

PRACTICE EXAM I SOLUTIONS

1. Let $\vec{u} = (2, 2)$ and $\vec{v} = (3, -1)$. Find $\vec{u} + \vec{v}$ and illustrate this vector addition with a diagram in the plane, showing \vec{u} , \vec{v} and the resultant vector. Illustrate multiplication by a scalar with a diagram showing \vec{u} , $3\vec{u}$, and $-\vec{u}$.

SOLUTION.

$$\vec{u} + \vec{v} = (5, 1).$$

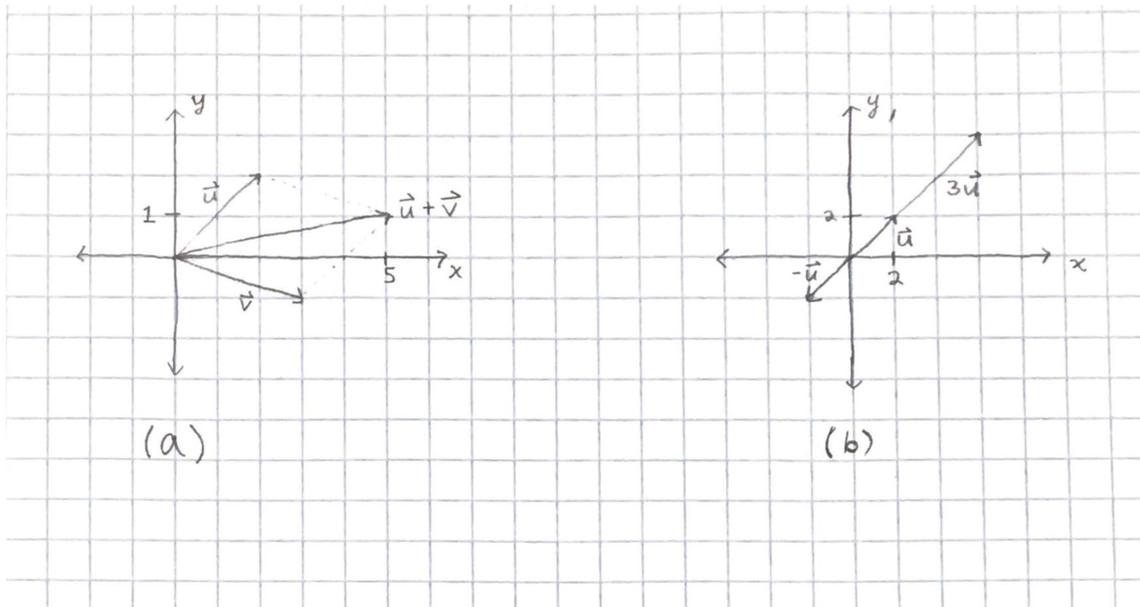


Figure 1: (a) illustrates $\vec{u} + \vec{v}$ and (b) illustrates $3\vec{u}$ and $-\vec{u}$.

2. Consider the vectors $\vec{u} = \mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}$ and $\vec{v} = 3\mathbf{i} - 4\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}$.
- Find the length of \vec{u} .
 - Find $\vec{N} = \vec{u} \times \vec{v}$.
 - Find the cartesian equation of the plane with normal \vec{N} through the point $P_0 = (1, 0, -1)$.
 - Find the vector projection of \vec{v} onto \vec{u} .

SOLUTION.

a) $\|\vec{u}\| = \sqrt{1 + 4 + 1} = \sqrt{6}$.

$$\text{b) } \vec{u} \times \vec{v} = -2\mathbf{i} + 3\mathbf{j} - 4\mathbf{k} - (-6\mathbf{k} - 4\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j}) = 2\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{c) } 2x + 2y + 2z &= C \\ 2(1) + 0 + 2(-1) &= C = 0 \\ 2x + 2y + 2z &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{d) } \frac{\vec{v} \cdot \vec{u}}{\|\vec{u}\|^2} \vec{u} =$$

$$\frac{3+8+1}{1+4+1}(1, -2, 1) = (2, -4, 2)$$

3. Determine the area of the triangle with vertices $\vec{P} = (0, 0)$, $\vec{Q} = (3, 2)$, $\vec{R} = (1, 4)$.

SOLUTION.

