

Vector

Scalar

A physical quantity having magnitude but no direction is called a scalar. Distance, mass, time, temperature etc. are the examples of scalars.

Vector

Vectors are the physical quantities having both magnitude and direction. Velocity, acceleration, force, weight etc are the examples of vectors.

Modulus of a vector

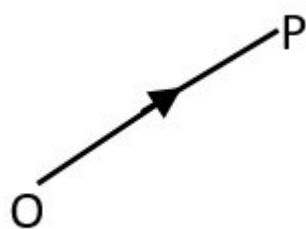
The modulus of a vector is a non-negative number which is the measure of the line segment representing the vector.

If $\vec{AB} = x\vec{i} + y\vec{j}$ then $|\vec{AB}| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$

If $\vec{AB} = (x, y, z)$ be any vector in space then, $|\vec{AB}| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$

Position vector

Let $O(0, 0, 0)$ be origin and $P(x, y, z)$ be any point. Then vector $\vec{OP} = (x, y, z)$ is called position vector of point P.



Let O be the origin:- The position vector of the point P is the vector \vec{OP} . If \vec{a} and \vec{b} are the position vectors of the points A and B respectively, then the vector \vec{AB} is given by $\vec{b} - \vec{a}$. $\vec{AB} = \vec{OB} - \vec{OA} = b - a$

Section formula:-

The position vector of a point which divides internally the line segment joining two points A, B with position vectors \vec{a} and \vec{b} in the ratio $m : n$ is $\frac{m\vec{b} + n\vec{a}}{m + n}$. The section formula for external division is $\frac{m\vec{b} - n\vec{a}}{m - n}$

Mid point formula:-

The position vector of the midpoint of \vec{AB} is $\frac{1}{2}(\vec{a} + \vec{b})$, where \vec{a} and \vec{b} are position vectors of A and B respectively.

Centroid formula:-

If $\vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{c}$ are the position vectors of the vertices of a triangle, then the position vector of the centroid of the triangle is

$$\frac{\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}}{3}$$

Types of vectors:-

- **Null vector (zero vector)**

A vector having magnitude zero is called zero vector. It is denoted by $\vec{0}$.

In other words, it is a vector having same initial and terminal point.

We have, $|\vec{0}| = 0$

The direction of a null vector is indeterminate and is geometrically represented by a point.

- **Unit vector**

A vector whose magnitude is unity is called unit vector. The unit vector in the direction of a non zero vector \vec{a} denoted by \hat{a} and is given by:

$$\hat{a} = \frac{\vec{a}}{|\vec{a}|} \text{ where } (|\vec{a}| \neq 0)$$

- **Negative of a vector**

A vector having the same magnitude of a given vector \vec{OA} but the opposite direction is denoted by

$-\vec{OA}$ or \vec{AO} and is called the negative of the vector \vec{OA} .

$$\vec{AO} = -\vec{OA}$$

$$\vec{OA} + \vec{AO} = 0$$

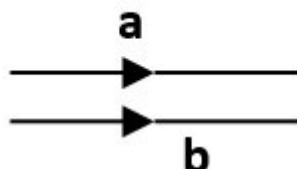
- **Equal vectors**

Two vectors \vec{a} and \vec{b} are said to be equal if they have equal magnitude and same sense of direction.

$$\vec{a} = \vec{b}$$

$$|\vec{a}| = |\vec{b}|$$

$$\text{and } \vec{a} \parallel \vec{b}$$



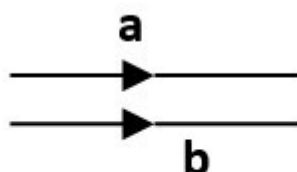
- **Like vectors**

Two vectors are said to be like vectors if they have same direction.

$$\vec{a} = \vec{b}$$

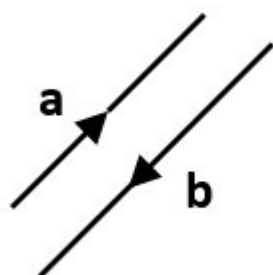
$$|\vec{a}| = |\vec{b}|$$

$$\text{and } \vec{a} \parallel \vec{b}$$



- **Unlike vectors**

Two vectors are said to be unlike vectors if they have opposite direction.



- **Localised vector**

A vector which passes through a given point and which is parallel to the given vector is said to be a localized vector.

