

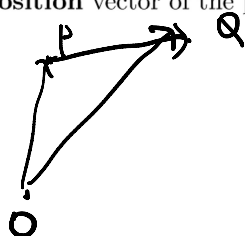
12.2 & 12.3: Vectors and the Dot Product

DEFINITION 1. A 3-dimensional vector is an ordered triple $\mathbf{a} = \langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle$

Given the points $P(x_1, y_1, z_1)$ and $Q(x_2, y_2, z_2)$, the vector \mathbf{a} with representation \overrightarrow{PQ} is

$$\mathbf{a} = \langle x_2 - x_1, y_2 - y_1, z_2 - z_1 \rangle.$$

The representation of the vector that starts at the point $O(0, 0, 0)$ and ends at the point $P(x_1, y_1, z_1)$ is called the **position** vector of the point P .



$$\overrightarrow{PQ} = \overrightarrow{OQ} - \overrightarrow{OP}$$

EXAMPLE 2. Find the vector represented by the directed line segment with the initial point $A(1, 2, 3)$ and terminal point $B(3, 2, -1)$. What is the position vector of the point A ?

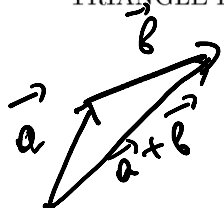
$$\overrightarrow{AB} = \langle 3-1, 2-2, -1-3 \rangle = \langle 2, 0, -4 \rangle$$

$$\overrightarrow{OA} = \langle 1, 2, 3 \rangle$$

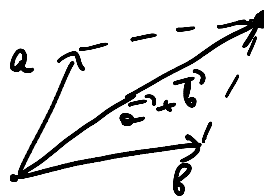
Vector Arithmetic: Let $\mathbf{a} = \langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle$ and $\mathbf{b} = \langle b_1, b_2, b_3 \rangle$.

- Scalar Multiplication: $\alpha \mathbf{a} = \langle \alpha a_1, \alpha a_2, \alpha a_3 \rangle, \alpha \in \mathbb{R}$.
- Addition: $\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b} = \langle a_1 + b_1, a_2 + b_2, a_3 + b_3 \rangle$

TRIANGLE LAW



PARALLELOGRAM LAW



Two vectors \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} are parallel if one is a scalar multiple of the other, i.e. there exists $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ s.t. $\mathbf{b} = \alpha \mathbf{a}$. Equivalently:

$$\text{all } \mathbf{b} \Leftrightarrow \overrightarrow{\mathbf{b}} = \lambda \overrightarrow{\mathbf{a}} \quad \leftarrow$$

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$$\mathbf{a} \parallel \mathbf{b} \Leftrightarrow \vec{\mathbf{b}} = \lambda \vec{\mathbf{a}} \quad (\Leftrightarrow)$$

Rewrite in coordinates

$$\vec{\mathbf{a}} = \langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle$$

$$\vec{\mathbf{b}} = \langle b_1, b_2, b_3 \rangle$$

$$(\Leftrightarrow) \begin{cases} b_1 = \lambda a_1 \\ b_2 = \lambda a_2 \\ b_3 = \lambda a_3 \end{cases}$$

if all a_1, a_2, a_3 are not ≥ 0

$$\Rightarrow \frac{b_1}{a_1} = \frac{b_2}{a_2} = \frac{b_3}{a_3}$$

The magnitude or length of $\mathbf{a} = \langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle$:

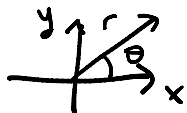
$$|\mathbf{a}| = \sqrt{a_1^2 + a_2^2 + a_3^2}$$

Zero vector: $\mathbf{0} = \langle 0, 0, 0 \rangle$, $|\mathbf{0}| = 0$.

Note that $|\mathbf{a}| = 0 \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{a} = \mathbf{0}$.

Unit vector in the same direction as \mathbf{a} : $\hat{\mathbf{a}} = \frac{\mathbf{a}}{|\mathbf{a}|}$ The process of multiplying a vector \mathbf{a} by the reciprocal of its length to obtain a unit vector with the same direction is called **normalizing** \mathbf{a} .

