

# **DOING PHYSICS WITH PYTHON**

## **VECTOR and MATRICES**

**Ian Cooper**

Please email any corrections, comments, suggestions or additions:

**[matlabvisualphysics@gmail.com](mailto:matlabvisualphysics@gmail.com)**

### **DOWNLOAD DIRECTORIES FOR PYTHON CODE**

**op100.py**

**[Google drive](#)**

**[GitHub](#)**

**[https://rezaborhani.github.io/mlr/blog\\_posts/Linear\\_Algebra/Vectors\\_and\\_matrices.html](https://rezaborhani.github.io/mlr/blog_posts/Linear_Algebra/Vectors_and_matrices.html)**

### **SPECIFYING [3D] VECTORS**

A **scalar** is completely characterised by its magnitude, and has no associated direction (mass, time, direction, work). A scalar is given by a simple number.

A **vector** has both a magnitude and direction (force, electric field, magnetic field). A vector can be specified in terms of its Cartesian or cylindrical (polar in [2D]) or spherical coordinates.

Cartesian coordinate system (XYZ right-handed rectangular: if we curl our fingers on the right hand so they rotate from the X axis to the Y axis then the Z axis is in the direction of the thumb).

A vector  $\vec{V}$  is specified in terms of its X, Y and Z Cartesian components

$$\vec{V}(V_x, V_y, V_z) \quad \vec{V} = V_x \hat{i} + V_y \hat{j} + V_z \hat{k}$$

where  $(\hat{i}, \hat{j}, \hat{k})$  are unit vectors parallel to the X, Y and Z axes respectively.

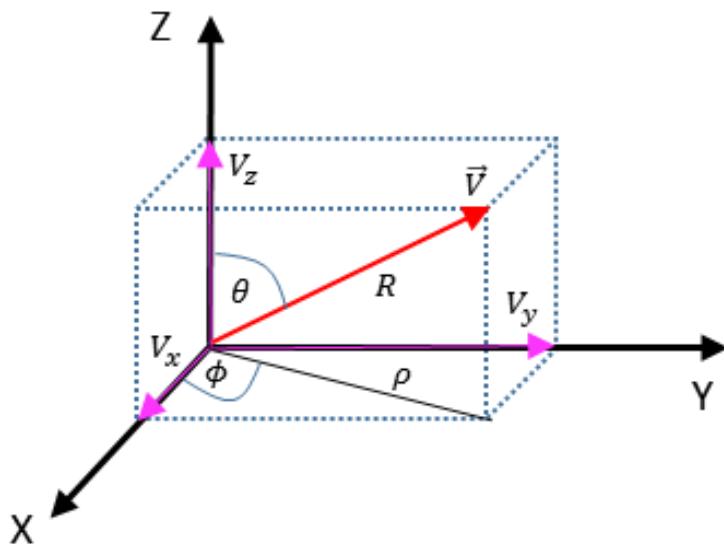


Fig. 1. Specifying a vector in an orthogonal coordinate system.

The **polar angle**  $\theta$  is the angle down from the Z axis to the vector  $\vec{V}$ .

The **azimuthal angle**  $\phi$  is the angle around from the X axis.

Polar angle  $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$

Azimuthal angle  $0 \leq \phi \leq 2\pi$  or  $-\pi \leq \phi \leq +\pi$

Angles can be measured in radians or in degrees where  $2\pi$  rad =  $360^\circ$

You can use the Python functions **radians()** and **degrees()** for the conversions between radians and degrees

### op100.py

```
#%% Cell 1: degrees <---> radians  
# Input angle in degrees --> output in radians  
thetaD = 180  
thetaR = np.radians(thetaD)  
print('Angle = %0.3f deg' % thetaD + ' = %0.3f rad' % thetaR)
```

```
# Input angle in radians --> output in degrees
```

```
thetaR = pi/4  
thetaD = np.degrees(thetaR)  
print('Angle = %0.3f deg' % thetaD + ' = %0.3f rad' % thetaR)
```

