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UNIT 6: CARTESIAN VECTORS

KNOWLEDGE

1. State whether each quantity is a vector or a scalar.

(a) $\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}$

vector ✓

(b) $(\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b})\vec{b}$

vector ✓

(c) $|\vec{b} \downarrow \vec{a}|$

scalar ✓

(d) $k\vec{b}$

vector ✓

Out of 4

2. Given $\vec{u} = [-2, 4]$ and $\vec{v} = [3, 2]$, determine the angle between the given vectors.

$|\vec{u}| = \sqrt{(-2)^2 + (4)^2}$
 $= \sqrt{20}$ ✓

$\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = (-2)(3) + (4)(2)$
 $= 2$ ✓

$\cos \theta = \frac{\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v}}{|\vec{u}||\vec{v}|}$ ✓

$|\vec{v}| = \sqrt{(3)^2 + (2)^2}$
 $= \sqrt{13}$ ✓

$\angle \theta = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{2}{\sqrt{20}\sqrt{13}} \right)$ ✓

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$\angle \theta = 83^\circ$ ✓

3. If $\vec{a} = [6, 1, -4]$ and $\vec{b} = [1, -1, 2]$, determine

(a) $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}$

$= (6)(1) + (1)(-1) + (-4)(2)$ ✓

$= -3$ ✓

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

$= (a_2b_3 - a_3b_2, a_3b_1 - a_1b_3, a_1b_2 - a_2b_1)$

$= [(1)(2) - (-4)(-1), (-4)(1) - (6)(2), (6)(-1) - (1)(1)]$ ✓

$= (-2, -16, -7)$ ✓

Out of 8

(c) $|\vec{a} + \vec{b}|$

$\vec{a} + \vec{b} = [(6)+(1), (1)+(-1), (-4)+(2)]$ ✓
 $= (7, 0, -2)$ ✓

$|\vec{a} + \vec{b}| = \sqrt{(7)^2 + (0)^2 + (-2)^2}$ ✓

$= \sqrt{53}$ ✓

4. If $\vec{m} = -\vec{i} + 2\vec{j} + \vec{k}$ and $\vec{n} = 3\vec{i} - 2\vec{j} + \vec{k}$, determine $3\vec{m} + \vec{n}$.

$3\vec{m} = 3(-\vec{i} + 2\vec{j} + \vec{k})$ ✓

$= -3\vec{i} + 6\vec{j} + 3\vec{k}$ ✓

$3\vec{m} + \vec{n} = (-3\vec{i} + 6\vec{j} + 3\vec{k}) + (3\vec{i} - 2\vec{j} + \vec{k})$ ✓

$= 4\vec{j} + 4\vec{k}$ ✓

Out of 4

5. Given $A(5,7)$ and $B(-3, 12)$, determine

(a) \overline{AB}

$= (-3-5, 12-7)$ ✓
 $= (-8, 5)$ ✓

Out of 4

(b) $|\overline{AB}|$

$= \sqrt{(-8)^2 + (5)^2}$ ✓
 $= \sqrt{89}$ ✓

6. Given $\vec{a} = (-7, 21, 14)$ and $\vec{b} = (6, -18, p)$, determine the value of p such that \vec{a} and \vec{b} are

(a) perpendicular to each other.

$\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = (-7)(6) + (21)(-18) + (14)(p)$ ✓
 $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = -420 + 14p$ ✓
 Let $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = 0$ ✓
 $0 = -420 + 14p$
 $30 = p$ ✓

Out of 10

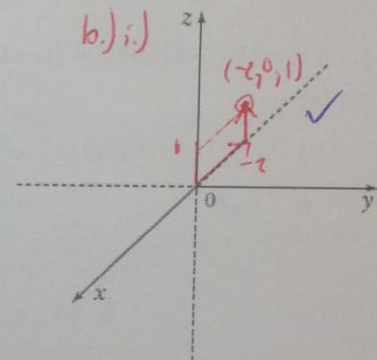
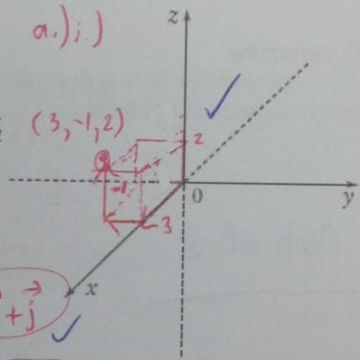
(b) collinear.

