

VECTOR ALGEBRA

01

Types Of Vectors

- Zero Vector**: A vector whose initial and terminal points coincide, it has zero magnitude.
- Unit Vector**: A vector whose magnitude is unity. The unit vector in the direction of \vec{a} is denoted as \hat{a} .
- Coinitial Vectors**: Two or more vectors having the same initial point.
- Collinear Vectors**: Two or more vectors are collinear, if they are parallel to the same line irrespective of their magnitude.
- Equal Vectors**: Two vectors are said to be equal, if they have same magnitude & direction regardless of the position of their initial points.
- Negative of a vector**: A vector whose magnitude is the same as that of the given vector, but the direction is opposite to that of it.
- Position Vector**: Let O be the origin & P(X,Y,Z) be a point with respect to the origin O. Then the vector called the position vector of the point P with respect to O. \vec{OP} is

$$|\vec{OP}| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$$

- Direction angles: The angles made by \vec{OP} with positive direction of x, y, & z-axes (say α , β & γ respectively).
- Directions cosines: the cosine value of these angles i.e., $\cos\alpha$, $\cos\beta$ & $\cos\gamma$ of \vec{OP} denoted by l, m & n respectively.

02

Properties of Vector Addition

- For any two vectors \vec{a} & \vec{b} , $\vec{a} + \vec{b} = \vec{b} + \vec{a}$ (commutative property)
- For any three vectors \vec{a} , \vec{b} , & \vec{c} $(\vec{a} + \vec{b}) + \vec{c} = \vec{a} + (\vec{b} + \vec{c})$ (Associative property)

03

Multiplication Of A Vector By A Scalar

If \vec{a} is multiplied by scalar m then the product $m\vec{a}$ is a vector whose magnitude is |m| times that of \vec{a} & direction is same as \vec{a} if m is positive where as opposite to that of \vec{a} if m is negative.

- $m(\vec{a}) = (\vec{a})m$
- $(m+n)\vec{a} = m\vec{a} + n\vec{a}$
- $m(n\vec{a}) = n(m\vec{a}) = (mn)\vec{a}$
- $m(\vec{a} + \vec{b}) = m\vec{a} + m\vec{b}$.

04

Dot or Scalar Product of Vectors

Dot product of two vectors \vec{a} & \vec{b} inclined at an angle θ is $(\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}) = |\vec{a}| |\vec{b}| \cos\theta$

- $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} \in \mathbb{R}$
- $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = \vec{b} \cdot \vec{a}$
- $(x\vec{a}) \cdot \vec{b} = x(\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}) = \vec{a} \cdot (x\vec{b})$
- $\vec{a} \cdot (\vec{b} + \vec{c}) = \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} + \vec{a} \cdot \vec{c}$
- If \vec{a} & \vec{b} perpendicular, $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = 0$
- $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} < 0$ iff angle between \vec{a} & \vec{b} is obtuse.
- $\hat{i} \cdot \hat{i} = 1, \hat{j} \cdot \hat{j} = 1, \hat{k} \cdot \hat{k} = 1, \hat{i} \cdot \hat{j} = \hat{j} \cdot \hat{k} = \hat{i} \cdot \hat{k} = 0$
- If two vectors have same direction then $\cos\theta = 1 \Rightarrow \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = ab$
- If two vectors have opposite direction then $\cos\theta = -1 \Rightarrow \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = -ab$
- If \hat{a} & \hat{b} are unit vectors, $\hat{a} \cdot \hat{b} = \cos\theta$
- $\vec{a} = a_1\hat{i} + b_1\hat{j} + c_1\hat{k}, \vec{b} = b_2\hat{i} + b_2\hat{j} + b_3\hat{k}$ $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = a_1b_1 + b_1b_2 + c_1b_3$.
- Projection of a vector \vec{b} on the other vector \vec{a} is given by $\vec{b} \cdot \hat{a}$ or $\vec{b} \left(\frac{\vec{a}}{|\vec{a}|} \right)$
- A vector in the direction of the bisector of the angle between the two vectors \vec{a} & \vec{b} is $\frac{\vec{a}}{|\vec{a}|} + \frac{\vec{b}}{|\vec{b}|}$
- Bisector of the interior angle between two vectors \vec{a} & \vec{b} is $\lambda \left(\frac{\vec{a}}{|\vec{a}|} + \frac{\vec{b}}{|\vec{b}|} \right)$ i.e., $\lambda(\hat{a} + \hat{b})$ where $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^+$ & Bisector of the interior angle is $\lambda \left(\frac{\vec{a}}{|\vec{a}|} - \frac{\vec{b}}{|\vec{b}|} \right)$, is $\lambda(\hat{a} - \hat{b})$

