

CHAPTER – 10: VECTOR ALGEBRA

MARKS WEIGHTAGE – 06 marks

NCERT Important Questions & Answers

1. Find the unit vector in the direction of the sum of the vectors, $\vec{a} = 2\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} - 5\hat{k}$ and $\vec{b} = 2\hat{i} + \hat{j} + 3\hat{k}$

Ans:

The sum of the given vectors is $\vec{a} + \vec{b}$ ($= \vec{c}$, say) $= 4\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} - 2\hat{k}$

and $|\vec{c}| = \sqrt{4^2 + 3^2 + (-2)^2} = \sqrt{29}$

Thus, the required unit vector is

$$\hat{c} = \frac{1}{|\vec{c}|} \vec{c} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{29}} (4\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} - 2\hat{k}) = \frac{4}{\sqrt{29}} \hat{i} + \frac{3}{\sqrt{29}} \hat{j} - \frac{2}{\sqrt{29}} \hat{k}$$

2. Show that the points are $A(2\hat{i} - \hat{j} + \hat{k}), B(\hat{i} - 3\hat{j} - 5\hat{k}), C(3\hat{i} - 4\hat{j} - 4\hat{k})$ the vertices of a right angled triangle.

Ans:

We have $\vec{AB} = (1-2)\hat{i} + (-3+1)\hat{j} + (-5-1)\hat{k} = -\hat{i} - 2\hat{j} - 6\hat{k}$

$\vec{BC} = (3-1)\hat{i} + (-4+3)\hat{j} + (-4+5)\hat{k} = 2\hat{i} - \hat{j} + \hat{k}$

and $\vec{CA} = (2-3)\hat{i} + (-1+4)\hat{j} + (1+4)\hat{k} = -\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} + 5\hat{k}$

Then $|\vec{AB}|^2 = 41, |\vec{BC}|^2 = 6, |\vec{CA}|^2 = 35$

$\Rightarrow |\vec{AB}|^2 = |\vec{BC}|^2 + |\vec{CA}|^2$

Hence, the triangle is a right angled triangle.

3. Find the direction cosines of the vector joining the points $A(1, 2, -3)$ and $B(-1, -2, 1)$, directed from A to B.

Ans:

The given points are $A(1, 2, -3)$ and $B(-1, -2, 1)$.

Then $\vec{AB} = (-1-1)\hat{i} + (-2-2)\hat{j} + (1-(-3))\hat{k} = -2\hat{i} - 4\hat{j} + 4\hat{k}$

Now, $|\vec{AB}| = \sqrt{4+16+16} = \sqrt{36} = 6$

\therefore unit vector along $\vec{AB} = \frac{1}{|\vec{AB}|} \vec{AB} = \frac{1}{6} (-2\hat{i} - 4\hat{j} + 4\hat{k}) = -\frac{1}{3}\hat{i} - \frac{2}{3}\hat{j} + \frac{2}{3}\hat{k}$

Hence direction cosines are $-\frac{1}{3}, -\frac{2}{3}, \frac{2}{3}$

4. Find the position vector of a point R which divides the line joining two points P and Q whose position vectors are $\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} - \hat{k}$ and $-\hat{i} + \hat{j} + \hat{k}$ respectively, in the ratio 2 : 1 (i) internally (ii) externally

Ans:

The position vector of a point R divided the line segment joining two points P and Q in the ratio $m : n$ is given by

Case I Internally $= \frac{m\vec{b} + n\vec{a}}{m+n}$

Case II Externally $= \frac{m\vec{b} - n\vec{a}}{m-n}$

Position vectors of P and Q are given as $\vec{OP} = \hat{i} + 2\hat{j} - \hat{k}, \vec{OQ} = -\hat{i} + \hat{j} + \hat{k}$

(i) Position vector of R [dividing (PQ) in the ratio 2 : 1 internally]

$$= \frac{m\overline{OQ} + n\overline{OP}}{m+n} = \frac{2(-\hat{i} + \hat{j} + \hat{k}) + 1(\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} - \hat{k})}{2+1} = \frac{-\hat{i} + 4\hat{j} + \hat{k}}{3} = \frac{1}{3}\hat{i} + \frac{4}{3}\hat{j} + \frac{1}{3}\hat{k}$$

