

# 2.9.10

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**Question:** Let  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$  be two vectors such that  $\|\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}\| = \|\mathbf{b}\|$ . Prove that  $\mathbf{a} + 2\mathbf{b}$  is perpendicular to  $\mathbf{a}$ .

**Solution:**

Variable	Value
$\mathbf{a}$	vector $\mathbf{a}$
$\mathbf{b}$	vector $\mathbf{b}$

TABLE 0: Variables Used

$$(\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b})^T(\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}) = \mathbf{b}^T\mathbf{b}. \quad (0.1)$$

$$(\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b})^T(\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}) = \mathbf{a}^T\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{a}^T\mathbf{b} + \mathbf{b}^T\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}^T\mathbf{b}. \quad (0.2)$$

Since dot product is symmetric

$$\mathbf{a}^T\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{b}^T\mathbf{a} \quad (0.3)$$

$$\mathbf{a}^T\mathbf{a} + 2\mathbf{a}^T\mathbf{b} + \mathbf{b}^T\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{b}^T\mathbf{b}. \quad (0.4)$$

$$\mathbf{a}^T\mathbf{a} + 2\mathbf{a}^T\mathbf{b} = 0. \quad (0.5)$$

We want to show  $(\mathbf{a} + 2\mathbf{b})$  is perpendicular to  $\mathbf{a}$ .

$$\text{To prove: } \mathbf{a}^T(\mathbf{a} + 2\mathbf{b}) = 0 \quad (0.6)$$

$$\mathbf{a}^T(\mathbf{a} + 2\mathbf{b}) = \mathbf{a}^T\mathbf{a} + 2\mathbf{a}^T\mathbf{b} \quad (0.7)$$

By eq (0.5) and (0.7)

$$\mathbf{a}^T(\mathbf{a} + 2\mathbf{b}) = 0 \quad (0.8)$$

Hence proved

Refer to Figure

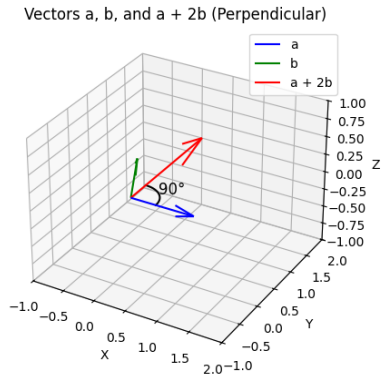


Fig. 0.1