

Introduction to Classical Mechanics (PHYS 101)

Assignment 1

1. $\vec{A} = \hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}$

(a) Let the unit vector in the direction of \vec{A} be \hat{A} .

$$\hat{A} = \frac{\vec{A}}{|\vec{A}|} \quad (1)$$

$$= \frac{\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}}{\sqrt{1^2 + 2^2 + 3^2}} \quad (2)$$

$$= \frac{\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}}{\sqrt{14}} \quad (3)$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{14}}\hat{i} + \frac{2}{\sqrt{14}}\hat{j} + \frac{3}{\sqrt{14}}\hat{k} \quad (4)$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{14}}{14}\hat{i} + \frac{\sqrt{14}}{7}\hat{j} + \frac{3\sqrt{14}}{14}\hat{k} \quad (5)$$

$$\hat{A} \approx 0.267\hat{i} + 0.535\hat{j} + 0.802\hat{k} \quad (6)$$

(b) Since \vec{A} is in 3-dimensional space, it has an infinite number of perpendicular vectors in infinitely different directions. Therefore, the x , y , and z values of the perpendicular vector can be arbitrarily assumed.

Let \vec{B} be a perpendicular vector on vector \vec{A} and \hat{B} be the unit vector in its direction.

$$\because \vec{B} \perp \vec{A} \quad (7)$$

$$\therefore \vec{B} \cdot \vec{A} = 0 \quad (8)$$

$$\vec{B}_x \vec{A}_x + \vec{B}_y \vec{A}_y + \vec{B}_z \vec{A}_z = 0 \quad (9)$$

$$\vec{B}_x + 2\vec{B}_y + 3\vec{B}_z = 0 \quad (10)$$

$$\text{let } \vec{B}_x = 1, \vec{B}_y = \frac{1}{2}, \text{ and } \vec{B}_z = -\frac{2}{3} \quad (11)$$

$$\text{then } \vec{B} = \vec{i} + \frac{1}{2}\vec{j} - \frac{2}{3}\vec{k} \quad (12)$$

$$\hat{B} = \frac{6\sqrt{61}}{61}\hat{i} + \frac{3\sqrt{61}}{61}\hat{j} - \frac{4\sqrt{61}}{61}\hat{k} \quad (13)$$

(c) For a right-handed system to be constituted, all of its unit vectors have to be perpendicular.

$$\because \hat{C} \perp \hat{B} \perp \hat{A} \quad (14)$$

$$\therefore \hat{C} = \hat{B} \times \hat{A} \quad (15)$$

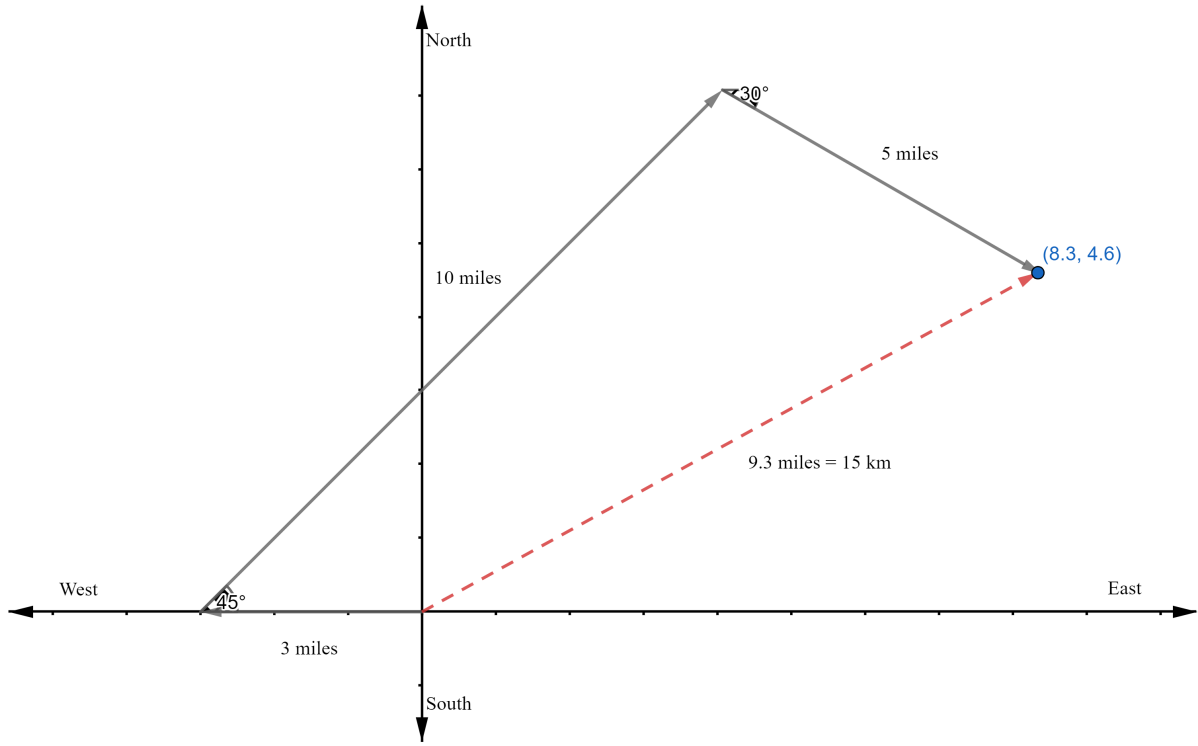
$$\hat{C} = \hat{B} \times \hat{A} \quad (16)$$

