



Curtin College

# DIPLOMA OF ENGINEERING

LINEAR ALGEBRA & STATISTICS EMTH1019  
VECTORS – WEEK 5

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# Vectors

- Vector Basics & Notation
- Dot Product
- Scalar & Vector Projections
- Direction Cosines

# RESOURCES FOR LINEAR ALGEBRA

- Slides
- Lecture Notes
- Lecture problems on first few pages of notes
- Tutorial problems
- News Forum



## RESOURCES & HOMEWORK

- The lecture notes are much more detailed than this PowerPoint
- You should be able to do all the exercises on page 2 and 3 of this weeks lecture notes
- The Khan Academy has some wonderful resources
  - [Link to Khan Academy - Vectors](#)

# IMPORTANT

**Everything we do with vectors relies on you learning these basic skills.**

1. Make a vector from 2 points
2. Determine the magnitude (length) of a vector
3. Add and subtract vectors
4. 2 ways of multiplying vectors
  - a. Scalar product – also known as Dot Product – produces a scalar
  - b. Vector Product – also known as Cross Product – produces another vector

For instance:

- To find the angle between 2 vectors you need to be able to do 2 & 4a.
- To find how much of a vector lies in a different direction requires 2 & 4a.
- To find an  $\mathbb{R}^3$  vector orthogonal to 2 other vectors requires 4b & 2.

# WHAT IS A VECTOR?

- Latin origin
  - From the Latin *vector*, “one who carries or conveys” or “one who rides”
- Physics
  - A quantity that has both direction and magnitude
- Mathematics
  - A matrix with one row or one column
- Biology
  - An organism, such as a mosquito, that transmits a disease or parasite from one living thing to another
- Aviation
  - A course taken by an aircraft

# VECTORS & SCALARS

## In Engineering

- Scalars only have magnitude (no direction)
  - 7 kg, 14 years, 21 kmh, 28 metres
- Vectors have both magnitude and direction
  - 11 km due west,  $9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$  towards the earth, 12 miles north by north west



# VECTOR REPRESENTATION

If we have 2 Points we can make a Vector.

- In  $\mathbb{R}^3$  (3 space) Point A (1, 3, 5) and Point B (4, -6, 7)
- A vector that goes from A to B can be written as
- $\overrightarrow{AB}$ .

To calculate  $\overrightarrow{AB}$

- Determine how far is it from the x coordinate of A to the x coordinate of B
  - From 1 to 4 is a step of +3
    - This is the same as calculating (Point B) - (Point A)
    - Point A (1, 3, 5) and Point B (4, -6, 7)
  - Do the same for the y and for the z
  - The Vector  $\overrightarrow{AB} = \langle 3, -9, 2 \rangle$
  - I use  $\langle \rangle$  for vectors but you also see  $[ ]$  but never  $( )$
- Calculate the vector  $\overrightarrow{BA}$  ?
- Is it equal to  $\overrightarrow{AB}$ ?

# POINT AND VECTOR NOTATION

## Points

- In  $\mathbb{R}^3$  (3 space) Point A (1, 3, 5) and Point B (4, -6, 7)
- A (1,3,5) and B(4,-6,7)
- You can describe the point B(4,-6,7) as a position vector  $\overrightarrow{OB} = [4, -6, 7]$  = <4,-6,7>, but not round brackets.

## Vectors

- A vector that goes from A to B can be written as  $\overrightarrow{AB}$ .
- A vector that goes from B to A can be written as  $\overrightarrow{BA}$ .
- You also see vectors written with one letter either a bold letter e.g. **d** or a letter with ~ (a tilde) underneath it.

