

Notes—(6.2) Dot Product of Vectors

Objectives: You will be able to calculate dot products, the angle between two vectors, and projections of vectors.

DEFINITION --- Dot product

The *dot product* or *inner product* of $\mathbf{u} = \langle u_1, u_2 \rangle$ and $\mathbf{v} = \langle v_1, v_2 \rangle$ is $\rightarrow \quad \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = u_1v_1 + u_2v_2$

Ex1) Find each dot product:

a) $\langle 3, 4 \rangle \cdot \langle 5, 2 \rangle$

b) $\langle 1, -2 \rangle \cdot \langle -4, 3 \rangle$

c) $(2\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j}) \cdot (3\mathbf{i} - 5\mathbf{j})$

Properties of the Dot product ----- Let \mathbf{u} , \mathbf{v} , and \mathbf{w} be vectors and let c be a scalar.

1. $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{u}$

4. $\mathbf{u} \cdot (\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{w}$

2. $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{u} = |\mathbf{u}|^2$

$(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) \cdot \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w}$

3. $\mathbf{0} \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$

5. $(c\mathbf{u}) \cdot \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{u} \cdot (c\mathbf{v}) = c(\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v})$

Ex2) Use the dot product to find the length of vector $\mathbf{u} = \langle 4, -3 \rangle$

THEOREM ----- Angle Between Two Vectors

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}}{|\mathbf{u}||\mathbf{v}|} \quad \text{and} \quad \theta = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}}{|\mathbf{u}||\mathbf{v}|} \right)$$

Ex3) Find the angle between two vectors \mathbf{u} & \mathbf{v} .

a) $\mathbf{u} = \langle 2, 3 \rangle, \mathbf{v} = \langle -2, 5 \rangle$

b) $\mathbf{u} = \langle 2, 1 \rangle, \mathbf{v} = \langle -1, -3 \rangle$

Definition ----- Orthogonal Vectors \rightarrow The vectors \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} are orthogonal if and only if $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0$

Ex4) Prove that the vectors $\mathbf{u} = \langle 2, 3 \rangle$ and $\mathbf{v} = \langle -6, 4 \rangle$ are orthogonal.

Projection of \mathbf{u} onto \mathbf{v} ----- If \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} are nonzero vectors, the projection of \mathbf{u} onto \mathbf{v} is $\text{proj}_{\mathbf{v}} \mathbf{u} = \left(\frac{\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}}{|\mathbf{v}|^2} \right) \mathbf{v}$

Ex5) Find the vector projection of $\mathbf{u} = \langle 6, 2 \rangle$ onto $\mathbf{v} = \langle 5, -5 \rangle$. Then write \mathbf{u} as the sum of two orthogonal vectors, one of which is $\text{proj}_{\mathbf{v}} \mathbf{u}$.

NOW YOU TRY ☺

6) Find the vector projection of $\mathbf{u} = \langle -3, 4 \rangle$ onto $\mathbf{v} = \langle 12, -5 \rangle$. Then write \mathbf{u} as the sum of two orthogonal vectors, one of which is $\text{proj}_{\mathbf{v}} \mathbf{u}$.