$$= \frac{6\sqrt{61}}{61}\hat{i} + \frac{3\sqrt{61}}{61}\hat{j} - \frac{4\sqrt{61}}{61}\hat{k} \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{14}}\hat{i} + \frac{2}{\sqrt{14}}\hat{j} + \frac{3}{\sqrt{14}}\hat{k} \quad (17)$$

$$= \frac{17}{\sqrt{854}}\hat{i} - \frac{11\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{427}}\hat{j} + \frac{9}{\sqrt{854}}\hat{k} \quad (18)$$

2. 3.0 miles west, 10 miles northeast, and 5 miles at 30° south of east.

(a)



(b) Let the first vector be \vec{V}_1 , the second \vec{V}_2 , the third \vec{V}_3 , and the resultant displacement \vec{S} .

$$\vec{V}_1 = -3\hat{i} \quad (19)$$

$$\vec{V}_2 = 10 \cos(45^\circ)\hat{i} + 10 \sin(45^\circ)\hat{j} \quad (20)$$

$$= \frac{10}{\sqrt{2}}\hat{i} + \frac{10}{\sqrt{2}}\hat{j} \quad (21)$$

$$= \frac{10}{\sqrt{2}}\hat{i} + \frac{10}{\sqrt{2}}\hat{j} \quad (22)$$

$$\vec{V}_3 = 5 \cos(-30^\circ)\hat{i} + 5 \sin(-30^\circ)\hat{j} \quad (23)$$

$$= \frac{5\sqrt{3}}{2}\hat{i} - \frac{5}{2}\hat{j} \quad (24)$$

$$\vec{S} = \vec{V}_1 + \vec{V}_2 + \vec{V}_3 \quad (25)$$

$$= \left(-3 + \frac{10}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{5\sqrt{3}}{2}\right)\hat{i} + \left(\frac{10}{\sqrt{2}} - \frac{5}{2}\right)\hat{j} \quad (26)$$

$$|\vec{S}| \approx 9.6 \text{ miles} = 15.4 \text{ km} \quad (27)$$

3.

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{r}_1 &= 2\hat{i} - \hat{j} + \hat{k} \\ \vec{r}_2 &= \hat{i} + 3\hat{j} - 2\hat{k} \\ \vec{r}_3 &= -2\hat{i} + \hat{j} - 3\hat{k} \\ \vec{r}_4 &= 3\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 5\hat{k}\end{aligned}$$

$$\vec{r}_4 = a\vec{r}_1 + b\vec{r}_2 + c\vec{r}_3 \quad (28)$$

$$3\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 5\hat{k} = a(2\hat{i} - \hat{j} + \hat{k}) + b(\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} - 2\hat{k}) + c(-2\hat{i} + \hat{j} - 3\hat{k}) \quad (29)$$

$$= 2a\hat{i} - a\hat{j} + a\hat{k} + b\hat{i} + 3b\hat{j} - 2b\hat{k} - 2c\hat{i} + c\hat{j} - 3c\hat{k} \quad (30)$$

$$= (2a + b - 2c)\hat{i} + (-a + 3b + c)\hat{j} + (a - 2b - 3c)\hat{k} \quad (31)$$

$$3 = 2a + b - 2c \quad (32)$$

$$2 = -a + 3b + c \quad (33)$$

$$5 = a - 2b - 3c \quad (34)$$

$$(35)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & -2 \\ -1 & 3 & 1 \\ 1 & -2 & -3 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \times \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \quad (36)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{7} & \frac{2}{7} & 0 \\ \frac{1}{14} & -\frac{5}{14} & -\frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \quad (37)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix} \quad (38)$$

4. $\vec{A} = \cos \theta_1 \hat{i} + \sin \theta_1 \hat{j}$ and $\vec{B} = \cos \theta_2 \hat{i} + \sin \theta_2 \hat{j}$.