- **Collinear vectors**

Two or more vectors which lie along the same line or which are parallel are called collinear vectors.

Any vector \vec{r} collinear with \vec{a} can be written as $\vec{r} = \lambda \vec{a}$ where λ is any scalar.

Note:

i. For the collinear vectors (x_1, y_1) , (x_2, y_2) and (x_3, y_3) in a plane

$$\begin{vmatrix} x_1 & y_1 & 1 \\ x_2 & y_2 & 1 \\ x_3 & y_3 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

- **Coplanar vectors:**

Two or more than two vectors which lie in a same plane are called coplanar vectors otherwise they are non-coplanar vectors.

Any vector \vec{r} in the space can uniquely be expressed as a linear combination of three non-coplanar vectors \vec{a} , \vec{b} and \vec{c} as

$$\text{i.e. } \vec{r} = x\vec{a} + y\vec{b} + z\vec{c}, \text{ where } x, y, z \text{ are scalars.}$$

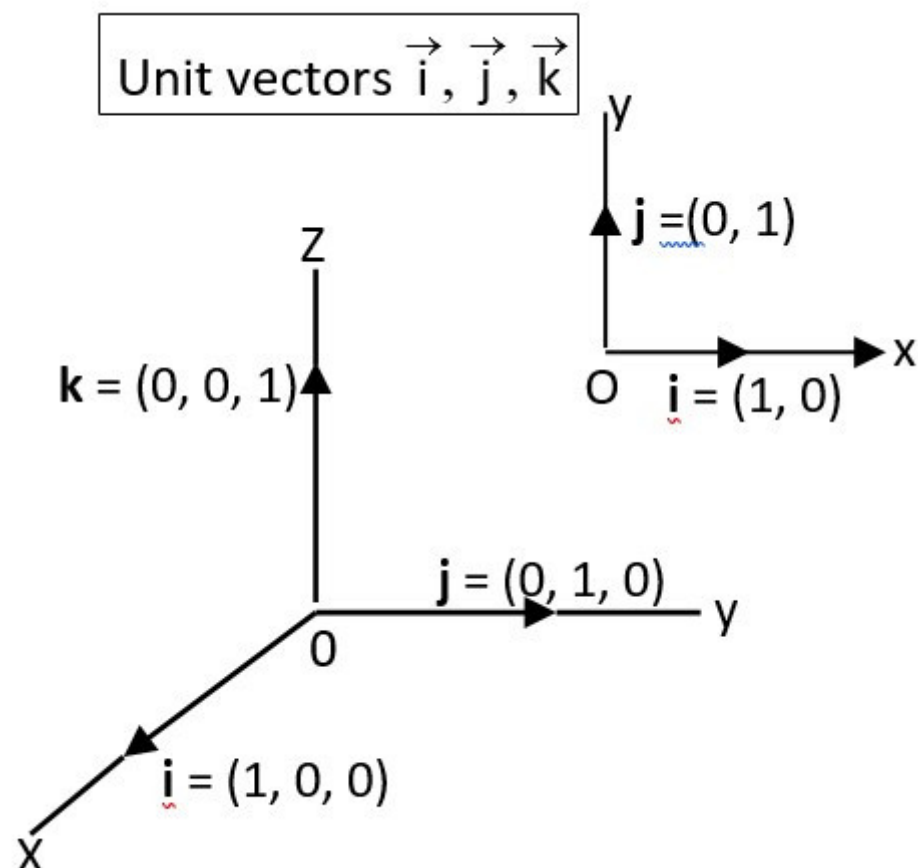
Note:

i. Set of vectors $\vec{r}_1, \vec{r}_2, \vec{r}_3$ are said to be coplanar if $x\vec{r}_1 + y\vec{r}_2 + z\vec{r}_3 = \vec{0}$ for at least one (x or y or z) is not equal to zero. Or one of the vectors can be represented as the linear combination of other two.

i.e., $\vec{r}_1 = x\vec{r}_2 + y\vec{r}_3$

ii. If the vectors represented by the points $(a_1, a_2, a_3), (b_1, b_2, b_3)$ and (c_1, c_2, c_3) are coplanar, then

$$\begin{vmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \\ c_1 & c_2 & c_3 \end{vmatrix} = 0$$



