em}}$$

$$(3) (\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} - 3\mathbf{k}) \cdot (2\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k}) = \underline{\hspace{10em}}$$

■ Properties of the dot product

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

$$1. \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a} = |\mathbf{a}|^2$$

$$2. \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{a} \text{ (교환법칙)}$$

$$3. \mathbf{a} \cdot (\mathbf{b} + \mathbf{c}) = \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c}$$

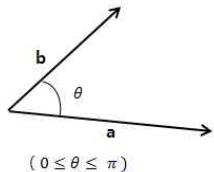
$$4. (c\mathbf{a}) \cdot \mathbf{b} = c(\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}) = \mathbf{a} \cdot (c\mathbf{b})$$

$$5. \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{0} = 0$$

■ 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.

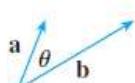
■ Definition Two nonzero vectors \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} are called **perpendicular** (or **orthogonal**) if the angle between

them is $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$.

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

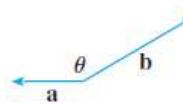
Example 4 Show that $2\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k}$ is perpendicular to $5\mathbf{i} - 4\mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k}$.

■ 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 \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} with the same initial point P :

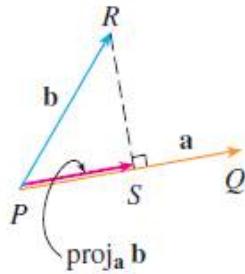


Figure 4 Vector projection

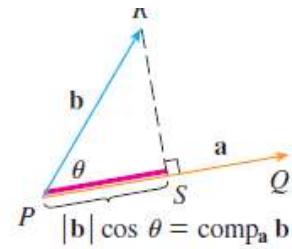
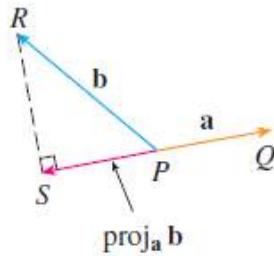


Figure 5 Scalar projection

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

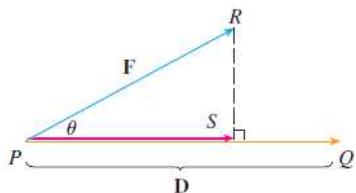
$$\text{Vector projection of } \mathbf{b} \text{ onto } \mathbf{a} : \quad \text{proj}_{\mathbf{a}} \mathbf{b} = \left(\frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}}{|\mathbf{a}|} \right) \frac{\mathbf{a}}{|\mathbf{a}|} = \frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}}{|\mathbf{a}|^2} \mathbf{a}$$

(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:



$$\begin{aligned} \text{the work done by the force } \mathbf{F} &= \text{comp}_{\mathbf{D}} \mathbf{F} \times \text{the distance moved} \\ &= (|\mathbf{F}| \cos \theta) |\mathbf{D}| \\ &= \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{D} \end{aligned}$$

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.