→

Angle = 180.000 deg = 3.142 rad

Angle = 45.000 deg = 0.785 rad

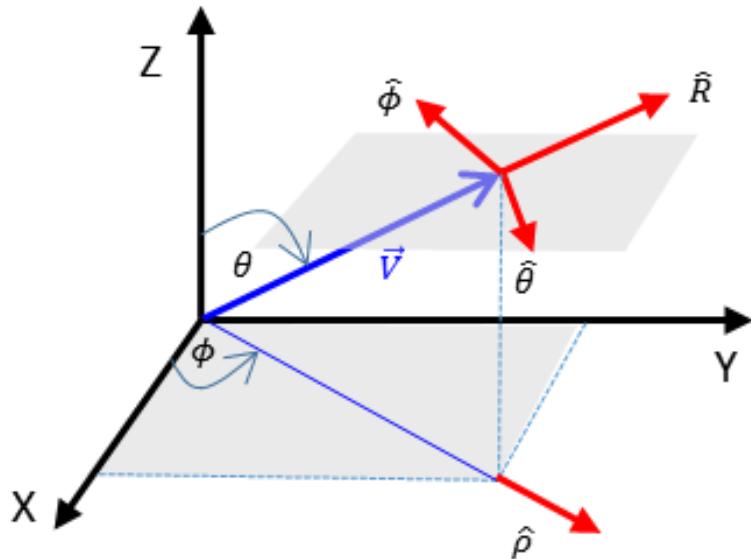


Fig. 2. The unit vectors  $\hat{R}, \hat{\theta}, \hat{\phi}, \hat{\rho}$  pointing in the direction of an increase in the corresponding coordinate.

Cartesian components  $\vec{V}(V_x, V_y, V_z)$        $\vec{V} = V_x \hat{i} + V_y \hat{j} + V_z \hat{k}$

Cylindrical components       $\vec{V}(V_\rho, V_\phi, V_z)$        $\vec{V} = V_\rho \hat{\rho} + V_\phi \hat{\phi} + V_z \hat{k}$

Spherical components       $\vec{V}(V_R, V_\theta, V_\phi)$        $\vec{V} = V_R \hat{R} + V_\theta \hat{\theta} + V_\phi \hat{\phi}$

## Magnitudes

$$|\vec{V}| \equiv V \equiv R = \sqrt{V_x^2 + V_y^2 + V_z^2}$$

$$\rho = \sqrt{V_x^2 + V_y^2}$$

Relationship between coordinates from figure 2

$$V_x = R \sin \theta \cos \phi \quad V_y = R \sin \theta \sin \phi \quad V_z = R \cos \theta$$

$$V_x = \rho \cos \phi \quad V_y = \rho \sin \phi \quad V_z = V_z$$

$$\tan \phi = \frac{V_y}{V_x} \quad \tan \theta = \frac{\rho}{V_z} \quad \cos \theta = \frac{V_z}{R}$$

## Spherical coordinates

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{R} &= \sin \theta \cos \phi \hat{i} + \sin \theta \sin \phi \hat{j} + \cos \theta \hat{k} \\ \hat{\theta} &= \cos \theta \cos \phi \hat{i} + \cos \theta \sin \phi \hat{j} - \sin \theta \hat{k} \\ \hat{\phi} &= -\sin \phi \hat{i} + \cos \theta \sin \phi \hat{j}\end{aligned}$$

## Cylindrical coordinates

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\rho} &= \cos \phi \hat{i} + \sin \phi \hat{j} \\ \hat{\phi} &= -\sin \phi \hat{i} + \cos \theta \sin \phi \hat{j} \\ \hat{z} &= \hat{z}\end{aligned}$$

## Python

In Python vectors and matrices are referred to as arrays. There are no row or column vectors as in Matlab and dealing with arrays in Python is more complex than in Matlab.

Consider the vectors using the Python code [op100.py \(Cell #2\)](#)

$$\vec{V}_1 = 3\hat{i} + 5\hat{j} - 6\hat{k} \quad \vec{V}_2 = 5\hat{i} + 9\hat{j} + 2\hat{k} \quad \vec{V}_3 = 5\hat{i} + 9\hat{j} + 2\hat{k}$$

