

2- Vectors

Components of a Vector, Introduction A component is a projection of a vector along an axis.

- ❖ Any vector can be completely described by its components.

It is useful to use rectangular components.

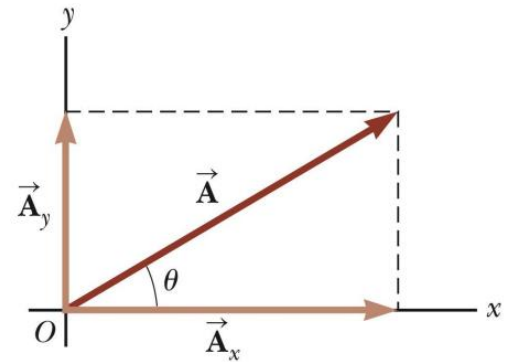
- ❖ These are the projections of the vector along the x- and y-axes.

Vector Component Terminology

\vec{A}_x and \vec{A}_y are the component vectors of \vec{A} .

- ❖ They are vectors and follow all the rules for vectors.

A_x and A_y are scalars, and will be referred to as the components of A.

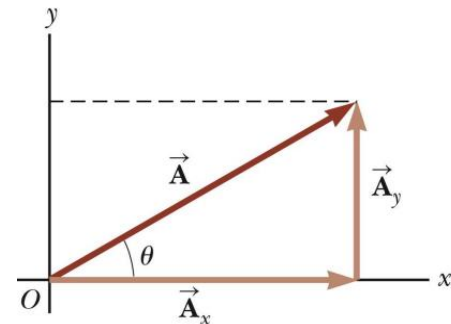


Components of a Vector

Assume you are given a vector \vec{A} . It can be expressed in terms of two other vectors \vec{A}_x and \vec{A}_y

$$\vec{A} = \vec{A}_x + \vec{A}_y$$

These three vectors form a right triangle.



The x-component of a vector is the projection along the x-axis.

$$A_x = A \cos\theta$$

The y-component of a vector is the projection along the y-axis.

$$A_y = A \sin\theta$$

This assumes the angle θ is measured with respect to the x-axis.

The components are the legs of the right triangle whose hypotenuse is the length of A

$$A = \sqrt{A_x^2 + A_y^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \theta = \tan^{-1} \frac{A_y}{A_x}$$

2-1 Vectors collection

$$\vec{A} = \vec{A}_x \mathbf{i} + \vec{A}_y \mathbf{j} + \vec{A}_z \mathbf{k}$$

$$\vec{B} = \vec{B}_x \mathbf{i} + \vec{B}_y \mathbf{j} + \vec{B}_z \mathbf{k}$$

$$\vec{A} + \vec{B} = (\vec{A}_x + \vec{B}_x) \mathbf{i} + (\vec{A}_y + \vec{B}_y) \mathbf{j} + (\vec{A}_z + \vec{B}_z) \mathbf{k}$$

2-2 Subtract vectors:

$$\vec{A} - \vec{B} = (\vec{A}_x - \vec{B}_x) \mathbf{i} + (\vec{A}_y - \vec{B}_y) \mathbf{j} + (\vec{A}_z - \vec{B}_z) \mathbf{k}$$

To find the numerical value of the vector A can be:

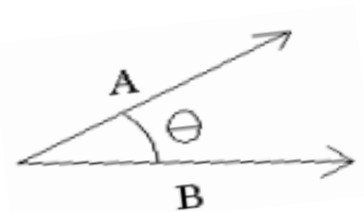
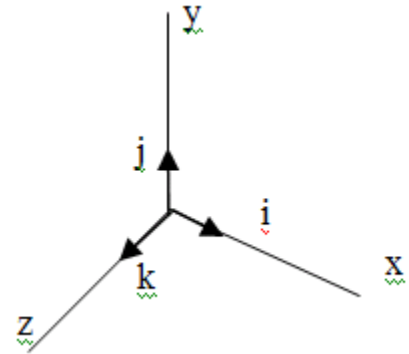
$$|\vec{A}| = \sqrt{Ax^2 + Ay^2 + Az^2}$$

And

Commutative Law for Addition: $A + B = B + A$

2-1 Scalar Product or dot (.) product

The scalar product of two vectors, A and B denoted by $A \cdot B$, is defined as the product of the magnitudes of the vectors times the cosine of the angle between them, as illustrated in Figure.