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = \cos \theta_1 \cos \theta_2 + \sin \theta_1 \sin \theta_2 \quad (39)$$

$$|\vec{A}||\vec{B}| \cos \theta = \quad (40)$$

$$|\vec{A}| = |\vec{B}| = 1 \implies \cos \theta = \quad (41)$$

$$\cos(\theta_1 - \theta_2) = \quad (42)$$

$$\therefore \cos(\theta_1 \pm \theta_2) = \cos \theta_1 \cos \theta_2 \mp \sin \theta_1 \sin \theta_2 \quad (43)$$

$$\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = (\vec{A}_y \vec{B}_z - \vec{A}_z \vec{B}_y) \hat{i} - (\vec{A}_x \vec{B}_z - \vec{A}_z \vec{B}_x) \hat{j} + (\vec{A}_x \vec{B}_y - \vec{A}_y \vec{B}_x) \hat{k} \quad (44)$$

$$= (\sin \theta_1 \cos \theta_2 - \cos \theta_1 \sin \theta_2) \hat{k} \iff \vec{A}_z = \vec{B}_z = 0 \quad (45)$$

$$|\vec{A}| |\vec{B}| \sin \theta = \quad (46)$$

$$\sin \theta \hat{k} = \quad (47)$$

$$\sin(\theta_1 - \theta_2) \hat{k} = \quad (48)$$

$$\therefore \sin(\theta_1 \pm \theta_2) = \sin \theta_1 \cos \theta_2 \pm \cos \theta_1 \sin \theta_2 \quad (49)$$

5. $\vec{r} = x(t)\hat{i} + y(t)\hat{j}$ where $x(t) = 2\alpha t - \sin(\alpha t)$ and $y(t) = 1 - \cos(\alpha t)$.

(a)

$$\vec{v} = \vec{v}_x \hat{i} + \vec{v}_y \hat{j} \quad (50)$$

$$= \frac{d\vec{r}_x}{dt} \hat{i} + \frac{d\vec{r}_y}{dt} \hat{j} \quad (51)$$

$$= \frac{d[2\alpha t - \sin(\alpha t)]}{dt} \hat{i} + \frac{d[1 - \cos(\alpha t)]}{dt} \hat{j} \quad (52)$$

$$= [2\alpha - \alpha \cos(\alpha t)] \hat{i} + \alpha \sin(\alpha t) \hat{j} \quad (53)$$

(b)

$$\vec{v} = \vec{v}_r + \vec{v}_n \quad (54)$$

$$\vec{v}_r = [2\alpha t - \sin(\alpha t)] \hat{i} + [1 - \cos(\alpha t)] \hat{j} \quad (55)$$

$$\vec{v}_n = \frac{1}{2\alpha t - \sin(\alpha t)} \hat{i} - \frac{1}{1 - \cos(\alpha t)} \hat{j} \quad (56)$$

$$(57)$$

$$\vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2\alpha t - \sin(\alpha t)}{1} & \frac{1 - \cos(\alpha t)}{1} \\ \frac{1}{2\alpha t - \sin(\alpha t)} & -\frac{1}{1 - \cos(\alpha t)} \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \times \begin{bmatrix} 2\alpha - \alpha \cos(\alpha t) \\ \alpha \sin(\alpha t) \end{bmatrix} \quad (58)$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{-(-\sin(\alpha t) + 2\alpha t)(2\alpha - \alpha \cos(\alpha t)) - \alpha \sin \alpha t (-\sin(\alpha t) + 2\alpha t)(1 - \cos(\alpha t))^2}{-4\alpha^2 t^2 + 4\alpha t \sin(\alpha t) - 2} \\ \frac{-(1 - \cos(\alpha t))(2\alpha - \alpha \cos(\alpha t)) + \alpha \sin \alpha t (2\alpha t - \sin(\alpha t))^2 (1 - \cos(\alpha t))}{-4\alpha^2 t^2 + 4\alpha t \sin(\alpha t) - 2} \end{bmatrix} \quad (59)$$