By default, each vector is a row vector (1,3). Vector 3 can be reshaped to a column vector (3,1)

```
V1 = array([3.0,5,-6]) → array([ 3., 5., -6.])
V2 = array([5.0, 9, 2]) → array([5., 9., 2.])
V3 = array([5.0, 9, 2]) → array([5., 9., 2.])
```

```

V3.shape = (3,1) → array([[5.],
[9.],
[2.]))

# Addition, subtraction, magnitudes

V12 = V1 + V2 → array([ 8., 14., -4.])
V21 = V1 - V2 → array([-2., -4., -8.])
V13 = V1 + V3 → array([[ 8., 10., -1.],
[12., 14., 3.],
[ 5., 7., -4.]])
V31 = V1 - V3 → array([[ -2.,  0., -11.],
[ -6., -4., -15.],
[  1.,  3., -8.]])
```

```

V1mag = norm(V1) → 8.3666
V2mag = norm(V2) → 10.4881
V3mag = norm(V3) → 10.4881
V12mag = norm(V12) → 16.6132
V21mag = norm(V21) → 9.1652
V13mag = norm(V13) → 24.5764
V31mag = norm(V31) → 21.8174
```

The function norm gives the square root of the sum of the squares of each element of the array.

[3D] orientation of vector  $\vec{V} = V_x \hat{i} + V_y \hat{j} + V_z \hat{k}$

$$\text{Magnitude } R = \sqrt{V_x^2 + V_y^2 + V_z^2} \quad \rho = \sqrt{V_x^2 + V_y^2}$$

$$\text{Polar angle } \tan \theta = \frac{\rho}{V_z} \quad \cos \theta = \frac{V_z}{R}$$

$$\text{Azimuthal angle } \tan \phi = \frac{V_y}{V_x}$$

$$V = \vec{V}_2 = 5\hat{i} + 9\hat{j} + 2\hat{k}$$

Magnitudes R,  $\rho$

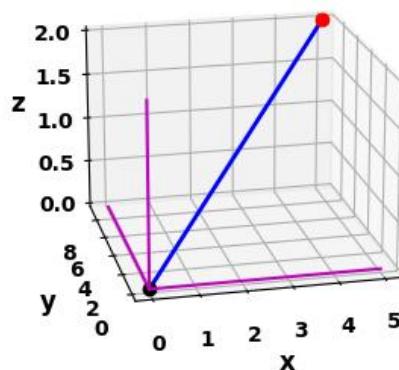
$$\text{V2mag} = \text{norm(V2)} \rightarrow 10.4881$$

$$\text{rho2} = \text{sqrt}(\text{V2}[0]**2 + \text{V2}[1]**2) \rightarrow 10.2956$$

Polar and azimuthal angle

$$\text{phi2R} = \text{atan2}(\text{V2}[1], \text{V2}[0]) \rightarrow 1.0637 \text{ rad}$$

$$\text{phi2Deg} = \text{np.degrees(phi2R)} \rightarrow 60.9454 \text{ deg}$$



op100.py (Cell

## VECTOR “MULTIPLICATION”

V1 → array([ 3., 5., -6.])

V2 → array([5., 9., 2.])

V3 → array([[5.,

[9.],

[2.]])

M1 = V1\*V2 → array([ 15., 45., -12.])

M2 = V2\*V1 → array([ 15., 45., -12.])

M3 = V1\*V3 → array([[ 15., 25., -30.],

[ 27., 45., -54.],

[ 6., 10., -12.]])

M4 = V3\*V1 → array([[ 15., 25., -30.],

[ 27., 45., -54.],

[ 6., 10., -12.]]))

## Dot product (scalar product) of two vectors

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = AB \cos \theta = A_x B_x + A_y B_y + A_z B_z$$

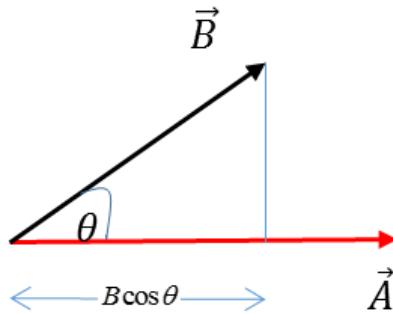
where  $\theta$  is the angle between the two vectors when they are placed tail to tail

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} \quad \text{scalar}$$

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = \vec{B} \cdot \vec{A} \quad \text{commutative}$$

$$\vec{A} \cdot (\vec{B} + \vec{C}) = \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} + \vec{A} \cdot \vec{C} \quad \text{distributive}$$