$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = \vec{A}_x \vec{B}_x + \vec{A}_y \vec{B}_y + \vec{A}_z \vec{B}_z$$

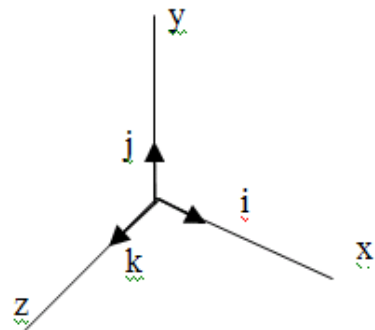
$$\mathbf{i} = (1,0,0) \quad \mathbf{i} \cdot \mathbf{i} = 1 \quad \mathbf{i} \cdot \mathbf{j} = 0$$

$$\mathbf{j} = (0,1,0) \quad \mathbf{j} \cdot \mathbf{j} = 1 \quad \mathbf{j} \cdot \mathbf{k} = 0$$

$$\mathbf{k} = (0,0,1) \quad \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{k} = 1 \quad \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{i} = 0$$

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = AB \cos \theta$$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{|\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B}|}{|\mathbf{A}| |\mathbf{B}|}$$



Note that the result of a dot product is a scalar, not a vector.

The rules for scalar products are given in the following list:

1- $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = \vec{B} \cdot \vec{A}$ -----(Prof that)

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} &= \vec{A}_x \vec{B}_x + \vec{A}_y \vec{B}_y + \vec{A}_z \vec{B}_z \\ &= \vec{B}_x \vec{A}_x + \vec{B}_y \vec{A}_y + \vec{B}_z \vec{A}_z \\ \therefore \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} &= \vec{B} \cdot \vec{A} \end{aligned}$$

2- $\vec{A} \cdot (\vec{B} + \vec{C}) = \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} + \vec{A} \cdot \vec{C}$

3- $m(\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B}) = (m\vec{A}) \cdot \vec{B}$
 $= \vec{A} \cdot (m\vec{B}) = (\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B}) m$

prove the cosine law:

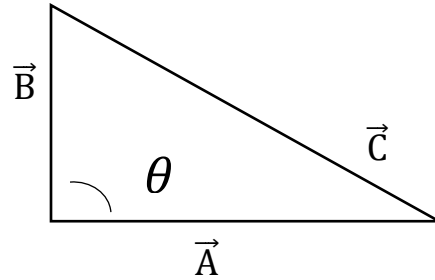
$$\vec{C} = \vec{A} + \vec{B}$$

$$\vec{C} \cdot \vec{C} = (\vec{A} + \vec{B}) \cdot (\vec{A} + \vec{B})$$

$$C^2 = A \cdot A + A \cdot B + B \cdot A + B \cdot B$$

$$C^2 = A^2 + B^2 + 2A \cdot B$$

$$C^2 = A^2 + B^2 + 2AB \cos \theta :$$



Example2

Let us do an example. Consider two vectors $\vec{A} = 2i + 2j$ and $\vec{B} = 6i - 3j$

Now what is the angle between these two vectors?

Solution: From the definition of scalar products, $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = AB \cos \theta$ we have

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = |A| |B| \cos \theta$$

$$\therefore \cos \theta = \frac{|A \cdot B|}{|A| |B|}$$

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = 2i + 2j \cdot 6i - 3j = 6$$

$$|A| = \sqrt{2^2 + 2^2} = \sqrt{8} = 2.83$$

$$|B| = \sqrt{6^2 + (-3)^2} = \sqrt{45} = 6.71$$

$$\therefore \cos \theta = \frac{6}{2.83 \times 6.71} = 0.316 \quad \therefore \theta = \cos^{-1} 0.316 = 71^\circ.36'$$

Question 1: Prove that the two vectors are perpendicular if: $A \cdot B = 0$?

Solutions:

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = |A| |B| \cos \theta$$

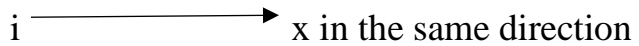
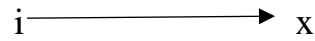
$$\therefore \cos \theta = \frac{|A \cdot B|}{|A| |B|} = \frac{0}{|A| |B|} = 0$$

$$\therefore \theta = \cos^{-1}(0) = 90^\circ$$

$$\therefore A \perp B$$

Question 2: Prove that: $\mathbf{i} \cdot \mathbf{i} = \mathbf{j} \cdot \mathbf{j} = \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{k} = 1$

Solution: $\mathbf{i} \cdot \mathbf{i} = i i \cos \theta$



That is, the angle between them is $\theta = 0$

$$\therefore \mathbf{i} \cdot \mathbf{i} = (1,0,0) (1,0,0) \cos \theta$$

$$\mathbf{i} \cdot \mathbf{i} = (1,0,0) (1,0,0) \cdot 1 = 1 \text{ so on}$$

Question 3: Prove that: $\mathbf{i} \cdot \mathbf{j} = \mathbf{j} \cdot \mathbf{k} = \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{j} = 0$