Note that in \mathbb{R}^2 a nonzero vector \mathbf{a} can be determined by its length and the angle from the positive x -axis:



In \mathbb{R}^2 and \mathbb{R}^3 a vector can be determined by its length and a vector in the same direction:

$$\mathbf{a} = |\mathbf{a}| \hat{\mathbf{a}}$$

i.e. \mathbf{a} is equal to its length times a unit vector in the same direction.

EXAMPLE 3. Find the components of a vector \mathbf{a} of length $\sqrt{5}$ that extends along the line through the points $M(2, 5, 0)$ and $N(0, 0, 4)$.

$$\vec{\mathbf{a}} \parallel \vec{MN}$$

$$|\vec{\mathbf{a}}| = \sqrt{5}$$

$$\vec{\mathbf{a}} = \pm \sqrt{5} \frac{\vec{MN}}{|\vec{MN}|} = \pm \sqrt{5} \frac{\langle -2, -5, 4 \rangle}{\sqrt{4+25+16}} =$$

$$= \pm \sqrt{5} \frac{\langle -2, -5, 4 \rangle}{\sqrt{45}} = \pm \frac{\langle -2, -5, 4 \rangle}{3} \quad \text{the unit vector in direction of } \vec{MN}$$

$$= \pm \left\langle -\frac{2}{3}, -\frac{5}{3}, \frac{4}{3} \right\rangle$$

$\frac{\sqrt{5}}{3 \cdot \sqrt{5}} \Rightarrow \sqrt{5} = 3\sqrt{5}$

Standard Basis Vectors:

$$\mathbf{i} = \langle 1, 0, 0 \rangle$$

$$\mathbf{j} = \langle 0, 1, 0 \rangle$$

$$\mathbf{k} = \langle 0, 0, 1 \rangle$$

Note that $|\mathbf{i}| = |\mathbf{j}| = |\mathbf{k}| = 1$.

We have:

$$\mathbf{a} = \langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle = \langle a_1, 0, 0 \rangle + \langle 0, a_2, 0 \rangle + \langle 0, 0, a_3 \rangle$$

We have:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{a} = \langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle &= \underbrace{\langle a_1, 0, 0 \rangle}_{a_1 \langle 1, 0, 0 \rangle} + \underbrace{\langle 0, a_2, 0 \rangle}_{a_2 \langle 0, 1, 0 \rangle} + \underbrace{\langle 0, 0, a_3 \rangle}_{a_3 \langle 0, 0, 1 \rangle} \\ &= a_1 \hat{i} + a_2 \hat{j} + a_3 \hat{k} \end{aligned}$$

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EXAMPLE 4. Given $\mathbf{a} = \langle 1, 0, -3 \rangle$ and $\mathbf{b} = \langle 3, 1, 2 \rangle$. Find

(a) $|\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a}|$.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a} &= \langle 3-1, 1-0, 2-(-3) \rangle = \langle 2, 1, 5 \rangle \\ |\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a}| &= \sqrt{2^2 + 1^2 + 5^2} = \sqrt{4+1+25} = \sqrt{30} \end{aligned}$$

(b) a unit vector that has the same direction as $\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a}$

$$\frac{\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a}}{|\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a}|} = \frac{\langle 2, 1, 5 \rangle}{\sqrt{30}} = \left\langle \frac{2}{\sqrt{30}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{30}}, \frac{5}{\sqrt{30}} \right\rangle$$

Dot Product of two nonzero vectors \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} is the NUMBER:

$$\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = |\mathbf{a}| \cdot |\mathbf{b}| \cos \theta,$$



where θ is the angle between \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} , $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$.

If $\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{0}$ or $\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{0}$ then $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = 0$.

Component Formula for dot product of $\mathbf{a} = \langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle$ and $\mathbf{b} = \langle b_1, b_2, b_3 \rangle$:

$$\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = a_1 b_1 + a_2 b_2 + a_3 b_3.$$

If θ is the angle between two nonzero vectors \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} , then

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}}{|\mathbf{a}| \cdot |\mathbf{b}|} = \frac{a_1 b_1 + a_2 b_2 + a_3 b_3}{\sqrt{a_1^2 + a_2^2 + a_3^2} \sqrt{b_1^2 + b_2^2 + b_3^2}}$$

DEFINITION 5. Two nonzero vectors \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} are called **perpendicular** or **orthogonal** if the angle between them is $\theta = \pi/2$.