# MAGNITUDE OF A VECTOR

Consider a vector  $\mathbf{a} = \langle 3, 2 \rangle$

- Draw it on a set of Cartesian axes starting at (0,0) and finishing at the point(3,2). Remember to add the arrow.
- Calculate the length of this vector.
  - Easy  $||\mathbf{a}|| = \sqrt{3^2 + 2^2} = \sqrt{13}$

Calculate the length of the 3D vector  $\mathbf{b} = \langle 3, 2, 1 \rangle$

Calculate the length of the 4D vector  $\mathbf{c} = \langle 1, 2, 3, 4 \rangle$

Thank goodness for Pythagoras

# ARE THE VECTORS EQUAL?

If  $\overrightarrow{AB} = \overrightarrow{BA}$  the both the magnitude and the direction must be equal

Magnitude (also called NORM) of the vector  $\overrightarrow{AB}$  is written as  $||\overrightarrow{AB}||$

- $\sqrt{3^2 + (-9)^2 + 2^2} = \sqrt{9 + 81 + 4} = \sqrt{94}$
- What is  $||\overrightarrow{BA}||$

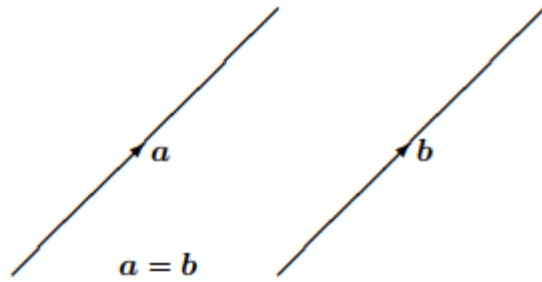
To determine only the direction of a vector you divide a vector by its magnitude. This is called the unit vector and has a length of 1 unit.

- $\widehat{AB}$  is the unit vector. It has a little hat on top of it (to keep the rain off)
- $\widehat{AB} = \frac{\langle 3, -9, 2 \rangle}{\sqrt{94}} = \langle \frac{3}{\sqrt{94}}, \frac{-9}{\sqrt{94}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{94}} \rangle$

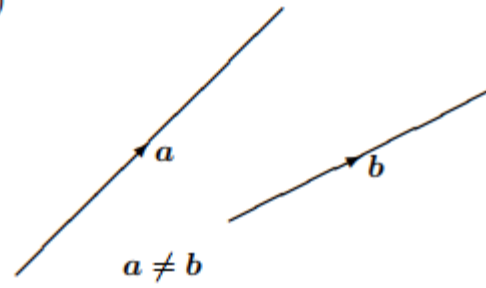
Calculate  $\widehat{BA}$

- Are these 2 vectors equal?
  - Why?

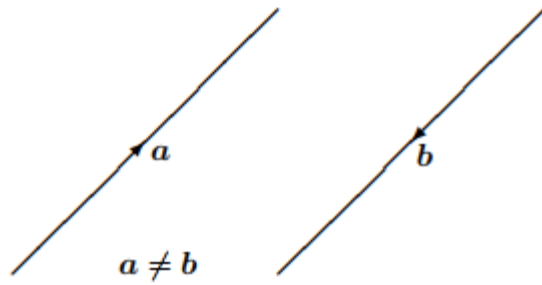
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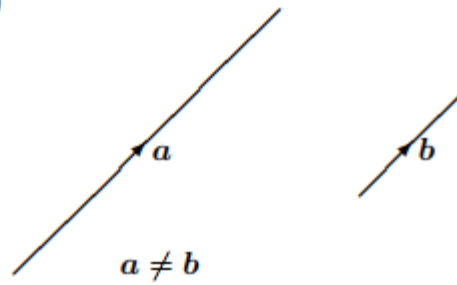
(ii)



(iii)



(iv)



# ZERO & UNIT VECTORS

What length and direction does a **zero** vector have?

- $\mathbf{u} = \langle 0,0,0 \rangle$  or  $\mathbf{v} = \langle 0,0,0,0 \rangle$ 
  - The length is 0 but what direction does a zero vector point?
  - Nowhere. It has no particular direction.

What length does a **unit** vector have?

- The length is always 1
- Is the vector  $\mathbf{z} = \langle 1,1,1 \rangle$  a unit vector?

