

### 7.3 Dot Product

Definition: (i)  $\vec{a} = \langle a_1, a_2 \rangle$ ,  $\vec{b} = \langle b_1, b_2 \rangle$   
 $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = a_1 b_1 + a_2 b_2$

(2)  $\vec{a} = \langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle$ ,  $\vec{b} = \langle b_1, b_2, b_3 \rangle$   
 $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = a_1 b_1 + a_2 b_2 + a_3 b_3$

Ex. IF  $\vec{a} = 2\mathbf{i} - 3\mathbf{j} + 5\mathbf{k}$ ,  $\vec{b} = -\frac{1}{2}\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} - 3\mathbf{k}$   
 $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = (2)(-\frac{1}{2}) + (-3)(2) + (5)(-3) = -22$

#### Thm 7.3.1 (Properties)

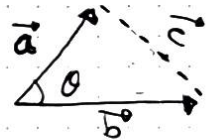
- (i)  $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = 0$  IF  $\vec{a} = \vec{0}$  or  $\vec{b} = \vec{0}$
- (ii)  $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = \vec{b} \cdot \vec{a}$
- (iii)  $\vec{a} \cdot (\vec{b} + \vec{c}) = \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} + \vec{a} \cdot \vec{c}$
- (iv)  $\vec{a} \cdot (k\vec{b}) = (k\vec{a}) \cdot \vec{b} = k(\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b})$
- (v)  $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{a} \geq 0$
- (vi)  $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{a} = \|\vec{a}\|^2$

$$\begin{aligned} (\vec{a} \cdot \vec{a} &= a_1 a_1 + a_2 a_2 + a_3 a_3) \\ &= a_1^2 + a_2^2 + a_3^2 \end{aligned}$$

#### Thm. 7.3.2 (Alternative Form)

$$\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = \|\vec{a}\| \cdot \|\vec{b}\| \cos \theta$$

Where  $\theta$  is the angle between  $\vec{a}$  and  $\vec{b}$

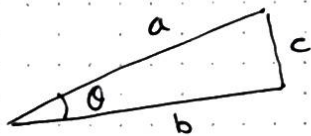


Proof Let  $\vec{a} = a_1 \mathbf{i} + a_2 \mathbf{j} + a_3 \mathbf{k}$   
 $\vec{b} = b_1 \mathbf{i} + b_2 \mathbf{j} + b_3 \mathbf{k}$

Then  $\vec{c} = \vec{b} - \vec{a} = (b_1 - a_1)\mathbf{i} + (b_2 - a_2)\mathbf{j} + (b_3 - a_3)\mathbf{k}$

Consider:

Law of cosines



$$(c^2 = a^2 + b^2 - 2ab \cos \theta)$$

By the law of cosines,

$$\|\vec{c}\|^2 = \|\vec{a}\|^2 + \|\vec{b}\|^2 - 2\|\vec{a}\| \|\vec{b}\| \cos \theta$$

$$2\|\vec{a}\| \|\vec{b}\| \cos \theta = \|\vec{a}\|^2 + \|\vec{b}\|^2 - \|\vec{c}\|^2$$

$$= (a_1^2 + a_2^2 + a_3^2) + (b_1^2 + b_2^2 + b_3^2)$$

$$= (a_1^2 + a_2^2 + a_3^2) + (b_1^2 + b_2^2 + b_3^2) - \dots$$

$$\dots [(b_1 - a_1)^2 + (b_2 - a_2)^2 + (b_3 - a_3)^2]$$

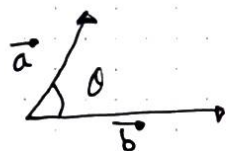
$$= (\cancel{a_1^2} + \cancel{a_2^2} + \cancel{a_3^2}) + (\cancel{b_1^2} + \cancel{b_2^2} + \cancel{b_3^2}) - \dots$$

$$\dots [(a_1^2 - 2a_1b_1 + \cancel{b_1^2}) + (a_2^2 - 2a_2b_2 + \cancel{b_2^2}) + (a_3^2 - 2a_3b_3 + \cancel{b_3^2})]$$

$$\Rightarrow 2a_1b_1 + 2a_2b_2 + 2a_3b_3$$

$$\|\vec{a}\| \|\vec{b}\| \cos \theta = \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}$$

Angle between  $\vec{a}$  and  $\vec{b}$



$$(1) \theta = 0$$



$$\cos \theta = 1$$

$$\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = \|\vec{a}\| \cdot \|\vec{b}\| \cdot (1)$$

$$(2) 0 < \theta < \pi/2, \cos \theta > 0,$$

$$\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} > 0$$

$$(3) \theta = \pi/2, \cos(\pi/2) = 0, \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = 0$$



$$(4) \pi/2 < \theta < \pi, \cos \theta < 0$$



$$\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = \|\vec{a}\| \cdot \|\vec{b}\| \cdot \cos \theta < 0$$

Thm. 2.3.3 Two non-zero vectors

$\vec{a}$  and  $\vec{b}$  are orthogonal  $\Leftrightarrow \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = 0$

Ex. If  $\vec{a} = 2\hat{i} - 3\hat{j} + \hat{k}$ ,  $\vec{b} = 2\hat{i} + 4\hat{j} + 8\hat{k}$

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} &= (2)(2)\hat{i} + (-3)(4)\hat{j} + (1)(8)\hat{k} \\ &= 4 - 12 + 8 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$\vec{a}$  and  $\vec{b}$  are orthogonal ( $90^\circ$ )

$$\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = \|\vec{a}\| \cdot \|\vec{b}\| \cdot \cos \theta$$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}{\|\vec{a}\| \cdot \|\vec{b}\|} \Rightarrow \theta = \cos^{-1} \left( \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}{\|\vec{a}\| \cdot \|\vec{b}\|} \right)$$