Direction cosines of a vector:-

Let $\vec{a} = (x_1\vec{i} + x_2\vec{j} + x_3\vec{k})$ be any vector in space.

$$|\vec{a}| = \sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2}$$

unit vector of \vec{a} is $\hat{a} = \frac{\vec{a}}{|\vec{a}|}$

$$= \frac{x_1\vec{i} + x_2\vec{j} + x_3\vec{k}}{\sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2}}$$

$$= \frac{x_1}{\sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2}}\vec{i} + \frac{x_2}{\sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2}}\vec{j} + \frac{x_3}{\sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2}}\vec{k} = l_1\vec{i} + m_1\vec{j} + n_1\vec{k}$$

where (l, m, n) are the direction cosines of the vector \vec{a}

Linear combination of vectors

A vector \vec{r} is said to be in a linear combination of vectors $\vec{r}_1, \vec{r}_2, \vec{r}_3, \dots, \vec{r}_n$ if there exist scalars $x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n$ such that $\vec{r} = x_1\vec{r}_1 + x_2\vec{r}_2 + x_3\vec{r}_3 + \dots + x_n\vec{r}_n$

Linearly independent

A set of non-zero vectors $\vec{a}_1, \vec{a}_2, \dots, \vec{a}_n$ is said to be linearly independent if $x_1\vec{a}_1 + x_2\vec{a}_2 + \dots + x_n\vec{a}_n = \vec{0}$ holds iff

$$x_1 = 0, x_2 = 0, \dots, x_n = 0$$

Linearly dependent

A set of vectors $\vec{a}_1, \vec{a}_2, \vec{a}_3, \dots, \vec{a}_n$ is said to be linearly dependent if there exist scalars x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n not all zero i.e. at least one of them is not zero, such that $x_1\vec{a}_1 + x_2\vec{a}_2 + \dots + x_n\vec{a}_n = \vec{0}$. All coplanar vectors are linearly dependent.

Laws of vector addition:-

i. $\vec{AB} + \vec{BC} + \vec{CA} = \vec{0}$

$$\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c} = \vec{0} \quad (\text{triangle law})$$

$$\text{So, } \overrightarrow{AB} + \overrightarrow{BC} = \overrightarrow{AC}$$

$$\text{ii. } \vec{a} + \vec{b} = \vec{b} + \vec{a} \quad (\text{commutative law})$$

$$\text{iii. } (\vec{a} + \vec{b}) + \vec{c} = \vec{a} + (\vec{b} + \vec{c}) \quad (\text{associative law})$$

$$\text{iv. } m(n\vec{a}) = (mn)\vec{a} \quad (m, n \text{ being scalar})$$

$$\text{v. } (m + n)\vec{a} = m\vec{a} + n\vec{a} \quad (\text{distributive law})$$

$$\text{vi. } m(\vec{a} + \vec{b}) = m\vec{a} + m\vec{b} \quad (\text{distributive law})$$

Scalar or dot product (inner product)

Let $\vec{a} = (a_1, a_2)$ and $\vec{b} = (b_1, b_2)$ be any two vectors and θ be the angle between them.

Then the dot product of \vec{a} and \vec{b} denoted by $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}$ is given by

$$\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = a_1 b_1 + a_2 b_2$$

where $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$

Scalar or dot product (inner product)

Let $\vec{a} = (a_1, a_2)$ and $\vec{b} = (b_1, b_2)$ be any two vectors and θ be the angle between them.

Then the dot product of \vec{a} and \vec{b} denoted by $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}$ is given by

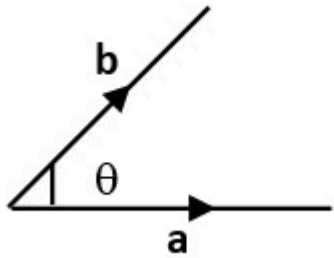
$$\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = a_1 b_1 + a_2 b_2$$

where $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$

Angle between two vectors

If θ is the angle between two vectors \vec{a} and \vec{b} , then $(0 \leq \theta \leq \pi)$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}{|\vec{a}||\vec{b}|}$$



If $\theta = 90^\circ$, $\cos 90^\circ = 0$

$$0 = \frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}}{|\mathbf{a}||\mathbf{b}|} \quad \text{i.e. } \vec{\mathbf{a}} \cdot \vec{\mathbf{b}} = 0$$

