

9.3) Scalar product

Worked example

$$\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} a \\ 5 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ b \\ 10 \end{pmatrix}$$

Your turn

$$\begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

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Worked example

Find the acute angle between the vectors

$$\mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Find the angle between the vectors

$$2\mathbf{i} + 4\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k} \text{ and } \mathbf{j} + 8\mathbf{k}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix}$$

Your turn

Find the acute angle between the vectors

$$\mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$70.64^\circ \text{ (2 dp)}$$

Find the angle between the vectors

$$-\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + 3\mathbf{k} \text{ and } 7\mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k}$$

$$96.9^\circ \text{ (3 sf)}$$

Worked example

If $A(5,3,2)$, $B(4,0,5)$ and $C(2, -3,4)$, find the area of triangle ABC

Your turn

If $A(2,3,5)$, $B(5,0,4)$ and $C(4, -3,2)$, find the area of triangle ABC

7.10 (3 sf)

Worked example

Show that $\mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 7 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$ are perpendicular.

Your turn

Show that $\mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$ are perpendicular.

Shown

Worked example

Given that the vectors $a = 1\mathbf{i} - 6\mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k}$ and $b = \lambda\mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j} + 5\mathbf{k}$ are perpendicular, find the value of λ

Your turn

Given that the vectors $a = 2\mathbf{i} - 6\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}$ and $b = 5\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} + \lambda\mathbf{k}$ are perpendicular, find the value of λ

$$\lambda = 2$$

Worked example

Show that the two lines are perpendicular:

$$l_1: r = (-9\mathbf{i} + 10\mathbf{k}) + \lambda(3\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k})$$

$$l_2: r = (-3\mathbf{i} + 5\mathbf{k}) + \mu(2\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + 4\mathbf{k})$$

Your turn

Show that the two lines are perpendicular:

$$l_1: r = (-9\mathbf{i} + 10\mathbf{k}) + \lambda(2\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k})$$

$$l_2: r = (-3\mathbf{i} + 5\mathbf{k}) + \mu(3\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + 5\mathbf{k})$$

Shown

Worked example

Given that

$$\mathbf{a} = 2\mathbf{i} - 5\mathbf{j} + 4\mathbf{k} \text{ and } \mathbf{b} = -4 + 8\mathbf{j} - 5\mathbf{k},$$

find a vector which is perpendicular to both \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} .

Your turn

Given that

$$\mathbf{a} = -2\mathbf{i} + 5\mathbf{j} - 4\mathbf{k} \text{ and } \mathbf{b} = 4\mathbf{i} - 8\mathbf{j} + 5\mathbf{k},$$

find a vector which is perpendicular to both \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} .

$$7\mathbf{i} + 6\mathbf{j} + 4\mathbf{k}$$

Worked example

Find, to the nearest tenth of a degree, the angle that the vector $9\mathbf{i} - 5\mathbf{j} + 3\mathbf{k}$ makes with:

- The positive x -axis

- The positive y -axis

Your turn

Find, to the nearest tenth of a degree, the angle that the vector $\mathbf{i} + 11\mathbf{j} - 4\mathbf{k}$ makes with:

- The positive z -axis

109.9° (1 dp)

Worked example

The points P , Q and R have coordinates $(6, -1, 1)$, $(4, 5, -2)$ and $(-5, 3, 0)$ respectively.

- (a) Show that PQ is perpendicular to QR
- (b) Hence find the centre and radius of the circle that passes through points P , Q and R

Your turn

The points P , Q and R have coordinates $(1, -1, 6)$, $(-2, 5, 4)$ and $(0, 3, -5)$ respectively.

- (a) Show that PQ is perpendicular to QR
- (b) Hence find the centre and radius of the circle that passes through points P , Q and R

(a) Shown

(b) Centre $\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1, \frac{1}{2}\right)$, radius $\frac{\sqrt{138}}{2}$