05

Cross product

Let \vec{a} & \vec{b} be two non-zero vectors inclined at an angle θ

Then, vector product is defined as $\vec{a} \times \vec{b} = |\vec{a}| |\vec{b}| \sin\theta \hat{n}$ where, \hat{n} is a unit vector perpendicular to both vectors \vec{a} & \vec{b} such that \vec{a}, \vec{b} & \hat{n} form a right handed system.

Lagrange's Identity:

For any two vectors \vec{a}, \vec{b}

$$(\vec{a} \times \vec{b})^2 = a^2b^2 - (\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b})^2 = \begin{vmatrix} \vec{a} \cdot \vec{a} & \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} \\ \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} & \vec{b} \cdot \vec{b} \end{vmatrix}$$

Formulation of vector product in terms of scalar product:

The vector product $\vec{a} \times \vec{b}$ is the vector \vec{c} , such that

$$|\vec{c}| = \sqrt{|\vec{a}|^2 |\vec{b}|^2 - (\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b})^2}$$

$$\vec{c} \cdot \vec{a} = \vec{c} \cdot \vec{b} = 0$$

$\vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{c}$ form a right-handed system.

Remarks

- $\vec{a} \times \vec{b}$ is a vector.
- If \vec{a} & \vec{b} are nonzero vectors, then $\vec{a} \times \vec{b} = 0 \Leftrightarrow \vec{a} \parallel \vec{b}$
- For mutually perpendicular unit vectors $\hat{i}, \hat{j}, \hat{k}$,
 $\hat{i} \times \hat{i} = \hat{j} \times \hat{j} = \hat{k} \times \hat{k} = 0$
- $\vec{a} \times \vec{b} = -\vec{b} \times \vec{a}$
- If \vec{a} & \vec{b} represent the adjacent sides of a triangle then its area is $\frac{1}{2} |\vec{a} \times \vec{b}|$
- If \vec{a} & \vec{b} represent the adjacent sides of a parallelogram then the area is $|\vec{a} \times \vec{b}|$
- $\lambda(\vec{a} \times \vec{b}) = (\lambda\vec{a}) \times \vec{b} = \vec{a} \times (\lambda\vec{b})$
- If $\vec{a} = a_1\hat{i} + a_2\hat{j} + a_3\hat{k}$ & $\vec{b} = b_1\hat{i} + b_2\hat{j} + b_3\hat{k}$ then $|\vec{a} \times \vec{b}| = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \end{vmatrix}$
- Unit vector perpendicular to the plane of \vec{a} & \vec{b} is $\hat{n} = \pm \frac{\vec{a} \times \vec{b}}{|\vec{a} \times \vec{b}|}$

Vector area:

- If \vec{a}, \vec{b} & \vec{c} are the position vectors of 3 points then area of $\triangle ABC = \frac{1}{2} [|\vec{a} \times \vec{b} + \vec{b} \times \vec{c} + \vec{c} \times \vec{a}|]$ A, B, C are collinear iff $\vec{a} \times \vec{b} + \vec{b} \times \vec{c} + \vec{c} \times \vec{a} = 0$.
- Area of any quadrilateral whose diagonal vectors are d_1 & d_2 is given by $\frac{1}{2} |d_1 \times d_2|$

06

Vector Triple Product:

Vector Triple Product of $\vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{c}$ is $\vec{a} \times (\vec{b} \times \vec{c})$.

