

## SCALAR PRODUCT OF VECTORS IN THREE DIMENSIONS

1 For each of the following pairs of vectors, find (i)  $\underline{a} \cdot \underline{b}$  (ii) the angle between  $\underline{a}$  and  $\underline{b}$ .

(c)  $\underline{a} = 4\underline{i} - 5\underline{j} + 7\underline{k}$ ,  $\underline{b} = 2\underline{i} + \underline{j} + 3\underline{k}$

(d)  $\underline{a} = 6\underline{i} - \underline{j}$ ,  $\underline{b} = 2\underline{j} - \underline{k}$

c) i)  $\underline{a} \cdot \underline{b} = 4 \times 2 + (-5) \times 1 + 7 \times 3 = 8 - 5 + 21 = 24$

ii)  $\cos \theta = \frac{\underline{a} \cdot \underline{b}}{|\underline{a}| |\underline{b}|}$

$$|\underline{a}| = \sqrt{4^2 + (-5)^2 + 7^2} = \sqrt{16 + 25 + 49} = \sqrt{90} = 3\sqrt{10}$$

$$|\underline{b}| = \sqrt{2^2 + 1^2 + 3^2} = \sqrt{4 + 1 + 9} = \sqrt{14}$$

$$\text{So } \cos \theta = \frac{24}{3\sqrt{10} \times \sqrt{14}} = \frac{24}{6\sqrt{5}\sqrt{7}} = \frac{4}{\sqrt{35}} \quad \theta \approx 47^\circ 28'$$

d) i)  $\underline{a} \cdot \underline{b} = 6 \times 0 + (-1) \times 2 + 0 \times (-1) = -2$

ii)  $\cos \theta = \frac{\underline{a} \cdot \underline{b}}{|\underline{a}| |\underline{b}|}$

$$|\underline{a}| = \sqrt{6^2 + (-1)^2} = \sqrt{37}$$

$$|\underline{b}| = \sqrt{2^2 + (-1)^2} = \sqrt{5}$$

$$\text{So } \cos \theta = \frac{-2}{\sqrt{37} \sqrt{5}} = \frac{-2}{\sqrt{185}}$$

$$\theta \approx 98^\circ 27'$$

## SCALAR PRODUCT OF VECTORS IN THREE DIMENSIONS

2 A, B, C, D are four points in space with respective coordinates (0, 0, 0), (1, 2, 3), (-3, 4, 6), (2, -6, -4).

Find:

- (a) the position vectors  $\vec{AB}$  and  $\vec{CD}$   
~~(c) the position vectors  $\vec{BC}$  and  $\vec{AD}$~~   
 (e) the scalar projection of  $\vec{AB}$  on  $\vec{CD}$

A            B            C            D

- (b) the magnitude of the angle between  $\vec{AB}$  and  $\vec{CD}$   
~~(d) the magnitude of the angle between  $\vec{BC}$  and  $\vec{AD}$~~   
 (f) the scalar projection of  $\vec{CD}$  on  $\vec{AB}$ .

$$a) \vec{AB} = \vec{AO} + \vec{OB} = -\vec{OA} + \vec{OB}$$

$$\vec{AB} = \vec{0} + \vec{i} + 2\vec{j} + 3\vec{k} = \vec{i} + 2\vec{j} + 3\vec{k}$$

$$\vec{CD} = -\vec{OC} + \vec{OD} = -(3\vec{i} + 4\vec{j} + 6\vec{k}) + (2\vec{i} - 6\vec{j} - 4\vec{k})$$

$$\vec{CD} = 5\vec{i} - 10\vec{j} - 10\vec{k}$$

$$b) \cos \theta = \frac{\vec{AB} \cdot \vec{CD}}{|\vec{AB}| |\vec{CD}|} \quad |\vec{AB}| = \sqrt{1^2 + 2^2 + 3^2} = \sqrt{1+4+9} = \sqrt{14}$$