Geometrically  $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B}$  is the product of  $\vec{A}$  times the projection of  $\vec{B}$  along  $\vec{A}$  or the product of  $\vec{B}$  times the projection of  $\vec{A}$  along  $\vec{B}$



Angle between the two vectors

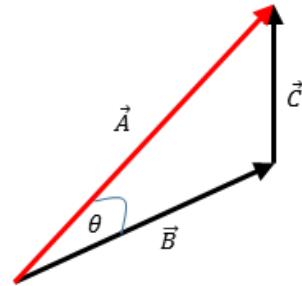
$$\cos \theta = \frac{\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B}}{AB} = \frac{A_x B_x + A_y B_y + A_z B_z}{AB}$$

Law of cosines

$$\vec{A} = \vec{B} + \vec{C} \quad \vec{C} = \vec{A} - \vec{B}$$

$$\vec{C} \cdot \vec{C} = (\vec{A} - \vec{B}) \cdot (\vec{A} - \vec{B}) = \vec{A} \cdot \vec{A} + \vec{B} \cdot \vec{B} - 2\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B}$$

$$C^2 = A^2 + B^2 - 2AB \cos \theta$$



Python function **np.dot(A,B)**

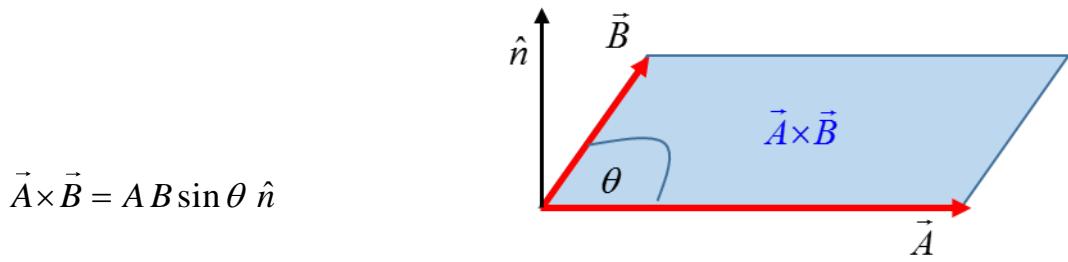
`mDot12 = np.dot(V1,V2) → 48`

`mDot21 = np.dot(V2,V1) → 48`

`mDot13 = np.dot(V1,V3) → 48`

`mDot31 = np.dot(V3,V1) → shapes (3,1) and (3,) not aligned: 1 (dim 1) != 3 (dim 0)`

## Cross product (vector product) of two vectors



where  $\theta$  is the angle between the two vectors placed tail to tail and  $\hat{n}$  is a unit vector that is normal to the plane defined by the two vectors and whose direction is determined by the right-hand rule (fingers curl from  $\vec{A}$  to  $\vec{B}$  then extended thumb points in direction of  $\hat{n}$ ).

$$\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = -\vec{B} \times \vec{A} \quad \text{non-commutative}$$

$$\vec{A} \times (\vec{B} + \vec{C}) = \vec{A} \times \vec{B} + \vec{A} \times \vec{C} \quad \text{distributive}$$

$$\vec{A} \parallel \vec{B} \Rightarrow \theta = 0 \quad \vec{A} \times \vec{B} = 0$$

$$\vec{A} \times \vec{A} = 0$$

$$\vec{A} \perp \vec{B} \Rightarrow \theta = \pi / 2 \text{ rad} \quad |\vec{A} \times \vec{B}| = AB$$

The cross product is the vector area of the parallelogram having  $\vec{A}$  and  $\vec{B}$  on adjacent sides.

Determinant form

$$\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ A_x & A_y & A_z \\ B_x & B_y & B_z \end{vmatrix} = (A_y B_z - A_z B_y) \hat{i} + (A_z B_x - A_x B_z) \hat{j} + (A_x B_y - A_y B_x) \hat{k}$$

Python function **cross(A,B)** returns the cross product of the vectors A and B where A and B must be 3 element arrays.