Consider the vectors  $\mathbf{t} = \langle 1,2 \rangle$ ,  $\mathbf{w} = \langle 2,4 \rangle$ ,  $\mathbf{m} = \langle 3,6 \rangle$

- They are not unit vectors as they have magnitudes of  $\sqrt{5}$ ,  $\sqrt{20}$  and  $\sqrt{45}$ , but which direction do they point in? Plot on a graph.
- How do you make  $\mathbf{t}$ ,  $\mathbf{w}$  and  $\mathbf{m}$  into vectors with a magnitude of 1?
- Does  $\hat{\mathbf{t}}$  have the same direction as  $\mathbf{t}$ ?

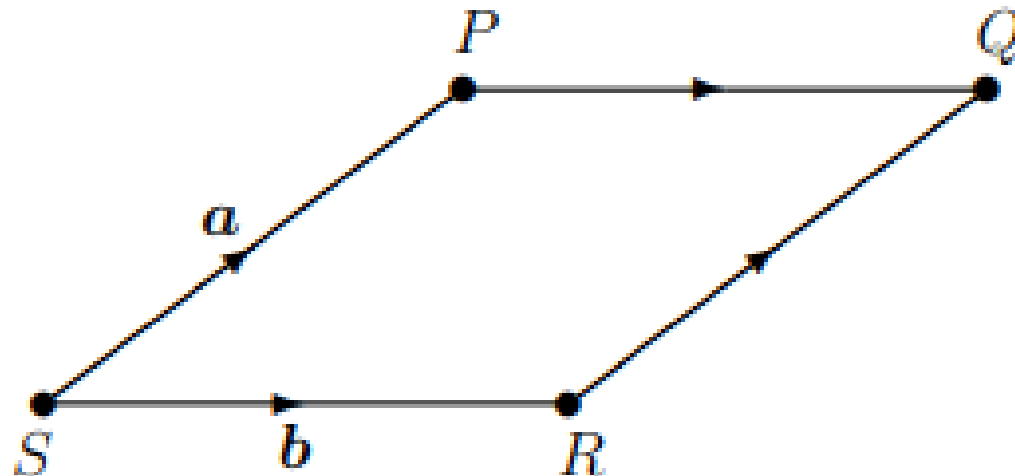


## QUESTION: CONSIDER A RHOMBUS PQRS

What is a rhombus?

If we let  $\mathbf{a} = \overrightarrow{SP}$  and  $\mathbf{b} = \overrightarrow{SR}$ ,

- Does  $\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{b}$ ?
- Does  $||\mathbf{a}|| = ||\mathbf{b}||$  ?
- Express the following in terms of  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$ 
  - $\overrightarrow{PR}$
  - $\overrightarrow{QS}$



# VECTOR OPERATIONS

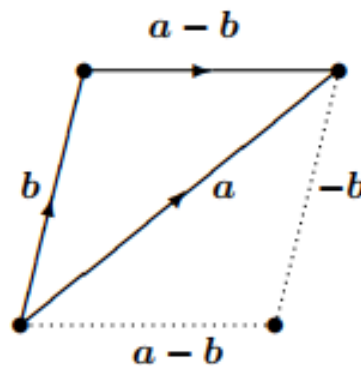
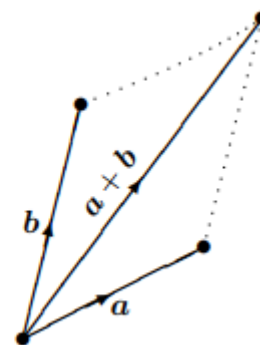
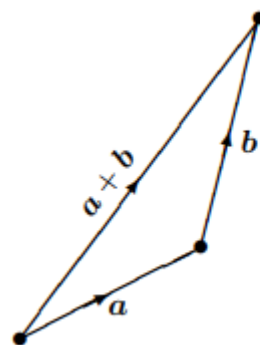
**Sum of 2 vectors**  $a + b = b + a$

If  $g = \langle 3, -9, 2 \rangle$  and  $h = \langle 2, -10, -2 \rangle$

- $g + h =$
- $h + g =$

What happens if  $z = \langle 0, 0, 0 \rangle$ ?