$$|\vec{CD}| = \sqrt{(5)^2 + (-10)^2 + (-10)^2} = \sqrt{225} = 15$$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{1 \times 5 + 2 \times (-10) + 3 \times (-10)}{\sqrt{14} \cdot 15} = \frac{-45}{15\sqrt{14}} = \frac{-3}{\sqrt{14}} \quad \theta \approx 143^\circ 18'$$

e) The scalar projection of  $\vec{AB}$  onto  $\vec{CD}$  is  $\frac{\vec{AB} \cdot \vec{CD}}{|\vec{CD}|}$

$$\text{So it's } \frac{-45}{15} = -3$$

f) The scalar projection of  $\vec{CD}$  on  $\vec{AB}$  is  $\frac{\vec{CD} \cdot \vec{AB}}{|\vec{AB}|}$

$$\text{So it's } \frac{-45}{\sqrt{14}} = -\frac{45\sqrt{14}}{14}$$

## SCALAR PRODUCT OF VECTORS IN THREE DIMENSIONS

5 If  $\underline{a} = \underline{i} + \underline{j} + \underline{k}$ ,  $\underline{b} = 2\underline{i} - 3\underline{j} + 4\underline{k}$  and  $\underline{c} = -2\underline{i} - \underline{j} + 3\underline{k}$ , find:

(a)  $(\underline{c} - \underline{a}) \cdot \underline{b}$

(b)  $(\underline{a} + \underline{b}) \cdot \underline{c}$

(c) the scalar projection of  $\underline{a}$  onto  $\underline{b}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a) } (\underline{c} - \underline{a}) \cdot \underline{b} &= [-2\underline{i} - \underline{j} + 3\underline{k} - (\underline{i} + \underline{j} + \underline{k})] \cdot (2\underline{i} - 3\underline{j} + 4\underline{k}) \\ &= [-3\underline{i} - 2\underline{j} + 2\underline{k}] \cdot (2\underline{i} - 3\underline{j} + 4\underline{k}) \\ &= -6 + 6 + 8 = 8 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b) } (\underline{a} + \underline{b}) \cdot \underline{c} &= [\underline{i} + \underline{j} + \underline{k} + 2\underline{i} - 3\underline{j} + 4\underline{k}] \cdot \underline{c} \\ &= [3\underline{i} - 2\underline{j} + 5\underline{k}] \cdot (-2\underline{i} - \underline{j} + 3\underline{k}) \\ &= -6 + 2 + 15 = 11 \end{aligned}$$

c) The scalar projection of  $\underline{a}$  onto  $\underline{b}$  is  $\frac{\underline{a} \cdot \underline{b}}{|\underline{b}|}$

$$\text{So it's } \frac{1 \times 2 + 1 \times (-3) + 1 \times 4}{\sqrt{2^2 + (-3)^2 + 4^2}} = \frac{2 - 3 + 4}{\sqrt{4 + 9 + 16}} = \frac{3}{\sqrt{29}}$$

or in a rationalised form  $\frac{3\sqrt{29}}{29}$

## SCALAR PRODUCT OF VECTORS IN THREE DIMENSIONS

6 If  $\underline{a} = 3\underline{i} + 6\underline{j} + 2\underline{k}$  and  $\underline{b} = -6\underline{i} + 2\underline{j} + 3\underline{k}$ , find:

(a) a unit vector parallel to  $2\underline{a} + \underline{b}$

(b) a unit vector perpendicular to both  $\underline{a}$  and  $\underline{b}$ .

$$a) \quad 2\underline{a} + \underline{b} = 2(3\underline{i} + 6\underline{j} + 2\underline{k}) - 6\underline{i} + 2\underline{j} + 3\underline{k} = 14\underline{j} + 7\underline{k}$$

$$|2\underline{a} + \underline{b}| = \sqrt{14^2 + 7^2} = \sqrt{245} = 7\sqrt{5}$$

$$\text{So it's } (14\underline{j} + 7\underline{k}) / 7\sqrt{5} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}}\underline{j} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}\underline{k}$$

$$b) \quad \text{We must have } \underline{a} \cdot \underline{u} = 0 \quad \text{so } 3x + 6y + 2z = 0 \quad \textcircled{1}$$

$$\text{and } \underline{b} \cdot \underline{u} = 0 \quad \text{so } -6x + 2y + 3z = 0 \quad \textcircled{2}$$

$$2 \times \textcircled{1} + \textcircled{2} \Rightarrow 12y + 2y + 7z = 0 \quad \text{so } 14y + 7z = 0 \quad z = -2y.$$

$$\textcircled{1} \text{ becomes } 3x + 6y - 4y = 0 \quad \text{so } 3x + 2y = 0 \quad y = -\frac{3}{2}x$$

