

# Lecture (15)

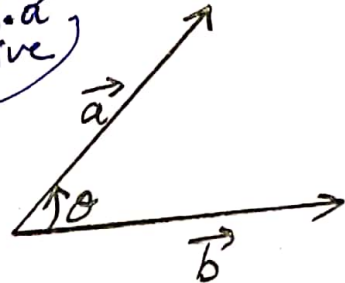
## The scalar product

### \* Defn (1)

If  $\vec{a} = \langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle$ ,  $\vec{b} = \langle b_1, b_2, b_3 \rangle$  then

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

Note that  
 $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = \vec{b} \cdot \vec{a}$   
 Commutative prop.



### \* Defn (2)

$$\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = \|\vec{a}\| \|\vec{b}\| \cos \theta$$

$$\Rightarrow \cos \theta = \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}{\|\vec{a}\| \|\vec{b}\|}$$

### \* EX

Find the angle between the vectors  $\vec{a} = \langle 4, -3, 1 \rangle$  and

$$\vec{b} = \langle -1, -2, 2 \rangle$$

Ans:

$$\cos \theta = \frac{4(-1) + (-3)(-2) + 1(2)}{\sqrt{16+9+1} \sqrt{1+4+4}}$$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{4}{3\sqrt{26}} \Rightarrow \theta = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{4}{3\sqrt{26}}\right)$$

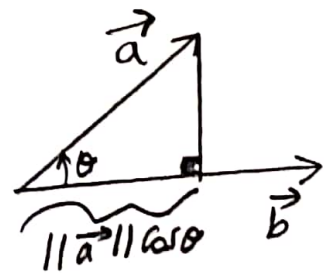
$$\theta \approx 74.84^\circ$$

### \* Defn (3)

Let  $\vec{a}$  and  $\vec{b}$  be vectors in space  $V_3$  with  $b \neq 0$ , the

Component of  $\vec{a}$  along  $\vec{b}$  is

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Comp}_b a &= \|\vec{a}\| \cos \theta \\ &= \|\vec{a}\| \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}{\|\vec{a}\| \|\vec{b}\|} \end{aligned}$$



$$\therefore \text{Comp}_b a = \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}{\|\vec{b}\|}$$

and the projection of  $\vec{a}$  on  $\vec{b}$  is

$$\text{proj}_b a = \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}{\|\vec{b}\|^2} \vec{b}$$

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Ex If  $\vec{a} = 4\vec{i} - \vec{j} + 5\vec{k}$  and  $\vec{b} = 6\vec{i} + 3\vec{j} - 2\vec{k}$

Find a) Comp<sub>b</sub> a      b) Comp<sub>a</sub> b      c) proj<sub>b</sub> a

Ans:

$$a) \text{Comp}_b a = \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}{\|\vec{b}\|} = \frac{(4\vec{i} - \vec{j} + 5\vec{k}) \cdot (6\vec{i} + 3\vec{j} - 2\vec{k})}{\sqrt{36 + 9 + 4}}$$

$$= \frac{24 - 3 - 10}{\sqrt{49}}$$

$$= \frac{11}{7} \approx 1.6$$

$$b) \text{Comp}_a b = \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}{\|\vec{a}\|} = \frac{11}{\sqrt{16 + 1 + 25}}$$

$$= \frac{11}{\sqrt{42}} \approx 1.7$$

$$c) \text{proj}_b a = \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}{\|\vec{b}\|} \frac{\vec{b}}{\|\vec{b}\|}$$

$$= \frac{11}{7} \left( \frac{6\vec{i} + 3\vec{j} - 2\vec{k}}{7} \right)$$

$$\therefore \text{proj}_b a = \frac{11}{49} \langle 6, 3, -2 \rangle$$

\* Prop 5 for scalar product

prop 1  $\vec{a}$  and  $\vec{b}$  are perpendicular (orthogonal)

