

$$(a) \cos(\alpha - \beta) = \cos \alpha \cos \beta + \sin \alpha \sin \beta$$

From the law of cosines,

$$|\vec{a} - \vec{b}|^2 = |\vec{a}|^2 + |\vec{b}|^2 - 2|\vec{a}||\vec{b}|\cos(\alpha - \beta)$$

$$|\vec{a} - \vec{b}|^2 = (a \cos \alpha - b \cos \beta)^2 - (a \sin \alpha - b \sin \beta)^2$$

$$= (a^2 \cos^2 \alpha - 2ab \cos \alpha \cos \beta + b^2 \cos^2 \beta) + (a^2 \sin^2 \alpha - 2ab \sin \alpha \sin \beta + b^2 \sin^2 \beta)$$

$$= a^2 + b^2 - 2ab(\cos \alpha \cos \beta + \sin \alpha \sin \beta)$$

$$|\vec{a}|^2 + |\vec{b}|^2 - 2|\vec{a}||\vec{b}|\cos(\alpha - \beta) = a^2 + b^2 - 2ab \cos(\alpha - \beta)$$

$$\therefore \cos(\alpha - \beta) = \cos \alpha \cos \beta - \sin \alpha \sin \beta$$

$$(b) \sin(\alpha - \beta) = \sin \alpha \cos \beta - \cos \alpha \sin \beta$$

From the Pythagorean identity,

$$\sin^2(\alpha - \beta) + \cos^2(\alpha - \beta) = 1$$

$$\sin(\alpha - \beta) = \sqrt{1 - \cos^2(\alpha - \beta)}$$

$$= \sqrt{1 - (\cos \alpha \cos \beta + \sin \alpha \sin \beta)^2}$$

$$= \sqrt{1 - (\cos^2 \alpha \cos^2 \beta + 2 \cos \alpha \cos \beta \sin \alpha \sin \beta + \sin^2 \alpha \sin^2 \beta)}$$

$$= \sqrt{1 - \{\cos^2 \alpha (1 - \sin^2 \beta) + 2 \cos \alpha \cos \beta \sin \alpha \sin \beta + \sin^2 \alpha (1 - \cos^2 \beta)\}}$$

$$= \sqrt{1 - (\cos^2 - \cos^2 \sin^2 \beta + 2 \cos \alpha \cos \beta \sin \alpha \sin \beta + \sin^2 \alpha - \sin^2 \alpha \cos^2 \beta)}$$

$$= \sqrt{\cos^2 \sin^2 \beta - 2 \cos \alpha \cos \beta \sin \alpha \sin \beta + \sin^2 \alpha \cos^2 \beta}$$

$$= \sqrt{(\cos \alpha \sin \beta - \sin \alpha \cos \beta)^2}$$

$$= \cos \alpha \sin \beta - \sin \alpha \cos \beta$$

$$\therefore \sin(\alpha - \beta) = \cos \alpha \sin \beta - \sin \alpha \cos \beta$$