

# 2.5.25

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**Question:** If  $\mathbf{a} = 2\hat{i} - \hat{j} - 2\hat{k}$  and  $\mathbf{b} = 7\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} - 3\hat{k}$ , then express  $\mathbf{b}$  in the form  $\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{b}_1 + \mathbf{b}_2$ , where  $\mathbf{b}_1$  is parallel to  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}_2$  is perpendicular to  $\mathbf{a}$ .

**Solution:**

Variable	Value
$\mathbf{a}$	$2\hat{i} - \hat{j} - 2\hat{k}$
$\mathbf{b}$	$7\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} - 3\hat{k}$

TABLE 0: Variables Used

$$\mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.1)$$

$$\mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ 2 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.2)$$

Using the Gram-Schmidt approach

$\mathbf{b}_1$  is the projection of  $\mathbf{b}$  on  $\mathbf{a}$

$$\mathbf{b}_1 = \frac{\mathbf{a}^T \mathbf{b}}{\mathbf{a}^T \mathbf{a}} \mathbf{a} \quad (0.3)$$

$$\mathbf{b}_1 = \frac{18}{9} \mathbf{a} \quad (0.4)$$

$$\mathbf{b}_1 = 2\mathbf{a} \quad (0.5)$$

$$\mathbf{b}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -2 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.6)$$

$$\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{b}_1 + \mathbf{b}_2 \quad (0.7)$$

$$\mathbf{b}_2 = \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{b}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ 2 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -2 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.8)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ 2 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -2 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.9)$$

Therefore,

$$\mathbf{b}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -2 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.10)$$

$$\mathbf{b}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (0.11)$$

Refer to Figure

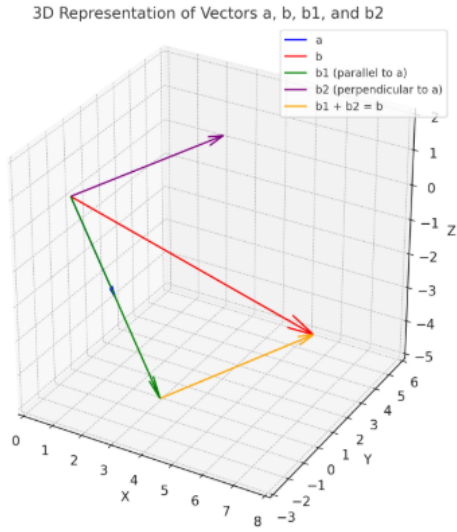


Fig. 0.1