A vector perpendicular to  $\underline{a}$  and  $\underline{b}$  is  $\underline{i} - \frac{3}{2}\underline{j} + 3\underline{k}$  and so  $z = 3x$

$$|\underline{i} - \frac{3}{2}\underline{j} + 3\underline{k}| = \sqrt{1 + (\frac{3}{2})^2 + 9} = \frac{7}{2}$$

So a unit vector perpendicular to  $\underline{a}$  and  $\underline{b}$  is  $\frac{2}{7}(\underline{i} - \frac{3}{2}\underline{j} + 3\underline{k})$

7 If  $|\underline{a}| = |\underline{b}|$ , simplify the following expressions.

(a)  $(\underline{a} + \underline{b}) \cdot (\underline{a} - \underline{b})$

(b)  $(\underline{a} + 2\underline{b}) \cdot (2\underline{a} - \underline{b})$

$$a) \quad (\underline{a} + \underline{b}) \cdot (\underline{a} - \underline{b}) = (\underline{a} + \underline{b}) \cdot \underline{a} + (\underline{a} + \underline{b}) \cdot (-\underline{b})$$

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} = |\underline{a}|^2 + \underline{b} \cdot \underline{a} - \underline{a} \cdot \underline{b} - |\underline{b}|^2 = |\underline{a}|^2 - |\underline{b}|^2 = 0$$

$$b) \quad (\underline{a} + 2\underline{b}) \cdot (2\underline{a} - \underline{b}) = (\underline{a} + 2\underline{b}) \cdot 2\underline{a} + (\underline{a} + 2\underline{b}) \cdot (-\underline{b})$$

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} = 2|\underline{a}|^2 + 4\underline{b} \cdot \underline{a} - \underline{a} \cdot \underline{b} - 2|\underline{b}|^2$$

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} = 2|\underline{a}|^2 + 3\underline{a} \cdot \underline{b} - 2|\underline{b}|^2$$

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} = 3\underline{a} \cdot \underline{b}$$

## SCALAR PRODUCT OF VECTORS IN THREE DIMENSIONS

11 If  $\underline{u} = \underline{i} + 2\underline{j} - 2\underline{k}$  and  $\underline{v} = 2\underline{i} + 3\underline{j} - 6\underline{k}$ , find:

- (a)  $\hat{\underline{u}}$                       (b)  $\hat{\underline{v}}$   
 (c) a unit vector in the direction  $2\underline{u} - \underline{v}$   
 (d) (i) the vector projection of  $\underline{u}$  parallel to  $\underline{v}$   
       (ii) the vector projections of  $\underline{u}$  perpendicular to  $\underline{v}$ .

a)  $|\underline{u}| = \sqrt{1^2 + 2^2 + 2^2} = \sqrt{9} = 3 \quad \text{so} \quad \hat{\underline{u}} = \frac{\underline{i} + 2\underline{j} - 2\underline{k}}{3}$

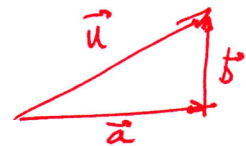
b)  $|\underline{v}| = \sqrt{2^2 + 3^2 + 6^2} = \sqrt{4 + 9 + 36} = \sqrt{49} = 7$   
 $\text{so} \quad \hat{\underline{v}} = \frac{2\underline{i} + 3\underline{j} - 6\underline{k}}{7}$

