

Exercise 10.3

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1. Find the angle between two vectors $\vec{a}$ and $\vec{b}$ with magnitudes $\sqrt{3}$ and 2, respectively having $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = \sqrt{6}$.

Solution:

Firstly let us consider,

$$|\vec{a}| = \sqrt{3}, |\vec{b}| = 2 \text{ and } \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = \sqrt{6}$$

Now, we know that $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = |\vec{a}||\vec{b}|\cos\theta$.

$$\therefore \sqrt{6} = \sqrt{3} \times 2 \times \cos\theta$$

$$\cos\theta = \frac{\sqrt{6}}{\sqrt{3} \times 2}$$

$$\cos\theta = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \theta = \frac{\pi}{4}$$

Thus, the angle between the given vectors $\vec{a}$ and $\vec{b}$ is $\frac{\pi}{4}$.

2. Find the angle between the vectors $\hat{i} - 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}$ and $3\hat{i} - 2\hat{j} + \hat{k}$.

Solution:

Let us consider the

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

$$|\vec{a}| = \sqrt{1^2 + (-2)^2 + 3^2} = \sqrt{1+4+9} = \sqrt{14}$$

$$|\vec{b}| = \sqrt{3^2 + (-2)^2 + 1^2} = \sqrt{9+4+1} = \sqrt{14}$$

$$\text{Now, } \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = (\hat{i} - 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}) \cdot (3\hat{i} - 2\hat{j} + \hat{k})$$

$$= 1 \cdot 3 + (-2)(-2) + 3 \cdot 1$$

$$= 3 + 4 + 3$$

$$= 10$$

Also, we know that $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = |\vec{a}||\vec{b}|\cos\theta$.

$$\therefore 10 = \sqrt{14}\sqrt{14}\cos\theta$$

$$\cos\theta = \frac{10}{14}$$

$$\theta = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{5}{7}\right)$$

Hence, the angle between the vectors is $\cos^{-1}(5/7)$.

3. Find the projection of the vector $\hat{i} - \hat{j}$ on the vector $\hat{i} + \hat{j}$.

Solution:

Firstly,

$$\text{Let } \vec{a} = \hat{i} - \hat{j} \text{ and } \vec{b} = \hat{i} + \hat{j}.$$

Now, projection of vector $\vec{a}$ on $\vec{b}$ is given by,

$$\frac{1}{|\vec{b}|} (\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+1}} \{1 \cdot 1 + (-1)(1)\} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (1-1) = 0$$

Thus, the projection of vector $\vec{a}$ on $\vec{b}$ is 0.

4. Find the projection of the vector $\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} + 7\hat{k}$ on the vector $7\hat{i} - \hat{j} + 8\hat{k}$.

Solution:

Firstly,

$$\text{Let } \vec{a} = \hat{i} + 3\hat{j} + 7\hat{k} \text{ and } \vec{b} = 7\hat{i} - \hat{j} + 8\hat{k}.$$

Now, projection of vector $\vec{a}$ on $\vec{b}$ is given by,

$$\frac{1}{|\vec{b}|} (\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{7^2 + (-1)^2 + 8^2}} \{1(7) + 3(-1) + 7(8)\} = \frac{7-3+56}{\sqrt{49+1+64}} = \frac{60}{\sqrt{114}}$$

Hence, the projection is $60/\sqrt{114}$.

5. Show that each of the given three vectors is a unit vector:

$$\frac{1}{7}(2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} + 6\hat{k}), \frac{1}{7}(3\hat{i} - 6\hat{j} + 2\hat{k}), \frac{1}{7}(6\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} - 3\hat{k})$$

Also, show that they are mutually perpendicular to each other.