- $g + z =$
- $g - z =$
- $z - h =$



# NEGATIVE OF A VECTOR

The negative of the vector  $\mathbf{g} = \langle 4, -6, 1.5 \rangle$  is  $-\mathbf{g} = \langle -4, 6, -1.5 \rangle$

- These vectors have the same magnitude
- They are parallel
- But they point in opposite directions – it is as if one is pointing south and the other is pointing north.
- They are not equal
- They are 2 distinct vectors

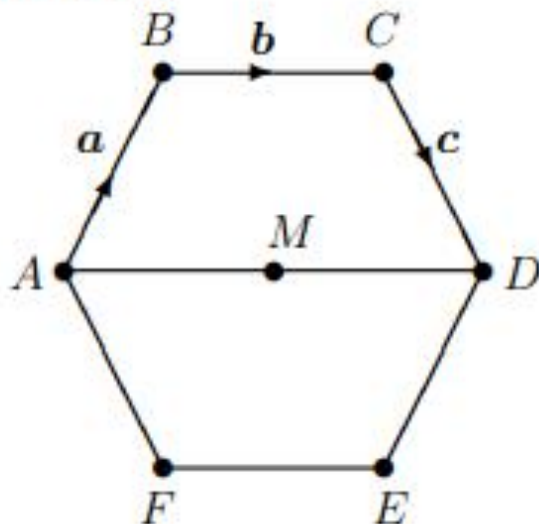
The negative of  $\mathbf{a}$  is  $-\mathbf{a}$

The negative of  $\overrightarrow{AB}$  is  $\overrightarrow{BA}$  or even  $-\overrightarrow{AB}$

# LET $ABCDEF$ BE A REGULAR HEXAGON....

**Ex:** Let  $ABCDEF$  be a regular hexagon,  $M$  the midpoint of  $AD$ ,  $\vec{AB} = \mathbf{a}$ ,  $\vec{BC} = \mathbf{b}$  and  $\vec{CD} = \mathbf{c}$ . Find  $\vec{AC}$ ,  $\vec{AD}$ ,  $\vec{AM}$ ,  $\vec{BE}$  and  $\vec{FC}$  in terms of  $\mathbf{a}$ ,  $\mathbf{b}$  and  $\mathbf{c}$ .

**Soln:** We begin by drawing a diagram.



# SCALAR MULTIPLICATION

**What happens when you multiply a vector by a scalar?**

If the vector  $\mathbf{a} = \langle 4, -5, -1 \rangle$  is multiplied by the scalar 7 you get...

If the vector  $\mathbf{a}$  is multiplied by any scalar represented by  $S$  you get  $S\mathbf{a}$

- Is  $S\mathbf{a}$  a vector?

If  $\mathbf{a} = \langle 4, -5, -1 \rangle$  is multiplied by  $S$  you get ...

- What is the magnitude of this new vector?
- Is  $\mathbf{a}$  always equal to the vector  $S * \mathbf{a}$  ?
- Does  $S\mathbf{a}$  always have the same direction as  $\mathbf{a}$ ?
- What is the magnitude of  $S\mathbf{a}$  ?
- What is the answer if  $S = 0$  ?

# POSITION VECTORS AGAIN

**Points have no direction.**

**A position vector tells you where a point is with reference to the origin**

- Point  $P = (3, 6)$
- The origin  $O = (0, 0)$
- The Position Vector  $\overrightarrow{OP}$  starts at the origin and ends at the point P
  - $\overrightarrow{OP} = \langle 3, 6 \rangle$
  - Notice that the numbers are the same as the point P but I have used triangler brackets to make it obvious that this is a position **VECTOR**
- What is  $\overrightarrow{PO}$  ?
- If  $\overrightarrow{OQ} = \langle 1, 2 \rangle$  what does
  - $\overrightarrow{OP} + \overrightarrow{OQ} =$
  - $\overrightarrow{OP} - \overrightarrow{OQ} =$
  - $\overrightarrow{OQ} - \overrightarrow{OP} =$
  - $\overrightarrow{PQ} =$