c)  $2\underline{u} - \underline{v} = 2(\underline{i} + 2\underline{j} - 2\underline{k}) - (2\underline{i} + 3\underline{j} - 6\underline{k})$   
 $\quad \quad \quad = \underline{j} + 2\underline{k}$   
 $|2\underline{u} - \underline{v}| = \sqrt{1^2 + 2^2} = \sqrt{5} \quad \text{so it'd be} \quad \frac{\underline{j} + 2\underline{k}}{\sqrt{5}}$

d) The vector projection of  $\underline{u}$  onto  $\underline{v}$  is  $|\underline{u}| \cos \theta \times \frac{\underline{v}}{|\underline{v}|}$   
 where  $\cos \theta = \frac{\underline{u} \cdot \underline{v}}{|\underline{u}| |\underline{v}|}$       so it's  $\frac{\underline{u} \cdot \underline{v}}{|\underline{v}|^2} \cdot \underline{v}$

$$\frac{\underline{u} \cdot \underline{v}}{|\underline{v}|} \times \underline{v} = \frac{1 \times 2 + 2 \times 3 - 2 \times (-6)}{7^2} \times (2\underline{i} + 3\underline{j} - 6\underline{k}) = \frac{20}{49} (2\underline{i} + 3\underline{j} - 6\underline{k})$$

e) This is  $\underline{b} = -\underline{a} + \underline{u}$



$$\text{So } \underline{b} = -\frac{20}{49} (2\underline{i} + 3\underline{j} - 6\underline{k}) + \underline{i} + 2\underline{j} - 2\underline{k}$$

$$\underline{b} = \frac{9}{49} \underline{i} + \frac{38}{49} \underline{j} + \frac{22}{49} \underline{k}$$

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**13** Find the value of  $p$  for which  $\underline{i} - 2p\underline{j} + 3\underline{k}$  and  $p\underline{i} - 4\underline{j} + 3\underline{k}$  are perpendicular.

These 2 vectors are perpendicular when the dot product is zero.

$$\text{i.e. } 1 \times p - 2p \times (-4) + 3 \times 3 = 0$$

$$9p + 9 = 0 \quad \text{so } p = -1$$



**15** If  $\underline{a} = (6, -2, 6)$  and  $\underline{b} = (-6, -2, 1)$ , find:

(a)  $|\underline{a}|$

(b) the scalar projection of  $\underline{b}$  on to  $\underline{a}$

(c)  $|\underline{a} - \underline{b}|$

(d) the magnitude of the projection of  $\underline{b}$  on to  $\underline{a} - \underline{b}$ .

$$\text{a) } |\underline{a}| = \sqrt{6^2 + 2^2 + 6^2} = \sqrt{76} = 2\sqrt{19}$$

$$\text{b) } \frac{\underline{a} \cdot \underline{b}}{|\underline{a}|} = \frac{-36 + 4 + 6}{2\sqrt{19}} = \frac{-26}{2\sqrt{19}} = \frac{-13}{\sqrt{19}} = -\frac{13\sqrt{19}}{19}$$

$$\text{c) } |\underline{a} - \underline{b}| = |6\underline{i} - 2\underline{j} + 6\underline{k} - (-6\underline{i} - 2\underline{j} + \underline{k})| = |12\underline{i} + 5\underline{k}| = \sqrt{12^2 + 5^2} = 13$$

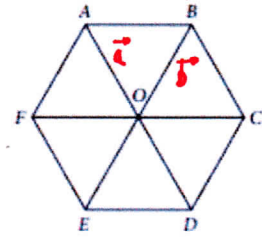
$$\text{d) This is } \left| \frac{\underline{b} \cdot (\underline{a} - \underline{b})}{|\underline{a} - \underline{b}|} \right| = \left| \frac{(-6\underline{i} - 2\underline{j} + \underline{k}) \cdot (12\underline{i} + 5\underline{k})}{13} \right|$$

$$= \left| \frac{-72 + 5}{13} \right| = \left| \frac{-67}{13} \right| = 5 \frac{2}{13}$$

## SCALAR PRODUCT OF VECTORS IN THREE DIMENSIONS

17 ABCDEF is a regular hexagon with centre O. If  $\vec{OA} = \vec{a}$  and  $\vec{OB} = \vec{b}$ , express each of the following in terms of  $\vec{a}$  and  $\vec{b}$ :

