

## 1.11.5

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# Question

The scalar product of vector  $\vec{a} = \hat{i} + \hat{j} + \hat{k}$  with a unit vector along the sum of the vectors  $\vec{b} = 2\hat{i} + 4\hat{j} - 5\hat{k}$  and  $\vec{c} = \lambda\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}$  is equal to 1. Find the value of  $\lambda$  and hence find the unit vector along  $\vec{b} + \vec{c}$ .

# Theoretical Solution

$$\text{Given: } \vec{a} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \vec{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix}, \vec{c} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Let  $\hat{u}$  be the unit vector along  $\vec{b} + \vec{c}$ .

$$\vec{b} + \vec{c} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 + \lambda \\ 4 + 2 \\ -5 + 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 + \lambda \\ 6 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$\|\vec{b} + \vec{c}\| = \sqrt{(2 + \lambda)^2 + 6^2 + (-2)^2} = \sqrt{\lambda^2 + 4\lambda + 44}.$$

$$\hat{u} = \frac{\vec{b} + \vec{c}}{\|\vec{b} + \vec{c}\|} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda^2 + 4\lambda + 44}} \begin{pmatrix} 2 + \lambda \\ 6 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

# Theoretical Solution

Given condition:  $\vec{a} \cdot \hat{u} = 1$ .

$$\vec{a} \cdot \hat{u} = \frac{\vec{a} \cdot (\vec{b} + \vec{c})}{\|\vec{b} + \vec{c}\|} = \frac{\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 2 + \lambda \\ 6 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}}{\sqrt{\lambda^2 + 4\lambda + 44}} = \frac{\lambda + 6}{\sqrt{\lambda^2 + 4\lambda + 44}} = 1.$$

$$\Rightarrow (\lambda + 6)^2 = \lambda^2 + 4\lambda + 44 \Rightarrow \lambda^2 + 12\lambda + 36 = \lambda^2 + 4\lambda + 44 \Rightarrow 8\lambda = 8 \Rightarrow \boxed{\lambda = 1}.$$

$$\text{Now, with } \lambda = 1: \quad \vec{b} + \vec{c} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \|\vec{b} + \vec{c}\| = \sqrt{3^2 + 6^2 + (-2)^2} = \sqrt{49} = 7.$$

# Theoretical Solution

$$\lambda = 1$$

and

$$\text{Unit vector along } \vec{b} + \vec{c} = \frac{1}{7} \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <math.h>

#define DIM 3

void add(const double u[DIM], const double v[DIM], double out[DIM]
    ) {
    for (int i = 0; i < DIM; ++i) out[i] = u[i] + v[i];
}

double dot(const double u[DIM], const double v[DIM]) {
    double s = 0.0;
    for (int i = 0; i < DIM; ++i) s += u[i] * v[i];
    return s;
}
```

```
double norm(const double u[DIM]) {  
    return sqrt(dot(u, u));  
}  
  
void scale(const double u[DIM], double s, double out[DIM]) {  
    for (int i = 0; i < DIM; ++i) out[i] = s * u[i];  
}  
  
void normalize(const double u[DIM], double out[DIM]) {  
    double n = norm(u);  
    if (n == 0.0) {  
  
        for (int i = 0; i < DIM; ++i) out[i] = 0.0;  
    } else {  
        scale(u, 1.0 / n, out);  
    }  
}
```

```
int main(void) {  
  
    const double a[DIM] = {1.0, 1.0, 1.0};  
    const double b[DIM] = {2.0, 4.0, -5.0};  
  
    const double lambda = 1.0;  
    const double c[DIM] = {lambda, 2.0, 3.0};  
  
    double s[DIM];  
    add(b, c, s); // s = (3, 6, -2)  
  
    double uhat[DIM];  
    normalize(s, uhat); // uhat = (3/7, 6/7, -2/7)
```



```
printf("lambda = %.0f\n", lambda);  
printf("b + c = (%.2f, %.2f, %.2f)\n", s[0], s[1], s[2]);  
printf("||b + c|| = %.2f\n", norm(s));  
printf("Unit vector along (b + c) is: (%.2f, %.2f, %.2f)\n",  
      uhat[0], uhat[1], uhat[2]);  
  
double check = dot(a, uhat);  
printf("Verification a * u = %.2f\n", check);  
  
return 0;  
}
```

```
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

# Define vectors
a = np.array([1, 1, 1])
b = np.array([2, 4, -5])
lambda_val = 1
c = np.array([lambda_val, 2, 3])

# b + c and its unit vector
bc = b + c
bc_unit = bc / np.linalg.norm(bc)
```

```
# Set up 3D plot
fig = plt.figure(figsize=(7, 7))
ax = fig.add_subplot(111, projection='3d')
ax.set_xlim([-1, 7])
ax.set_ylim([-1, 7])
ax.set_zlim([-6, 4])

# Origin
origin = np.zeros(3)

def plot_vec(ax, v, color, label):
    ax.quiver(*origin, *v, color=color, arrow_length_ratio=0.1,
              linewidth=2)
    ax.text(*(v*1.12), label, color=color, fontsize=13)
```

# Python Code

```
plot_vec(ax, a, 'blue', 'a')
plot_vec(ax, b, 'orange', 'b')
plot_vec(ax, c, 'green', 'c')
plot_vec(ax, bc_unit, 'red', '(b+c)/|b+c|')

# Labels and style
ax.set_xlabel('X')
ax.set_ylabel('Y')
ax.set_zlabel('Z')
ax.set_title('Vectors a, b, c and unit vector along (b+c)')
plt.tight_layout()

# Save the figure
plt.savefig('fig1.png')
plt.close()
```

# Vector Representation

Vectors  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$  and unit vector along  $(b+c)$