(ii) Position vector of R [dividing (PQ) in the ratio 2 : 1 externally]

$$= \frac{m\overline{OQ} - n\overline{OP}}{m-n} = \frac{2(-\hat{i} + \hat{j} + \hat{k}) - 1(\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} - \hat{k})}{2-1} = \frac{-3\hat{i} + 0\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}}{1} = -3\hat{i} + 3\hat{k}$$

5. Find the position vector of the mid point of the vector joining the points P(2, 3, 4) and Q(4, 1, -2).

Ans:

Position vectors of P and Q are given as $\overline{OP} = 2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} + 4\hat{k}$, $\overline{OQ} = 4\hat{i} + \hat{j} - 2\hat{k}$

The position vector of the mid point of the vector joining the points P(2, 3, 4) and Q(4, 1, -2) is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Position Vector of the mid-point of (PQ)} &= \frac{1}{2}(\overline{OQ} + \overline{OP}) = \frac{1}{2}(4\hat{i} + \hat{j} - 2\hat{k} + 2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} + 4\hat{k}) \\ &= \frac{1}{2}(6\hat{i} + 4\hat{j} + 2\hat{k}) = 3\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + \hat{k} \end{aligned}$$

6. Show that the points A, B and C with position vectors, $\vec{a} = 3\hat{i} - 4\hat{j} - 4\hat{k}$, $\vec{b} = 2\hat{i} - \hat{j} + \hat{k}$ and $\vec{c} = \hat{i} - 3\hat{j} - 5\hat{k}$ respectively form the vertices of a right angled triangle.

Ans:

Position vectors of points A, B and C are respectively given as

$$\vec{a} = 3\hat{i} - 4\hat{j} - 4\hat{k}, \vec{b} = 2\hat{i} - \hat{j} + \hat{k} \text{ and } \vec{c} = \hat{i} - 3\hat{j} - 5\hat{k}$$

$$\text{Now, } \overline{AB} = \vec{b} - \vec{a} = 2\hat{i} - \hat{j} + \hat{k} - 3\hat{i} + 4\hat{j} + 4\hat{k} = -\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} + 5\hat{k}$$

$$\Rightarrow |\overline{AB}|^2 = 1 + 9 + 25 = 35$$

$$\overline{BC} = \vec{c} - \vec{b} = \hat{i} - 3\hat{j} - 5\hat{k} - 2\hat{i} + \hat{j} - \hat{k} = -\hat{i} - 2\hat{j} - 6\hat{k}$$

$$\Rightarrow |\overline{BC}|^2 = 1 + 4 + 36 = 41$$

$$\overline{CA} = \vec{a} - \vec{c} = 3\hat{i} - 4\hat{j} - 4\hat{k} - \hat{i} + 3\hat{j} + 5\hat{k} = 2\hat{i} - \hat{j} + \hat{k}$$

$$\Rightarrow |\overline{CA}|^2 = 4 + 1 + 1 = 6$$

$$\Rightarrow |\overline{BC}|^2 = |\overline{AB}|^2 + |\overline{CA}|^2$$

Hence it form the vertices of a right angled triangle.

7. Find angle 'θ' between the vectors $\vec{a} = \hat{i} + \hat{j} - \hat{k}$ and $\vec{b} = \hat{i} - \hat{j} + \hat{k}$

Ans:

The angle θ between two vectors \vec{a} and \vec{b} is given by

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

$$\text{Now, } \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = (\hat{i} + \hat{j} - \hat{k}) \cdot (\hat{i} - \hat{j} + \hat{k}) = 1 - 1 - 1 = -1$$

$$\text{Therefore, we have } \cos \theta = \frac{-1}{3} \Rightarrow \theta = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{-1}{3}\right)$$

8. If $\vec{a} = 5\hat{i} - \hat{j} - 3\hat{k}$ and $\vec{b} = \hat{i} + 3\hat{j} - 5\hat{k}$, then show that the vectors $\vec{a} + \vec{b}$ and $\vec{a} - \vec{b}$ are perpendicular.