### Results of running the Python code op100.py (Cell #5)

Inputs vectors

```
A = [1  0  1]  B = [0  1  1]  C = [2  4  5]
```

```
A = array([1.0,0,1]);  B = array([0.0,1,1]);  C = array([2.0,4,5])
```

# Dot product

```
AdotB = dot(A,B) → 1.0
```

```
BdotA = dot(B,A)) → 1.0
```

```
AdotC = dot(A,C) → 7.0
```

```
CdotA = dot(C,A) → 7.0
```

```
BdotC = dot(B,C) → 9.0
```

```
CdotB = dot(C,B) → 9.0
```

# Magnitudes and angles between vectors

```
Amag = norm(A) → 1.4142
```

```
Bmag = norm(B) → 1.4142
```

```
Cmag = norm(C) → 6.70320
```

```
ABangle = acos(AdotB/(Amag*Bmag)) → 1.0472
```

```
ABdeg = degrees(ABangle) → 60
```

```
BAangle = acos(BdotA/(Amag*Bmag)) → 1.0472
```

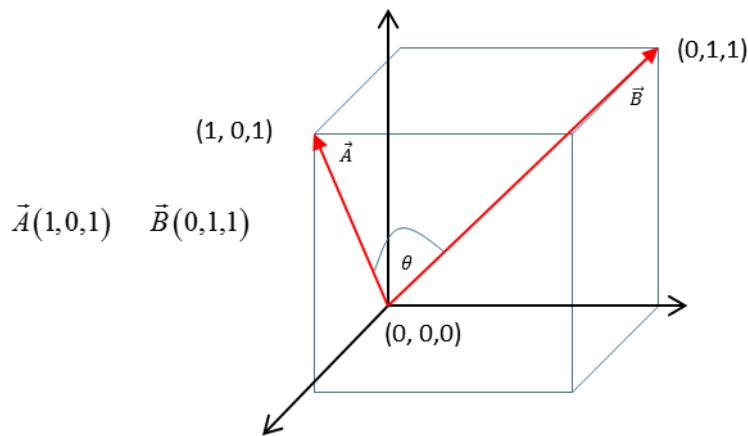
```
BAdeg = degrees(BAangle) → 60
```

```

ACangle = acos(AdotC/(Amag*Cmag)) → 0.74089
ACdeg = degrees(ACangle) → 42.4502
BCangle = acos(BdotC/(Bmag*Cmag)) → 0.3218
BCdeg = degrees(BCangle) → 18.4349
# Cross products and their magnitude
AB = cross(A,B) → array([-1., -1., 1.])
ABmag = norm(AB) → 1.7321
BA = cross(B,A) → array([ 1., 1., -1.])
BAmag = norm(BA) → 1.7321
AC = cross(A,C) → array([-4., -3., 4.])
ACmag = norm(AC) → 6.4031
CA = cross(C,A) → array([ 4., 3., -4.])
CAmag = norm(CA) → 6.4031
BC = cross(B,C) → array([ 1., 2., -2.])
BCmag = norm(BC) → 3.0
CB = cross(C,B) → array([-1., -2., 2.])
BCBmag = norm(CB) → 3.0

```

**Example** Find the angle between the face diagonals of a cube



⇒

The angle between the two vectors can be found from the cross product of the two vectors

$$\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = AB \sin \theta \hat{n}$$

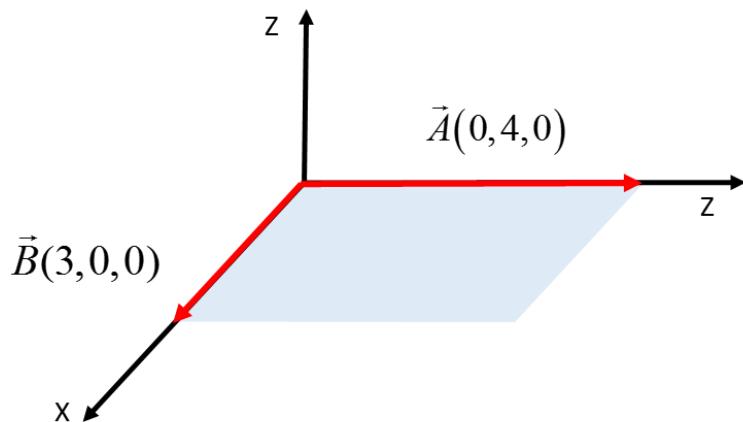
$$\sin \theta = \frac{|\vec{A} \times \vec{B}|}{|\vec{A}| |\vec{B}|}$$