$\vec{a} = k\vec{b}$ ✓
 $(-7, 21, 14) = k(6, -18, p)$ ✓
 $-7 = 6k$ $21 = -18k$ $14 = kp$
 $-\frac{7}{6} = k$ $-\frac{7}{6} = k$ $14 = \left(-\frac{7}{6}\right)p$ ✓
 $-12 = p$ ✓

7. For each vector below,

- i) sketch the position vector
- ii) write the vector in the form $a\vec{i} + b\vec{j} + c\vec{k}$
- iii) find the magnitude

- a) $\vec{u} = [3, -1, 2]$
- b) $\vec{v} = [-2, 0, 1]$



a) ii) $\vec{u} = 3\vec{i} - \vec{j} + 2\vec{k}$ ✓ b) ii) $\vec{v} = -2\vec{i} + \vec{j}$ ✓
 a) iii) $|\vec{u}| = \sqrt{(3)^2 + (-1)^2 + (2)^2}$ ✓ b) iii) $|\vec{v}| = \sqrt{(-2)^2 + (0)^2 + (1)^2}$ ✓
 $|\vec{u}| = \sqrt{14}$ ✓ $|\vec{v}| = \sqrt{5}$ ✓

Out of 8

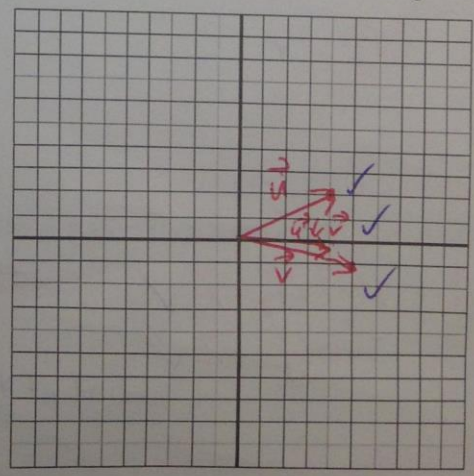
8. Suppose $\vec{u} = [4, 2]$ and $\vec{v} = [5, -1]$.

(a) Determine $\vec{u} \downarrow \vec{v}$

$\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = (4)(5) + (2)(-1)$
 $= 18$ ✓
 $|\vec{v}| = \sqrt{(5)^2 + (-1)^2}$
 $= \sqrt{26}$ ✓
 $|\vec{v}|^2 = (\sqrt{26})^2$
 $= 26$ ✓
 $\vec{u} \downarrow \vec{v} = \left(\frac{\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v}}{|\vec{v}|^2} \right) \vec{v}$ ✓
 $= \left(\frac{18}{26} \right) (5, -1)$ ✓
 $= \left(\frac{45}{13}, -\frac{9}{13} \right)$
 $= (3.5, -0.7)$ ✓

Out of 9

(b) Graph vector of \vec{u} , \vec{v} and $\vec{u} \downarrow \vec{v}$, on the grid below.



APPLICATION

9. Vectors \vec{a} and \vec{b} are such that $|\vec{a}| = 5$, $|\vec{b}| = 3$ and $|\vec{a} + \vec{b}| = 6$. Determine $2\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}$

$$\vec{c} = \vec{a} + \vec{b}$$

$$|\vec{c}| = |\vec{a} + \vec{b}|$$

\therefore cosine law

$$|\vec{c}|^2 = |\vec{a}|^2 + |\vec{b}|^2 - 2|\vec{a}||\vec{b}|\cos\theta$$

$$|\vec{a} + \vec{b}|^2 = |\vec{a}|^2 + |\vec{b}|^2 - 2|\vec{a}||\vec{b}|\cos\theta$$

$$(6)^2 = (5)^2 + (3)^2 - 2(5)(3)\cos\theta$$

$$\cos\theta = \frac{-2}{30}$$

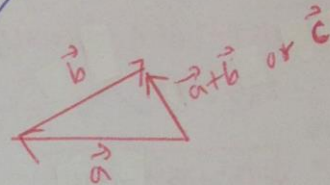
$$\cos\theta = -\frac{1}{15}$$

$$2\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = 2|\vec{a}||\vec{b}|\cos\theta$$

$$2\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = 2(5)(3)\left(-\frac{1}{15}\right)$$

$$2\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = -2$$

Out of 10



10. If the vectors $\vec{a} + 3\vec{b}$ and $4\vec{a} - \vec{b}$ are perpendicular, and $|\vec{a}| = 2|\vec{b}|$, determine the angle (to the nearest degree) between the nonzero vectors \vec{a} and \vec{b} .

