

### Summary: Vector operations so far

$c\mathbf{v}$  = “vector parallel to  $\mathbf{v}$  with length scaled by factor of  $c$ ”

$\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}$  = “if  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$  are drawn tail-to-head, then  $\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}$  is the vector that goes from the tail of  $\mathbf{a}$  to the head of  $\mathbf{b}$ ” (resultant/combined force)

### 12.3 Dot Products (new)

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

Then we define the dot product by:

$$\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = a_1b_1 + a_2b_2 + a_3b_3$$

The dot product gives a number (scalar).

Entry Task:

$$\mathbf{a} = \langle 3, 1, 2 \rangle$$

$$\mathbf{b} = -\mathbf{i} + 6\mathbf{j} + 5\mathbf{k}$$

$$\mathbf{b} = \langle -1, 6, 5 \rangle$$

Compute

$$\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}$$

$$\langle 3, 1, 2 \rangle \cdot \langle -1, 6, 5 \rangle$$

$$(3)(-1) + (1)(6) + (2)(5)$$

$$-3 + 6 + 10 = \boxed{13}$$

dot product

must use dot symbol!

## Basic fact list:

### ▪ Manipulation facts

(like regular multiplication):

$$\text{▪ } \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{a}$$

$$\text{▪ } \mathbf{a} \cdot (\mathbf{b} + \mathbf{c}) = \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c}$$

$$\text{▪ } c(\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}) = (c\mathbf{a}) \cdot \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{a} \cdot (c\mathbf{b})$$

$$\text{▪ } (\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}) \cdot (\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}) = ???$$

FOIL!

$$\left( \vec{a} \cdot \vec{a} + \vec{b} \cdot \vec{a} + \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} + \vec{b} \cdot \vec{b} \right)$$

### ▪ Helpful side fact:

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

$$\mathbf{a} = \langle 3, 2, 4 \rangle$$

$$\langle 3, 2, 4 \rangle \cdot \langle 3, 2, 4 \rangle$$

$$3^2 + 2^2 + 4^2 =$$

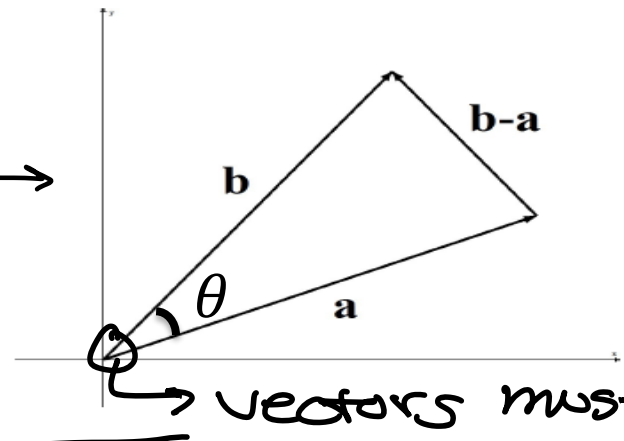
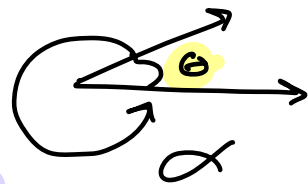
(magnitude)<sup>2</sup>

$$|\vec{a}|^2 = \vec{a} \cdot \vec{a}$$

**The most important fact:**

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

where  $\theta$  is the smallest angle between  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$ . ( $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$ )



to apply

vectors must be tail to tail

Something to think about

What does it mean when...

- the dot product is positive? acute
- the dot product is negative? obtuse
- the dot product is zero? perpendicular

Proof (not required):

(1) By the Law of Cosines:

$$|\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a}|^2 = |\mathbf{a}|^2 + |\mathbf{b}|^2 - 2|\mathbf{a}| |\mathbf{b}| \cos(\theta)$$

The left-hand side expands to

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a}|^2 &= (\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a}) \cdot (\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a}) \\ &= \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{b} - 2\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a} \\ &= |\mathbf{b}|^2 - 2\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} + |\mathbf{a}|^2 \end{aligned}$$

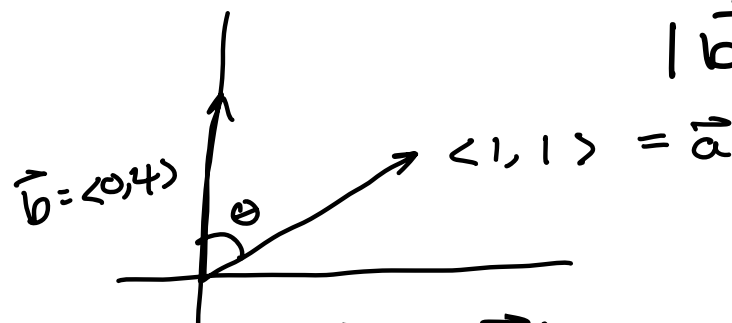
Subtracting  $|\mathbf{a}|^2 + |\mathbf{b}|^2$  from both sides of (1) yields:

$$-2\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = -2|\mathbf{a}| |\mathbf{b}| \cos(\theta).$$

