

Math 21C - Section B01 - Quiz 5 **SOLUTION**
E. Kim

For both problems, let $\mathbf{u} = \langle -2, 1, 2 \rangle$ and $\mathbf{v} = \langle 1, 3, -1 \rangle$.

Problem 1: Find the angle between the \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} . Do not simplify.

Solution:

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}}{|\mathbf{u}| |\mathbf{v}|} = \frac{(-2)(1) + (1)(3) + (2)(-1)}{\left(\sqrt{(-2)^2 + (1)^2 + (2)^2}\right) \left(\sqrt{(1)^2 + (3)^2 + (-1)^2}\right)}$$

Thus,

$$\theta = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{(-2 \times 1) + (1 \times 3) + (2 \times -1)}{\left(\sqrt{(-2)^2 + 1^2 + (2)^2}\right) \left(\sqrt{1^2 + 3^2 + (-1)^2}\right)} \right)$$

Problem 2: Find $\text{proj}_{\mathbf{u}} \mathbf{v}$.

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{proj}_{\mathbf{u}} \mathbf{v} &= \frac{\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{u}}{|\mathbf{u}|^2} \mathbf{u} \\ &= \frac{(1 \times -2) + (3 \times 1) + (-1 \times 2)}{\left(\sqrt{(-2)^2 + 1^2 + 2^2}\right)^2} \langle -2, 1, 2 \rangle \\ &= \frac{-1}{(\sqrt{9})^2} \langle -2, 1, 2 \rangle \\ &= \frac{-1}{9} \langle -2, 1, 2 \rangle \\ &= \left\langle \frac{2}{9}, -\frac{1}{9}, -\frac{2}{9} \right\rangle \end{aligned}$$

One can alternatively write final answer as: $\frac{2}{9}\mathbf{i} - \frac{1}{9}\mathbf{j} - \frac{2}{9}\mathbf{k}$ instead of the above.

Remarks

- In problem 2, the roles of \mathbf{v} and \mathbf{u} are switched from the book's "normal" formula.