Use $\vec{PQ} = \vec{Q} - \vec{P} = (3, 2)$ as the base of the triangle, with length $\sqrt{13}$. Find the height of the triangle by finding the length of the orthogonal projection of $\vec{PR} = (1, 4)$ onto \vec{PQ} . First find the vector projection:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{(1, 4) \cdot (3, 2)}{\|(3, 2)\|} (3, 2) &= \frac{3 + 8}{4 + 9} (3, 2) \\ &= (33/13, 22/13) \end{aligned}$$

The orthogonal projection is $(1, 4)$ minus this vector:

$$\begin{aligned} (1, 4) - (33/13, 22/13) &= (-20/13, 30/13) \\ \|(-20/13, 30/13)\| &= \sqrt{400/169 + 900/169} = \sqrt{1300/169} = 10/13\sqrt{13} \end{aligned}$$

Thus the triangle's area is $\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{13}\frac{10}{13}\sqrt{13} = 5$.

4. Consider $\vec{e}_1 = (\sqrt{3}/2, 1/2)$ and $\vec{e}_2 = (-1/2, \sqrt{3}/2)$. Show that \vec{e}_1 and \vec{e}_2 each have unit length and that they are orthogonal. Rewrite the vector $\vec{v} = 4\mathbf{i} + 5\mathbf{j}$ in the orthonormal basis $\vec{e}_1 = (\sqrt{3}/2, 1/2)$, $\vec{e}_2 = (-1/2, \sqrt{3}/2)$. In other words, expand or write \vec{v} as $\vec{v} = a\vec{e}_1 + b\vec{e}_2$ where a and b are scalar values.

SOLUTION.

First compute the magnitude of each vector.

$$\begin{aligned} \|\vec{e}_1\| &= \sqrt{\frac{3}{4} + \frac{1}{4}} = 1 \\ \|\vec{e}_2\| &= \sqrt{\frac{1}{4} + \frac{3}{4}} = 1 \end{aligned}$$

To show orthogonality, let's use the fact that if two vectors are perpendicular, cosine of the angle θ angle between them must be 0. $\cos(\theta) = \frac{\vec{e}_1 \cdot \vec{e}_2}{\|\vec{e}_1\| \|\vec{e}_2\|} = \frac{-\frac{\sqrt{3}}{4} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{4}}{\|\vec{e}_1\| \|\vec{e}_2\|} = 0$.

Now, the scalars a and b are determined by projecting \vec{v} onto each of the basis vectors \vec{e}_1 and \vec{e}_2 . We showed that both \vec{e}_1 and \vec{e}_2 are unit vectors, so have length 1. This simplifies the vector projection formula:

$$a = \frac{\vec{v} \cdot \vec{e}_1}{\|\vec{e}_1\|^2} = \vec{v} \cdot \vec{e}_1 = (4, 5) \cdot (\sqrt{3}/2, 1/2) = 2\sqrt{3} + 5/2$$

$$b = \vec{v} \cdot \vec{e}_2 = (4, 5) \cdot (-1/2, \sqrt{3}/2) = -2 + \frac{5\sqrt{3}}{2}$$

5. Let $\vec{u} = (4, 1)$ and $\vec{v} = (2, 3)$. Calculate $\vec{u} \times \vec{v}$. Use your result to find the angle θ between \vec{u} and \vec{v} .

SOLUTION.

For the purposes of taking the cross product, let's write $\vec{u} = (4, 1, 0)$ and $\vec{v} = (2, 3, 0)$.

$\vec{u} \times \vec{v} = \mathbf{i} \det \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix} - \mathbf{j} \det \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \mathbf{k} \det \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} = 10\mathbf{k} = (0, 0, 10)$. Recall that $\|\vec{u} \times \vec{v}\| = \|\vec{u}\| \|\vec{v}\| \sin \theta$ where θ is the angle between the two vectors. $\|\vec{u}\| = \sqrt{17}$ and $\|\vec{v}\| = \sqrt{13}$. Plugging in these values, we obtain $\sin \theta = \frac{10}{\sqrt{17}\sqrt{13}}$, which implies $\theta = \arcsin\left(\frac{10}{\sqrt{221}}\right) \approx 42.27^\circ$.