Solution

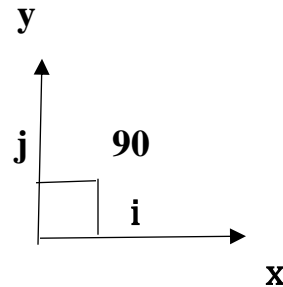
$$\mathbf{i} \cdot \mathbf{j} = i j \cos \theta$$

$$= (1,0,0) (0,1,0) \cos 90$$

$$\therefore \text{As the angle between them} = 90^\circ$$

$$\cos 90 = 0$$

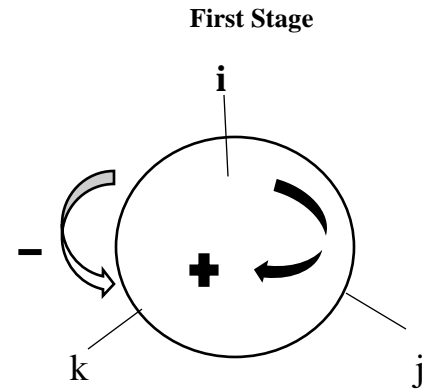
$$\therefore \mathbf{i} \cdot \mathbf{j} = 0$$



2-2 Vector Product or Cross (x) Product

$$\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = AB \sin \theta \implies \sin \theta = \frac{|A \times B|}{|A| |B|}$$

$$\begin{array}{lll} i \times i = 0 & i \times j = k & i \times k = -j \\ j \times j = 0 & j \times k = i & k \times j = -i \\ k \times k = 0 & k \times i = j & j \times i = -k \end{array}$$



$$\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = - \vec{B} \times \vec{A}$$

$$\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = \begin{vmatrix} i & j & k \\ A_x & A_y & A_z \\ B_x & B_y & B_z \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= (A_y B_z - A_z B_y) i + (A_z B_x - A_x B_z) j + (A_x B_y - A_y B_x) k$$

The vector product or the cross product multiplies two vectors in such a way that the resultant is a new vector.

If $\vec{A} = \vec{A}_x i + \vec{A}_y j + \vec{A}_z k$ and $\vec{B} = \vec{B}_x i + \vec{B}_y j + \vec{B}_z k$ then let $\vec{C} = \vec{C}_x i + \vec{C}_y j + \vec{C}_z k$ be the result of this multiplication.

Let $A=i+2j+3k$; $B=2i-3j+k$. Then the cross product of A and B is

$$\vec{C} = \vec{A} \times \vec{B} = |A| |B| \sin \theta$$

$$\vec{C} = \begin{vmatrix} i & j & k \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & -3 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = (2*1-3*(-3)) i + (3*2-1*1) j + (-3*1- 2*2) k$$

$$\vec{C} = 11i + 5j - 7k$$

Question4: If you know that $A = 2i + 2j - k$ and $B = i - j + 2k$,

Find: 1) $A \times B$, 2) $A \cdot B$ 3) and the angle between them?

Solutions:

1) $A \cdot B = 2- 2 -2 = -2$

$$2) \mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ 2 & 2 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 2 \end{vmatrix} = (4-1)\mathbf{i} + (-1-4)\mathbf{j} + (-2-2)\mathbf{k}$$

$$\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B} = 3\mathbf{i} - 5\mathbf{j} - 4\mathbf{k}$$

$$3) A = \sqrt{2^2 + 2^2 + (-1)^2} = \sqrt{4 + 4 + 1} = \sqrt{9} = 3$$

$$B = \sqrt{1^2 + 1^2 + 2^2} = \sqrt{1 + 1 + 4} = \sqrt{6}$$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{|\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B}|}{|\mathbf{A}| |\mathbf{B}|} = \frac{-2}{3\sqrt{6}} \quad \therefore \theta = \cos^{-1} \frac{-2}{3\sqrt{6}}$$

Homework

Q1) Prove that $\mathbf{i} \times \mathbf{j} = \mathbf{k}$, $\mathbf{j} \times \mathbf{k} = \mathbf{i}$ and $\mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{i} = \mathbf{j}$?

Q2) Find the unit vector perpendicular to the plane between the two vectors

$$\vec{\mathbf{A}} = 2\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k} \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{\mathbf{B}} = \mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k}$$

Q3) Find the angle between the two vectors $\mathbf{A} = 2\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k}$ and $\mathbf{B} = 6\mathbf{i} - 3\mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k}$?