Two vectors are orthogonal if $\vec{\mathbf{a}} \cdot \vec{\mathbf{b}} = 0$

Properties of scalar product:-

i. Two vectors are perpendicular if $\vec{\mathbf{a}} \cdot \vec{\mathbf{b}} = 0$

$$\text{ii. } \vec{a} \cdot \vec{a} = \vec{a}^2 = |\vec{a}|^2 = a^2$$

$$\text{iii. } \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = 0 \text{ either } \vec{a} = 0 \text{ or } \vec{b} = 0 \text{ or } \theta = 90^\circ$$

$$\text{iv. } \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = \vec{b} \cdot \vec{a} \quad (\text{commutative law})$$

$$\text{v. } \vec{i} \cdot \vec{i} = \vec{j} \cdot \vec{j} = \vec{k} \cdot \vec{k} = 1$$

$$\text{i.e. } \vec{i}^2 = \vec{j}^2 = \vec{k}^2 = 1$$

$$\text{vi. } \vec{i} \cdot \vec{j} = \vec{j} \cdot \vec{k} = \vec{k} \cdot \vec{i} = 0, \text{ where } \vec{i}, \vec{j}, \vec{k} \text{ are unit vectors in three mutually perpendicular directions.}$$

$$\text{vii. } m(\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}) = (m\vec{a}) \cdot \vec{b} = \vec{a} \cdot (m\vec{b})$$

$$\text{viii. } \vec{a} \cdot (\vec{b} + \vec{c}) = \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} + \vec{a} \cdot \vec{c} \text{ (distributive law)}$$

$$\text{ix. } (\vec{a} + \vec{b}) \cdot (\vec{a} - \vec{b}) = \vec{a}^2 - \vec{b}^2 = a^2 - b^2$$

$$\text{x. } |\vec{a}| = \sqrt{a_1^2 + a_2^2 + a_3^2}, \quad \text{if } \vec{a} = a_1\vec{i} + a_2\vec{j} + a_3\vec{k}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{xi. } \vec{a} &= a_1\vec{i} + a_2\vec{j} + a_3\vec{k} \\ &= (\vec{a} \cdot \vec{i})\vec{i} + (\vec{a} \cdot \vec{j})\vec{j} + (\vec{a} \cdot \vec{k})\vec{k} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{where } (\vec{a} \cdot \vec{i}) = a_1$$

$$\vec{a} \cdot \vec{j} = a_2$$

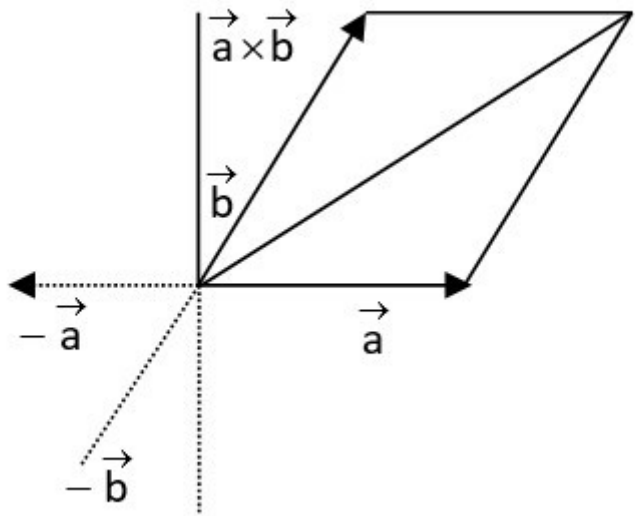
$$\vec{a} \cdot \vec{k} = a_3$$

Vector product or cross product

The vector product of two vectors \vec{a} and \vec{b} denoted by $\vec{a} \times \vec{b}$ is given by

$$\vec{a} \times \vec{b} = ab \sin \theta \hat{n}$$

Where θ is the angle between \vec{a} and \vec{b} and \hat{n} is the unit vector perpendicular to both \vec{a} and \vec{b} as given by the right handed screw rule from \vec{a} to \vec{b} .



