

Answer on Question #59203 – Math – Linear Algebra

If \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} are nonzero vectors (in R^2 or R^3) and if θ is the angle between \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} , then the dot product of \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} is denoted by $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}$ and is defined as

$$\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = |\mathbf{u}| \cdot |\mathbf{v}| \cdot \cos \theta$$

or in terms of coordinates as

$$\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = u_x v_x + u_y v_y + u_z v_z,$$

where $\mathbf{u} = (u_x; u_y; u_z)$, $\mathbf{v} = (v_x; v_y; v_z)$.

Besides,

$\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0 \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{u}$ and \mathbf{v} are perpendicular.

Question

1 Find the angle between $\mathbf{A} = 2\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k}$ and $\mathbf{B} = 6\mathbf{i} - 3\mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k}$.

Solution

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

$$\mathbf{A} = 2\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k} = (2; 2; -1);$$

$$\mathbf{B} = 6\mathbf{i} - 3\mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k} = (6; -3; 2);$$

$$\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} = 2 \cdot 6 + 2 \cdot (-3) + (-1) \cdot 2 = 12 - 6 - 2 = 4;$$

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

$$|\mathbf{B}| = \sqrt{6^2 + (-3)^2 + 2^2} = \sqrt{49} = 7;$$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{4}{3 \cdot 7} = \frac{4}{21};$$

$$\theta = \arccos \frac{4}{21}, \text{ hence } \theta \approx 79.02^\circ.$$

Answer: $\theta = \arccos \frac{4}{21}$, $\theta \approx 79.02^\circ$.

Question

2 Determine the value of a so that $\mathbf{A} = 2\mathbf{i} + a\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}$ and $\mathbf{B} = 4\mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j} - 2\mathbf{k}$ are perpendicular

Solution

$$\mathbf{A} = 2\mathbf{i} + a\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k} = (2; a; 1)$$

$$\mathbf{B} = 4\mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j} - 2\mathbf{k} = (4; -2; -2)$$

$$\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} = 2 \cdot 4 + a \cdot (-2) + 1 \cdot (-2) = 8 - 2a - 2 = 6 - 2a$$

$$\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0, \text{ then } 6 - 2a = 0; 2a = 6; a = 3.$$

Answer: $a = 3$.

Question

3 Determine a unit vector perpendicular to the plane of $\mathbf{A} = 2\mathbf{i} - 6\mathbf{j} - 3\mathbf{k}$ and $\mathbf{B} = 4\mathbf{i} + 3\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k}$

Solution

$$A=2i-6j-3k=(2; -6; -3)$$

$$B=4i+3j-k=(4; 3; -1)$$

Let u be a unit vector perpendicular to the plane of $A=2i-6j-3k$ and $B=4i+3j-k$, then

$$u = \frac{A \times B}{|A \times B|};$$

$$\begin{aligned} A \times B &= \begin{vmatrix} i & j & k \\ 2 & -6 & -3 \\ 4 & 3 & -1 \end{vmatrix} = i \begin{vmatrix} -6 & -3 \\ 3 & -1 \end{vmatrix} - j \begin{vmatrix} 2 & -3 \\ 4 & -1 \end{vmatrix} + k \begin{vmatrix} 2 & -6 \\ 4 & 3 \end{vmatrix} = \\ &= i(6+9) - j(-2+12) + k(6+24) = 15i - 10j + 30k \end{aligned}$$

$$|A \times B| = \sqrt{15^2 + (-10)^2 + 30^2} = \sqrt{225 + 100 + 900} = \sqrt{1225} = 35;$$

$$u = \frac{A \times B}{|A \times B|} = \frac{1}{35} (15i - 10j + 30k) = \frac{15}{35}i - \frac{10}{35}j + \frac{30}{35}k = \frac{3}{7}i - \frac{2}{7}j + \frac{6}{7}k;$$

Answer:

$$u = \frac{3}{7}i - \frac{2}{7}j + \frac{6}{7}k.$$

Question

4 Find the work done in moving an object along a vector $r=3i+2j-5k$.

Solution

The object is moved by the force, and

the work done in moving an object along a vector r , if the applied force F , is defined by the dot product

$$A = F \cdot r$$

Let the vector of applied force be $F = xi+yj+zk=(x,y,z)$,

then $A = F \cdot r = 3x+2y-5z$.

Answer: $A = F \cdot r = 3x+2y-5z$ for $F = xi+yj+zk$.

Question

5 Given that $A=2i-j+3k$ and $B=3i+2j-k$, find $A \cdot B$

Solution

$$A = 2i-j+3k=(2; -1; 3)$$

$$B = 3i+2j-k=(3; 2; -1)$$

$$A \cdot B = 2 \cdot 3 + (-1) \cdot 2 + 3 \cdot (-1) = 6 - 2 - 3 = 1;$$

Answer: $A \cdot B = 1$.