Ans:

We know that two nonzero vectors are perpendicular if their scalar product is zero.

$$\text{Here, } \vec{a} + \vec{b} = 5\hat{i} - \hat{j} - 3\hat{k} + \hat{i} + 3\hat{j} - 5\hat{k} = 6\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} - 8\hat{k}$$

$$\text{and } \vec{a} - \vec{b} = 5\hat{i} - \hat{j} - 3\hat{k} - \hat{i} - 3\hat{j} + 5\hat{k} = 4\hat{i} - 4\hat{j} + 2\hat{k}$$

$$\text{Now, } (\vec{a} + \vec{b}) \cdot (\vec{a} - \vec{b}) = (6\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} - 8\hat{k}) \cdot (4\hat{i} - 4\hat{j} + 2\hat{k}) = 24 - 8 - 16 = 0$$

Hence $\vec{a} + \vec{b}$ and $\vec{a} - \vec{b}$ are perpendicular.

9. Find $|\vec{a} - \vec{b}|$, if two vectors \vec{a} and \vec{b} are such that $|\vec{a}| = 2$, $|\vec{b}| = 3$ and $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = 4$.

Ans:

We have

$$\begin{aligned} |\vec{a} - \vec{b}|^2 &= (\vec{a} - \vec{b}) \cdot (\vec{a} - \vec{b}) = \vec{a} \cdot \vec{a} - \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} - \vec{b} \cdot \vec{a} + \vec{b} \cdot \vec{b} \\ &= |\vec{a}|^2 - 2(\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}) + |\vec{b}|^2 = 2^2 - 2(4) + 3^2 = 4 - 8 + 9 = 5 \\ &\Rightarrow |\vec{a} - \vec{b}| = \sqrt{5} \end{aligned}$$

10. Show that the points $A(-2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} + 5\hat{k})$, $B(\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k})$, $C(7\hat{i} - \hat{k})$ are collinear.

Ans:

We have

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{AB} &= (1+2)\hat{i} + (2-3)\hat{j} + (3-5)\hat{k} = 3\hat{i} - \hat{j} - 2\hat{k} \\ \vec{BC} &= (7-1)\hat{i} + (0-2)\hat{j} + (-1-3)\hat{k} = 6\hat{i} - 2\hat{j} - 4\hat{k} \\ \vec{CA} &= (7+2)\hat{i} + (0-3)\hat{j} + (-1-5)\hat{k} = 9\hat{i} - 3\hat{j} - 6\hat{k} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Now, } |\vec{AB}|^2 = 14, |\vec{BC}|^2 = 56, |\vec{CA}|^2 = 126$$

$$\Rightarrow |\vec{AB}| = \sqrt{14}, |\vec{BC}| = 2\sqrt{14}, |\vec{CA}| = 3\sqrt{14}$$

$$\Rightarrow |\vec{CA}| = |\vec{AB}| + |\vec{BC}|$$

Hence the points A, B and C are collinear.

11. If $\vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{c}$ are unit vectors such that $\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c} = 0$, find the value of $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} + \vec{b} \cdot \vec{c} + \vec{c} \cdot \vec{a}$

Ans:

$$\text{Given that } |\vec{a}| = 1, |\vec{b}| = 1, |\vec{c}| = 1, \vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c} = 0$$

$$(\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c})^2 = (\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}) \cdot (\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{a} \cdot \vec{a} + \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} + \vec{a} \cdot \vec{c} + \vec{b} \cdot \vec{b} + \vec{b} \cdot \vec{c} + \vec{b} \cdot \vec{a} + \vec{c} \cdot \vec{a} + \vec{c} \cdot \vec{b} + \vec{c} \cdot \vec{c} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow |\vec{a}|^2 + |\vec{b}|^2 + |\vec{c}|^2 + 2(\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} + \vec{b} \cdot \vec{c} + \vec{c} \cdot \vec{a}) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 1 + 1 + 1 + 2(\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} + \vec{b} \cdot \vec{c} + \vec{c} \cdot \vec{a}) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 2(\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} + \vec{b} \cdot \vec{c} + \vec{c} \cdot \vec{a}) = -3$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} + \vec{b} \cdot \vec{c} + \vec{c} \cdot \vec{a} = \frac{-3}{2}$$

12. If the vertices A, B, C of a triangle ABC are (1, 2, 3), (-1, 0, 0), (0, 1, 2), respectively, then find $\angle ABC$.

Ans:

We are given the points $A(1, 2, 3)$, $B(-1, 0, 0)$ and $C(0, 1, 2)$.

