

NCERT Solutions for Class 12 Maths Chapter 10 – Vector Algebra

EXERCISE 10.2

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1. Compute the magnitude of the following vectors.

$$\vec{a} = \hat{i} + \hat{j} + \hat{k}; \quad \vec{b} = 2\hat{i} - 7\hat{j} - 3\hat{k}; \qquad \vec{c} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\hat{i} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\hat{j} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\hat{k}$$

Solution:

Given, vectors are

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{a} &= \hat{i} + \hat{j} + \hat{k}; \quad \vec{b} = 2\hat{i} - 7\hat{j} - 3\hat{k}; \qquad \vec{c} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\hat{i} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\hat{j} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\hat{k} \\ |\vec{a}| &= \sqrt{(1)^2 + (1)^2 + (1)^2} = \sqrt{3} \\ |\vec{b}| &= \sqrt{(2)^2 + (-7)^2 + (-3)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{4 + 49 + 9} \\ &= \sqrt{62} \\ |\vec{c}| &= \sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right)^2 + \left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3}} = 1 \end{aligned}$$

2. Write two different vectors having the same magnitude.

Solution:

Consider
$$\vec{a} = (\hat{i} - 2\hat{j} + 4\hat{k})$$
 and $\vec{b} = (2\hat{i} + \hat{j} - 4\hat{k})$.
It can be observed that $|\vec{a}| = \sqrt{1^2 + (-2)^2 + 4^2} = \sqrt{1 + 4 + 16} = \sqrt{21}$ and $|\vec{b}| = \sqrt{2^2 + 1^2 + (-4)^2} = \sqrt{4 + 1 + 16} = \sqrt{21}$

Thus, \vec{a} and \vec{b} are two different vectors having the same magnitude. Here, the vectors are different as they have different dif

3. Write two different vectors having the same direction.

Solution:

Two different vectors having the same directions are

Let us



Consider
$$\vec{p} = (\hat{i} + \hat{j} + \hat{k})$$
 and $\vec{q} = (2\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 2\hat{k})$.

The direction cosines of \vec{p} are given by,

$$l = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1^2 + 1^2 + 1^2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, m = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1^2 + 1^2 + 1^2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \text{ and } n = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1^2 + 1^2 + 1^2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$$

The direction cosines of \vec{q} are given by

$$l = \frac{2}{\sqrt{2^2 + 2^2 + 2^2}} = \frac{2}{2\sqrt{3}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \ m = \frac{2}{\sqrt{2^2 + 2^2 + 2^2}} = \frac{2}{2\sqrt{3}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}},$$

and $n = \frac{2}{\sqrt{2^2 + 2^2 + 2^2}} = \frac{2}{2\sqrt{3}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}.$

Consider $\vec{p} = (\hat{i} + \hat{j} + \hat{k})$ and $\vec{q} = (2\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 2\hat{k})$.

The direction cosines of \vec{p} are given by,

$$l = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1^2 + 1^2 + 1^2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \ m = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1^2 + 1^2 + 1^2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \ \text{and} \ n = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1^2 + 1^2 + 1^2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}.$$

The direction cosines of q are given by

$$l = \frac{2}{\sqrt{2^2 + 2^2 + 2^2}} = \frac{2}{2\sqrt{3}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \ m = \frac{2}{\sqrt{2^2 + 2^2 + 2^2}} = \frac{2}{2\sqrt{3}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}},$$

and $n = \frac{2}{\sqrt{2^2 + 2^2 + 2^2}} = \frac{2}{2\sqrt{3}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}.$

4. Find the values of x and y so that the vectors $2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j}$ and $x\hat{i} + y\hat{j}$ are equal

Solution:

Given vectors $2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j}$ and $x\hat{i} + y\hat{j}$ will be equal only if their corresponding components are equal.

Thus, the required values of *x* and *y* are 2 and 3, respectively.

5. Find the scalar and vector components of the vector with the initial point (2, 1) and terminal point (-5, 7).

Solution:

The scalar and vector components are

The vector with initial point P (2, 1) and terminal point Q (-5, 7) can be shown as

$$\overrightarrow{PQ} = (-5-2)\hat{i} + (7-1)\hat{j}$$
$$\overrightarrow{PQ} = -7\hat{i} + 6\hat{j}$$

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 $-7\hat{i}$ and $6\hat{j}$. Thus, the required scalar components are -7 and 6, while the vector components are

$$\vec{a} = \hat{i} - 2\hat{j} + \hat{k}, \ \vec{b} = -2\hat{i} + 4\hat{j} + 5\hat{k} \ \text{and} \ \vec{c} = \hat{i} - 6\hat{j} - 7\hat{k}$$

6. Find the sum of the vectors.

Solution:

Let us find the sum of the vectors.

