

vectors & vector algebra

a vector \vec{A} has a magnitude $|\vec{A}|$, A is direction \hat{a}_A . given:

$$\vec{A} = 2\hat{a}_x + 3\hat{a}_y + 4\hat{a}_z \quad (2, 3, 4)$$

$$\vec{B} = \hat{a}_x + 2\hat{a}_y + 3\hat{a}_z \quad (1, 2, 3)$$

a) $\vec{A} - \vec{B} = \hat{a}_x + \hat{a}_y + \hat{a}_z = (1, 1, 1)$

b) $|\vec{A} + \vec{B}| = \sqrt{89} \approx 9.43$

note:

- 1. if $\vec{C} = \vec{A} + \vec{B}$, then $C_x = A_x + B_x$
 $C_y = A_y + B_y$
 $C_z = A_z + B_z$

→ 1 vector eq = 3 scalar eqs; true for any vector or a quantity including diff eqs

- 2. $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B}$ always a scalar
- 3. $\vec{A} \times \vec{B}$ " " vector
- 4. unit vector in direction of vector, e.g.?

$$\hat{a}_A = \frac{\vec{A}}{A} \quad \text{where } A = |\vec{A}|$$

vector multiplication

dot or scalar product = always gives scalar?

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = A_x B_x + A_y B_y + A_z B_z$$

$$= AB \cos \theta_{AB}$$



$$\cos \theta_{AB} = \frac{\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B}}{AB} \implies \theta_{AB} = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B}}{AB} \right)$$

given $\vec{A} = (2, 3, 4)$ & $\vec{B} = (1, 2, 3)$ find θ_{AB}
 $\theta_{AB} = 6.9825^\circ$

CROSS or vector product = gives vector!

$$\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{a}_x & \hat{a}_y & \hat{a}_z \\ A_x & A_y & A_z \\ B_x & B_y & B_z \end{vmatrix} = (A_y B_z - A_z B_y) \hat{a}_x + (A_z B_x - A_x B_z) \hat{a}_y + (A_x B_y - A_y B_x) \hat{a}_z$$



$$= AB \sin \theta_{AB} \hat{a}_n$$

= vector \perp to plane formed by \vec{A} & \vec{B} using RHR

if $\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = \vec{C}$, right angles btwn \vec{A} & \vec{C} and \vec{B} & \vec{C}



vector division

$$\frac{\vec{A}}{\vec{B}} = ? \text{ NONSENSE}$$

you can't divide a vector by another vector !!!