Solution:

It is given that

$$\text{Let } \vec{a} = \frac{1}{7}(2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} + 6\hat{k}) = \frac{2}{7}\hat{i} + \frac{3}{7}\hat{j} + \frac{6}{7}\hat{k},$$

$$\vec{b} = \frac{1}{7}(3\hat{i} - 6\hat{j} + 2\hat{k}) = \frac{3}{7}\hat{i} - \frac{6}{7}\hat{j} + \frac{2}{7}\hat{k},$$

$$\vec{c} = \frac{1}{7}(6\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} - 3\hat{k}) = \frac{6}{7}\hat{i} + \frac{2}{7}\hat{j} - \frac{3}{7}\hat{k}.$$

$$|\vec{a}| = \sqrt{\left(\frac{2}{7}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{3}{7}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{6}{7}\right)^2} = \sqrt{\frac{4}{49} + \frac{9}{49} + \frac{36}{49}} = 1$$

$$|\vec{b}| = \sqrt{\left(\frac{3}{7}\right)^2 + \left(-\frac{6}{7}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{2}{7}\right)^2} = \sqrt{\frac{9}{49} + \frac{36}{49} + \frac{4}{49}} = 1$$

$$|\vec{c}| = \sqrt{\left(\frac{6}{7}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{2}{7}\right)^2 + \left(-\frac{3}{7}\right)^2} = \sqrt{\frac{36}{49} + \frac{4}{49} + \frac{9}{49}} = 1$$

Hence, each of the given three vectors is a unit vector.

$$\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = \frac{2}{7} \times \frac{3}{7} + \frac{3}{7} \times \left(\frac{-6}{7}\right) + \frac{6}{7} \times \frac{2}{7} = \frac{6}{49} - \frac{18}{49} + \frac{12}{49} = 0$$

$$\vec{b} \cdot \vec{c} = \frac{3}{7} \times \frac{6}{7} + \left(\frac{-6}{7}\right) \times \frac{2}{7} + \frac{2}{7} \times \left(\frac{-3}{7}\right) = \frac{18}{49} - \frac{12}{49} - \frac{6}{49} = 0$$

$$\vec{c} \cdot \vec{a} = \frac{6}{7} \times \frac{2}{7} + \frac{2}{7} \times \frac{3}{7} + \left(\frac{-3}{7}\right) \times \frac{6}{7} = \frac{12}{49} + \frac{6}{49} - \frac{18}{49} = 0$$

Therefore, the given three vectors are mutually perpendicular to each other.

6. Find $|\vec{a}|$ and $|\vec{b}|$, if $(\vec{a} + \vec{b}) \cdot (\vec{a} - \vec{b}) = 8$ and $|\vec{a}| = 8|\vec{b}|$

Solution:

Let us consider,

$$(\vec{a} + \vec{b}) \cdot (\vec{a} - \vec{b}) = 8$$

$$\vec{a} \cdot \vec{a} - \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} + \vec{b} \cdot \vec{a} - \vec{b} \cdot \vec{b} = 8$$

$$|\vec{a}|^2 - |\vec{b}|^2 = 8$$

$$(8|\vec{b}|)^2 - |\vec{b}|^2 = 8 \quad [|\vec{a}| = 8|\vec{b}|]$$

$$64|\vec{b}|^2 - |\vec{b}|^2 = 8$$

$$63|\vec{b}|^2 = 8$$

$$|\vec{b}|^2 = \frac{8}{63}$$

$$|\vec{b}| = \sqrt{\frac{8}{63}} \quad [\text{Magnitude of a vector is non-negative}]$$

$$|\vec{b}| = \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{3\sqrt{7}}$$

And,

$$|\vec{a}| = 8|\vec{b}| = \frac{8 \times 2\sqrt{2}}{3\sqrt{7}} = \frac{16\sqrt{2}}{3\sqrt{7}}$$

7. Evaluate the product $(3\vec{a} - 5\vec{b}) \cdot (2\vec{a} + 7\vec{b})$

Solution:

Let us consider the given expression,

$$\begin{aligned} & (3\vec{a} - 5\vec{b}) \cdot (2\vec{a} + 7\vec{b}) \\ &= 3\vec{a} \cdot 2\vec{a} + 3\vec{a} \cdot 7\vec{b} - 5\vec{b} \cdot 2\vec{a} - 5\vec{b} \cdot 7\vec{b} \\ &= 6\vec{a} \cdot \vec{a} + 21\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} - 10\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} - 35\vec{b} \cdot \vec{b} \\ &= 6|\vec{a}|^2 + 11\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} - 35|\vec{b}|^2 \end{aligned}$$

8. Find the magnitude of two vectors $\vec{a}$ and $\vec{b}$, having the same magnitude and such that the angle between them is 60° and their scalar product is $\frac{1}{2}$.