The given vectors are $\vec{a} = \hat{i} - 2\hat{j} + \hat{k}$, $\vec{b} = -2\hat{i} + 4\hat{j} + 5\hat{k}$ and $\vec{c} = \hat{i} - 6\hat{j} - 7\hat{k}$ Hence, $\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c} = (1 - 2 + 1)\hat{i} + (-2 + 4 - 6)\hat{j} + (1 + 5 - 7)\hat{k}$ $= 0 \cdot \hat{i} - 4\hat{j} - 1 \cdot \hat{k}$ $= -4\hat{j} - \hat{k}$

 $\vec{a} = \hat{i} + \hat{j} + 2\hat{k}$

7. Find the unit vector in the direction of the vector.

Solution:

We know that

The unit vector \hat{a} in the direction of vector $\vec{a} = \hat{i} + \hat{j} + 2\hat{k}$ is given by $\hat{a} = \frac{\vec{a}}{|\vec{a}|}$. So, $|\vec{a}| = \sqrt{1^2 + 1^2 + 2^2} = \sqrt{1 + 1 + 4} = \sqrt{6}$ Thus, $\hat{a} = \frac{\vec{a}}{|\vec{a}|} = \frac{\hat{i} + \hat{j} + 2\hat{k}}{\sqrt{6}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}\hat{i} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}\hat{j} + \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}}\hat{k}$

ΡQ

8. Find the unit vector in the direction of vector, where P and Q are the points

(1, 2, 3) and (4, 5, 6), respectively.

Solution:

We know that,



Given points are P (1, 2, 3) and Q (4, 5, 6). So, $\overrightarrow{PQ} = (4-1)\hat{i} + (5-2)\hat{j} + (6-3)\hat{k} = 3\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}$ $\left|\overrightarrow{PQ}\right| = \sqrt{3^2 + 3^2 + 3^2} = \sqrt{9 + 9 + 9} = \sqrt{27} = 3\sqrt{3}$ Thus, the unit vector in the direction of \overrightarrow{PQ} is $\frac{\overrightarrow{PQ}}{\left|\overrightarrow{PQ}\right|} = \frac{3\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}}{3\sqrt{3}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\hat{i} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\hat{j} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\hat{k}$

9. For given vectors $\vec{a} = 2\hat{i} - \hat{j} + 2\hat{k}_{and}$ $\vec{b} = -\hat{i} + \hat{j} - \hat{k}$, find the unit vector in the direction of the vector $\vec{a} + \vec{b}$

Solution:

We know that,

Given vectors are
$$\vec{a} = 2\hat{i} - \hat{j} + 2\hat{k}$$
 and $\vec{b} = -\hat{i} + \hat{j} - \hat{k}$
 $\vec{a} = 2\hat{i} - \hat{j} + 2\hat{k}$
 $\vec{b} = -\hat{i} + \hat{j} - \hat{k}$
 $\therefore \vec{a} + \vec{b} = (2-1)\hat{i} + (-1+1)\hat{j} + (2-1)\hat{k} = 1\hat{i} + 0\hat{j} + 1\hat{k} = \hat{i} + \hat{k}$
 $\left|\vec{a} + \vec{b}\right| = \sqrt{1^2 + 1^2} = \sqrt{2}$

Thus, the unit vector in the direction of $(\vec{a} + \vec{b})$ is

$$\frac{\left(\overrightarrow{a}+\overrightarrow{b}\right)}{\left|\overrightarrow{a}+\overrightarrow{b}\right|} = \frac{\widehat{i}+\widehat{k}}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\widehat{i} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\widehat{k}.$$

10. Find a vector in the direction of the vector $5\hat{i} - \hat{j} + 2\hat{k}$ which has magnitude of 8 units. Solution:

Firstly,



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Let $\vec{a} = 5\hat{i} - \hat{j} + 2\hat{k}$. So, $|\vec{a}| = \sqrt{5^2 + (-1)^2 + 2^2} = \sqrt{25 + 1 + 4} = \sqrt{30}$ $\hat{a} = \frac{\vec{a}}{|\vec{a}|} = \frac{5\hat{i} - \hat{j} + 2\hat{k}}{\sqrt{30}}$