# ADDING POSITION VECTORS $\overrightarrow{AB} = \overrightarrow{OB} - \overrightarrow{OA}$

**Remember that  $\overrightarrow{AB}$  is the vector that goes from point A to point B**

If A(-1, 2, 3), B(3, -1, 0), find

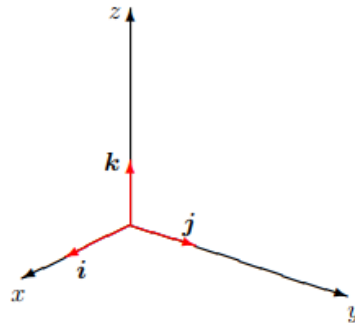
- $\overrightarrow{OA}$
- $\overrightarrow{OB}$
- $\overrightarrow{BA}$
- $\overrightarrow{AB}$
- What space are these vectors in?
- Does  $\overrightarrow{AB} = \overrightarrow{BA}$  ?

# STANDARD UNIT BASIS VECTORS

## Big words for something simple

The  $i, j$  &  $k$  are the standard unit basis vectors and are unit vectors on the Cartesian axes.

- $i = \langle 1, 0, 0 \rangle$
- $j = \langle 0, 1, 0 \rangle$
- $k = \langle 0, 0, 1 \rangle$



We have been writing 3D vectors in the format  $\langle x, y, z \rangle$

- E.g.  $a = \langle 3, 4, -5 \rangle$

Another way of writing vectors is

- $a = 3i + 4j - 5k$  or you will see me write  $\langle 3i, 4j, -5k \rangle$
- They are interchangeable

# PROBLEM

If  $a = 3i - j + 2k$  and  $b = \langle 5, -2, -1 \rangle$  ...

Calculate:

- $a + b$
- $b - a$
- $2a$
- $2a + b$
- $|a|$
- $||a + b||$

# THE DOT PRODUCT (OR SCALAR PRODUCT)

There are 2 ways to multiply vectors the Dot Product and the Cross Product

- The Dot product produces a Scalar (just a number).
- The Cross Product produces another Vector and only exists in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

The Dot Product of 2 vectors  $\mathbf{a} = \langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle$  and  $\mathbf{b} = \langle b_1, b_2, b_3 \rangle$  is

$$\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = a_1 b_1 + a_2 b_2 + a_3 b_3$$

For example

$$\langle 1, 2, 3 \rangle \cdot \langle -2, 0, 1 \rangle = (1)(-2) + (2)(0) + (3)(1) = -2 + 0 + 3 = 1$$

- The answer is 1. This is a scalar quantity.

$$\text{Also } \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a} = a_1 a_1 + a_2 a_2 + a_3 a_3 = \|\mathbf{a}\|^2$$

# DOT PRODUCT RULE

**The Dot Product Rule has a geometric meaning**

Consider 2 vectors  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$  with an angle  $\theta$  between them.

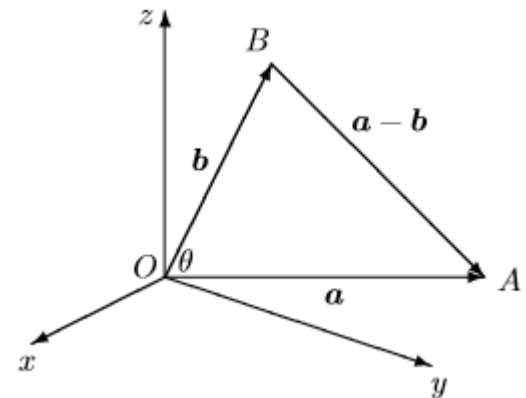
Starting with the cosine rule

- $||\overrightarrow{BA}||^2 = ||\overrightarrow{OA}||^2 + ||\overrightarrow{OB}||^2 - 2||\overrightarrow{OA}|| \cdot ||\overrightarrow{OB}|| \cos(\theta)$
- $\overrightarrow{OA} = \mathbf{a}, \overrightarrow{OB} = \mathbf{b}, \overrightarrow{BA} = \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a}$
- $||\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b}||^2 = ||\mathbf{a}||^2 + ||\mathbf{b}||^2 - 2||\mathbf{a}|| * ||\mathbf{b}|| \cos(\theta)$

$$\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = ||\mathbf{a}|| * ||\mathbf{b}|| \cos(\theta)$$

or

$$\cos(\theta) = \frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}}{||\mathbf{a}|| * ||\mathbf{b}||}$$



