

# VECTOR ALGEBRA

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## Types Of Vectors

- 1. Zero Vector :** A vector whose initial and terminal points coincide, It has zero magnitude.
- 2. Unit Vector:** A vector whose magnitude is unity. The unit vector in the direction of  $\vec{a}$  is denoted as  $\hat{a}$ .
- 3. Coinitial Vectors :** Two or more vectors having the same initial point.
- 4. Collinear Vectors:** Two or more vectors are collinear, if they are parallel to the same line irrespective of their magnitude.
- 5. Equal Vectors:** Two vectors are said to be equal, if they have same magnitude & direction regardless of the position of their initial points.
- 6. Negative of a vector :** A vector whose magnitude is the same as that of the given vector, but the direction is opposite to that of it.
- 7. Position Vector:** Let O be the origin & P(X,Y,Z) be a point with respect to the origin O. Then the vector called the position vector of the point P with respect to O.  $\vec{OP}$  is
 
$$|\vec{OP}| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$$
  - Direction angles: The angles made by  $\vec{OP}$  with positive direction of x, y, & z-axes (say  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  &  $\gamma$  respectively).
  - Directions cosines: the cosine value of these angles i.e.,  $\cos\alpha$ ,  $\cos\beta$  &  $\cos\gamma$  of  $\vec{OP}$  denoted by l, m & n respectively.

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## Properties of Vector Addition

- For any two vectors  $\vec{a}$  &  $\vec{b}$ ,  $\vec{a} + \vec{b} = \vec{b} + \vec{a}$  (commutative property)
- For any three vectors  $\vec{a}$ ,  $\vec{b}$ , &  $\vec{c}$   $(\vec{a} + \vec{b}) + \vec{c} = \vec{a} + (\vec{b} + \vec{c})$  (Associative property)

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## Multiplication Of A Vector By A Scalar

if  $\vec{a}$  is multiplied by scalar m then the product  $m\vec{a}$  is a vector whose magnitude is |m| times that of  $\vec{a}$  & direction is same as  $\vec{a}$  if m is positive where as opposite to that of  $\vec{a}$  if m is negative.

- $m(\vec{a}) = (\vec{a})m$
- $(m+n)\vec{a} = m\vec{a} + n\vec{a}$
- $m(n\vec{a}) = n(m\vec{a}) = (mn)\vec{a}$
- $m(\vec{a} + \vec{b}) = m\vec{a} + m\vec{b}$ .

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## Dot or Scalar Product of Vectors

Dot product of two vectors  $\vec{a}$  &  $\vec{b}$  inclined at an angle  $\theta$  is  $(\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}) = |\vec{a}||\vec{b}|\cos\theta$

- $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} \in \mathbb{R}$
- $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = \vec{b} \cdot \vec{a}$
- $(x\vec{a}) \cdot \vec{b} = x(\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}) = \vec{a} \cdot (x\vec{b})$
- $\vec{a} \cdot (\vec{b} + \vec{c}) = \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} + \vec{a} \cdot \vec{c}$
- If  $\vec{a}$  &  $\vec{b}$  perpendicular,  $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = 0$
- $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} < 0$  iff angle between  $\vec{a}$  &  $\vec{b}$  is obtuse.
- $\hat{i} \cdot \hat{i} = 1, \hat{j} \cdot \hat{j} = 1, \hat{k} \cdot \hat{k} = 1, \hat{i} \cdot \hat{j} = \hat{j} \cdot \hat{k} = \hat{i} \cdot \hat{k} = 0$
- If two vectors have same direction then  $\cos\theta = 1 \Rightarrow \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = ab$
- If two vectors have opposite direction then  $\cos\theta = -1 \Rightarrow \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = -ab$
- If  $\hat{a}$  &  $\hat{b}$  are unit vectors,  $\hat{a} \cdot \hat{b} = \cos\theta$
- $\vec{a} = a_1\hat{i} + b_1\hat{j} + c_1\hat{k}, \vec{b} = b_1\hat{i} + b_2\hat{j} + b_3\hat{k} \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = a_1b_1 + b_1b_2 + c_1b_3.$
- Projection of a vector  $\vec{b}$  on the other vector  $\vec{a}$  is given by  $\vec{b} \cdot \hat{a}$  or  $\vec{b} \left( \frac{\vec{a}}{|\vec{a}|} \right)$
- A vector in the direction of the bisector of the angle between the two vectors  $\vec{a}$  &  $\vec{b}$  is  $\frac{\vec{a}}{|\vec{a}|} + \frac{\vec{b}}{|\vec{b}|}$
- Bisector of the interior angle between two vectors  $\vec{a}$  &  $\vec{b}$  is  $\lambda \left( \frac{\vec{a}}{a} + \frac{\vec{b}}{b} \right)$  i.e.,  $\lambda(\hat{a} + \hat{b})$  where  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^+$  & Bisector of the interior angle is  $\lambda \left( \frac{\vec{a}}{a} - \frac{\vec{b}}{b} \right)$ , is  $\lambda(\hat{a} - \hat{b})$