Thus, the vector in the direction of vector $5\hat{i} - \hat{j} + 2\hat{k}$ which has magnitude 8 units is given by,

$$8\hat{a} = 8\left(\frac{5\hat{i}-\hat{j}+2\hat{k}}{\sqrt{30}}\right) = \frac{40}{\sqrt{30}}\hat{i} - \frac{8}{\sqrt{30}}\hat{j} + \frac{16}{\sqrt{30}}\hat{k}$$

$$= 8 \left(\frac{5\vec{i} - \vec{j} + 2\vec{k}}{\sqrt{30}} \right)$$

$$= \frac{40}{\sqrt{30}} \vec{i} - \frac{8}{\sqrt{30}} \vec{j} + \frac{16}{\sqrt{30}} \vec{k}$$

$$8\hat{a} = 8 \left(\frac{5\hat{i} - \hat{j} + 2\hat{k}}{\sqrt{30}} \right) = \frac{40}{\sqrt{30}} \hat{i} - \frac{8}{\sqrt{30}} \hat{j} + \frac{16}{\sqrt{30}} \hat{k}$$

$$= 8 \left(\frac{5\vec{i} - \vec{j} + 2\vec{k}}{\sqrt{30}} \right)$$

$$= \frac{40}{\sqrt{30}} \vec{i} - \frac{8}{\sqrt{30}} \vec{j} + \frac{16}{\sqrt{30}} \vec{k}$$

11. Show that the vectors $2\hat{i} - 3\hat{j} + 4\hat{k}$ and $-4\hat{i} + 6\hat{j} - 8\hat{k}$ are collinear.

Solution:

First,

Let
$$\vec{a} = 2\hat{i} - 3\hat{j} + 4\hat{k}$$
 and $\vec{b} = -4\hat{i} + 6\hat{j} - 8\hat{k}$.
It is seen that $\vec{b} = -4\hat{i} + 6\hat{j} - 8\hat{k} = -2(2\hat{i} - 3\hat{j} + 4\hat{k}) = -2\vec{a}$
 $\therefore \vec{b} = \lambda \vec{a}$
where,
 $\lambda = -2$

Therefore, we can say that the given vectors are collinear.

12. Find the direction cosines of the vector $\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}$

Solution:



First,

Let
$$\vec{a} = \hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}$$
.
The modulus is given by,
 $|\vec{a}| = \sqrt{1^2 + 2^2 + 3^2} = \sqrt{1 + 4 + 9} = \sqrt{14}$
Thus, the direction cosines of \vec{a} are $\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{14}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{14}}, \frac{3}{\sqrt{14}}\right)$.

13. Find the direction cosines of the vector joining the points A (1, 2, -3) and

B (-1, -2, 1) directed from A to B.

Solution:

We know that the given points are A (1, 2, -3) and B (-1, -2, 1).

Now,

$$\begin{split} \overrightarrow{AB} &= (-1-1)\hat{i} + (-2-2)\hat{j} + \{1-(-3)\}\hat{k} \\ \overrightarrow{AB} &= -2\hat{i} - 4\hat{j} + 4\hat{k} \\ |\overrightarrow{AB}| &= \sqrt{(-2)^2 + (-4)^2 + 4^2} = \sqrt{4+16+16} = \sqrt{36} = 6 \\ \end{split}$$

Therefore, the direction cosines of \overrightarrow{AB} are $\left(-\frac{2}{6}, -\frac{4}{6}, \frac{4}{6}\right) = \left(-\frac{1}{3}, -\frac{2}{3}, \frac{2}{3}\right).$

14. Show that the vector $\hat{i} + \hat{j} + \hat{k}$ is equally inclined to the axes OX, OY, and OZ.

Solution:

Firstly,

Let $\vec{a} = \hat{i} + \hat{j} + \hat{k}$. Then, $|\vec{a}| = \sqrt{1^2 + 1^2 + 1^2} = \sqrt{3}$ Hence, the direction cosines of \vec{a}

$$i$$
 are $\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right)$.

Now, let α , β , and γ be the angles formed by \vec{a} with the positive directions of x, y, and z axes.

So, we have
$$\cos \alpha = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \cos \beta = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \cos \gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}.$$

Therefore, the given vector is equally inclined to axes OX, OY, and OZ.



15. Find the position vector of a point R which divides the line joining two points P and Q, whose position vectors are $\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} - \hat{k}$ and $-\hat{i} + \hat{j} + \hat{k}$, respectively, in the ratio 2:1

(i) internally

(ii) externally

Solution:

We know that

The position vector of point R dividing the line segment joining two points.