Let $\vec{a} = (a_1, a_2)$ and $\vec{b} = (b_1, b_2)$ be two vectors in the cartesian plane (i.e. XY plane) then the vector product of the two vectors \vec{a} and \vec{b} denoted by $\vec{a} \times \vec{b}$, is defined by

$$\vec{a} \times \vec{b} = (a_1 b_2 - a_2 b_1) \vec{k}$$

where \vec{k} is the standard unit vector along positive z-axis.

The vector product of two space vectors

$$\vec{a} = (a_1, a_2, a_3) \text{ and } \vec{b} = (b_1, b_2, b_3) \text{ is}$$

$$\vec{a} \times \vec{b} = \begin{vmatrix} \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= (a_2 b_3 - a_3 b_2, a_3 b_1 - a_1 b_3, a_1 b_2 - a_2 b_1)$$



Note:

i. The area of a parallelogram whose adjacent sides are represented by \vec{a} and \vec{b} is $|\vec{a} \times \vec{b}|$

ii. The area of the triangle OAB in which

$$\vec{OA} = \vec{a} \text{ and } \vec{OB} = \vec{b} \text{ is } \frac{1}{2} |\vec{a} \times \vec{b}|$$

iii. If the diagonals of parallelogram are \vec{c} and \vec{d} , then its sides \vec{a} and \vec{b} are

$$\vec{a} = \left(\frac{\vec{c} - \vec{d}}{2} \right) \text{ and } \vec{b} = \left(\frac{\vec{c} + \vec{d}}{2} \right)$$

iv. If the position vectors of the vertices of a triangle are \vec{a} , \vec{b} , \vec{c} then

$$\Delta = \frac{1}{2} |\vec{a} \times \vec{b} + \vec{b} \times \vec{c} + \vec{c} \times \vec{a}|$$

v. The area of the parallelogram with diagonals \vec{c} and \vec{d} is

$$\frac{1}{2} |\vec{c} \times \vec{d}|$$

Properties of vector product:-

i. $(\vec{a} \times \vec{b}) = -(\vec{b} \times \vec{a})$

ii. $\vec{a} \times (\vec{b} + \vec{c}) = \vec{a} \times \vec{b} + \vec{a} \times \vec{c}$

iii. $\vec{a} \times \vec{b} = 0 \Rightarrow \vec{a} = 0 \text{ or } \vec{b} = 0 \text{ or } \vec{a} \text{ and } \vec{b} \text{ are parallel}$

iv. $(n\vec{a}) \times \vec{b} = n(\vec{a} \times \vec{b}) = \vec{a} \times n\vec{b}$

$$\vec{i} \times \vec{i} = 0, \vec{j} \times \vec{j} = 0, \vec{k} \times \vec{k} = 0$$

v. $\vec{i} \times \vec{i} = (1, 0, 0) \times (1, 0, 0)$
 $= (0, 0, 0)$
 $= 0$

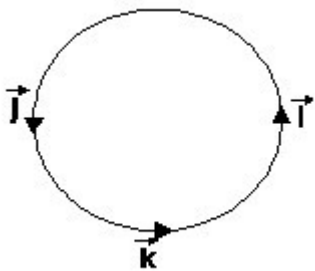
vi. $\vec{i} \times \vec{j} = \vec{k}$
 $\vec{j} \times \vec{k} = \vec{i}$
 $-\vec{k} \times \vec{i} = \vec{j}$

and,

$$\vec{j} \times \vec{i} = -\vec{k}$$

$$\vec{k} \times \vec{j} = -\vec{i}$$

$$\vec{i} \times \vec{k} = -\vec{j}$$



vii. A vector perpendicular to both \vec{a} and \vec{b} is $(\vec{a} \times \vec{b})$

viii. Unit vectors perpendicular to both \vec{a} and \vec{b} is

$$\pm \frac{\vec{a} \times \vec{b}}{|\vec{a} \times \vec{b}|}$$

ix. $\vec{a} \times \vec{b} = \begin{vmatrix} \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \end{vmatrix}$

Area of parallelogram

i. If the diagonals of parallelogram are \vec{c} and \vec{d} , its sides \vec{a} and \vec{b} are

$$\vec{a} = \frac{\vec{c} - \vec{d}}{2} \text{ and } \vec{b} = \frac{\vec{c} + \vec{d}}{2}$$