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## Cross product

Let  $\vec{a}$  &  $\vec{b}$  be two non-zero vectors inclined at an angle  $\theta$

Then, vector product is defined as  $\vec{a} \times \vec{b} = |\vec{a}| |\vec{b}| \sin\theta \hat{n}$  where,  $\hat{n}$  is a unit vector perpendicular to both vectors  $\vec{a}$  &  $\vec{b}$  such that  $\vec{a}, \vec{b}$  &  $\hat{n}$  form a right handed system.

### • Lagrange's Identity:

For any two vectors  $\vec{a}, \vec{b}$

$$(\vec{a} \times \vec{b})^2 = a^2b^2 - (\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b})^2 = \begin{vmatrix} \vec{a} \cdot \vec{a} & \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} \\ \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} & \vec{b} \cdot \vec{b} \end{vmatrix}$$

### • Formulation of vector product in terms of scalar product: The vector product $\vec{a} \times \vec{b}$ is the vector $\vec{c}$ , such that

$$|\vec{c}| = \sqrt{|\vec{a}|^2 |\vec{b}|^2 - (\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b})^2}$$

$$\vec{c} \cdot \vec{a} = \vec{c} \cdot \vec{b} = 0$$

$\vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{c}$  form a right-handed system.

### • Remarks

- $\vec{a} \times \vec{b}$  is a vector.
- If  $\vec{a}$  &  $\vec{b}$  are nonzero vectors, then  $\vec{a} \times \vec{b} = 0 \Leftrightarrow \vec{a} \parallel \vec{b}$
- For mutually perpendicular unit vectors  $\hat{i}, \hat{j}, \hat{k}$ ,
 
$$\hat{i} \times \hat{i} = \hat{j} \times \hat{j} = \hat{k} \times \hat{k} = 0$$
- $\vec{a} \times \vec{b} = -\vec{b} \times \vec{a}$
- If  $\vec{a}$  &  $\vec{b}$  represent the adjacent sides of a triangle then its area is  $\frac{1}{2} |\vec{a} \times \vec{b}|$
- If  $\vec{a}$  &  $\vec{b}$  represent the adjacent sides of a parallelogram then the area is  $|\vec{a} \times \vec{b}|$
- $\lambda(\vec{a} \times \vec{b}) = (\lambda\vec{a}) \times \vec{b} = \vec{a} \times (\lambda\vec{b})$
- If  $\vec{a} = a_1\hat{i} + a_2\hat{j} + a_3\hat{k}$  &  $\vec{b} = b_1\hat{i} + b_2\hat{j} + b_3\hat{k}$  then  $|\vec{a} \times \vec{b}| = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \end{vmatrix}$
- Unit vector perpendicular to the plane of  $\vec{a}$  &  $\vec{b}$  is  $\hat{n} = \pm \frac{\vec{a} \times \vec{b}}{|\vec{a} \times \vec{b}|}$

### • Vector area:

- If  $\vec{a}, \vec{b}$  &  $\vec{c}$  are the position vectors of 3 points then area of  $\triangle ABC = \frac{1}{2} [\vec{a} \times \vec{b} + \vec{b} \times \vec{c} + \vec{c} \times \vec{a}]$  A, B, C are collinear iff  $\vec{a} \times \vec{b} + \vec{b} \times \vec{c} + \vec{c} \times \vec{a} = 0$ .
- Area of any quadrilateral whose diagonal vectors are  $d_1$  &  $d_2$  is given by  $\frac{1}{2} |\vec{d}_1 \times \vec{d}_2|$

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## Vector Triple Product:

Vector Triple Product of  $\vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{c}$  is  $\vec{a} \times (\vec{b} \times \vec{c})$ .