## FIND THE ANGLE $BAC$

If the points are defined as  $A(1,0,2)$ ,  $B(-1,0,1)$  and  $C(1,-1,1)$

- $\cos(\theta) =$
- $\cos(\theta) = \frac{\langle -2, 0, -1 \rangle \cdot \langle 0, -1, -1 \rangle}{\sqrt{5} \cdot \sqrt{2}} = \frac{0+0+1}{\sqrt{10}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{10}}$  This is the cosine of the angle.
- Therefore  $\theta = ?$

### IMPORTANT

- If two vectors have an angle of  $\frac{\pi}{2}$  between them they are orthogonal
- If the angle between them is 0 or  $\pi$  then they are parallel



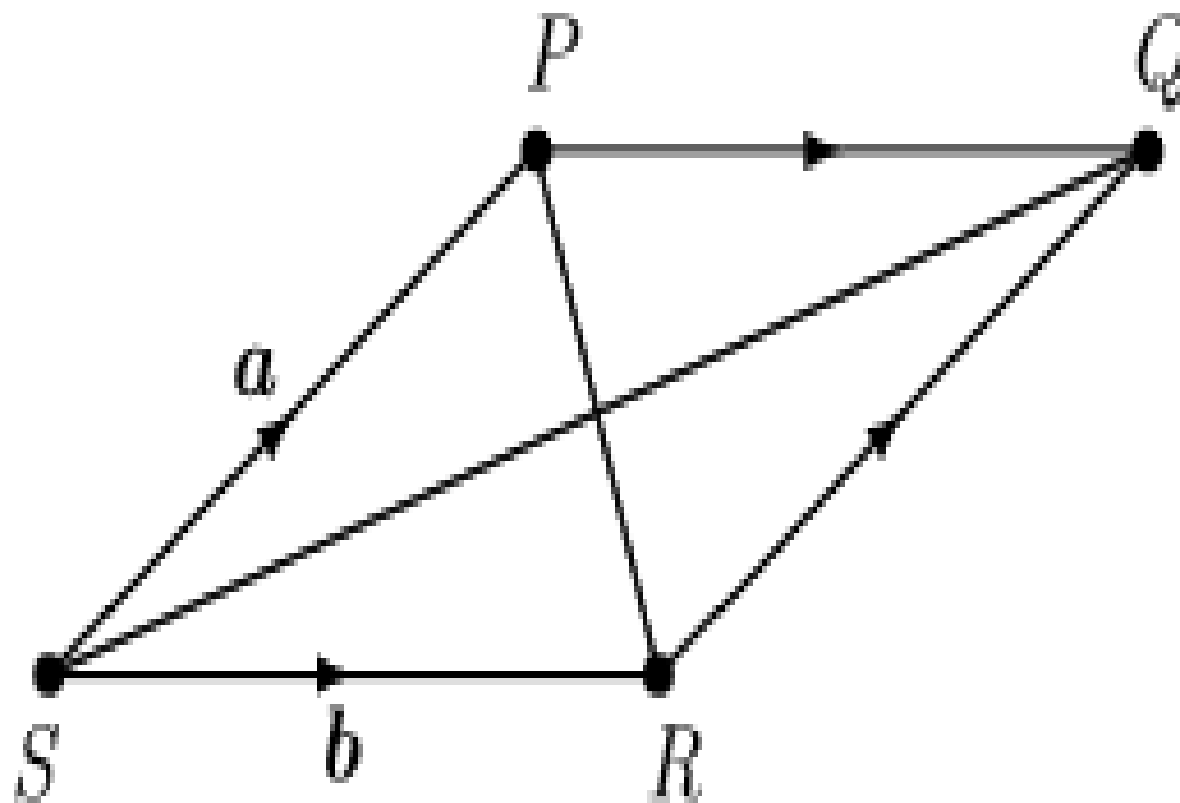
# SHOW THAT THE DIAGONALS OF A RHOMBUS ARE PERPENDICULAR

What special properties does a rhombus have?