It is a vector perpendicular to the plane containing \vec{a} & $\vec{b} \times \vec{c}$ lying in the plane of \vec{b} & \vec{c}

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

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

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

07

Test of Collinearity

$$x\vec{a} + y\vec{b} + z\vec{c} = 0 [x, y, z \text{ scalars, } x + y + z = 0]$$

08

Test of Coplanarity

$$x\vec{a} + y\vec{b} + z\vec{c} + w\vec{d} = 0 [x, y, z, w \text{ scalars, } x + y + z + w = 0]$$



09

Reciprocal system of Vectors

If $\vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{c}$ & $\vec{a}', \vec{b}', \vec{c}'$ are two sets of noncoplanar vectors such that $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{a}' = \vec{b} \cdot \vec{b}' = \vec{c} \cdot \vec{c}' = 1$ then the two systems are called reciprocal systems.

$$\vec{a}' = \frac{\vec{b} \times \vec{c}}{[\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}]}, \vec{b}' = \frac{\vec{c} \times \vec{a}}{[\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}]}, \vec{c}' = \frac{\vec{a} \times \vec{b}}{[\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}]}$$

10

Scalar Triple Product/Box Product: $[\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}]$

Box product of $\vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{c}$ is $(\vec{a} \times \vec{b}) \cdot \vec{c} = abc \sin \theta \cos \phi$

$\theta \rightarrow$ angle between \vec{a} & \vec{b}

$\phi \rightarrow$ angle between $\vec{a} \times \vec{b}$ and \vec{c}

Box product geometrically represents the volume of the parallelepiped whose three coterminous edges are represented by $\vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{c}$

$$V = [\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}]$$

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

$$\bullet [\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}] = [\vec{b} \vec{c} \vec{a}] = [\vec{c} \vec{a} \vec{b}]$$

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

$$\bullet [\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}] = -[\vec{a} \vec{c} \vec{b}]$$

$$\bullet \text{If } \vec{a} = a_1\hat{i} + a_2\hat{j} + a_3\hat{k}, \vec{b} = b_1\hat{i} + b_2\hat{j} + b_3\hat{k},$$

$$\vec{c} = c_1\hat{i} + c_2\hat{j} + c_3\hat{k} \text{ then } [\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}] = \begin{vmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \\ c_1 & c_2 & c_3 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\bullet \vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{c} \text{ are coplanar if } [\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}] = 0$$

\bullet If $\vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{c}$ are non-coplanar, then $[\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}] > 0$ for right handed system & $[\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}] < 0$ for left handed system.

$$\bullet [\hat{i} \hat{j} \hat{k}] = 1$$

$$\bullet [k \vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}] = k[\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}]$$

$$\bullet [(\vec{a} + \vec{b}) \vec{c} \vec{d}] = [\vec{a} \vec{c} \vec{d}] + [\vec{b} \vec{c} \vec{d}]$$

11

Direction cosines & Direction Ratios

\bullet If \vec{a} makes angles of α, β, γ with the direction of x, y, z axes, then $\cos \alpha, \cos \beta, \cos \gamma$ are called direction cosines

\vec{a} is usually denoted by l, m, n .

\bullet Any three members a, b, c proportional to the direction cosines of a line are called direction ratios

$$\frac{l}{a} = \frac{m}{b} = \frac{n}{c}$$

$$l = \pm \frac{a}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + c^2}}; \quad m = \pm \frac{b}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + c^2}}$$

$$n = \pm \frac{c}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + c^2}} \quad l^2 + m^2 + n^2 = 1$$

12

Vector Equation of a Line

\bullet Parametric vector equation of a line passing through two points

$$A(\vec{a}) \text{ \& \ } B(\vec{b}) \text{ is } \vec{r} = \vec{a} + t(\vec{b} - \vec{a})$$

\bullet If line passes through the point $A(\vec{a})$ & is parallel to \vec{b} , then its equation is $\vec{r} = \vec{a} + t\vec{b}$