Also, it is given that $\angle ABC$ is the angle between the vectors \vec{BA} and \vec{BC}

$$\text{Now, } \vec{BA} = (\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}) - (-\hat{i} + 0\hat{j} + 0\hat{k}) = 2\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}$$

$$\Rightarrow |\vec{BA}| = \sqrt{4 + 4 + 9} = \sqrt{17}$$

$$\text{and } \vec{BC} = (0\hat{i} + \hat{j} + 2\hat{k}) - (-\hat{i} + 0\hat{j} + 0\hat{k}) = \hat{i} + \hat{j} + 2\hat{k}$$

$$\Rightarrow |\vec{BC}| = \sqrt{1 + 1 + 4} = \sqrt{6}$$

$$\vec{BA} \cdot \vec{BC} = (2\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}) \cdot (\hat{i} + \hat{j} + 2\hat{k}) = 2 + 2 + 6 = 10$$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\vec{BA} \cdot \vec{BC}}{|\vec{BA}| |\vec{BC}|} \Rightarrow \cos \angle ABC = \frac{10}{(\sqrt{17})(\sqrt{6})} = \frac{10}{\sqrt{102}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \angle ABC = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{10}{\sqrt{102}} \right)$$

13. Show that the points A(1, 2, 7), B(2, 6, 3) and C(3, 10, -1) are collinear.

Ans:

The given points are A(1, 2, 7), B(2, 6, 3) and C(3, 10, -1).

$$\overline{AB} = (2\hat{i} + 6\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}) - (\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 7\hat{k}) = \hat{i} + 4\hat{j} - 4\hat{k}$$

$$\Rightarrow |\overline{AB}| = \sqrt{1+16+16} = \sqrt{33}$$

$$\overline{BC} = (3\hat{i} + 10\hat{j} - \hat{k}) - (2\hat{i} + 6\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}) = \hat{i} + 4\hat{j} - 4\hat{k}$$

$$\Rightarrow |\overline{BC}| = \sqrt{1+16+16} = \sqrt{33}$$

$$\text{and } \overline{AC} = (3\hat{i} + 10\hat{j} - \hat{k}) - (\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 7\hat{k}) = 2\hat{i} + 8\hat{j} - 8\hat{k}$$

$$\Rightarrow |\overline{AC}| = \sqrt{4+64+64} = \sqrt{132} = 2\sqrt{33}$$

$$\therefore |\overline{AC}| = |\overline{AB}| + |\overline{BC}|$$

Hence, the given points A, B and C are collinear.

14. Show that the vectors $2\hat{i} - \hat{j} + \hat{k}$, $\hat{i} - 3\hat{j} - 5\hat{k}$ and $3\hat{i} - 4\hat{j} - 4\hat{k}$ form the vertices of a right angled triangle.

Ans:

Let A = $2\hat{i} - \hat{j} + \hat{k}$ B = $\hat{i} - 3\hat{j} - 5\hat{k}$ and C = $3\hat{i} - 4\hat{j} - 4\hat{k}$

$$\overline{AB} = (\hat{i} - 3\hat{j} - 5\hat{k}) - (2\hat{i} - \hat{j} + \hat{k}) = -\hat{i} - 2\hat{j} - 6\hat{k}$$

$$\Rightarrow |\overline{AB}| = \sqrt{1+4+36} = \sqrt{41}$$

$$\overline{BC} = (3\hat{i} - 4\hat{j} - 4\hat{k}) - (\hat{i} - 3\hat{j} - 5\hat{k}) = 2\hat{i} - \hat{j} + \hat{k}$$

$$\Rightarrow |\overline{BC}| = \sqrt{4+1+1} = \sqrt{6}$$

$$\text{and } \overline{AC} = (3\hat{i} - 4\hat{j} - 4\hat{k}) - (2\hat{i} - \hat{j} + \hat{k}) = \hat{i} - 3\hat{j} - 5\hat{k}$$

$$\Rightarrow |\overline{AC}| = \sqrt{1+9+25} = \sqrt{35}$$

$$\therefore |\overline{AB}|^2 = |\overline{AC}|^2 + |\overline{BC}|^2$$

Hence, ABC is a right angled triangle.