What formulae do I need to use to see if 2 vectors are perpendicular?

What does it have to equal?

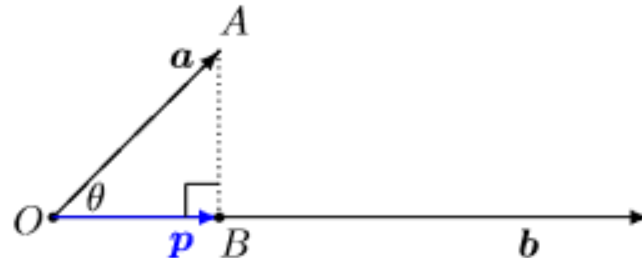
Draw and label a rhombus



# PROJECTION & COMPONENT OF A VECTOR

Consider 2 vectors  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$  that start at the origin.

- In this example  $\mathbf{a}$  is pointing up and to the right and  $\mathbf{b}$  lies on the x axis



How much of  $\mathbf{a}$  projects on to the x axis?

- If we make  $\mathbf{a}$  the hypotenuse of a right angled triangle you can see that the projection (or shadow) of  $\mathbf{a}$  is  $\mathbf{p}$ , and if we know  $\theta$  we could just use trigonometry and the Dot Product Rule

$$p = \|\vec{OB}\| = \|\vec{OA}\| \cos \theta = \|\mathbf{a}\| \frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}}{\|\mathbf{a}\| \|\mathbf{b}\|} = \mathbf{a} \cdot \left( \frac{\mathbf{b}}{\|\mathbf{b}\|} \right) = \mathbf{a} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{b}},$$

# SCALAR & VECTOR PROJECTION

## Scalar Projection

- Scalar projection =  $a \cdot \hat{b}$
- sometimes you see Scalar projection written as  $p$
- These 2 vectors are a dot product so  $p$  is a scalar ( just a number)
- Scalar Projection only tells me the magnitude of the projection.

## Vector Projection

- Vector Projection =  $(\text{Scalar Projection}) \cdot \hat{b}$ 
  - **Vector Projection = (Scalar Projection of a on b)\* (Unit vector b)**
  - **Sometimes you see vector projection written as  $p$**
  - this is easy to confuse with the scalar projection  $p$
- Vector projection tells us the magnitude of the projection and the direction of  $\hat{b}$  – remember  $\hat{b}$  is the unit vector
- You must work out the Scalar Projection first

# PROBLEM

Find the scalar and vector projection of  $a$  on  $b$

$$a = \langle 2, 1, -5 \rangle \text{ and } b = \langle 3, -4, 0 \rangle$$

Scalar projection of  $a$  on  $b$  means

- How much of the **vector  $a$**  lies in the  **$b$  direction**?

$$\langle 2, 1, -5 \rangle \cdot \frac{\langle 3, -4, 0 \rangle}{\sqrt{9 + 16 + 0}} = \frac{6 - 4 + 0}{\sqrt{25}} = \frac{2}{5}$$

The answer is a scalar

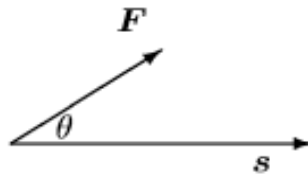
Vector Projection of  $a$  on  $b$  means

- (Scalar projection of  $a$  on  $b$ ) \* ( **$b$  direction**)
- $\frac{2}{5} * \frac{\langle 3, -4, 0 \rangle}{\sqrt{9+16+0}} = \frac{2}{25} * \langle 3, -4, 0 \rangle$
- The answer is a vector

