

NCERT 12.10.5.14

1. If $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}$ are mutually perpendicular vectors of equal magnitudes, show that the vector $\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{C}$ is equally inclined to \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B} and \mathbf{C} .

Construction Steps

Since \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B} and \mathbf{C} are mutually Perpendicular vectors, we have $\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{C} = \mathbf{C} \cdot \mathbf{A} = 0$.

It is given that :

$$|\mathbf{A}| = |\mathbf{B}| = |\mathbf{C}|$$

let vector $\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{C}$ be inclined to \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B} and \mathbf{C} at angles θ_1, θ_2 and θ_3 respectively.

Then, we have:

$$\|\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A}\| \triangleq \sqrt{(\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A})^T \mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A}} \quad (1)$$

let us assume that vector $(\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{C})$ as \mathbf{P}

$\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}$ points are $(2, 0), (2, 0), (2, 0)$ in three different axis and $(\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{C})$ is $(2, 2)$

let \mathbf{O} be the origin and points are $(0, 0)$

let us consider the $\angle \mathbf{POA}$

$$\cos(\theta_1) = \frac{(\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{O})^T (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{O})}{\|\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{O}\| \|\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{O}\|} \quad (2)$$

Finding angle POA

$$\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{O} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (3)$$

$$\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{O} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (4)$$

we know that

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{O}\| &\triangleq \sqrt{(\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{O})^\top \mathbf{P} - \mathbf{O}} \\ \|\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{O}\| &\triangleq \sqrt{(\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{O})^\top \mathbf{A} - \mathbf{O}} \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

$$\|\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{O}\| = \sqrt{8} = 2\sqrt{2} \quad (6)$$

$$\|\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{O}\| = \sqrt{4} = 2 \quad (7)$$

$$\cos(\theta_1) = \frac{(\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{O})^\top (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{O})}{\|\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{O}\| \|\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{O}\|} \quad (8)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}}{4\sqrt{2}} \quad (9)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \quad (10)$$

$$\angle POA = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right) \quad (11)$$

let us consider the $\angle \mathbf{POB}$

$$\cos(\theta_2) = \frac{(\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{O})^\top (\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{O})}{\|\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{O}\| \|\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{O}\|} \quad (12)$$

Finding angle \mathbf{POB}

$$\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{O} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (13)$$

$$\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{O} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (14)$$

we know that

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{O}\| &\triangleq \sqrt{(\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{O})^\top \mathbf{P} - \mathbf{O}} \\ \|\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{O}\| &\triangleq \sqrt{(\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{O})^\top \mathbf{B} - \mathbf{O}} \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

$$\|\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{O}\| = \sqrt{8} = 2\sqrt{2} \quad (16)$$

$$\|\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{O}\| = \sqrt{4} = 2 \quad (17)$$

$$\cos(\theta_2) = \frac{(\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{O})^\top (\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{O})}{\|\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{O}\| \|\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{O}\|} \quad (18)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}}{4\sqrt{2}} \quad (19)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \quad (20)$$

$$\angle \mathbf{POB} = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right) \quad (21)$$

let us consider the $\angle \mathbf{POC}$

$$\cos(\theta_3) = \frac{(\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{O})^\top (\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{O})}{\|\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{O}\| \|\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{O}\|} \quad (22)$$

Finding angle \mathbf{POC}

$$\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{O} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (23)$$

$$\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{O} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (24)$$

we know that

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{O}\| &\triangleq \sqrt{(\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{O})^\top \mathbf{P} - \mathbf{O}} \\ \|\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{O}\| &\triangleq \sqrt{(\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{O})^\top \mathbf{C} - \mathbf{O}} \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

$$\|\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{O}\| = \sqrt{8} = 2\sqrt{2} \quad (26)$$

$$\|\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{O}\| = \sqrt{4} = 2 \quad (27)$$

$$\cos(\theta_3) = \frac{(\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{O})^\top (\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{O})}{\|\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{O}\| \|\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{O}\|} \quad (28)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}}{4\sqrt{2}} \quad (29)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \quad (30)$$

$$\angle \mathbf{POC} = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \quad (31)$$

$$\therefore \angle \mathbf{POA} = \angle \mathbf{POB} = \angle \mathbf{POC}$$

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