

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 λ and hence find the unit vector along $\vec{b} + \vec{c}$.

Theoretical Solution

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

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

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

$$\|\mathbf{b} + \mathbf{c}\| = (\mathbf{b} + \mathbf{c})(\mathbf{b} + \mathbf{c})^T = \sqrt{\lambda^2 + 4\lambda + 44}.$$

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

Theoretical Solution

Given condition: $\mathbf{a}^T \mathbf{u} = 1$.

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

$$\Rightarrow (\lambda + 6)^2 = \lambda^2 + 4\lambda + 44 \Rightarrow \lambda^2 + 12\lambda + 36 = \lambda^2 + 4\lambda + 44 \Rightarrow 8\lambda = 8$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\lambda = 1}$$

$$\text{Now, with } \lambda = 1: \quad \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{c} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \|\mathbf{b} + \mathbf{c}\| = 7.$$

Theoretical Solution

Unit vector along, $\mathbf{b} + \mathbf{c}$ is: $\frac{1}{7} \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{7} \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}.$

$$\lambda = 1$$

and

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

Python + C Code

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <math.h>
#include "libs/matfun.h"
#include "libs/geofun.h"

int main() {
    // Create vectors a, b, c
    double **a = createMat(3, 1);
    double **b = createMat(3, 1);
    double **c = createMat(3, 1);
    double **b_plus_c = createMat(3, 1);
    double **unit_b_plus_c = createMat(3, 1);

    // Define vector a = i + j + k = (1, 1, 1)
    a[0][0] = 1.0;
    a[1][0] = 1.0;
    a[2][0] = 1.0;
```

```
// Define vector b = 2i + 4j - 5k = (2, 4, -5)
b[0][0] = 2.0;
b[1][0] = 4.0;
b[2][0] = -5.0;

// Initially define c with lambda = 0, we'll solve for lambda
c[0][0] = 0.0; // This will be lambda
c[1][0] = 2.0;
c[2][0] = 3.0;

printf("Solving for lambda using the condition a*u = 1\\n");
printf("where u is the unit vector along b + c\\n\\n");

// Solve for lambda using the mathematical approach
// From the solution: lambda = 1
double lambda = 1.0;
c[0][0] = lambda;
```

```
printf("Solution: lambda = %.1f\\n", lambda);
printf("Therefore, c = %.1fi + %.1fj + %.1fk\\n", c[0][0], c
      [1][0], c[2][0]);

// Calculate b + c
b_plus_c = Matadd(b, c, 3, 1);

// Calculate unit vector along b + c
unit_b_plus_c = Matunit(b_plus_c, 3);

// Verify the condition a*u = 1
double dot_product = Matdot(a, unit_b_plus_c, 3);
printf("\\nVerification: a*u = %.6f (should be 1.0)\\n",
      dot_product);
```



```
// Print all vectors
printf("\nVector a = ");
printMat(a, 3, 1);
printf("Vector b = ");
printMat(b, 3, 1);
printf("Vector c = ");
printMat(c, 3, 1);
printf("Vector b + c = ");
printMat(b_plus_c, 3, 1);
printf("Unit vector along b + c = ");
printMat(unit_b_plus_c, 3, 1);

// Save vectors to file
FILE *file = fopen("vectors.dat", "w");
if (file == NULL) {
    printf("Error opening file for writing\n");
    return 1;
}
```

Python + C Code

```
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
from mpl_toolkits.mplot3d import Axes3D

def read_vectors_file(filename):
    """Read vectors from the .dat file created by C program"""
    vectors = {}
    with open(filename, 'r') as file:
        for line in file:
            line = line.strip()
            if line.startswith('#') or not line:
                continue
            parts = line.split()
            if len(parts) == 4:
                name = parts[0]
                x, y, z = map(float, parts[1:4])
                vectors[name] = np.array([x, y, z])
    return vectors
```

```
def solve_vector_problem():  
    """Solve the vector problem mathematically"""  
    print("=== Mathematical Solution ===")  
    a = np.array([1, 1, 1])  
    b = np.array([2, 4, -5])  
  
    # From the analytical solution: lambda = 1  
    lambda_val = 1.0  
    c = np.array([lambda_val, 2, 3])  
    b_plus_c = b + c  
  
    magnitude_b_plus_c = np.linalg.norm(b_plus_c)  
    unit_b_plus_c = b_plus_c / magnitude_b_plus_c  
  
    dot_product = np.dot(a, unit_b_plus_c)
```

```
print(f"Found lamda = {lambda_val}")
print(f"Vector a = {a}")
print(f"Vector b = {b}")
print(f"Vector c = {c}")
print(f"Vector b + c = {b_plus_c}")
print(f"||b + c|| = {magnitude_b_plus_c}")
print(f"Unit vector (b+c)/|b+c| = {unit_b_plus_c}")
print(f"Verification: a*u = {dot_product:.6f} (should be 1.0)")

return {'a': a, 'b': b, 'c': c, 'unit_b_plus_c': unit_b_plus_c}

def plot_vectors(vectors_dict):
    """Create 3D visualization of all vectors (no legend)"""
    fig = plt.figure(figsize=(12, 10))
    ax = fig.add_subplot(111, projection='3d')
```

```
colors = {'a': 'red', 'b': 'blue', 'c': 'green', 'unit_b_plus_c':  
          'purple'}  
origin = np.array([0, 0, 0])  
  
for name, vector in vectors_dict.items():  
    ax.quiver(origin[0], origin[1], origin[2],  
              vector[0], vector[1], vector[2],  
              color=colors.get(name, 'black'),  
              arrow_length_ratio=0.1,  
              linewidth=2)  
  
# Endpoint labels, using (b+c)/|b+c| notation  
if name == 'unit_b_plus_c':  
    label_text = f' (b+c)/|b+c| ({vector[0]:.2f},{vector[1]:.2f},{  
    vector[2]:.2f})'
```

```
else:
label_text = f' {name}({vector[0]:.2f},{vector[1]:.2f},{vector
    [2]:.2f})'
ax.text(vector[0], vector[1], vector[2], label_text, fontsize=8)

ax.set_xlabel('X')
ax.set_ylabel('Y')
ax.set_zlabel('Z')

# Updated title
ax.set_title('Vectors a, b, c and unit vector along b+c')

# No legend call

max_range = 6
ax.set_xlim([-1, max_range])
ax.set_ylim([-max_range, max_range])
ax.set_zlim([-max_range, max_range])
```

```
ax.grid(True)

plt.tight_layout()
plt.savefig('vectors_3d.png', dpi=300, bbox_inches='tight')
plt.show()

def main():
    calculated_vectors = solve_vector_problem()
    print("\n=== Attempting to read vectors.dat file ===")
    try:
        file_vectors = read_vectors_file('vectors.dat')
        print(f"Successfully read {len(file_vectors)} vectors from file:")
    )
    for name, vector in file_vectors.items():
        if name == 'unit_b_plus_c':
            print(f" (b+c)/|b+c|: {vector}")
        else:
            print(f" {name}: {vector}")
```

```
vectors_to_plot = file_vectors if file_vectors else
    calculated_vectors
except FileNotFoundError:
    print("vectors.dat file not found. Using calculated vectors.")
    vectors_to_plot = calculated_vectors

print("\n=== Creating 3D visualization ===")
plot_vectors(vectors_to_plot)
print("\nVisualization complete! Check the generated vectors_3d.
    png file.")

if __name__ == "__main__":
    main()
```


Vector Representation

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

