

\vec{u}, \vec{v}

$$\vec{u} \pm \vec{v} = \langle u_1 \pm v_1, u_2 \pm v_2, u_3 \pm v_3 \rangle$$

$$a \vec{u} = \langle au_1, au_2, au_3 \rangle$$

~~$\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v}$~~ ?

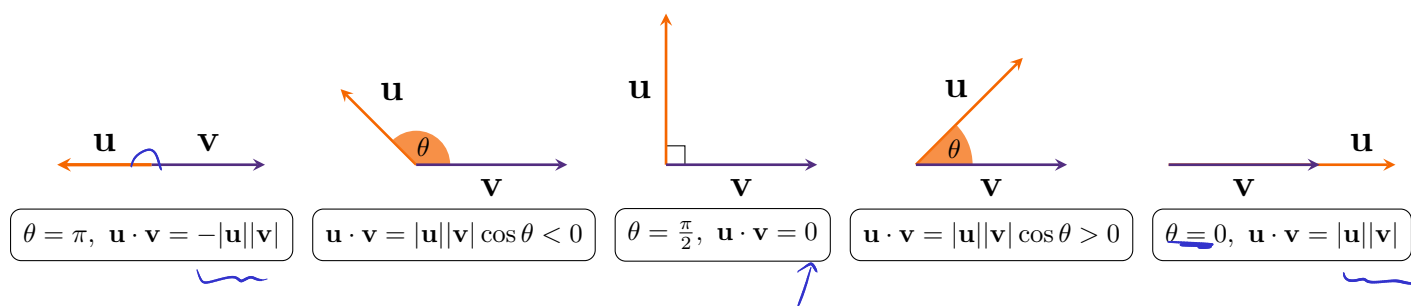
13.3: Dot Products

Definition. (Dot Product)

Given two nonzero vectors \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} in two or three dimensions, their **dot product** is

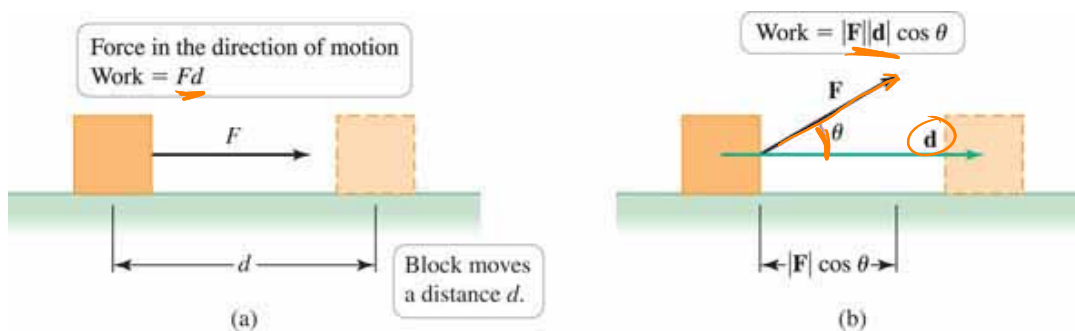
$$\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = |\mathbf{u}||\mathbf{v}| \cos \theta, = \vec{v} \cdot \vec{u}$$

where θ is the angle between \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} with $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$. If $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}$ or $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$, then $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0$, and θ is undefined.



Represents how much they have in common

A physical example of the dot product is the amount of work done when a force is applied at an angle θ as shown in figure 13.43:



Note: The result of the dot product is a scalar!

$$\vec{u} \cdot \vec{0} = |\vec{u}| |\vec{0}| \cos \theta = 0$$

Definition. (Orthogonal Vectors)

Two vectors \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} are orthogonal if and only if $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0$. The zero vector is orthogonal to all vectors. In two or three dimensions, two nonzero orthogonal vectors are perpendicular to each other.

• \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} are parallel ($\theta = 0$ or $\theta = \pi$) if and only if $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = \pm |\mathbf{u}| |\mathbf{v}|$.


• \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} are perpendicular ($\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$) if and only if $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0$.