15. Find a unit vector perpendicular to each of the vectors $(\vec{a} + \vec{b})$ and $(\vec{a} - \vec{b})$, where

$$\vec{a} = \hat{i} + \hat{j} + \hat{k}, \vec{b} = \hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}.$$

Ans:

$$\text{We have } \vec{a} + \vec{b} = 2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} + 4\hat{k} \text{ and } \vec{a} - \vec{b} = -\hat{j} - 2\hat{k}$$

A vector which is perpendicular to both $(\vec{a} + \vec{b})$ and $(\vec{a} - \vec{b})$ is given by

$$(\vec{a} + \vec{b}) \times (\vec{a} - \vec{b}) = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & -1 & -2 \end{vmatrix} = -2\hat{i} + 4\hat{j} - 2\hat{k} (= \vec{c}, \text{ say})$$

$$\text{Now, } |\vec{c}| = \sqrt{4+16+4} = \sqrt{24} = 2\sqrt{6}$$

Therefore, the required unit vector is

$$\hat{c} = \frac{1}{|\vec{c}|} \vec{c} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{6}} (-2\hat{i} + 4\hat{j} - 2\hat{k}) = \frac{-1}{\sqrt{6}} \hat{i} + \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}} \hat{j} - \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}} \hat{k}$$

16. Find the area of a triangle having the points A(1, 1, 1), B(1, 2, 3) and C(2, 3, 1) as its vertices.

Ans:

$$\text{We have } \overline{AB} = \hat{j} + 2\hat{k} \text{ and } \overline{AC} = \hat{i} + 2\hat{j}.$$

The area of the given triangle is $\frac{1}{2} |\overline{AB} \times \overline{AC}|$

$$\text{Now, } \overline{AB} \times \overline{AC} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = -4\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} - \hat{k}$$

Therefore, $|\overline{AB} \times \overline{AC}| = \sqrt{16 + 4 + 1} = \sqrt{21}$

Thus, the required area is $\frac{1}{2} |\overline{AB} \times \overline{AC}| = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{21}$

- 17. Find the area of a parallelogram whose adjacent sides are given by the vectors $\vec{a} = 3\hat{i} + \hat{j} + 4\hat{k}$ and $\vec{b} = \hat{i} - \hat{j} + \hat{k}$.**

Ans:

The area of a parallelogram with \vec{a} and \vec{b} as its adjacent sides is given by $|\vec{a} \times \vec{b}|$

$$\text{Now, } \vec{a} \times \vec{b} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ 3 & 1 & 4 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 5\hat{i} + \hat{j} - 4\hat{k}$$

Therefore, $|\vec{a} \times \vec{b}| = \sqrt{25 + 1 + 16} = \sqrt{42}$

and hence, the required area is $\sqrt{42}$.

- 18. Find the area of the triangle with vertices A(1, 1, 2), B(2, 3, 5) and C(1, 5, 5).**

Ans:

$$\overline{AB} = (2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} + 5\hat{k}) - (\hat{i} + \hat{j} + 2\hat{k}) = \hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}$$

$$\overline{AC} = (\hat{i} + 5\hat{j} + 5\hat{k}) - (\hat{i} + \hat{j} + 2\hat{k}) = 4\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}$$

$$\text{Now, } \overline{AB} \times \overline{AC} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 4 & 3 \end{vmatrix} = -6\hat{i} - 3\hat{j} + 4\hat{k}$$

$$\Rightarrow |\overline{AB} \times \overline{AC}| = \sqrt{36 + 9 + 16} = \sqrt{61}$$

Area of triangle ABC = $\frac{1}{2} |\overline{AB} \times \overline{AC}| = \frac{\sqrt{61}}{2}$ sq. units.

- 19. Find the area of the parallelogram whose adjacent sides are determined by the vectors**

$$\vec{a} = \hat{i} - \hat{j} + 3\hat{k} \text{ and } \vec{b} = 2\hat{i} - 7\hat{j} + \hat{k}.$$

Ans:

Adjacent sides of parallelogram are given by the vectors $\vec{a} = \hat{i} - \hat{j} + 3\hat{k}$ and $\vec{b} = 2\hat{i} - 7\hat{j} + \hat{k}$.

$$\text{Now, } \vec{a} \times \vec{b} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ 1 & -1 & 3 \\ 2 & -7 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 20\hat{i} + 5\hat{j} - 5\hat{k}$$

$$\Rightarrow |\vec{a} \times \vec{b}| = \sqrt{400 + 25 + 25} = \sqrt{450} = 15\sqrt{2}$$

Hence, the area of the given parallelogram is $15\sqrt{2}$ sq. units.