$$A = [1 \ 0 \ 1] \quad B = [0 \ 1 \ 1]$$

$$\text{angle is } \theta = 1.0472 \text{ rad} = 60.0000 \text{ deg}$$

⇐

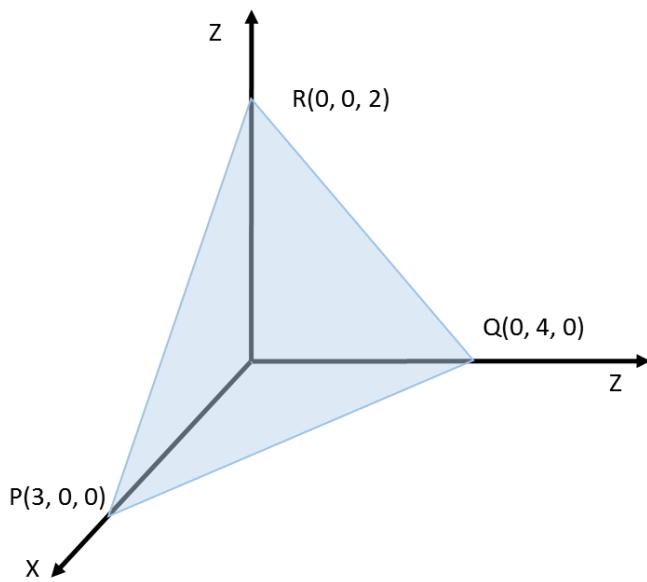
**Example** Find the components of the unit vector  $\hat{n}$  perpendicular to the shaded regions formed by the vectors  $\vec{A}$  and  $\vec{B}$



$$\vec{C} = \vec{A} \times \vec{B} = -12\hat{k} = |\vec{C}| \hat{n} \quad n = \frac{\vec{C}}{|\vec{C}|} = \frac{-12\hat{k}}{12} = -\hat{k}$$

$$n_x = 0 \quad n_y = 0 \quad n_z = -1$$

**Example** Find the components of the unit vector  $\hat{n}$  perpendicular to the shaded regions formed by the points R, P, Q.



Let  $\vec{A}$  be the vector pointing from R to P and  $\vec{B}$  be the vector pointing from R to Q. Then the vectors are  $\vec{A}(3, 0, -2)$  and  $\vec{B}(0, 4, -2)$ .

$$\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = AB \sin \theta \hat{n}$$

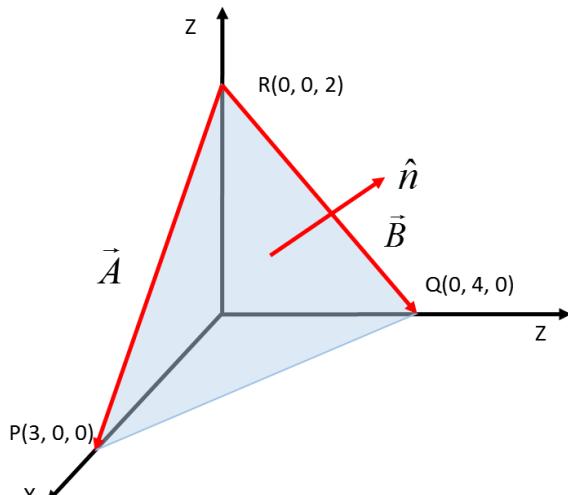
$$A = [3 \ 0 \ -2] \quad B = [0 \ 4 \ -2]$$

$$C = \text{cross}(A, B) \quad C = [8 \ 6 \ 12]$$

$$C_{\text{mag}} = \text{norm}(C) \quad C_{\text{mag}} =$$

$$15.6205$$

$$n = C ./ C_{\text{mag}} \quad n = [0.5121 \ 0.3841 \ 0.7682]$$



The Cartesian components of the vector  $\hat{n}$  are (0.5121, 0.3841, 0.7682)

## TRANSFORMATION OF COORDINATES DUE TO ROTATION

What is the change in the components of a vector due to a rotation of the coordinate system from X Y Z to X 'Y 'Z'?