P and Q in the ratio *m*: *n* is given by

- (i) Internally: $\underline{m\vec{b} + n\vec{a}}$ $\overline{m+n}$
- (ii) Externally: $\underline{mb na} = \overline{mna}$

 $\overrightarrow{OP} = \hat{i} + 2\hat{j} - \hat{k}$ and $\overrightarrow{OQ} = -\hat{i} + \hat{j} + \hat{k}$

(i) The position vector of point R which divides the line joining two points P and Q internally in the ratio 2:1 is give

$$\overline{OR} = \frac{2\left(-\hat{i}+\hat{j}+\hat{k}\right)+1\left(\hat{i}+2\hat{j}-\hat{k}\right)}{2+1} = \frac{\left(-2\hat{i}+2\hat{j}+2\hat{k}\right)+\left(\hat{i}+2\hat{j}-\hat{k}\right)}{3} = \frac{-\hat{i}+4\hat{j}+\hat{k}}{3} = -\frac{1}{3}\hat{i}+\frac{4}{3}\hat{j}+\frac{1}{3}\hat{k}$$

(ii) The position vector of point R which divides the line joining two points P and Q externally in the ratio 2:1 is given by

$$\overline{OR} = \frac{2(-\hat{i}+\hat{j}+\hat{k})-1(\hat{i}+2\hat{j}-\hat{k})}{2-1} = (-2\hat{i}+2\hat{j}+2\hat{k})-(\hat{i}+2\hat{j}-\hat{k})$$
$$= -3\hat{i}+3\hat{k}$$

16. Find the position vector of the midpoint of the vector joining the points P (2, 3, 4) and Q (4, 1, -2).

Solution:

The position vector of mid-point R of the vector joining points P (2, 3, 4) and Q (4, 1, -2) is given by

$$\overline{OR} = \frac{\left(2\hat{i}+3\hat{j}+4\hat{k}\right) + \left(4\hat{i}+\hat{j}-2\hat{k}\right)}{2} = \frac{\left(2+4\right)\hat{i}+\left(3+1\right)\hat{j}+\left(4-2\right)\hat{k}}{2}$$
$$= \frac{6\hat{i}+4\hat{j}+2\hat{k}}{2} = 3\hat{i}+2\hat{j}+\hat{k}$$

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17. Show that the points A, B and C with position vectors, $\vec{a} = 3\hat{i} - 4\hat{j} - 4\hat{k}$, $\vec{b} = 2\hat{i} - \hat{j} + \hat{k}$ and $\vec{c} = \hat{i} - 3\hat{j} - 5\hat{k}$, respectively, form the vertices of a right-angled triangle.

Solution:

We know

Given position vectors of points A, B, and C are

$$\vec{a} = 3\hat{i} - 4\hat{j} - 4\hat{k}, \ \vec{b} = 2\hat{i} - \hat{j} + \hat{k} \text{ and } \vec{c} = \hat{i} - 3\hat{j} - 5\hat{k}$$

$$\therefore \overrightarrow{AB} = \vec{b} - \vec{a} = (2-3)\hat{i} + (-1+4)\hat{j} + (1+4)\hat{k} = -\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} + 5\hat{k}$$

$$\overrightarrow{BC} = \vec{c} - \vec{b} = (1-2)\hat{i} + (-3+1)\hat{j} + (-5-1)\hat{k} = -\hat{i} - 2\hat{j} - 6\hat{k}$$

$$\overrightarrow{CA} = \vec{a} - \vec{c} = (3-1)\hat{i} + (-4+3)\hat{j} + (-4+5)\hat{k} = 2\hat{i} - \hat{j} + \hat{k}$$

Now,

$$\left|\overrightarrow{AB}\right|^2 = (-1)^2 + 3^2 + 5^2 = 1 + 9 + 25 = 35$$

$$\left|\overrightarrow{BC}\right|^2 = (-1)^2 + (-2)^2 + (-6)^2 = 1 + 4 + 36 = 41$$

$$\left|\overrightarrow{CA}\right|^2 = 2^2 + (-1)^2 + 1^2 = 4 + 1 + 1 = 6$$

Hence,

$$\left|\overrightarrow{AB}\right|^2 + \left|\overrightarrow{CA}\right|^2 = 35 + 6 = 41 = \left|\overrightarrow{BC}\right|^2$$

Hence, proved that the given points form the vertices of a right-angled triangle.