6. Find the work done by the force $\vec{F} = 6\mathbf{i} + 8\mathbf{j}$ pounds in moving an object from $(1, 0)$ to $(6, 8)$ where distance is in feet.

SOLUTION.

The formula for work done is **Work = Force · Displacement**. The displacement vector is from $(1, 0)$ to $(6, 8)$, or $(5, 8)$.

$$\text{Work} = (6, 8) \cdot (5, 8) = 30 + 64 = 94 \text{ lb-ft.}$$

7. Find how much work you would do against the force of gravity ($\vec{F} = -mg\mathbf{j}$) to move an object of mass 5 kg from $(0, 0)$ to $(0, \sqrt{2})$, in units of meters. Do the same in moving it from $(0, 0)$ to $(1, 1)$, and compare your answer. How much work would you do in moving it from $(0, 0)$ to $(8, 0)$?

SOLUTION.

Since the mass of the object is 5 kg, $\vec{F} = -(5)(9.8)\mathbf{j} = -49\mathbf{j}$. The displacement vector from $(0, 0)$ to $(0, \sqrt{2})$ is $\vec{D}_1 = 0\mathbf{i} + \sqrt{2}\mathbf{j}$. So the work done by the force of gravity to move the object is $(0, -49) \cdot (0, \sqrt{2}) = 0 - 49\sqrt{2} = -49\sqrt{2}$ Joules, so the work done by you against the force of gravity is $49\sqrt{2}$ Joules. The displacement vector from $(0, 0)$ to $(1, 1)$ is $\vec{D}_2 = 1\mathbf{i} + 1\mathbf{j}$. So the work required in this case is $(0, -49) \cdot (1, 1) = -49$

Joules, or 49 Joules done by you. In both of these cases, the work seemed to be 49 multiplied by the \mathbf{j} component of the displacement vector.

Based on this, we might conjecture that the work done in moving the object from $(0,0)$ to $(8,0)$ will be $(-49)(0) = 0$. Let's compute to see if we are right. The displacement vector is $\vec{D}_3 = 8\mathbf{i} + 0\mathbf{j}$. The work required is therefore $(0, -49) \cdot (8, 0) = 0 + 0 = 0$.

8. Given three points: $\vec{A} = (0, 5, 3)$, $\vec{B} = (2, 7, 0)$, $\vec{C} = (-5, -3, 7)$
- Which point is closest to the xz -plane? Explain your reasoning.
 - Which point lies on the xy -plane? Explain your reasoning.

SOLUTION.

a) The distance of a point from the xz -plane is simply the absolute value of the y -coordinate. You should try to draw a picture to visualize this. Thus, \vec{C} is the closest with a y -value of -3 .

b) A point is on the xy -plane if its z -coordinate is 0. Thus, point \vec{B} is the point we're looking for.

9. Determine the equation of the plane spanned by the vectors:

$$\vec{u} = 1\mathbf{i} + 3\mathbf{j} - 2\mathbf{k}$$

$$\vec{v} = 2\mathbf{i} + 6\mathbf{j} + 4\mathbf{k}$$

and which contains the origin.

SOLUTION.

Since both \vec{u} and \vec{v} lie in the plane and are in different directions, we may take their cross product to find the Normal vector to the plane and determine its equation:

$$\vec{u} \times \vec{v} = (12\mathbf{i} - 4\mathbf{j} + 6\mathbf{k}) - (6\mathbf{k} - 12\mathbf{i} + 4\mathbf{j}) = 24\mathbf{i} - 8\mathbf{j}$$

Thus the equation for the plane is $24x - 8y = C$. The plane contains the origin, so $24(0) - 8(0) = 0 = C$. So the solution is $24x - 8y = 0$.