It is a vector perpendicular to the plane containing  $\vec{a}$  &  $\vec{b} \times \vec{c}$  lying in the plane of  $\vec{b}$  &  $\vec{c}$

- $\vec{a} \times (\vec{b} \times \vec{c}) = (\vec{a} \cdot \vec{c})\vec{b} - (\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b})\vec{c}$
- $(\vec{a} \times \vec{b}) \times \vec{c} = (\vec{a} \cdot \vec{c})\vec{b} - (\vec{b} \cdot \vec{c})\vec{a}$
- $(\vec{a} \times \vec{b}) \times \vec{c} \neq \vec{a} \times (\vec{b} \times \vec{c})$

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## Test of Collinearity

$$x\vec{a} + y\vec{b} + z\vec{c} = 0 [x, y, z \text{ scalars, } x + y + z = 0]$$

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## Test of Coplanarity

$$x\vec{a} + y\vec{b} + z\vec{c} + w\vec{d} = 0 [x, y, z, w \text{ scalars, } x + y + z + w = 0]$$



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### Reciprocal system of Vectors

If  $\vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{c}$  &  $\vec{a}', \vec{b}', \vec{c}'$  are two sets of noncoplanar vectors such that  $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{a}' = \vec{b} \cdot \vec{b}' = \vec{c} \cdot \vec{c}' = 1$  then the two systems are called reciprocal systems.

$$\vec{a}' = \frac{\vec{b} \times \vec{c}}{[\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}]}, \vec{b}' = \frac{\vec{c} \times \vec{a}}{[\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}]}, \vec{c}' = \frac{\vec{a} \times \vec{b}}{[\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}]}$$

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### Scalar Triple Product/Box Product: $[\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}]$

Box product of  $\vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{c}$  is  $(\vec{a} \times \vec{b}) \cdot \vec{c} = abc \sin \theta \cos \phi$

$\theta \rightarrow$  angle between  $\vec{a}$  &  $\vec{b}$

$\phi \rightarrow$  angle between  $\vec{a} \times \vec{b}$  and  $\vec{c}$

Box product geometrically represents the volume of the parallelepiped whose three coterminal edges are represented by  $\vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{c}$

$$V = [\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}]$$

$$\bullet \vec{a} \cdot (\vec{b} \times \vec{c}) = (\vec{a} \times \vec{b}) \cdot \vec{c}$$

$$\bullet [\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}] = [\vec{b} \vec{c} \vec{a}] = [\vec{c} \vec{a} \vec{b}]$$

$$\bullet \vec{a} \cdot (\vec{b} \times \vec{c}) = -\vec{a} \cdot (\vec{c} \times \vec{b})$$

$$\bullet [\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}] = -[\vec{a} \vec{c} \vec{b}]$$

$$\bullet \text{ If } \vec{a} = a_1\hat{i} + a_2\hat{j} + a_3\hat{k}, \vec{b} = b_1\hat{i} + b_2\hat{j} + b_3\hat{k},$$

$$\vec{c} = c_1\hat{i} + c_2\hat{j} + c_3\hat{k} \text{ then } [\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}] = \begin{vmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \\ c_1 & c_2 & c_3 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\bullet \vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{c} \text{ are coplanar if } [\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}] = 0$$

$$\bullet \text{ If } \vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{c} \text{ are non-coplanar, then } [\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}] > 0 \text{ for right handed system \& } [\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}] < 0 \text{ for left handed system.}$$

$$\bullet [\hat{i} \hat{j} \hat{k}] = 1$$

$$\bullet [k \vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}] = k [\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}]$$

$$\bullet [(\vec{a} + \vec{b}) \vec{c} \vec{d}] = [\vec{a} \vec{c} \vec{d}] + [\vec{b} \vec{c} \vec{d}]$$

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### Direction cosines & Direction Ratios

• If  $\vec{a}$  makes angles of  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$  with the direction of  $x, y, z$  axes, then  $\cos \alpha, \cos \beta, \cos \gamma$  are called direction cosines which  $\vec{a}$  is usually denoted by  $l, m, n$ .