18. In triangle ABC (Fig 10.18), which of the following is not true.





Fig 10.18

Solution:

First, let us consider,



Applying the triangle law of addition in the given triangle, we get:

AB + BC = AC...(1) $\overrightarrow{AB} + \overrightarrow{BC} = -\overrightarrow{CA}$ $\overrightarrow{AB} + \overrightarrow{BC} + \overrightarrow{CA} = \overrightarrow{0}$...(2) ... The equation given in alternative A is true. AB + BC = AC $\Rightarrow \overrightarrow{AB} + \overrightarrow{BC} - \overrightarrow{AC} = \overrightarrow{0}$... The equation given in alternative B is true. From equation (2), we have: $\overrightarrow{AB} - \overrightarrow{CB} + \overrightarrow{CA} = \overrightarrow{0}$... The equation given in alternative D is true. Now, consider the equation given in alternative C: $\overrightarrow{AB} + \overrightarrow{BC} - \overrightarrow{CA} = \overrightarrow{0}$ $\Rightarrow \overrightarrow{AB} + \overrightarrow{BC} = \overrightarrow{CA}$...(3) From equations (1) and (3), we get: $\overrightarrow{AC} = \overrightarrow{CA}$ $\overrightarrow{AC} = -\overrightarrow{AC}$ $\overrightarrow{AC} + \overrightarrow{AC} = \overrightarrow{0}$ $2\overrightarrow{AC} = \overrightarrow{0}$ $\overrightarrow{AC} = \overrightarrow{0}$, which is not true. Thus, the equation given in alternative C is incorrect.

The correct answer is C.

19. If \vec{a} and \vec{b} are two collinear vectors, then which of the following is incorrect?

A.
$$\vec{b} = \lambda \vec{a}$$
, for some scalar λ

B.
$$\vec{a} = \pm \vec{b}$$

C. The respective components of \vec{a} and \vec{b} are proportional

D. Both the vectors \vec{a} and \vec{b} have the same direction, but different magnitudes

Solution:

We know,



If \vec{a} and \vec{b} are two collinear vectors, then they are parallel.

So, we have:

 $\vec{b} = \lambda \vec{a} \text{ (For some scalar } \lambda)$ If $\lambda = \pm 1$, then $\vec{a} = \pm \vec{b}$. If $\vec{a} = a_1 \hat{i} + a_2 \hat{j} + a_3 \hat{k}$ and $\vec{b} = b_1 \hat{i} + b_2 \hat{j} + b_3 \hat{k}$, then $\vec{b} = \lambda \vec{a}$. $b_1 \hat{i} + b_2 \hat{j} + b_3 \hat{k} = \lambda \left(a_1 \hat{i} + a_2 \hat{j} + a_3 \hat{k} \right)$ $b_1 \hat{i} + b_2 \hat{j} + b_3 \hat{k} = (\lambda a_1) \hat{i} + (\lambda a_2) \hat{j} + (\lambda a_3) \hat{k}$ $b_1 = \lambda a_1, b_2 = \lambda a_2, b_3 = \lambda a_3$ $\frac{b_1}{a_1} = \frac{b_2}{a_2} = \frac{b_3}{a_3} = \lambda$

Hence, the respective components of \vec{a} and \vec{b} are proportional.

But, vectors \vec{a} and \vec{b} can have different directions.

Thus, the statement given in D is incorrect.

The correct answer is D.

If \vec{a} and \vec{b} are two collinear vectors, then they are parallel.

So, we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
\bar{b} &= \lambda \vec{a} \text{ (For some scalar } \lambda) \\
\text{If } \lambda &= \pm 1, \text{ then } \vec{a} = \pm \vec{b} \\
\text{If } \vec{a} &= a_1 \hat{i} + a_2 \hat{j} + a_3 \hat{k} \text{ and } \vec{b} = b_1 \hat{i} + b_2 \hat{j} + b_3 \hat{k}, \text{ then } \\
\vec{b} &= \lambda \vec{a}. \\
b_1 \hat{i} + b_2 \hat{j} + b_3 \hat{k} &= \lambda \left(a_1 \hat{i} + a_2 \hat{j} + a_3 \hat{k} \right) \\
b_1 \hat{i} + b_2 \hat{j} + b_3 \hat{k} &= (\lambda a_1) \hat{i} + (\lambda a_2) \hat{j} + (\lambda a_3) \hat{k} \\
b_1 &= \lambda a_1, b_2 &= \lambda a_2, b_3 &= \lambda a_3 \\
\frac{b_1}{a_1} &= \frac{b_2}{a_2} &= \frac{b_3}{a_3} &= \lambda
\end{aligned}$$

Hence, the respective components of \vec{a} and \vec{b} are proportional.

But, vectors \vec{a} and \vec{b} can have different directions.

Thus, the statement given in D is incorrect.

The correct answer is D.