Divide by -2 to get the result. (QED)

$$\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = 0 + 4 = 4 \quad |\vec{a}| = \sqrt{2}$$

$$|\vec{b}| = 4$$



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

$$4 = 4\sqrt{2} \cos \theta$$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \quad \theta = \pi/4$$

perpendicular

Most important consequence:

If **a** and **b** are **orthogonal**, then

$$\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = 0.$$

Also: If **a** and **b** are **parallel**, then

$$\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = |\mathbf{a}||\mathbf{b}| \text{ or } \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = -|\mathbf{a}||\mathbf{b}|.$$



both parallel

$$\langle 1, 1, 2 \rangle = \vec{a}$$

$$\langle 3, 2, -5 \rangle = \vec{b}$$

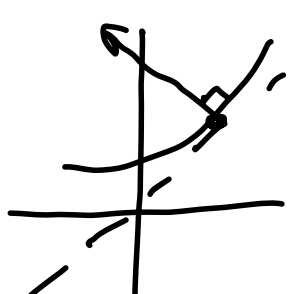
$$\langle -6, 4, 1 \rangle = \vec{c}$$

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

if multiples of each other = parallel

Example:

Find a vector that is orthogonal to the tangent line to  $y = x^3 e^{(2x-2)}$  at  $x = 1$ .



slope of tangent line @  $x=1$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = x^3 e^{(2x-2)} \cdot 2 + 3x^2 e^{(2x-2)}$$

$$\left. \frac{dy}{dx} \right|_{x=1} = 1(e^0) \cdot 2 + 3(1)e^0 = 5$$

$$\vec{v} = \langle \Delta x, \Delta y \rangle \leftarrow \text{slope} = 5 = \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x}$$

$$\vec{v} = \langle 1, 5 \rangle \rightarrow \text{parallel to tangent}$$

$$\vec{w} = \langle \Delta x, \Delta y \rangle = \langle -5, 1 \rangle \text{ or } \langle 5, -1 \rangle$$

(flip and change 1 sign)

two vectors on top of each other are scaled versions of each other

## Exploring Dot Products and Projections

Consider

$$\mathbf{u} = \langle 1, 2, 0 \rangle \text{ and } \mathbf{v} = \langle 0, 2, 3 \rangle.$$

(a) What is the dot product?

$$(1)(0) + (2)(2) + (0)(3) \\ = \boxed{4}$$

(b) Find the angle between the vectors.

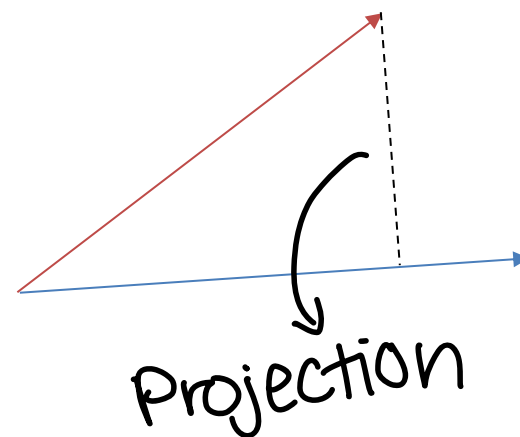
$$\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = |\vec{u}| |\vec{v}| \cos \theta$$

$$4 = (\sqrt{1+2^2+0}) (\sqrt{0+4+9}) \cos \theta$$

(c) Give me an example of a vector

$\mathbf{w} = \langle a, b, c \rangle$  that is orthogonal to  $\mathbf{u} = \langle 1, 2, 0 \rangle$ ?

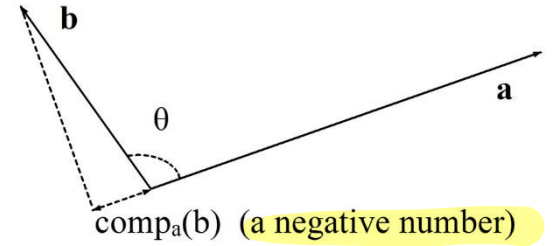
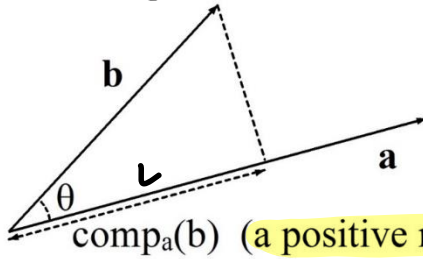
(d) Now consider the right triangle you get by *projecting*  $\mathbf{v}$  onto  $\mathbf{u}$ . What is the length of the adjacent side of that right triangle?



Scalar/Component Projection

$\underbrace{\text{comp}_a(b)}_{\#} = \frac{a \cdot b}{|a|}$   
 ↑  
 onto

→ thing projecting



$$\cos \theta = \frac{L}{|\vec{b}|}$$

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

$$L = \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}{|\vec{a}|}$$

Vector Projection

scale      unit vector  
 $\text{proj}_a(b) = \frac{a \cdot b}{|a|} \left( \frac{1}{|a|} a \right)$   
 $= \frac{a \cdot b}{a \cdot a} a$