• Any three members  $a, b, c$  proportional to the direction cosines of a line are called direction ratios

$$\frac{l}{a} = \frac{m}{b} = \frac{n}{c}$$

$$l = \pm \frac{a}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + c^2}}; m = \pm \frac{b}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + c^2}}$$

$$n = \pm \frac{c}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + c^2}}, l^2 + m^2 + n^2 = 1$$

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### Vector Equation of a Line

• Parametric vector equation of a line passing through two points

$$A(\vec{a}) \& B(\vec{b}) \text{ is } \vec{r} = \vec{a} + t(\vec{b} - \vec{a})$$

• If line passes through the point  $A(\vec{a})$  & is parallel to  $\vec{b}$ , then its equation is  $\vec{r} = \vec{a} + t\vec{b}$

• Equation of the bisectors of the angle between the lines,

$$\vec{r} = \vec{a} + \lambda \vec{b} \& \vec{r} = \vec{a} + \mu \vec{c} \text{ is } \vec{r} = \vec{a} + t(\vec{b} + \vec{c}) \& \vec{r} = \vec{a} + p(\vec{c} - \vec{b})$$

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### Shortest distance between two lines

If two lines are  $\vec{r}_1 = \vec{a}_1 + k\vec{b}$  &  $\vec{r}_2 = \vec{a}_2 + k\vec{b}$

$$\text{then } d = \frac{|\vec{b} \times (\vec{a}_2 - \vec{a}_1)|}{|\vec{b}|}$$

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### Equation of Plane

$(\vec{r} - \vec{r}_0) \cdot \vec{n} = 0$  containing the point with position vector  $\vec{r}_0$ , where  $\vec{n}$  is a vector normal to the plane.

$\vec{r} \cdot \vec{n} = d$  general equation

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### Projection & Component

$$\bullet \text{ Projection of } \vec{a} \text{ along } \vec{b} = \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}{|\vec{b}|}$$

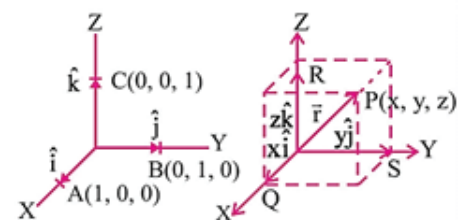
$$\bullet \text{ Component of } \vec{a} \text{ along } \vec{b} = \frac{(\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b})\vec{b}}{|\vec{b}|^2}$$

$$\bullet \text{ Projection of } \vec{a} \perp \vec{b} = \frac{|\vec{a} \times \vec{b}|}{|\vec{b}|}$$

$$\bullet \text{ Component of } \vec{a} \perp \vec{b} = \vec{a} - \frac{(\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b})\vec{b}}{|\vec{b}|^2}$$

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### Component Of Vector



$\vec{OA}, \vec{OB}$  &  $\vec{OC}$  are unit vectors along  $x, y$  &  $z$  axes respectively, denoted by  $\hat{i}, \hat{j}$  &  $\hat{k}$  respectively Position Vector of with reference to  $O$  is given by:

$$\vec{OP} \text{ (or } \vec{r}) = x\hat{i} + y\hat{j} + z\hat{k}$$

This form of any vector is called its component form.

$$\text{Also, } |\vec{OP}| = |\vec{r}| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$$

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### Vector Joining Two Points

Let  $A(x_1, y_1, z_1)$  &  $B(x_2, y_2, z_2)$  be any two points in the space, then

$$\vec{OA} = x_1\hat{i} + y_1\hat{j} + z_1\hat{k} \& \vec{OB} = x_2\hat{i} + y_2\hat{j} + z_2\hat{k}$$

$$\therefore \vec{AB} = \vec{OB} - \vec{OA} = (x_2 - x_1)\hat{i} + (y_2 - y_1)\hat{j} + (z_2 - z_1)\hat{k}$$

$$|\vec{AB}| = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2 + (z_2 - z_1)^2}$$

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### Section Formulae

The position vector of a point  $R$  dividing a line segment joining the points  $P$  &  $Q$  whose position vectors are

$\vec{a}$  &  $\vec{b}$  respectively, in the ratio  $m : n$

$$(i) \text{ internally, is given by } \frac{m\vec{b} + n\vec{a}}{m + n}$$

$$(ii) \text{ externally, is given by } \frac{m\vec{b} - n\vec{a}}{m - n}$$

The position vector of the middle point of  $PQ$  is given by  $\frac{1}{2}(\vec{a} + \vec{b})$

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### Scalar product of four vectors

$$(\vec{a} \times \vec{b}) \cdot (\vec{c} \times \vec{d}) = \begin{vmatrix} \vec{a} \cdot \vec{c} & \vec{b} \cdot \vec{c} \\ \vec{a} \cdot \vec{d} & \vec{b} \cdot \vec{d} \end{vmatrix}$$

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### Vector product of four vectors

$$(\vec{a} \times \vec{b}) \times (\vec{c} \times \vec{d}) = [\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{d}]\vec{c} - [\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}]\vec{d}$$