Example. Given $|\mathbf{u}| = 2$ and $|\mathbf{v}| = \sqrt{3}$, compute $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}$ when


• $\theta = \frac{\pi}{4}$

• $\theta = \frac{\pi}{3}$

• $\theta = \frac{5\pi}{6}$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} &= |\mathbf{u}| |\mathbf{v}| \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) \\ &= 2 \cdot \sqrt{3} \left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right) = \boxed{\sqrt{6}} \end{aligned}$$


$$\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = 2 \cdot \sqrt{3} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = \boxed{\sqrt{3}}$$


$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} &= 2 \cdot \sqrt{3} \left(-\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right) \\ &= \boxed{-3} \end{aligned}$$


Theorem 31.1: Dot Product

Given two vectors $\mathbf{u} = \langle u_1, u_2, u_3 \rangle$ and $\mathbf{v} = \langle v_1, v_2, v_3 \rangle$,

$$\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = u_1 v_1 + u_2 v_2 + u_3 v_3 = |\vec{u}| |\vec{v}| \cos \theta$$

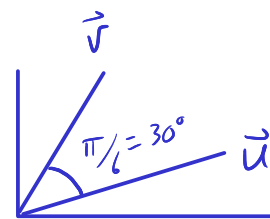
Example. Given vectors $\mathbf{u} = \langle \sqrt{3}, 1, 0 \rangle$ and $\mathbf{v} = \langle 1, \sqrt{3}, 0 \rangle$, compute $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}$ and find θ .

$$\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = \sqrt{3} \cdot 1 + 1 \cdot \sqrt{3} + 0 \cdot 0 = 2\sqrt{3}$$

$$|\mathbf{u}| = \sqrt{(\sqrt{3})^2 + 1^2 + 0^2} = \sqrt{4} = 2$$

$$\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = |\mathbf{u}| |\mathbf{v}| \cos \theta \rightarrow \cos \theta = \frac{\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}}{|\mathbf{u}| |\mathbf{v}|} = \frac{2\sqrt{3}}{2 \cdot 2} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$$

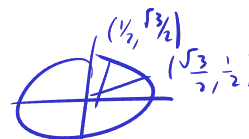
$$\cos \theta = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \rightarrow \boxed{\theta = \frac{\pi}{6}}$$



$$|\mathbf{u}| = \sqrt{u_1^2 + u_2^2 + u_3^2} = \sqrt{u_1 \cdot u_1 + u_2 \cdot u_2 + u_3 \cdot u_3}$$

$$\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{u} = |\mathbf{u}|^2$$

$$\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{u} = |\mathbf{u}| |\mathbf{u}| \cos(0) = |\mathbf{u}|^2$$



Properties of Dot Products

Theorem 13.2: Properties of the Dot Product

Suppose \mathbf{u} , \mathbf{v} and \mathbf{w} are vectors and let c be a scalar.

1. $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{u}$

Commutative property

2. $c(\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}) = (\underline{c}\mathbf{u}) \cdot \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{u} \cdot (\underline{c}\mathbf{v})$