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EXAMPLE 6. For two nonzero vectors \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} prove that

(a)

$$\mathbf{a} \perp \mathbf{b} \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = 0$$

$$\text{If } \vec{a} \perp \vec{b} \Rightarrow \theta = \frac{\pi}{2} \Rightarrow \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = |\vec{a}| |\vec{b}| \underbrace{\cos \frac{\pi}{2}}_0 = 0$$

$$\text{If } \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = 0 \Rightarrow \underbrace{|\vec{a}|}_{\neq 0} \underbrace{|\vec{b}|}_{\neq 0} \cos \theta = 0 \Rightarrow \cos \theta = 0 \Rightarrow \vec{a} \perp \vec{b}$$

(b)

$$|\mathbf{a}| = \sqrt{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a}}$$

$$\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a} = a_1^2 + a_2^2 + a_3^2$$

$$\sqrt{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a}} = \sqrt{a_1^2 + a_2^2 + a_3^2} = |\mathbf{a}|$$

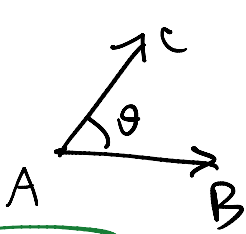
perpendicular

EXAMPLE 7. For what value(s) of c are the vectors $\underbrace{ci + 2j + k}_{\vec{a}}$ and $\underbrace{4i + 3j + ck}_{\vec{b}}$ orthogonal?

$$\vec{a} \perp \vec{b} \Leftrightarrow \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = 0 \Leftrightarrow \underline{4c} + 2 \cdot 3 + \underline{1 \cdot c} = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 5c + 6 = 0 \Leftrightarrow c = \boxed{-\frac{6}{5}}$$

EXAMPLE 8. The points $A(6, -1, 0)$, $B(-3, 1, 2)$, $C(2, 4, 5)$ form a triangle. Find angle at A .



$$\begin{aligned} \vec{AB} &= \langle -3-6, 1-(-1), 2-0 \rangle = \langle -9, 2, 2 \rangle \\ \vec{AC} &= \langle 2-6, 4-(-1), 5-0 \rangle = \langle -4, 5, 5 \rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\vec{AB} \cdot \vec{AC}}{|\vec{AB}| |\vec{AC}|} = \frac{(-9) \cdot (-4) + 2 \cdot 5 + 2 \cdot 5}{\sqrt{(-9)^2 + 2^2 + 2^2} \sqrt{(-4)^2 + 5^2 + 5^2}}$$

$$= \frac{36 + 10 + 10}{\sqrt{81 + 4 + 4} \sqrt{16 + 25 + 25}} = \frac{56}{\sqrt{89} \sqrt{66}} \Rightarrow \theta \approx 43^\circ$$

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DEFINITION 9. The work done by a force \mathbf{F} in moving an object from point A to point B is given by

$$W = \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{D}$$

where $\mathbf{D} = \vec{AB}$ is the distance the object has moved (or displacement).

EXAMPLE 10. A force is given by a vector $\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + 5\mathbf{k}$ and moves a particle from the point $P(1, 2, 0)$ to the point $Q(2, 3, 5)$. Find the work done.

$$\vec{PQ} = \langle 2-1, 3-2, 5-0 \rangle = \langle 1, 1, 5 \rangle$$

$$W = \vec{F} \cdot \vec{PQ} = 1 - 1 + 25 = 25$$

Symmetric equations of the line: If $abc \neq 0$ then

$$\frac{x - x_0}{a} = \frac{y - y_0}{b} = \frac{z - z_0}{c}$$

If, for example, $a = 0$ then the symmetric equations have the form:

$$x = x_0, \quad \frac{y - y_0}{b} = \frac{z - z_0}{c}$$

EXAMPLE 3. Find symmetric equations of lines from Example 1.