$$(\vec{a} + 3\vec{b}) \cdot (4\vec{a} - \vec{b}) = 0$$

$$\vec{a} \cdot (4\vec{a} - \vec{b}) + 3\vec{b} \cdot (4\vec{a} - \vec{b}) = 0$$

$$4\vec{a} \cdot \vec{a} - \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} + 12\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} - 3\vec{b} \cdot \vec{b} = 0$$

$$4|\vec{a}|^2 + 11\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} - 3|\vec{b}|^2 = 0$$

$$4(2|\vec{b}|)^2 + 11(2|\vec{b}|)|\vec{b}|\cos\theta - 3|\vec{b}|^2 = 0$$

$$16|\vec{b}|^2 + 22|\vec{b}|^2\cos\theta - 3|\vec{b}|^2 = 0$$

$$13|\vec{b}|^2 + 22|\vec{b}|^2\cos\theta = 0$$

$$22|\vec{b}|^2\cos\theta = -13|\vec{b}|^2$$

$$\cos\theta = -\frac{13|\vec{b}|^2}{22|\vec{b}|^2}$$

$$\theta = \cos^{-1}\left(-\frac{13}{22}\right)$$

$$\theta = 126.2^\circ$$

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

Out of 10

11. Marianna is pulling her daughter in a toboggan and is exerting a force of 40 N, acting at 24° to the ground. If Marianna pulls the child a distance of 100 m, how much work was done?

$$W = |\vec{F}||\vec{d}|\cos\theta$$

$$W = (40)(100)\cos 24^\circ$$

$$W = 3654.2\text{ J}$$

out of 4

\therefore about 3654.2 J

of work is done to pull the toboggan

12. Using vectors, calculate the area of a triangle with vertices $A(-1, 3, 5)$, $B(2, 1, 3)$ and $C(-1, 1, 4)$.

$$\vec{AB} = (2 - (-1), 1 - 3, 3 - 5)$$

$$\vec{AB} = (3, -2, -2) \quad \checkmark \rightarrow \vec{a}$$

$$\vec{AC} = (-1 - (-1), 1 - 3, 4 - 5)$$

$$\vec{AC} = (0, -2, -1) \quad \checkmark \rightarrow \vec{b}$$

$$\text{Area of a triangle} = \frac{|\vec{a} \times \vec{b}|}{2} \quad \checkmark$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{29}}{2} \quad \checkmark$$

$$= 5.39 \text{ units}^2 \quad \checkmark$$

$$\vec{a} \times \vec{b} = [(-2)(-1) - (-2)(-2), (-2)(0) - (3)(-1), (3)(-2) - (-2)(0)]$$

$$= (-2, 3, -4) \quad \checkmark$$

$$|\vec{a} \times \vec{b}| = \sqrt{(-2)^2 + (3)^2 + (-4)^2}$$

$$|\vec{a} \times \vec{b}| = \sqrt{29} \quad \checkmark$$

Out of 8

13. A 20 N force is applied at the end of a wrench that is 40 cm in length. The force is applied at an angle of 60° to the wrench. Calculate the magnitude of the torque about the point of rotation M .

$$T = |\vec{r}| |\vec{F}| \sin \theta \quad \checkmark$$

$$0.4 \text{ m} = 40 \text{ cm} \quad \checkmark$$

$$T = (0.4)(20) \sin 60^\circ \quad \checkmark$$

$$T = 6.92 \text{ J} \quad \checkmark$$

\therefore torque is about 6.92 J ✓

Out of 5

14. Find the volume of the parallelepiped, defined by the vectors \vec{u} , \vec{v} , and \vec{w} .
 $\vec{u} = [1, 1, 9]$, $\vec{v} = [0, 0, 4]$, and $\vec{w} = [-2, 0, 5]$

$$\vec{u} \times \vec{v} = [(1)(4) - (9)(0), (9)(0) - (1)(4), (1)(0) - (1)(0)] \quad \checkmark$$

$$\vec{u} \times \vec{v} = (4, -4, 0) \quad \checkmark$$

$$\text{Volume of a parallelepiped} = |\vec{w} \cdot (\vec{u} \times \vec{v})| \quad \checkmark$$

$$= |(-2)(4) + (0)(-4) + (5)(0)| \quad \checkmark$$

$$= 8 \text{ units}^3 \quad \checkmark$$

Out of 5