10. Find the curvature of the line parameterized by $\vec{r}(t) = (1, 1, 1) + (2, 3, 4)t$.

SOLUTION.

$$\vec{r}(t) = (1 + 2t, 1 + 3t, 1 + 4t)$$

$$\vec{r}'(t) = (2, 3, 4)$$

$$\vec{T}(t) = \vec{r}'(t)/\sqrt{4+9+16} = 1/\sqrt{29}(2, 3, 4)$$

$$\vec{T}'(t) = 0$$

$$\kappa = \|\vec{T}'(t)\|/\|\vec{r}'(t)\| = 0/\sqrt{29} = 0$$

NOTE: Straight lines always have 0 curvature!

11. Find the arc length of the helix

$$\vec{r}(t) = a \sin(t)\mathbf{i} + a \cos(t)\mathbf{j} + ct\mathbf{k}$$

for $0 \leq t \leq 2\pi$.

SOLUTION.

$$\vec{r}'(t) = a \cos(t)\mathbf{i} - a \sin(t)\mathbf{j} + c\mathbf{k}$$

$$\text{Arc Length} = \int_0^{2\pi} \|\vec{r}'(t)\| dt = \int_0^{2\pi} \sqrt{a^2 \cos^2(t) + a^2 \sin^2(t) + c^2} dt$$

$$= \int_0^{2\pi} \sqrt{a^2 + c^2} dt = 2\pi \sqrt{a^2 + c^2}$$

12. Find the equation of the plane orthogonal to the curve

$$\vec{r}(t) = (8t^2 - 4t + 3)\mathbf{i} + (\sin(t) - 4t)\mathbf{j} - \cos(t)\mathbf{k}$$

at the point $t = \pi/3$.

SOLUTION.

The Normal vector for the plane will be the tangent vector to the curve at $t = \pi/3$. We will also need to know $r(\pi/3)$.

$$\vec{r}(\pi/3) = (8\pi^2/9 - 4\pi/3 + 3, \sqrt{3}/2 - 4\pi/3, -1/2)$$

$$\vec{r}'(t) = (16t - 4)\mathbf{i} + (\cos(t) - 4)\mathbf{j} + \sin(t)\mathbf{k}$$

$$\vec{r}'(\pi/3) = (16\pi/3 - 4, 1/2 - 4, \sqrt{3}/2)$$

Thus the equation for the plane is

$$(16\pi/3 - 4)x + (-7/2)y + (\sqrt{3}/2)z = C$$

Using the point from above,

$$(16\pi/3 - 4)(8\pi^2/9 - 4\pi/3 + 3) + (-7/2)(\sqrt{3}/2 - 4\pi/3) + (\sqrt{3}/2)(-1/2) = C$$

So the equation for the plane is

$$(16\pi/3 - 4)x + (-7/2)y + (\sqrt{3}/2)z =$$

$$(16\pi/3 - 4)(8\pi^2/9 - 4\pi/3 + 3) + (-7/2)(\sqrt{3}/2 - 4\pi/3) + (\sqrt{3}/2)(-1/2)$$

13. Determine the curvature κ of the helical curve parametrized by:

$$\vec{r}(t) = 7 \sin(3t)\mathbf{i} + 7 \cos(3t)\mathbf{j} + 14t\mathbf{k}$$

at $t = \pi/9$.

SOLUTION.

$$\vec{r}'(t) = 21 \cos(3t)\mathbf{i} - 21 \sin(3t)\mathbf{j} + 14\mathbf{k}$$

$$\|\vec{r}'(t)\| = \sqrt{21^2 \cos^2(3t) + 21^2 \sin^2(3t) + 14^2} = \sqrt{441 + 196} = \sqrt{637}$$

$$\vec{T}(t) = 1/\sqrt{637}(21 \cos(3t)\mathbf{i} - 21 \sin(3t)\mathbf{j} + 14\mathbf{k})$$

$$\vec{T}'(t) = 1/\sqrt{637}(-63 \sin(3t)\mathbf{i} - 63 \cos(3t)\mathbf{j})$$

$$\|\vec{T}'(t)\| = 1/\sqrt{637}(\sqrt{63^2 \sin^2(3t) + 63^2 \cos^2(3t)}) = 63/\sqrt{637}$$

$$\kappa = \frac{\|\vec{T}'(t)\|}{\|\vec{r}'(t)\|} = \frac{63}{637}$$

Note that the curvature is constant for all t , in particular for $t = \pi/9$.