Solution:

Firstly,

Let θ be the angle between the vectors $\vec{a}$ and $\vec{b}$.

It is given that $|\vec{a}| = |\vec{b}|$, $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = \frac{1}{2}$, and $\theta = 60^\circ$.

...(1)

We know that $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = |\vec{a}||\vec{b}|\cos\theta$.

$$\therefore \frac{1}{2} = |\vec{a}||\vec{a}|\cos 60^\circ \quad [\text{Using (1)}]$$

$$\frac{1}{2} = |\vec{a}|^2 \times \frac{1}{2}$$

$$|\vec{a}|^2 = 1$$

$$|\vec{a}| = |\vec{b}| = 1$$

Hence the magnitude of two vectors is 1.

9. Find $|\vec{x}|$, if for a unit vector $\vec{a}$, $(\vec{x} - \vec{a}) \cdot (\vec{x} + \vec{a}) = 12$

Solution:

Let us consider,

$$(\vec{x} - \vec{a}) \cdot (\vec{x} + \vec{a}) = 12$$

$$\vec{x} \cdot \vec{x} + \vec{x} \cdot \vec{a} - \vec{a} \cdot \vec{x} - \vec{a} \cdot \vec{a} = 12$$

$$|\vec{x}|^2 - |\vec{a}|^2 = 12$$

$$|\vec{x}|^2 - 1 = 12 \quad [|\vec{a}| = 1 \text{ as } \vec{a} \text{ is a unit vector}]$$

$$|\vec{x}|^2 = 13$$

$$\therefore |\vec{x}| = \sqrt{13}$$

Hence the value is $\sqrt{13}$.

10. If $\vec{a} = 2\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}$, $\vec{b} = -\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + \hat{k}$ and $\vec{c} = 3\hat{i} + \hat{j}$ are such that $\vec{a} + \lambda\vec{b}$ is perpendicular to $\vec{c}$, then find the value of λ .

Solution:

We know that the

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

Now,

$$\vec{a} + \lambda\vec{b} = (2\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}) + \lambda(-\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + \hat{k}) = (2 - \lambda)\hat{i} + (2 + 2\lambda)\hat{j} + (3 + \lambda)\hat{k}$$

If $(\vec{a} + \lambda\vec{b})$ is perpendicular to $\vec{c}$, then

$$(\vec{a} + \lambda\vec{b}) \cdot \vec{c} = 0.$$

$$[(2 - \lambda)\hat{i} + (2 + 2\lambda)\hat{j} + (3 + \lambda)\hat{k}] \cdot (3\hat{i} + \hat{j}) = 0$$

$$(2 - \lambda)3 + (2 + 2\lambda)1 + (3 + \lambda)0 = 0$$

$$6 - 3\lambda + 2 + 2\lambda = 0$$

$$-\lambda + 8 = 0$$

$$\lambda = 8$$

Therefore, the required value of λ is 8.

11. Show that $|\vec{a}|\vec{b} + |\vec{b}|\vec{a}$ **is perpendicular to** $|\vec{a}|\vec{b} - |\vec{b}|\vec{a}$, **for any two nonzero vectors** $\vec{a}$ **and** $\vec{b}$.

Solution:

Let us consider,

$$\begin{aligned} & (|\vec{a}|\vec{b} + |\vec{b}|\vec{a}) \cdot (|\vec{a}|\vec{b} - |\vec{b}|\vec{a}) \\ &= |\vec{a}|^2 \vec{b} \cdot \vec{b} - |\vec{a}||\vec{b}|\vec{b} \cdot \vec{a} + |\vec{b}||\vec{a}|\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} - |\vec{b}|^2 \vec{a} \cdot \vec{a} \\ &= |\vec{a}|^2 |\vec{b}|^2 - |\vec{b}|^2 |\vec{a}|^2 \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $|\vec{a}|\vec{b} + |\vec{b}|\vec{a}$ and $|\vec{a}|\vec{b} - |\vec{b}|\vec{a}$ are perpendicular to each other.

12. If $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{a} = 0$ **and** $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = 0$, **then what can be concluded about the vector** $\vec{b}$?

Solution:

We know

Given, $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{a} = 0$ and $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = 0$.