\bullet Equation of the bisectors of the angle between the lines,

$$\vec{r} = \vec{a} + \lambda\vec{b} \text{ \& \ } \vec{r} = \vec{a} + \mu\vec{c} \text{ is } \vec{r} = \vec{a} + t(\vec{b} + \vec{c}) \text{ \& \ } \vec{r} = \vec{a} + p(\vec{c} - \vec{b})$$

13

Shortest distance between two lines

If two lines are $\vec{r}_1 = \vec{a}_1 + k\vec{b}$ & $\vec{r}_2 = \vec{a}_2 + k\vec{b}$

$$\text{then } d = \frac{|\vec{b} \times (\vec{a}_2 - \vec{a}_1)|}{|\vec{b}|}$$

14

Equation of Plane

$(\vec{r} - \vec{r}_0) \cdot \vec{n} = 0$ containing the point with position vector \vec{r}_0 , where \vec{n} is a vector normal to the plane.

$$\vec{r} \cdot \vec{n} = d \text{ general equation}$$

15

Projection & Component

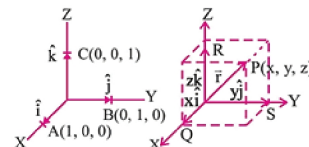
$$\bullet \text{ Projection of } \vec{a} \text{ along } \vec{b} = \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}{|\vec{b}|}$$

$$\bullet \text{ Component of } \vec{a} \text{ along } \vec{b} = \frac{(\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b})\vec{b}}{|\vec{b}|^2}$$

$$\bullet \text{ Projection of } \vec{a} \perp \vec{b} = \frac{|\vec{a} \times \vec{b}|}{|\vec{b}|}$$

$$\bullet \text{ Component of } \vec{a} \perp \vec{b} = \vec{a} - \frac{(\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b})\vec{b}}{|\vec{b}|^2}$$

16

Component Of Vector

\vec{OA}, \vec{OB} & \vec{OC} are unit vectors along x, y & z axes respectively, denoted by \hat{i}, \hat{j} & \hat{k} respectively Position Vector of with reference to O is given by:

$$\vec{OP} \text{ (or } \vec{r}) = x\hat{i} + y\hat{j} + z\hat{k}$$

This form of any vector is called its component form.

$$\text{Also, } |\vec{OP}| = |\vec{r}| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$$

17

Vector Joining Two Points

Let $A(x_1, y_1, z_1)$ & $B(x_2, y_2, z_2)$ be any two points in the space, then

$$\vec{OA} = x_1\hat{i} + y_1\hat{j} + z_1\hat{k} \text{ \& \ } \vec{OB} = x_2\hat{i} + y_2\hat{j} + z_2\hat{k}$$

$$\therefore \vec{AB} = \vec{OB} - \vec{OA} = (x_2 - x_1)\hat{i} + (y_2 - y_1)\hat{j} + (z_2 - z_1)\hat{k}$$

$$|\vec{AB}| = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2 + (z_2 - z_1)^2}$$

18

Section Formulae

The position vector of a point R dividing a line segment joining the points P & Q whose position vectors are

\vec{a} & \vec{b} respectively, in the ratio $m : n$

$$(i) \text{ internally, is given by } \frac{m\vec{b} + n\vec{a}}{m + n}$$

$$(ii) \text{ externally, is given by } \frac{m\vec{b} - n\vec{a}}{m - n}$$

The position vector of the middle point of PQ is given by $\frac{1}{2}(\vec{a} + \vec{b})$

19

Scalar product of four vectors

$$(\vec{a} \times \vec{b}) \cdot (\vec{c} \times \vec{d}) = \begin{vmatrix} \vec{a} \cdot \vec{c} & \vec{b} \cdot \vec{c} \\ \vec{a} \cdot \vec{d} & \vec{b} \cdot \vec{d} \end{vmatrix}$$

20

Vector product of four vectors

$$(\vec{a} \times \vec{b}) \times (\vec{c} \times \vec{d}) = [\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{d}]\vec{c} - [\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}]\vec{d}$$