- ii. The area of a parallelogram whose adjacent sides are represented by \vec{a} and \vec{b} is $|\vec{a} \times \vec{b}|$
- iii. The area of a parallelogram whose diagonals are \vec{a} & \vec{b} is $\frac{1}{2}|\vec{a} \times \vec{b}|$

Area of Triangle:

- i. Area of ΔOAB where $\vec{OA} = \vec{a}$ & $\vec{OB} = \vec{b}$ is $\frac{1}{2}|\vec{a} \times \vec{b}|$
- ii. If position vectors of the vertices of a triangle are $\vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{c}$ then
- $$\Delta = \frac{1}{2}|\vec{a} \times \vec{b} + \vec{b} \times \vec{c} + \vec{c} \times \vec{a}|$$

Scalar triple product (box product)

For any vectors $\vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{c}$ where $\vec{a} = (a_1, a_2, a_3)$, $\vec{b} = (b_1, b_2, b_3)$ and $\vec{c} = (c_1, c_2, c_3)$
 $\vec{a} \cdot (\vec{b} \times \vec{c})$ is defined as scalar triple product and it is denoted by $[\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}]$

$$\vec{a} \cdot (\vec{b} \times \vec{c}) = [\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}] = \begin{vmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \\ c_1 & c_2 & c_3 \end{vmatrix}$$

Geometrically $[\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}]$ means volume of parallelepiped with $\vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{c}$ as coterminal edges.

Note:-

- i. If the vectors $\vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{c}$ are coplanar then the volume of the parallelepiped formed by them is zero, i.e.

$$[\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}] = \vec{a} \cdot (\vec{b} \times \vec{c}) = \begin{vmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \\ c_1 & c_2 & c_3 \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

- ii. $\vec{a} \cdot (\vec{b} \times \vec{c}) = (\vec{a} \times \vec{b}) \cdot \vec{c}$ (dot and cross can be interchanged)

$$\text{iii. } [\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}] = [\vec{b} \vec{c} \vec{a}] = [\vec{c} \vec{a} \vec{b}]$$

$$\text{iv. } [\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}] = -[\vec{b} \vec{a} \vec{c}] \quad [\vec{c} \vec{a} \vec{b}] = -[\vec{a} \vec{c} \vec{b}]$$

$$\text{v. } [\vec{i} \vec{j} \vec{k}] = [\vec{j} \vec{k} \vec{i}] = [\vec{k} \vec{i} \vec{j}] = 1$$

Vector triple product:-

For any three vectors \vec{a}, \vec{b} and \vec{c} , $\vec{a} \times (\vec{b} \times \vec{c})$ is defined as the vector triple product.

$$\vec{a} \times (\vec{b} \times \vec{c}) = (\vec{a} \cdot \vec{c})\vec{b} - (\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b})\vec{c}$$

Note:

$$\vec{a} \times (\vec{b} \times \vec{c}) \neq (\vec{a} \times \vec{b}) \times \vec{c}$$

In general, vector triple product is not associative.

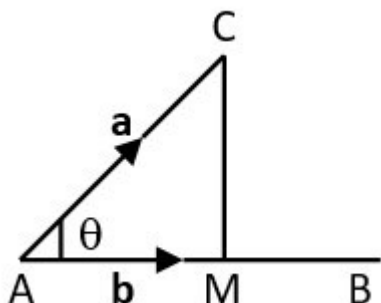
$$\vec{a} \times (\vec{b} \times \vec{c}) = (\vec{a} \times \vec{b}) \times \vec{c} \Leftrightarrow \vec{a} \text{ and } \vec{c} \text{ are collinear.}$$

Vector equation of a straight line:-

- i. The vector equation of a line passing through a given point \vec{a} and parallel to a given vector \vec{b} is
- $$\vec{r} = \vec{a} + t\vec{b}$$

- ii. The vector equation of a line passing through the given points \vec{a} and \vec{b} is
- $$\vec{r} = (1 - \lambda)\vec{a} + \lambda\vec{b}$$

Projection of a vector:-



Projection of AC on AB = AM

$$= AC \cos \theta$$
$$= |\vec{a}| \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}{|\vec{a}| |\vec{b}|}$$
$$= \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}{|\vec{b}|}$$

i. projection \vec{a} upon $\vec{b} = \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}{|\vec{b}|}$

ii. projection of \vec{b} upon $\vec{a} = \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}{|\vec{a}|}$