Now,

$$\vec{a} \cdot \vec{a} = 0 \Rightarrow |\vec{a}|^2 = 0 \Rightarrow |\vec{a}| = 0$$

$\therefore \vec{a}$ is a zero vector.

Thus, vector $\vec{b}$ satisfying $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = 0$ can be any vector.

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

Solution:

Consider the given vectors,

Given, $\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c} = \vec{0}$.

So,

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

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

[Distributivity of scalar product over addition]

$$1 + \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} + \vec{a} \cdot \vec{c} = 0 \quad \dots (1) \quad \left[\begin{array}{l} \vec{a} \cdot \vec{a} = |\vec{a}| \cdot |\vec{a}| \cos 0^\circ = 1 \\ (\vec{a} \text{ is unit vector} \Rightarrow |\vec{a}| = 1) \end{array} \right]$$

Next,

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

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

$$\vec{b} \cdot \vec{a} + 1 + \vec{b} \cdot \vec{c} = 0 \quad \dots (2) \quad [\vec{b} \cdot \vec{b} = 1]$$

And,

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

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

$$\vec{c} \cdot \vec{a} + \vec{c} \cdot \vec{b} + 1 = 0 \quad \dots (3) \quad [\vec{c} \cdot \vec{c} = 1]$$

From (1), (2) and (3),

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

$$(3 + \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} + \vec{c} \cdot \vec{a}) + (\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} + \vec{b} \cdot \vec{c}) + (\vec{c} \cdot \vec{a} + \vec{b} \cdot \vec{c}) = 0 \quad [\text{Scalar product is commutative}]$$

$$3 + 2(\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} + \vec{b} \cdot \vec{c} + \vec{c} \cdot \vec{a}) = 0$$

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

Hence the value is $-3/2$.

14. If either vector $\vec{a} = \vec{0}$ or $\vec{b} = \vec{0}$, then $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = 0$. But the converse need not be true. Justify your answer with an example.

Solution:

Firstly,

$$\text{Consider } \vec{a} = 2\hat{i} + 4\hat{j} + 3\hat{k} \text{ and } \vec{b} = 3\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} - 6\hat{k}.$$

Then, their dot product is given by:

$$\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = 2.3 + 4.3 + 3(-6) = 6 + 12 - 18 = 0$$

Now, it's seen that

$$|\vec{a}| = \sqrt{2^2 + 4^2 + 3^2} = \sqrt{29}$$

$$\therefore \vec{a} \neq \vec{0}$$

$$|\vec{b}| = \sqrt{3^2 + 3^2 + (-6)^2} = \sqrt{54}$$

$$\therefore \vec{b} \neq \vec{0}$$

Therefore, the converse of the given statement need not be true.

15. If the vertices A, B, C of a triangle ABC are (1, 2, 3), (-1, 0, 0), (0, 1, 2), respectively, then find $\angle ABC$. [$\angle ABC$ is the angle between the vectors $\overrightarrow{BA}$ and $\overrightarrow{BC}$]

Solution:

We know

The vertices of $\triangle ABC$ are given as A (1, 2, 3), B (-1, 0, 0), and C (0, 1, 2).

Also given, $\angle ABC$ is the angle between the vectors $\overrightarrow{BA}$ and $\overrightarrow{BC}$.

$$\overrightarrow{BA} = \{1 - (-1)\}\hat{i} + \{2 - 0\}\hat{j} + \{3 - 0\}\hat{k} = 2\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}$$

$$\overrightarrow{BC} = \{0 - (-1)\}\hat{i} + \{1 - 0\}\hat{j} + \{2 - 0\}\hat{k} = \hat{i} + \hat{j} + 2\hat{k}$$

$$\therefore \overrightarrow{BA} \cdot \overrightarrow{BC} = (2\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}) \cdot (\hat{i} + \hat{j} + 2\hat{k}) = 2 \times 1 + 2 \times 1 + 3 \times 2 = 2 + 2 + 6 = 10$$

$$|\overrightarrow{BA}| = \sqrt{2^2 + 2^2 + 3^2} = \sqrt{4 + 4 + 9} = \sqrt{17}$$

$$|\overrightarrow{BC}| = \sqrt{1^2 + 1^2 + 2^2} = \sqrt{6}$$

Now, we know that

$$\overrightarrow{BA} \cdot \overrightarrow{BC} = |\overrightarrow{BA}| |\overrightarrow{BC}| \cos(\angle ABC)$$

$$\therefore 10 = \sqrt{17} \times \sqrt{6} \cos(\angle ABC)$$

$$\cos(\angle ABC) = \frac{10}{\sqrt{17} \times \sqrt{6}}$$

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

Hence, the angle is $\cos^{-1} (10/\sqrt{102})$.