Associative property

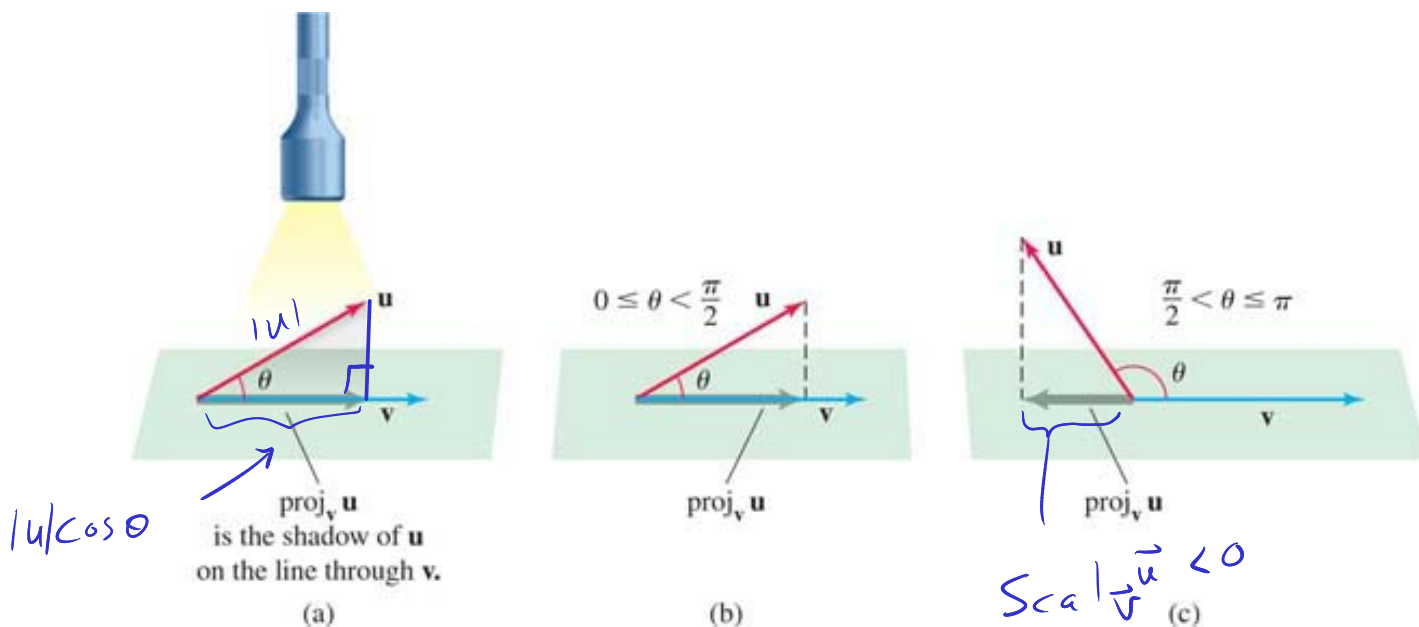
3. $\mathbf{u} \cdot (\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{w}$

Distributive property

$$\langle u_1, u_2, u_3 \rangle \cdot \langle v_1 + w_1, v_2 + w_2, v_3 + w_3 \rangle$$

Orthogonal Projections

Given vectors \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} , the projection of \mathbf{u} onto \mathbf{v} produces a vector parallel to \mathbf{v} using the “shadow” of \mathbf{u} cast onto \mathbf{v} .



$$\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = |\vec{u}| |\vec{v}| \cos \theta$$

$$\frac{\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v}}{|\vec{v}|} \left(\frac{\vec{v}}{|\vec{v}|} \right) = \left(\frac{\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v}}{|\vec{v}|^2} \right) \vec{v}$$

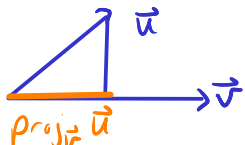
scalar
↓
vector

Definition. ((Orthogonal) Projection of \mathbf{u} onto \mathbf{v})

The orthogonal projection of \mathbf{u} onto \mathbf{v} , denoted $\text{proj}_{\mathbf{v}} \mathbf{u}$, where $\mathbf{v} \neq \mathbf{0}$, is

$$\text{proj}_{\mathbf{v}} \mathbf{u} = \underbrace{|\mathbf{u}| \cos \theta}_{\text{length}} \underbrace{\left(\frac{\mathbf{v}}{|\mathbf{v}|} \right)}_{\text{direction}}.$$

The orthogonal projection may also be computed with the formulas



$$\text{proj}_{\mathbf{v}} \mathbf{u} = \text{scal}_{\mathbf{v}} \mathbf{u} \left(\frac{\mathbf{v}}{|\mathbf{v}|} \right) = \left(\frac{\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}}{\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{v}} \right) \mathbf{v},$$

where the scalar component of \mathbf{u} in the direction of \mathbf{v} is

$$\text{length of } \text{proj}_{\vec{v}} \vec{u} \quad \text{scal}_{\mathbf{v}} \mathbf{u} = |\mathbf{u}| \cos \theta = \frac{\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}}{|\mathbf{v}|}.$$

$$|\text{proj}_{\vec{v}} \vec{u}| \geq 0$$

Example. Find $\text{proj}_{\mathbf{v}} \mathbf{u}$ and $\text{scal}_{\mathbf{v}} \mathbf{u}$ for the following:

- $\mathbf{u} = \langle 1, 1 \rangle, \mathbf{v} = \langle -2, 1 \rangle$

$$\text{proj}_{\vec{v}} \vec{u} = \left(\frac{\langle 1, 1 \rangle \cdot \langle -2, 1 \rangle}{\langle -2, 1 \rangle \cdot \langle -2, 1 \rangle} \right) \langle -2, 1 \rangle = \frac{-2+1}{4+1} \langle -2, 1 \rangle = \frac{-1}{5} \langle -2, 1 \rangle = \left\langle \frac{2}{5}, -\frac{1}{5} \right\rangle$$

scalar

$\text{scal}_{\vec{v}} \vec{u} = \frac{-1}{\sqrt{5}}$

- $\mathbf{u} = \langle 7, 1, 7 \rangle, \mathbf{v} = \langle 5, 7, 0 \rangle$

$$\text{proj}_{\vec{v}} \vec{u} = \frac{35+7}{25+49} \langle 5, 7, 0 \rangle = \frac{42}{74} \langle 5, 7, 0 \rangle = \frac{21}{37} \langle 5, 7, 0 \rangle$$

$$\text{scal}_{\vec{v}} \vec{u} = \frac{35+7}{\sqrt{25+49}} = \frac{42}{\sqrt{74}}$$

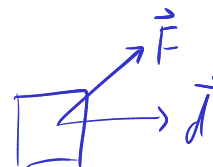
$$|-6| = \sqrt{(-6)^2}$$

Applications of Dot Products

Definition. (Work)

Let a constant force \mathbf{F} be applied to an object, producing a displacement \mathbf{d} . If the angle between \mathbf{F} and \mathbf{d} is θ , then the **work** done by the force is

$$W = |\mathbf{F}||\mathbf{d}| \cos \theta = \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{d}$$



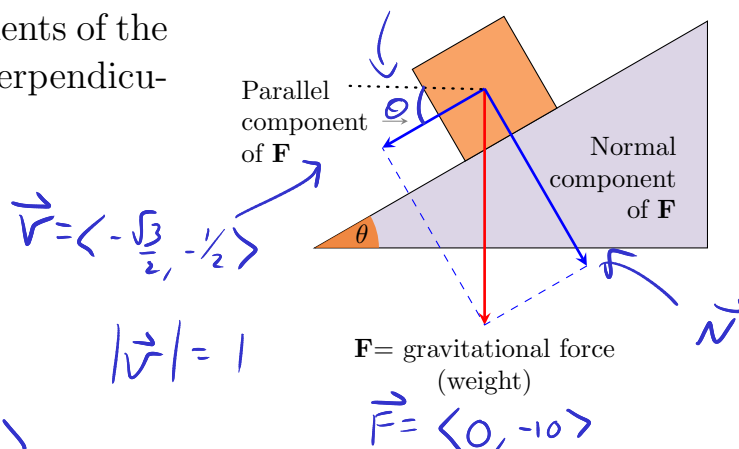
Example. A force $\mathbf{F} = \langle 3, 3, 2 \rangle$ (in newtons) moves an object along a line segment from $P(1, 1, 0)$ to $Q(6, 6, 0)$ (in meters). What is the work done by the force?

$$\vec{PQ} = \vec{d} = \langle 6-1, 6-1, 0-0 \rangle = \langle 5, 5, 0 \rangle$$

$$W = \vec{F} \cdot \vec{d} = \langle 3, 3, 2 \rangle \cdot \langle 5, 5, 0 \rangle = 15 + 15 + 0 = 30 \text{ Nm}$$

Parallel and Normal Forces:

Example. A 10-lb block rests on a plane that is inclined at 30° above the horizontal. Find the components of the gravitational force parallel to and normal (perpendicular) to the plane.



$$\text{proj}_{\vec{v}} \vec{F} = \left(\frac{\vec{F} \cdot \vec{v}}{\vec{v} \cdot \vec{v}} \right) \vec{v} = 5 \left\langle -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}, -\frac{1}{2} \right\rangle$$

$$\vec{F} = \text{proj}_{\vec{v}} \vec{F} + \vec{N} \rightarrow \vec{N} = \vec{F} - \underbrace{\text{proj}_{\vec{v}} \vec{F}} = \langle 0, -10 \rangle - 5 \left\langle -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}, -\frac{1}{2} \right\rangle = \left\langle \frac{5\sqrt{3}}{2}, -\frac{15}{2} \right\rangle$$