**Now find the vector projection of  $b$  on  $a$**

# WORK DONE BY A FORCE

A powerful application of Scalar Projection is when you ask how much work is done by a force  $\mathbf{F}$  when it results in a displacement  $\mathbf{s}$



$$\begin{aligned}\text{Work} &= \text{force} \times \text{displacement} \\ &= \text{magnitude of } \mathbf{F} \text{ in direction of } \mathbf{s} \times \|\mathbf{s}\| \\ &= \text{scalar projection of } \mathbf{F} \text{ on } \mathbf{s} \times \|\mathbf{s}\| \\ &= \|\mathbf{F}\| \cos \theta \|\mathbf{s}\| \\ &= \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{s}\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Work} = \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{s}$$

The Work Done is the **Dot Product** of the Force and the displacement



# PROBLEM

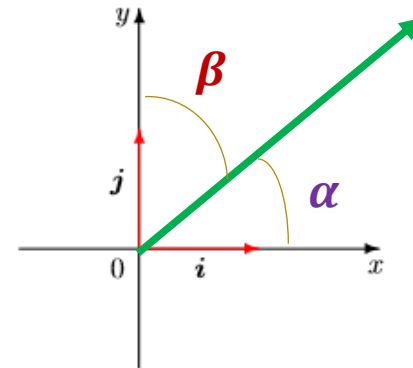
How much work is done by a force  $\mathbf{F} = \langle 2, -3, -1 \rangle$  in moving an object from  $A(2, -1, 3)$  to  $B(5, 3, -6)$  ?

# DIRECTION COSINES IN 2 SPACE

The direction Cosines in 2 space are simply the cosines of the angles that the vector makes with respect to each of the standard unit basis vectors (or WRT to the axes)

Consider the vector  $\mathbf{a} = \langle a_1, a_2 \rangle$

- $\alpha$  (alpha) and  $\beta$  (beta) are angles
- $\|\mathbf{a}\| = \sqrt{a_1^2 + a_2^2}$
- $\cos(\alpha) = \frac{a_1}{\|\mathbf{a}\|}$
- $\cos(\beta) = \frac{a_2}{\|\mathbf{a}\|}$

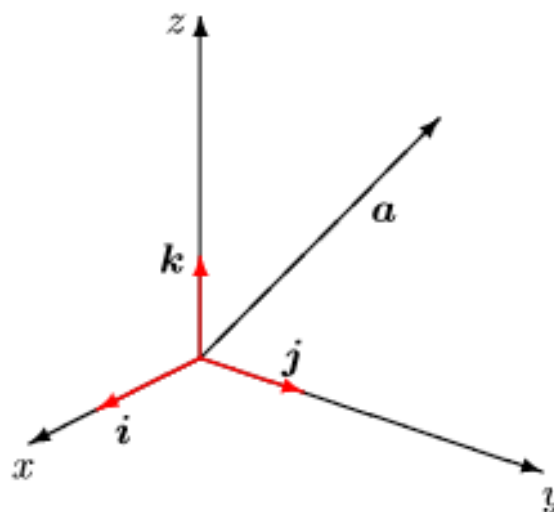


## IMPORTANT

The direction cosines are the same as  $\hat{a}$ , which is the unit vector.

- $\hat{a} = \langle \cos(\alpha), \cos(\beta) \rangle$

# DIRECTION COSINES IN 3 SPACE



We have  $\cos \alpha = \frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{i}}{\|\mathbf{a}\| \|\mathbf{i}\|} = \frac{a_1}{\|\mathbf{a}\|}$ ,  $\cos \beta = \frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{j}}{\|\mathbf{a}\| \|\mathbf{j}\|} = \frac{a_2}{\|\mathbf{a}\|}$ ,  $\cos \gamma = \frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{k}}{\|\mathbf{a}\| \|\mathbf{k}\|} = \frac{a_3}{\|\mathbf{a}\|}$ , so

$$[\cos \alpha, \cos \beta, \cos \gamma] = \frac{\mathbf{a}}{\|\mathbf{a}\|} = \hat{\mathbf{a}},$$

# PROBLEM

**Calculate the Direction Cosines for  $c = \langle 4, -5, 3 \rangle$**