- 20. Let the vectors \vec{a} and \vec{b} be such that $|\vec{a}| = 3$ and $|\vec{b}| = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3}$, then $\vec{a} \times \vec{b}$ is a unit vector, find the angle between \vec{a} and \vec{b} .**

Ans:

Given that vectors \vec{a} and \vec{b} be such that $|\vec{a}|=3$ and $|\vec{b}|=\frac{\sqrt{2}}{3}$.

Also, $\vec{a} \times \vec{b}$ is a unit vector $\Rightarrow |\vec{a} \times \vec{b}|=1$

$$\Rightarrow |\vec{a}| \cdot |\vec{b}| \sin \theta = 1 \Rightarrow 3 \times \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3} \sin \theta = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \sin \theta = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \Rightarrow \theta = \frac{\pi}{4}$$

- 21. If $\hat{i} + \hat{j} + \hat{k}$, $2\hat{i} + 5\hat{j}$, $3\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} - 3\hat{k}$ and $\hat{i} - 6\hat{j} - \hat{k}$ are the position vectors of points A, B, C and D respectively, then find the angle between \overline{AB} and \overline{CD} . Deduce that \overline{AB} and \overline{CD} are collinear.**
Ans:

Note that if θ is the angle between \overline{AB} and \overline{CD} , then θ is also the angle between \overline{AB} and \overline{CD} .

Now \overline{AB} = Position vector of B – Position vector of A

$$= (2\hat{i} + 5\hat{j}) - (\hat{i} + \hat{j} + \hat{k}) = \hat{i} + 4\hat{j} - \hat{k}$$

$$\text{Therefore, } |\overline{AB}| = \sqrt{1+16+1} = \sqrt{18} = 3\sqrt{2}$$

$$\text{Similarly, } \overline{CD} = -2\hat{i} - 8\hat{j} + 2\hat{k} \Rightarrow |\overline{CD}| = \sqrt{4+64+4} = \sqrt{72} = 6\sqrt{2}$$

$$\text{Thus, } \cos \theta = \frac{\overline{AB} \cdot \overline{CD}}{|\overline{AB}| |\overline{CD}|} = \frac{1(-2) + 4(-8) + (-1)(2)}{(3\sqrt{2})(6\sqrt{2})} = -1$$

Since $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$, it follows that $\theta = \pi$. This shows that \overline{AB} and \overline{CD} are collinear.

- 22. Let \vec{a} , \vec{b} and \vec{c} be three vectors such that $|\vec{a}|=3, |\vec{b}|=4, |\vec{c}|=5$ and each one of them being perpendicular to the sum of the other two, find $|\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}|$.**

Ans:

Given that each one of them being perpendicular to the sum of the other two.

$$\text{Therefore, } \vec{a} \cdot (\vec{b} + \vec{c}) = 0, \vec{b} \cdot (\vec{c} + \vec{a}) = 0, \vec{c} \cdot (\vec{a} + \vec{b}) = 0$$

$$\text{Now, } |\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}|^2 = (\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c})^2 = (\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}) \cdot (\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c})$$

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

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

$$= 9 + 16 + 25 = 50$$

$$\text{Therefore, } |\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}| = \sqrt{50} = 5\sqrt{2}$$

- 23. Find a vector of magnitude 5 units, and parallel to the resultant of the vectors $\vec{a} = 2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} - \hat{k}$ and $\vec{b} = \hat{i} - 2\hat{j} + \hat{k}$.**

Ans:

$$\text{Given vectors } \vec{a} = 2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} - \hat{k} \text{ and } \vec{b} = \hat{i} - 2\hat{j} + \hat{k}.$$

Let \vec{c} be the resultant vector \vec{a} and \vec{b} then

$$\vec{c} = (2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} - \hat{k}) + (\hat{i} - 2\hat{j} + \hat{k}) = 3\hat{i} + \hat{j} + 0\hat{k}$$

$$\Rightarrow |\vec{c}| = \sqrt{9+1+0} = \sqrt{10}$$

$$\therefore \text{Unit vector in the direction of } \vec{c} = \hat{c} = \frac{1}{|\vec{c}|} \vec{c} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{10}} (3\hat{i} + \hat{j})$$