The transformation matrix  $\mathbf{R}$  due to a rotation uses the following notation

$$X \& X' \rightarrow 1 \quad Y \& Y' \rightarrow 2 \quad Z \& Z' \rightarrow 3$$

$\theta_{11}$  is the angle between axes  $X'$  and  $X$

$\theta_{32}$  is the angle between axes  $Z'$  and  $Y$

$$\mathbf{R} = \begin{pmatrix} R_{11} & R_{12} & R_{13} \\ R_{21} & R_{22} & R_{23} \\ R_{31} & R_{32} & R_{33} \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{where}$$

$$R_{nm} = \cos(\theta_{mn}) \quad m=1,2,3 \quad n=1,2,3$$

$\vec{V}(V_x, V_y, V_z)$  in the XYZ coordinate system

$\vec{V}'(V'_x, V'_y, V'_z)$  in the X'Y'Z' coordinate system

$$\vec{V}' = \mathbf{R} \vec{V}^T \quad \text{where} \quad \vec{V}^T = \begin{pmatrix} V_x \\ V_y \\ V_z \end{pmatrix}$$

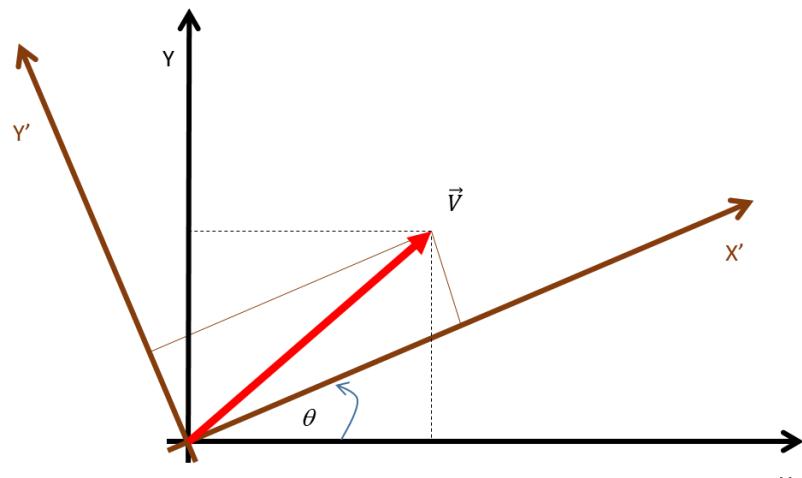
## Rotation of the XY axes around the Z axis

Consider the

vector

$$\vec{V} = V_x \hat{i} + V_y \hat{j} + V_z \hat{k}$$

in the unprimed  
frame of reference.



What will be its

components in the primed frame of reference that is rotated by an  
angle  $\theta$  in an anticlockwise direction in the XY plane?

Angles between the axes XYZ and X'Y'Z'

$$\theta_{11} = \theta \quad \theta_{12} = 90^\circ - \theta \quad \theta_{13} = 90^\circ$$

$$\theta_{21} = \theta + 90^\circ \quad \theta_{22} = \theta \quad \theta_{23} = 90^\circ$$

$$\theta_{31} = 90^\circ \quad \theta_{32} = 90^\circ \quad \theta_{33} = 0^\circ$$

## Transformation of vector components

$$(V'_x, V'_y, V'_z) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\theta) & \cos(90^\circ - \theta) & \cos(90^\circ) \\ \cos(\theta + 90^\circ) & \cos(\theta) & \cos(90^\circ) \\ \cos(90^\circ) & \cos(90^\circ) & \cos(0^\circ) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} V_x \\ V_y \\ V_z \end{pmatrix}$$

$$(V'_x, V'_y, V'_z) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\theta) & \sin(\theta) & 0 \\ -\sin(\theta) & \cos(\theta) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} V_x \\ V_y \\ V_z \end{pmatrix}$$

$$V'_x = \cos(\theta)V_x + \sin(\theta)V_y$$

$$V'_y = -\sin(\theta)V_x + \cos(\theta)V_y$$

$$V'_z = V_z$$

### Example

$V(2, 3, 0)$  in XYZ frame of reference

XYZ rotated by  $30^\circ$  anticlockwise in XY plane to give the X'Y'Z' frame

What are the components of  $V$  in the X'Y'Z' frame?



Inputs:  $V = [2 3 0]$  theta = 30

Output:  $V' = [3.2321 1.5981 0]$