- (a)  $\vec{AB}$                       (b)  $\vec{BC}$   
 (c)  $\vec{CD}$                       (d)  $\vec{BD}$   
 (e)  $\vec{FC}$                       (f) Prove that  $\vec{BD}$  and  $\vec{FC}$  are perpendicular.



$$a) \vec{AB} = \vec{AO} + \vec{OB} = -\vec{OA} + \vec{OB} = -\vec{a} + \vec{b}$$

$$b) \vec{BC} = \vec{BO} + \vec{OC} = -\vec{OB} + \vec{OC} = -\vec{b} + \vec{AB} = -\vec{b} + (-\vec{a} + \vec{b}) = -\vec{a}$$

$$c) \vec{CD} = -\vec{b}$$

$$d) \vec{BD} = \vec{BC} + \vec{CD} = -\vec{a} - \vec{b}$$

$$e) \vec{FC} = 2 \times \vec{OC} = 2 \vec{AB} = 2(-\vec{a} + \vec{b})$$

$$f) \vec{BD} \cdot \vec{FC} = (-\vec{a} - \vec{b}) \cdot (2(-\vec{a} + \vec{b}))$$

$$= (-\vec{a} - \vec{b}) \cdot (-2\vec{a}) + (-\vec{a} - \vec{b}) \cdot (2\vec{b})$$

$$= 2|\vec{a}|^2 + 2\vec{b} \cdot \vec{a} - 2\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} - 2|\vec{b}|^2$$

$$= 2[|\vec{a}|^2 - |\vec{b}|^2]$$

$$\text{But } |\vec{a}| = |\vec{b}| \therefore \vec{BD} \cdot \vec{FC} = 0$$

$\therefore \vec{BD}$  and  $\vec{FC}$  are perpendicular.

## SCALAR PRODUCT OF VECTORS IN THREE DIMENSIONS

18 Given  $\underline{a} = 2\underline{i} - \underline{j} + 2\underline{k}$  and  $\underline{b} = \underline{i} + 2\underline{j} - 2\underline{k}$ , find two vectors  $\underline{c}$  and  $\underline{d}$  such that  $\underline{a} = \underline{c} + \underline{d}$ ,  $\underline{c}$  is parallel to  $\underline{b}$ ,  $\underline{d}$  is perpendicular to  $\underline{b}$ .

$$\underline{c} \text{ is } \parallel \text{ to } \underline{b}, \therefore \exists k \in \mathbb{R} \text{ such that } \underline{c} = k\underline{b} = k(\underline{i} + 2\underline{j} - 2\underline{k})$$

$$\underline{d} \text{ is } \perp \text{ to } \underline{b}, \therefore \underline{d} \cdot \underline{b} = 0.$$

$$\text{Say } \underline{d} = x\underline{i} + y\underline{j} + z\underline{k}, \therefore x + 2y - 2z = 0$$

$$\text{Further } \underline{a} = \underline{c} + \underline{d}$$

$$\text{So } 2\underline{i} - \underline{j} + 2\underline{k} = k\underline{i} + 2k\underline{j} - 2k\underline{k} + x\underline{i} + y\underline{j} + z\underline{k}$$

$$\text{So } 2\underline{i} - \underline{j} + 2\underline{k} = (k+x)\underline{i} + (2k+y)\underline{j} + (-2k+z)\underline{k}$$

$$\therefore \begin{cases} k+x = 2 \\ 2k+y = -1 \\ -2k+z = 2 \end{cases} \quad \text{or} \quad \begin{cases} x = 2-k \\ y = -1-2k \\ z = 2+2k \end{cases}$$

$$\text{So } (2-k) + 2(-1-2k) - 2(2+2k) = 0$$

$$(-1-4-4)k + 2-2-4 = 0$$

$$-9k = 4 \quad k = -4/9$$

$$\therefore \begin{cases} x = 2 - (-4/9) = \frac{22}{9} \\ y = -1 - 2(-4/9) = -1 + \frac{8}{9} = -\frac{1}{9} \\ z = 2 + 2 \times (-4/9) = 2 - \frac{8}{9} = \frac{10}{9} \end{cases}$$

