

# Orthogonal Vectors

To show that the vectors  $\vec{w}_1 = -b\hat{i} + a\hat{j}$  and  $\vec{w}_2 = b\hat{i} - a\hat{j}$  are both orthogonal to the vector  $\vec{w} = a\hat{i} + b\hat{j}$ , we need to confirm that their dot products with  $\vec{w}$  are zero. When two vectors have a dot product of zero, they are orthogonal.

## Step-by-Step Solution

### 1. Dot Product of $\vec{w}$ and $\vec{w}_1$ :

Given:

$$\vec{w} = a\hat{i} + b\hat{j}$$

$$\vec{w}_1 = -b\hat{i} + a\hat{j}$$

The dot product  $\vec{w} \cdot \vec{w}_1$  is:

$$\vec{w} \cdot \vec{w}_1 = (a\hat{i} + b\hat{j}) \cdot (-b\hat{i} + a\hat{j})$$

Expanding the dot product:

$$= a(-b) + b(a)$$

$$= -ab + ab = 0$$

Since  $\vec{w} \cdot \vec{w}_1 = 0$ ,  $\vec{w}_1$  is orthogonal to  $\vec{w}$ .

### 2. Dot Product of $\vec{w}$ and $\vec{w}_2$ :

Given:

$$\vec{w}_2 = b\hat{i} - a\hat{j}$$

The dot product  $\vec{w} \cdot \vec{w}_2$  is:

$$\vec{w} \cdot \vec{w}_2 = (a\hat{i} + b\hat{j}) \cdot (b\hat{i} - a\hat{j})$$

Expanding the dot product:

$$= a(b) + b(-a)$$

$$= ab - ab = 0$$

Since  $\vec{w} \cdot \vec{w}_2 = 0$ ,  $\vec{w}_2$  is also orthogonal to  $\vec{w}$ .

### Conclusion

Both  $\vec{w}_1$  and  $\vec{w}_2$  are orthogonal to  $\vec{w}$  because their dot products with  $\vec{w}$  are zero.

"Education should be free and accessible to all, but it should be granted only to those who truly deserve it." – Bilal Ahmad Khan, also known as Mr. BILRED