

§ 12.3 and 12.4 The dot and cross products:

Due: Beginning of class, 9/6

1. How do  $\hat{\mathbf{a}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{a}}$  and  $|\hat{\mathbf{a}}|$  relate?

2. Find the angle between  $\langle \sqrt{3}, 1 \rangle$  and  $\langle 1, \sqrt{3} \rangle$ .

3. Give a formula for the angle between two vectors  $\hat{\mathbf{a}}$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{b}}$ .

4. Suppose two vectors are orthogonal, what does this tell you about their dot product?

5. If  $\hat{\mathbf{a}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{b}} = 0$ , what can you say about the angle between  $\hat{\mathbf{a}}$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{b}}$ ?

**Fact:** Two vectors are orthogonal if and only if their dot product is \_\_\_\_\_.

6. Suppose  $\hat{\mathbf{a}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{b}} = \pm |\hat{\mathbf{a}}| |\hat{\mathbf{b}}|$ . What can you say about  $\hat{\mathbf{a}}$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{b}}$ ? What is the angle between  $\langle 2, 4 \rangle$  and  $\langle -1, -2 \rangle$ ?

7. Find the area of the parallelogram with points  $(0, 0, 0)$ ,  $(1, 2, 1)$ ,  $(2, 2, 2)$  and  $(3, 4, 3)$ .

8. Suppose  $\hat{\mathbf{a}}$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{b}}$  are parallel, what can you say about the area of the parallelogram they span? What about  $|\hat{\mathbf{a}} \times \hat{\mathbf{b}}|$ ?

**Fact:** Two vectors  $\hat{\mathbf{a}}$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{b}}$  are parallel if and only if  $\hat{\mathbf{a}} \times \hat{\mathbf{b}} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ .

9. Verify 4 of the following facts:

$$\begin{array}{lll} \hat{\mathbf{i}} \times \hat{\mathbf{j}} = \hat{\mathbf{k}} & \hat{\mathbf{j}} \times \hat{\mathbf{k}} = \hat{\mathbf{i}} & \hat{\mathbf{k}} \times \hat{\mathbf{i}} = \hat{\mathbf{j}} \\ \hat{\mathbf{j}} \times \hat{\mathbf{i}} = -\hat{\mathbf{k}} & \hat{\mathbf{k}} \times \hat{\mathbf{j}} = -\hat{\mathbf{i}} & \hat{\mathbf{i}} \times \hat{\mathbf{k}} = -\hat{\mathbf{j}} \end{array}$$

10. For vectors  $\hat{\mathbf{a}} = \langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{b}} = \langle b_1, b_2, b_3 \rangle$ , prove that  $\hat{\mathbf{a}} \times \hat{\mathbf{b}}$  is indeed orthogonal to  $\hat{\mathbf{a}}$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{b}}$  by computing

$$(\hat{\mathbf{a}} \times \hat{\mathbf{b}}) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{a}} \text{ and } (\hat{\mathbf{a}} \times \hat{\mathbf{b}}) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{b}}.$$

(It may help to try this with a concrete case or two.)