$$\therefore \underline{c} = -\frac{4}{9}(\underline{i} + 2\underline{j} - 2\underline{k}) \quad \text{and} \quad \underline{d} = \frac{22}{9}\underline{i} - \frac{1}{9}\underline{j} + \frac{10}{9}\underline{k}$$

$$\text{Check } \underline{c} + \underline{d} = \frac{18}{9}\underline{i} + \left(\frac{-1}{9} - \frac{8}{9}\right)\underline{j} + \left(\frac{10}{9} + \frac{8}{9}\right)\underline{k} = 2\underline{i} - \underline{j} + 2\underline{k} = \underline{a} \quad \text{indeed}$$



## SCALAR PRODUCT OF VECTORS IN THREE DIMENSIONS

22 ABCD is a rectangle with vector  $\vec{AB} = 3\mathbf{i}$  and vector  $\vec{AD} = 2\mathbf{j}$ .

(a) Express the diagonal vectors  $\vec{AC}$  and  $\vec{DB}$  in terms of  $\mathbf{i}$  and  $\mathbf{j}$ .

(b) Calculate, to the nearest degree, the angle between the diagonals.

$$a) \vec{AC} = \vec{AB} + \vec{BC} = \vec{AB} + \vec{AD}$$

$$\vec{AC} = 3\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j}$$

$$\vec{DB} = \vec{DA} + \vec{AB} = -\vec{AD} + \vec{AB} = -2\mathbf{j} + 3\mathbf{i}$$



$$b) \cos \theta = \frac{\vec{AC} \cdot \vec{DB}}{|\vec{AC}| |\vec{DB}|} = \frac{(3\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j}) \cdot (3\mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j})}{\sqrt{3^2 + 2^2} \sqrt{(-2)^2 + 3^2}}$$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{9 - 4}{(9 + 4)} = \frac{5}{13}$$

$$\therefore \theta = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{5}{13}\right) = 67^\circ 23'$$

so  $67^\circ$  to the nearest degree

## SCALAR PRODUCT OF VECTORS IN THREE DIMENSIONS

23 If  $\underline{u}$  and  $\underline{v}$  are vectors defined by  $\underline{u} = \underline{i} + \underline{j} + \sqrt{2}\underline{k}$  and  $\underline{v} = \underline{i} - \underline{j} + \sqrt{2}\underline{k}$ , find:

- a unit vector parallel to  $\underline{u}$
- the angle between  $\underline{u}$  and  $\underline{v}$
- the vector projection of  $\underline{v}$  in the direction of  $\underline{u}$ .

$$a) \hat{\underline{u}} = \frac{\underline{u}}{|\underline{u}|} = \frac{\underline{i} + \underline{j} + \sqrt{2}\underline{k}}{\sqrt{1^2 + 1^2 + (\sqrt{2})^2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4}} (\underline{i} + \underline{j} + \sqrt{2}\underline{k})$$

$$\hat{\underline{u}} = \frac{1}{2} (\underline{i} + \underline{j} + \sqrt{2}\underline{k})$$

$$b) \cos \theta = \frac{\underline{u} \cdot \underline{v}}{|\underline{u}| |\underline{v}|} = \frac{(\underline{i} + \underline{j} + \sqrt{2}\underline{k}) \cdot (\underline{i} - \underline{j} + \sqrt{2}\underline{k})}{2 \times 2}$$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{1 - 1 + 2}{4} = \frac{1}{2} \quad \text{so } \theta = \frac{\pi}{3} \text{ or } 60^\circ$$

c) This is  $|\underline{v}| \cos 60 \times \hat{\underline{u}}$ .

$$|\underline{v}| \cos 60 \times \hat{\underline{u}} = 2 \times \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} (\underline{i} + \underline{j} + \sqrt{2}\underline{k})$$

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} = \frac{1}{2} (\underline{i} + \underline{j} + \sqrt{2}\underline{k})$$