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

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

EX

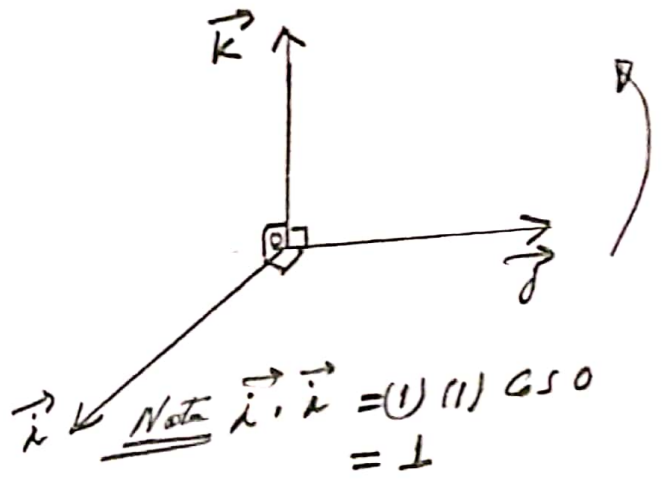
$$\vec{a} = \langle 2, 3 \rangle, \vec{b} = \langle 3, -2 \rangle$$

$$\therefore \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = 6 - 6 = 0$$

$\therefore \vec{a}$  and  $\vec{b}$  are orthogonal.

3  
prop. ②

$$\begin{cases} \vec{i} \cdot \vec{i} = \vec{j} \cdot \vec{j} = \vec{k} \cdot \vec{k} = 1 \\ \vec{i} \cdot \vec{j} = \vec{j} \cdot \vec{k} = \vec{k} \cdot \vec{i} = 0 \end{cases}$$

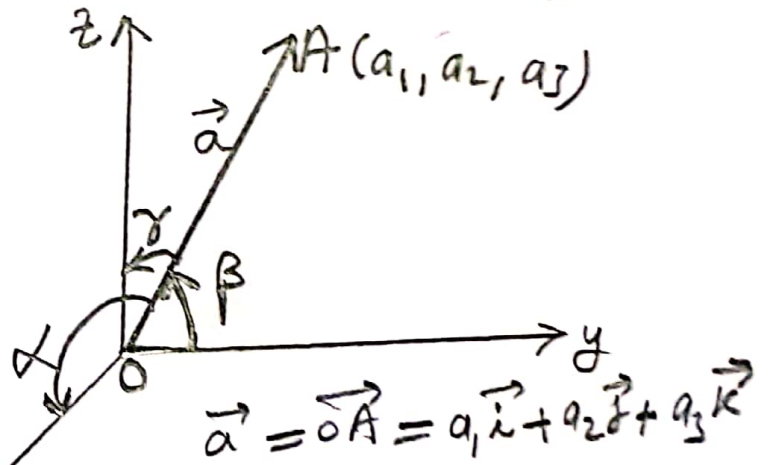


Note  $\vec{i} \cdot \vec{i} = (1)(1) \cos 0 = 1$

$\vec{i} \cdot \vec{j} = (1)(1) \cos 90^\circ = 0$

\* Direction Cosines & Direction angles.

Let  $\vec{a} = \vec{OA}$  be a position vector, then the direction cosines  $\cos \alpha$ ,  $\cos \beta$  and  $\cos \gamma$ .



w.r.t  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $z$  respectively are given by

$$\cos \alpha = \frac{a_1}{\|\vec{a}\|}, \quad \cos \beta = \frac{a_2}{\|\vec{a}\|}, \quad \cos \gamma = \frac{a_3}{\|\vec{a}\|}$$

Ex Find the direction cosines and direction angles of the vector  $\vec{a} = 2\vec{i} + 3\vec{j} + 4\vec{k}$  and also show that  $\cos^2 \alpha + \cos^2 \beta + \cos^2 \gamma = 1$

Ans  $\cos \alpha = \frac{a_1}{\|\vec{a}\|} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{4+9+16}} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{29}} \Rightarrow \alpha = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{2}{\sqrt{29}}\right) \approx 68.2^\circ$

$\cos \beta = \frac{3}{\sqrt{29}} \Rightarrow \beta = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{3}{\sqrt{29}}\right) \approx 56.1^\circ$

$\cos \gamma = \frac{4}{\sqrt{29}} \Rightarrow \gamma = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{4}{\sqrt{29}}\right) \approx 42^\circ$

Note  $\cos^2 \alpha + \cos^2 \beta + \cos^2 \gamma = \frac{4}{29} + \frac{9}{29} + \frac{16}{29} = 1$