

Question 2.2.19:

The scalar product of the vector $\hat{i} + \hat{j} + \hat{k}$ with a unit vector along the sum of vectors $2\hat{i} + 4\hat{j} - 5\hat{k}$ and $\lambda\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}$ is equal to one. Find the value of λ .

Solution:

Given

$$\mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1)$$

We require:

$$\mathbf{u}^T \frac{\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}}{\|\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}\|} = 1 \quad (2)$$

Sum of vectors:

$$\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 + \lambda \\ 6 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (3)$$

Dot product:

$$\mathbf{u}^T(\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 + \lambda \\ 6 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} = (2 + \lambda) + 6 + (-2) = \lambda + 6 \quad (4)$$

Norm of the sum:

$$\|\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}\| = \sqrt{(2 + \lambda)^2 + 6^2 + (-2)^2} = \sqrt{(2 + \lambda)^2 + 40} \quad (5)$$

Condition:

$$\frac{\lambda + 6}{\sqrt{(2 + \lambda)^2 + 40}} = 1 \quad (6)$$

Simplify:

$$\lambda + 6 = \sqrt{(\lambda + 2)^2 + 40} \quad (7)$$

Squaring,

$$(\lambda + 6)^2 = (\lambda + 2)^2 + 40 \quad (8)$$

$$\lambda^2 + 12\lambda + 36 = \lambda^2 + 4\lambda + 44 \quad (9)$$

$$8\lambda = 8 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \lambda = 1 \quad (10)$$

Conclusion: The required value is

$$\boxed{\lambda = 1} \quad (11)$$

$$\boxed{a = -3} \quad (12)$$

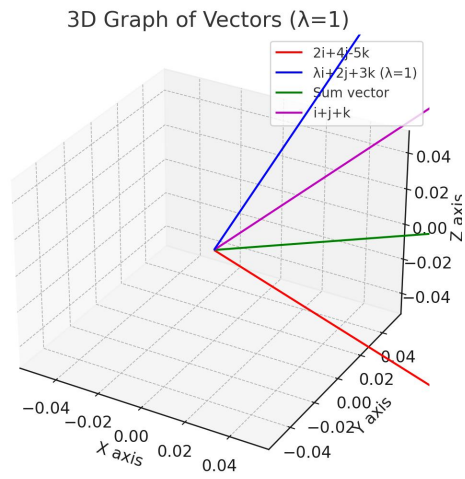


Fig. 1