1.11.12

AI25BTECH11006 - Nikhila

Question: Find the sine of the angle between the vectors $\mathbf{a} = 3\hat{i} + \hat{j} + 2\hat{k}$ and $\mathbf{b} = 2\hat{i} - 2\hat{j} + 4\hat{k}$.

Solution:

The given vectors are
$$\mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$$
.

We know that

$$|\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}| = |\mathbf{a}| |\mathbf{b}| \sin \theta \tag{0.1}$$

$$\sin \theta = \frac{|\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}|}{|\mathbf{a}||\mathbf{b}|}.\tag{0.2}$$

$$\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ 3 & 1 & 2 \\ 2 & -2 & 4 \end{pmatrix} = 8 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{0.3}$$

$$|\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}| = \begin{vmatrix} 8 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{vmatrix} = 8\sqrt{3}. \tag{0.4}$$

$$|\mathbf{a}| = \sqrt{(3)^2 + (1)^2 + (2)^2} = \sqrt{14},$$
 (0.5)

$$|\mathbf{b}| = \sqrt{(2)^2 + (-2)^2 + (4)^2} = \sqrt{24}.$$
 (0.6)

$$\sin \theta = \frac{|\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}|}{|\mathbf{a}||\mathbf{b}|} \tag{0.7}$$

$$=\frac{8\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{14}\cdot\sqrt{24}}\tag{0.8}$$

$$=\frac{2}{\sqrt{7}}.\tag{0.9}$$

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Angle Between Vectors a and b

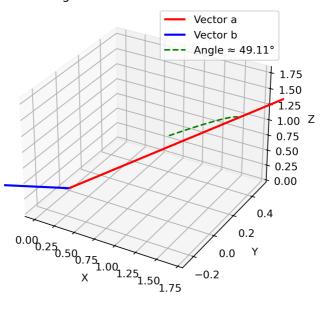


Fig. 0.1