

NCERT 12.10.5.14

1. If $\vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{c}$ are mutually perpendicular vectors of equal magnitudes, show that the vector $\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}$ is equally inclined to \vec{a}, \vec{b} and \vec{c} .

Construction Steps

Since \vec{a}, \vec{b} and \vec{c} are mutually Perpendicular vectors, we have $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = \vec{b} \cdot \vec{c} = \vec{c} \cdot \vec{a} = 0$. It is given that : $|\vec{a}| = |\vec{b}| = |\vec{c}|$ let vector $\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}$ be inclined to \vec{a}, \vec{b} and \vec{c} at angles θ_1, θ_2 and θ_3 respectively.

Then, we have:

$$\cos \theta_1 = \frac{(\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}) \cdot \vec{a}}{|\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}| |\vec{a}|} \quad (1)$$

$$= \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{a} + \vec{b} \cdot \vec{a} + \vec{c} \cdot \vec{a}}{|\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}| |\vec{a}|} \quad (2)$$

$$= \frac{|\vec{a}|^2}{|\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}| |\vec{a}|} \quad (3)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{|\vec{a}|}{|\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}|} \quad (4)$$

$$\cos \theta_2 = \frac{(\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}) \cdot \vec{b}}{|\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}| |\vec{b}|} \quad (5)$$

$$= \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} + \vec{b} \cdot \vec{b} + \vec{c} \cdot \vec{b}}{|\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}| |\vec{b}|} \quad (6)$$

$$= \frac{|\vec{b}|^2}{|\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}| |\vec{b}|} \quad (7)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{|\vec{b}|}{|\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}|} \quad (8)$$

$$\cos \theta_3 = \frac{(\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}) \cdot \vec{c}}{|\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}| |\vec{c}|} \quad (9)$$

$$= \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{c} + \vec{b} \cdot \vec{c} + \vec{c} \cdot \vec{c}}{|\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}| |\vec{c}|} \quad (10)$$

$$= \frac{|\vec{c}|^2}{|\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}| |\vec{c}|} \quad (11)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{|\vec{c}|}{|\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}|} \quad (12)$$

$$(13)$$

now , as

$$|\vec{a}| = |\vec{b}| = |\vec{c}|, \quad (14)$$

$$\cos \theta_1 = \cos \theta_2 = \cos \theta_3 \quad (15)$$

$$\therefore \theta_1 = \theta_2 = \theta_3 \quad (16)$$

Hence, the vector $(\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c})$ is equally inclined to \vec{a}, \vec{b} and \vec{c}

let us assume that vector $(\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c})$ as \vec{p}

$\vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{c}$ points are $(2, 0, 0), (0, 2, 0), (0, 0, 2)$ and $(\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c})$ is $(2, 2, 2)$

let O be the origin and points are $(0, 0, 0)$

let us consider the $\angle POA$

$$\cos(\angle POA) = \frac{(P - O)^T (A - O)}{\|P - O\| \|A - O\|} \quad (17)$$

Finding angle $\angle POA$

$$P - O = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (18)$$

$$A - O = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (19)$$

also calculating the values of norms

$$\|P - O\| = \sqrt{12} = 2\sqrt{3} \quad (20)$$

$$\|A - O\| = \sqrt{4} = 2 \quad (21)$$

$$\cos(\angle POA) = \frac{(P - O)^T (A - O)}{\|P - O\| \|A - O\|} \quad (22)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}}{4\sqrt{3}} \quad (23)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \quad (24)$$

$$\angle POA = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \right) \quad (25)$$

Similarly, $\angle POB, \angle POC$ are

Finding angle $\angle POB$

$$P - O = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (26)$$

$$B - O = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (27)$$

also calculating the values of norms

$$\|P - O\| = \sqrt{12} = 2\sqrt{3} \quad (28)$$

$$\|B - O\| = \sqrt{4} = 2 \quad (29)$$

$$\cos(\angle POB) = \frac{(-O)^T(B - O)}{\|P - O\| \|B - O\|} \quad (30)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}}{4\sqrt{3}} \quad (31)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \quad (32)$$

$$\angle POB = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \right) \quad (33)$$

Finding angle POC

$$P - O = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (34)$$

$$C - O = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (35)$$

also calculating the values of norms

$$\|P - O\| = \sqrt{12} = 2\sqrt{3} \quad (36)$$

$$\|C - O\| = \sqrt{4} = 2 \quad (37)$$

$$\cos(\angle POA) = \frac{(P - O)^T(C - O)}{\|P - O\| \|C - O\|} \quad (38)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}}{4\sqrt{3}} \quad (39)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \quad (40)$$

$$\angle POC = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \right) \quad (41)$$

$$\therefore \angle POA = \angle POB = \angle POC$$

Hence here all the angles are equal so they are equally inclined to each other