Ex. Find the angle between

$$\vec{a} = 2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} + \hat{k} \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{b} = -\hat{i} + 5\hat{j} + \hat{k}$$

$$\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = (2)(-1) + (3)(5) + (1)(1) = 14$$

$$\|\vec{a}\| = \sqrt{2^2 + 3^2 + 1^2} = \sqrt{14}$$

$$\|\vec{b}\| = \sqrt{(-1)^2 + 5^2 + 1^2} = \sqrt{27}$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \|\vec{a}\| &= \sqrt{2^2 + 3^2 + 1^2} = \sqrt{14} \\ \|\vec{b}\| &= \sqrt{(-1)^2 + 5^2 + 1^2} = \sqrt{27} \end{aligned} \right\} \theta = \cos^{-1} \left( \frac{14}{\sqrt{14} \cdot \sqrt{27}} \right) \approx 0.77 \text{ radian}$$

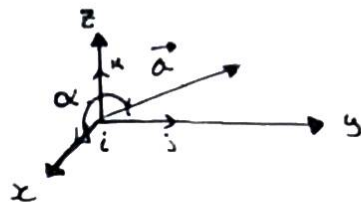
## Direction Cosines

Let  $\vec{a} = a_1 \vec{i} + a_2 \vec{j} + a_3 \vec{k}$

$\alpha$  = the angle between  $\vec{a}$  and  $\vec{i}$

$\beta$  = ...  $\vec{a}$  and  $\vec{j}$

$\gamma$  = ...  $\vec{a}$  and  $\vec{k}$



$$\text{then; } \cos \alpha = \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{i}}{\|\vec{a}\| \cdot \|\vec{i}\|} = \frac{a_1}{\|\vec{a}\|}$$

$$\cos \beta = \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{j}}{\|\vec{a}\| \cdot \|\vec{j}\|} = \frac{a_2}{\|\vec{a}\|}$$

$$\cos \gamma = \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{k}}{\|\vec{a}\| \cdot \|\vec{k}\|} = \frac{a_3}{\|\vec{a}\|}$$

We say that  $\cos \alpha$ ,  $\cos \beta$ , and  $\cos \gamma$  are direction cosines of  $\vec{a}$

$$\frac{\vec{a}}{\|\vec{a}\|} = \frac{a_1}{\|\vec{a}\|} \vec{i} + \frac{a_2}{\|\vec{a}\|} \vec{j} + \frac{a_3}{\|\vec{a}\|} \vec{k}$$

$$= \cos \alpha \vec{i} + \cos \beta \vec{j} + \cos \gamma \vec{k}$$

Since the magnitude of  $\frac{\vec{a}}{\|\vec{a}\|}$  is 1;

$$\cos^2 \alpha + \cos^2 \beta + \cos^2 \gamma = 1$$

Ex. Find the direction cosines for

$$\vec{a} = 2\vec{i} + 5\vec{j} + 4\vec{k}$$

Solution  $\cos \alpha = \frac{a_1}{\|\vec{a}\|} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{2^2 + 5^2 + 4^2}} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{45}}$

$$\cos \beta = \frac{a_2}{\|\vec{a}\|} \Rightarrow \frac{5}{\sqrt{45}} \quad / \quad \cos \gamma = \frac{a_3}{\|\vec{a}\|} \Rightarrow \frac{4}{\sqrt{45}}$$

Component of  $\vec{a}$  on  $\vec{b}$

$$\vec{a} = a_1 \vec{i} + a_2 \vec{j} + a_3 \vec{k}$$

$$a_1 = \text{Component of } \vec{a} \text{ on } \vec{i} = \vec{a} \cdot \vec{i}$$

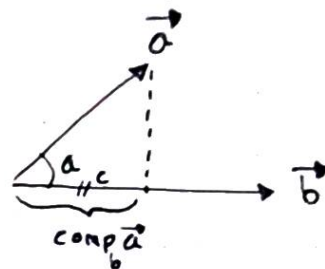
$$a_2 = \text{Component of } \vec{a} \text{ on } \vec{j} = \vec{a} \cdot \vec{j}$$

$$a_3 = \text{Component of } \vec{a} \text{ on } \vec{k} = \vec{a} \cdot \vec{k}$$

Let  $\vec{b}$  be another vector

The component of  $\vec{a}$  on  $\vec{b}$

$$\text{Comp}_{\vec{b}} \vec{a} = \|\vec{a}\| \cos \theta$$



$$\begin{aligned} \text{Comp}_{\vec{b}} \vec{a} &= \frac{\|\vec{a}\| \cdot \|\vec{b}\| \cdot \cos \theta}{\|\vec{b}\|} \\ &\Rightarrow \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}{\|\vec{b}\|} \end{aligned}$$

Ex. Let  $\vec{a} = 2\mathbf{i} + 3\mathbf{j} - 4\mathbf{k}$   
 $\vec{b} = \mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k}$

Find  $\text{Comp}_{\vec{b}} \vec{a}$

Solution :  $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = (2)(1) + (3)(1) + (-4)(2)$   
 $= -3$

$$\|\vec{b}\| = \sqrt{1^2 + 1^2 + 2^2} = \sqrt{6}$$

$$\text{Comp}_{\vec{b}} \vec{a} = \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}{\|\vec{b}\|} = \frac{-3}{\sqrt{6}} \dots \text{cont'd.}$$