Hence, the vector of magnitude 5 units and parallel to the resultant of vectors \vec{a} and \vec{b} is

$$\pm 5\hat{c} = \pm 5 \frac{1}{\sqrt{10}} (3\hat{i} + \hat{j}) = \pm \frac{3\sqrt{10}}{2} \hat{i} \pm \frac{\sqrt{10}}{2} \hat{j}$$

24. The two adjacent sides of a parallelogram are $2\hat{i} - 4\hat{j} + 5\hat{k}$ and $\hat{i} - 2\hat{j} - 3\hat{k}$. Find the unit vector parallel to its diagonal. Also, find its area.

Ans:

Two adjacent sides of a parallelogram are given by $\vec{a} = 2\hat{i} - 4\hat{j} + 5\hat{k}$ and $\vec{b} = \hat{i} - 2\hat{j} - 3\hat{k}$

Then the diagonal of a parallelogram is given by $\vec{c} = \vec{a} + \vec{b}$

$$\therefore \vec{c} = \vec{a} + \vec{b} = 2\hat{i} - 4\hat{j} + 5\hat{k} + \hat{i} - 2\hat{j} - 3\hat{k} = 3\hat{i} - 6\hat{j} + 2\hat{k}$$

$$\Rightarrow |\vec{c}| = \sqrt{9 + 36 + 4} = \sqrt{49} = 7$$

$$\text{Unit vector parallel to its diagonal} = \hat{c} = \frac{1}{|\vec{c}|} \vec{c} = \frac{1}{7} (3\hat{i} - 6\hat{j} + 2\hat{k}) = \frac{3}{7}\hat{i} - \frac{6}{7}\hat{j} + \frac{2}{7}\hat{k}$$

$$\text{Now, } \vec{a} \times \vec{b} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ 2 & -4 & 5 \\ 1 & -2 & -3 \end{vmatrix} = 22\hat{i} + 11\hat{j} + 0\hat{k}$$

Then the area of a parallelogram = $|\vec{a} \times \vec{b}| = \sqrt{484 + 121 + 0} = \sqrt{605} = 11\sqrt{5}$ sq. units.

25. Let $\vec{a} = \hat{i} + 4\hat{j} + 2\hat{k}$, $\vec{b} = 3\hat{i} - 2\hat{j} + 7\hat{k}$ and $\vec{c} = 2\hat{i} - \hat{j} + 4\hat{k}$. Find a vector \vec{d} which is perpendicular to both \vec{a} and \vec{b} and $\vec{c} \cdot \vec{d} = 15$.

Ans:

The vector which is perpendicular to both \vec{a} and \vec{b} must be parallel to $\vec{a} \times \vec{b}$.

$$\text{Now, } \vec{a} \times \vec{b} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ 1 & 4 & 2 \\ 3 & -2 & 7 \end{vmatrix} = 32\hat{i} - \hat{j} - 14\hat{k}$$

$$\text{Let } \vec{d} = \lambda(\vec{a} \times \vec{b}) = \lambda(32\hat{i} - \hat{j} - 14\hat{k})$$

$$\text{Also } \vec{c} \cdot \vec{d} = 15 \Rightarrow (2\hat{i} - \hat{j} + 4\hat{k}) \cdot \lambda(32\hat{i} - \hat{j} - 14\hat{k}) = 15$$

$$\Rightarrow 64\lambda + \lambda - 56\lambda = 15 \Rightarrow 9\lambda = 15 \Rightarrow \lambda = \frac{15}{9} = \frac{5}{3}$$

$$\therefore \text{Required vector } \vec{d} = \frac{5}{3}(32\hat{i} - \hat{j} - 14\hat{k})$$

26. The scalar product of the vector $\hat{i} + \hat{j} + \hat{k}$ with a unit vector along the sum of vectors $2\hat{i} + 4\hat{j} - 5\hat{k}$ and $\lambda\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}$ is equal to one. Find the value of λ .