14. The acceleration of a particle's motion is

$$\vec{a}(t) = -9 \cos(3t)\mathbf{i} + -9 \sin(3t)\mathbf{j} + 2t\mathbf{k}.$$

The particle has initial velocity $\vec{v}_0 = \mathbf{i} + \mathbf{k}$ and initial position $\vec{x}_0 = \mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}$.

- (a) Determine the velocity function $\vec{v}(t)$.
 (b) Determine the position function $\vec{x}(t)$.

SOLUTION.

$$\vec{v}(t) = -3 \sin(3t)\mathbf{i} + 3 \cos(3t)\mathbf{j} + t^2\mathbf{k} + \vec{C}$$

$$\vec{v}(0) = \mathbf{i} + \mathbf{k} = (0, 3, 0) + \vec{C}$$

$$\vec{C} = (1, -3, 1)$$

$$\vec{v}(t) = (-3 \sin(3t) + 1)\mathbf{i} + (3 \cos(3t) - 3)\mathbf{j} + (t^2 + 1)\mathbf{k}$$

$$\vec{x}(t) = (\cos(3t) + t)\mathbf{i} + (\sin(3t) - 3t)\mathbf{j} + (t^3/3 + t)\mathbf{k} + \vec{D}$$

$$\vec{x}(0) = \mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k} = (1, 0, 0) + \vec{D}$$

$$\vec{D} = (0, 1, 1)$$

$$\vec{x}(t) = (\cos(3t) + t)\mathbf{i} + (\sin(3t) - 3t + 1)\mathbf{j} + (t^3/3 + t + 1)\mathbf{k}$$

15. Determine the position $\vec{r}(t) = (x(t), y(t))$ of a projectile fired from the point $(8, 3)$ with an initial speed of 20 f/s at an angle of 30° . **Be sure to show all your work**, not just the final formulas.

SOLUTION.

Start with the fact that the acceleration due to gravity is $\vec{a}(t) = -32\mathbf{j}$, where $\mathbf{j} = (0, 1)$, then integrate Newton's second law twice. Velocity is $\vec{v}(t) = \int \vec{a}(t) dt = \int -32dt\mathbf{j} = -32t\mathbf{j} + \vec{C}_1$. To find this first constant, consider the initial condition $\vec{v}(0) = 20 \cos(30^\circ)\mathbf{i} + 20 \sin(30^\circ)\mathbf{j} = 10\sqrt{3}\mathbf{i} + 10\mathbf{j}$. $\vec{v}(0) = -32(0)\mathbf{j} + \vec{C}_1 = \vec{C}_1 = 10\sqrt{3}\mathbf{i} + 10\mathbf{j}$. Thus, $\vec{v}(t) = -32t\mathbf{j} + 10\sqrt{3}\mathbf{i} + 10\mathbf{j}$.

The position of the projectile is $\vec{r}(t) = \int \vec{v}(t) dt = \int (-32t\mathbf{j} + 10\sqrt{3}\mathbf{i} + 10\mathbf{j}) dt = -16t^2\mathbf{j} + 10\sqrt{3}t\mathbf{i} + 10t\mathbf{j} + \vec{C}_2$. To find the second constant, consider the initial condition $\vec{r}(0) = (8, 3) = 8\mathbf{i} + 3\mathbf{j}$. $\vec{r}(0) = \vec{C}_2 = 8\mathbf{i} + 3\mathbf{j}$. Then $\vec{r}(t) = (10\sqrt{3}t + 8)\mathbf{i} + (-16t^2 + 10t + 3)\mathbf{j} = (10\sqrt{3}t + 8, -16t^2 + 10t + 3)$.