Vector equation of the line:

$$\mathbf{r}(t) = \langle x_0, y_0, z_0 \rangle + t \langle a, b, c \rangle$$

where $P_0(x_0, y_0, z_0)$ is a given point on the line and $\mathbf{v} = \langle a, b, c \rangle$ is some vector which is parallel to the line, t is a parameter, $-\infty < t < \infty$.

EXAMPLE 4. Find vector equation of the line that passes through the points $P(1, 1, -4)$ and $Q(0, 3, -4)$.

EXAMPLE 5. Determine whether the lines

$$L_1: x - 1 = \frac{y + 2}{3} = \frac{z - 4}{-1}$$

and

$$L_2: x = 2t, \quad y = 3 + t, \quad z = -3 + 4t$$

are parallel, skew, or intersecting.

Summarizing table

Vector equation	Parametric equations	Symmetric equations
$\mathbf{r}(t) = \langle x_0, y_0, z_0 \rangle + t \langle a, b, c \rangle,$ $-\infty < t < \infty$	$x = x_0 + at,$ $y = y_0 + bt,$ $z = z_0 + ct,$ $-\infty < t < \infty$	<p>If $abc \neq 0$ then</p> $\frac{x-x_0}{a} = \frac{y-y_0}{b} = \frac{z-z_0}{c}$ <p>If, for example, $a = 0$ then the symmetric equations have the form:</p> $x = x_0, \quad \frac{y-y_0}{b} = \frac{z-z_0}{c}$

Line segments

How to find parametric equation of a line segment:

- 1. Find parametric equation for the entire line;*
- 2. restrict the parameter appropriately so that only the desired segment is generated.*

EXAMPLE 6. *Find parametric equations describing the line segment joining the points $M(1, 2, 3)$ and $N(3, 2, 1)$.*

Planes

Planes parallel to the coordinate planes:

Planes determined by a point and a normal vector

A plane in \mathbb{R}^3 is uniquely determined by a point $P_0(x_0, y_0, z_0)$ in the plane and a vector $\mathbf{n} = (a, b, c)$ that is orthogonal to the plane. This vector is called a **normal vector**.

Assume that $P(x, y, z)$ is any point in the plane. Let \mathbf{r}_0 and \mathbf{r} be the position vectors for P_0 and P respectively.

$$\text{Vector equation of the plane: } \mathbf{n} \cdot (\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_0) = 0 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{r}_0.$$

Scalar equation of plane:

$$a(x - x_0) + b(y - y_0) + c(z - z_0) = 0.$$

Often this will be written as a **linear equation** in x, y, z ,

$$ax + by + cz = d$$

where $d = ax_0 + by_0 + cz_0$.

EXAMPLE 7. Determine the equation of the plane through the point $(1, 2, 1)$ and orthogonal to vector $\langle 2, 3, 4 \rangle$. Find the intercepts and sketch the plane.

EXAMPLE 8. Determine the equation of the plane through the points $A(1, 1, 1)$, $B(0, 1, 0)$ and $C(1, 2, 3)$.

Two planes are **parallel** if their normal vectors are parallel.

Two planes are **orthogonal** if their normal vectors are orthogonal.

If two planes are not parallel, then they intersect in a straight line and the **angle** between the two planes is defined as the *acute* angle between their normal vectors.

EXAMPLE 9. *Given four planes:*

$$P_1 : 2x + 3y + z + 11 = 0$$

$$P_2 : -4x - 6y - 2z + 77 = 0$$

$$P_3 : 2x \quad \quad - 4z + 33 = 0$$

$$P_4 : -2x + 3y + z + 11 = 0.$$

Determine whether the given pairs of the planes are parallel, orthogonal, or neither. Find the angle between the planes.

(a) P_1 and P_2

(b) P_1 and P_3

(c) P_2 and P_3

(d) P_1 and P_4

Line as an intersection of two non parallel planes:

$$L : \begin{cases} a_1x + b_1y + c_1z + d_1 = 0 \\ a_2x + b_2y + c_2z + d_2 = 0 \end{cases}$$

The direction vector of L is $\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{n}_1 \times \mathbf{n}_2$.

EXAMPLE 10. Find an equation of the line given as intersection of two planes:

$$\begin{aligned} x - y + 3z &= 0 \\ x + y + 4z &= 2 \end{aligned}$$