Ans: Let $\vec{a} = \hat{i} + \hat{j} + \hat{k}$, $\vec{b} = 2\hat{i} + 4\hat{j} - 5\hat{k}$ and $\vec{c} = \lambda\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}$

$$\text{Now, } \vec{b} + \vec{c} = 2\hat{i} + 4\hat{j} - 5\hat{k} + \lambda\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k} = (2 + \lambda)\hat{i} + 6\hat{j} - 2\hat{k}$$

$$\Rightarrow |\vec{b} + \vec{c}| = \sqrt{(2 + \lambda)^2 + 36 + 4} = \sqrt{4 + \lambda^2 + 4\lambda + 40} = \sqrt{\lambda^2 + 4\lambda + 44}$$

$$\text{Unit vector along } \vec{b} + \vec{c} \text{ is } \frac{\vec{b} + \vec{c}}{|\vec{b} + \vec{c}|} = \frac{(2 + \lambda)\hat{i} + 6\hat{j} - 2\hat{k}}{\sqrt{\lambda^2 + 4\lambda + 44}}$$

The scalar product of $\hat{i} + \hat{j} + \hat{k}$ with this unit vector is 1.

$$\therefore (\hat{i} + \hat{j} + \hat{k}) \cdot \frac{\vec{b} + \vec{c}}{|\vec{b} + \vec{c}|} = 1 \Rightarrow (\hat{i} + \hat{j} + \hat{k}) \cdot \frac{(2 + \lambda)\hat{i} + 6\hat{j} - 2\hat{k}}{\sqrt{\lambda^2 + 4\lambda + 44}} = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{(2 + \lambda) + 6 - 2}{\sqrt{\lambda^2 + 4\lambda + 44}} = 1 \Rightarrow \frac{\lambda + 6}{\sqrt{\lambda^2 + 4\lambda + 44}} = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda + 6 = \sqrt{\lambda^2 + 4\lambda + 44} \Rightarrow (\lambda + 6)^2 = \lambda^2 + 4\lambda + 44$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda^2 + 12\lambda + 36 = \lambda^2 + 4\lambda + 44 \Rightarrow 8\lambda = 8 \Rightarrow \lambda = 1$$

27. If \vec{a} , \vec{b} and \vec{c} are mutually perpendicular vectors of equal magnitudes, show that the vector $\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}$ is equally inclined to \vec{a} , \vec{b} and \vec{c} .

Ans:

Given that \vec{a} , \vec{b} and \vec{c} are mutually perpendicular vectors.

$$\therefore \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = \vec{b} \cdot \vec{c} = \vec{c} \cdot \vec{a} = 0$$

It is also given that $|\vec{a}| = |\vec{b}| = |\vec{c}|$

Let vector $\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}$ be inclined to \vec{a} , \vec{b} and \vec{c} at angles α , β and γ respectively.

$$\cos \alpha = \frac{(\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}) \cdot \vec{a}}{|\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}| |\vec{a}|} = \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{a} + \vec{b} \cdot \vec{a} + \vec{c} \cdot \vec{a}}{|\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}| |\vec{a}|} = \frac{|\vec{a}|^2 + 0 + 0}{|\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}| |\vec{a}|}$$

$$= \frac{|\vec{a}|^2}{|\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}| |\vec{a}|} = \frac{|\vec{a}|}{|\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}|}$$

$$\cos \beta = \frac{(\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}) \cdot \vec{b}}{|\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}| |\vec{b}|} = \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} + \vec{b} \cdot \vec{b} + \vec{c} \cdot \vec{b}}{|\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}| |\vec{b}|} = \frac{0 + |\vec{b}|^2 + 0}{|\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}| |\vec{b}|}$$

$$= \frac{|\vec{b}|^2}{|\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}| |\vec{b}|} = \frac{|\vec{b}|}{|\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}|}$$

$$\cos \gamma = \frac{(\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}) \cdot \vec{c}}{|\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}| |\vec{c}|} = \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{c} + \vec{b} \cdot \vec{c} + \vec{c} \cdot \vec{c}}{|\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}| |\vec{c}|} = \frac{0 + 0 + |\vec{c}|^2}{|\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}| |\vec{c}|}$$

$$= \frac{|\vec{c}|^2}{|\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}| |\vec{c}|} = \frac{|\vec{c}|}{|\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}|}$$

Now as $|\vec{a}| = |\vec{b}| = |\vec{c}|$, therefore, $\cos \alpha = \cos \beta = \cos \gamma$

$$\therefore \alpha = \beta = \gamma$$

Hence, the vector $\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}$ is equally inclined to \vec{a} , \vec{b} and \vec{c} .