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

Solution:

Let us consider

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

Now,

$$\overrightarrow{AB} = (2 - 1)\hat{i} + (6 - 2)\hat{j} + (3 - 7)\hat{k} = \hat{i} + 4\hat{j} - 4\hat{k}$$

$$\overrightarrow{BC} = (3 - 2)\hat{i} + (10 - 6)\hat{j} + (-1 - 3)\hat{k} = \hat{i} + 4\hat{j} - 4\hat{k}$$

$$\overrightarrow{AC} = (3 - 1)\hat{i} + (10 - 2)\hat{j} + (-1 - 7)\hat{k} = 2\hat{i} + 8\hat{j} - 8\hat{k}$$

Now,

$$|\overrightarrow{AB}| = \sqrt{1^2 + 4^2 + (-4)^2} = \sqrt{1 + 16 + 16} = \sqrt{33}$$

$$|\overrightarrow{BC}| = \sqrt{1^2 + 4^2 + (-4)^2} = \sqrt{1 + 16 + 16} = \sqrt{33}$$

$$|\overrightarrow{AC}| = \sqrt{2^2 + 8^2 + (-8)^2} = \sqrt{4 + 64 + 64} = \sqrt{132} = 2\sqrt{33}$$

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

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

17. 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.

Solution:

Firstly consider,

Let vectors $2\hat{i} - \hat{j} + \hat{k}$, $\hat{i} - 3\hat{j} - 5\hat{k}$ and $3\hat{i} - 4\hat{j} - 4\hat{k}$ be position vectors of points A, B, and C respectively.
So,

$$\overrightarrow{OA} = 2\hat{i} - \hat{j} + \hat{k}, \overrightarrow{OB} = \hat{i} - 3\hat{j} - 5\hat{k} \text{ and } \overrightarrow{OC} = 3\hat{i} - 4\hat{j} - 4\hat{k}$$

Now, vectors $\overrightarrow{AB}$, $\overrightarrow{BC}$, and $\overrightarrow{AC}$ represent the sides of $\triangle ABC$.

Hence,

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

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

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

$$|\overrightarrow{AB}| = \sqrt{(-1)^2 + (-2)^2 + (-6)^2} = \sqrt{1+4+36} = \sqrt{41}$$

$$|\overrightarrow{BC}| = \sqrt{2^2 + (-1)^2 + 1^2} = \sqrt{4+1+1} = \sqrt{6}$$

$$|\overrightarrow{AC}| = \sqrt{(-1)^2 + 3^2 + 5^2} = \sqrt{1+9+25} = \sqrt{35}$$

$$\therefore |\overrightarrow{BC}|^2 + |\overrightarrow{AC}|^2 = 6 + 35 = 41 = |\overrightarrow{AB}|^2$$

Therefore, $\triangle ABC$ is a right-angled triangle.

18. If $\vec{a}$ is a nonzero vector of magnitude 'a' and λ a nonzero scalar, then $\lambda \vec{a}$ is unit vector if

- (A) $\lambda = 1$ (B) $\lambda = -1$ (C) $a = |\lambda|$ (D) $a = 1/|\lambda|$

Solution:

Explanation:

Vector $\lambda \vec{a}$ is a unit vector if $|\lambda \vec{a}| = 1$.

Now,

$$|\lambda \vec{a}| = 1$$

$$|\lambda| |\vec{a}| = 1$$

$$|\vec{a}| = \frac{1}{|\lambda|} \quad [\lambda \neq 0]$$

$$a = \frac{1}{|\lambda|} \quad [|\vec{a}| = a]$$

Therefore, vector $\lambda \vec{a}$ is a unit vector if $a = \frac{1}{|\lambda|}$

The correct answer is D.