Class XII : Maths
Chapter 10 : Vector Algebra

Questions and Solutions | Exercise 10.1 - NCERT Books

Question 1:

Compute the magnitude of the following vectors:

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

Answer

The given vectors are:

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

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

$$|\vec{b}|=\sqrt{(2)^2+(-7)^2+(-3)^2}$$
$$=\sqrt{4+49+9}$$
$$=\sqrt{62}$$

$$|\vec{c}|=\sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right)^2+\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right)^2+\left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right)^2}$$
$$=\sqrt{\frac{1}{3}+\frac{1}{3}+\frac{1}{3}}=1$$

Question 2:

Write two different vectors having same magnitude.

Answer

Consider $\vec{a}=\left(\hat{i}-2\hat{j}+3\hat{k}\right)$ and $\vec{b}=\left(2\hat{i}+\hat{j}-3\hat{k}\right)$.

It can be observed that $|\vec{a}|=\sqrt{1^2+(-2)^2+3^2}=\sqrt{1+4+9}=\sqrt{14}$ and

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

Hence, $\vec{a}$ and $\vec{b}$ are two different vectors having the same magnitude. The vectors are different because they have different directions.

Question 3:

Write two different vectors having same direction.

Answer

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

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

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

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

The direction cosines of $\vec{p}$ and $\vec{q}$ are the same. Hence, the two vectors have the same direction.

Question 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

Answer

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

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

Question 5:

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

Answer

The vector with the initial point P (2, 1) and terminal point Q (–5, 7) can be given by,

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

$$\Rightarrow \overrightarrow{PQ}=-7\hat{i}+6\hat{j}$$

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

Question 6:

Find the sum of the vectors $\vec{a}=\hat{i}-2\hat{j}+\hat{k},\ \vec{b}=-2\hat{i}+4\hat{j}+5\hat{k}$ and $\vec{c}=\hat{i}-6\hat{j}-7\hat{k}$.

Answer

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 $\vec{c}=\hat{i}-6\hat{j}-7\hat{k}$.

$$\begin{aligned}\therefore \vec{a}+\vec{b}+\vec{c} &= (1-2+1)\hat{i}+(-2+4-6)\hat{j}+(1+5-7)\hat{k}\\ &= 0\cdot\hat{i}-4\hat{j}-1\cdot\hat{k}\\ &= -4\hat{j}-\hat{k}\end{aligned}$$

Question 7:

Find the unit vector in the direction of the vector $\vec{a}=\hat{i}+\hat{j}+2\hat{k}$.

Answer

The unit vector $\hat{a}$ in the direction of vector $\vec{a}=\hat{i}+\hat{j}+2\hat{k}$ is given by $\hat{a}=\dfrac{\vec{a}}{|\vec{a}|}$.

$$|\vec{a}|=\sqrt{1^2+1^2+2^2}=\sqrt{1+1+4}=\sqrt{6}$$

$$\therefore \hat{a}=\frac{\vec{a}}{|\vec{a}|}=\frac{\hat{i}+\hat{j}+2\hat{k}}{\sqrt{6}}=\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}\hat{i}+\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}\hat{j}+\frac{2}{\sqrt{6}}\hat{k}$$

Question 8:

Find the unit vector in the direction of vector $\overrightarrow{PQ}$, where P and Q are the points (1, 2, 3) and (4, 5, 6), respectively.

Answer

The given points are P (1, 2, 3) and Q (4, 5, 6).

$$\therefore \overrightarrow{PQ}=(4-1)\hat{i}+(5-2)\hat{j}+(6-3)\hat{k}=3\hat{i}+3\hat{j}+3\hat{k}$$

$$\left|\overrightarrow{PQ}\right|=\sqrt{3^2+3^2+3^2}=\sqrt{9+9+9}=\sqrt{27}=3\sqrt{3}$$

Hence, the unit vector in the direction of $\overrightarrow{PQ}$ is

$$\frac{\overrightarrow{PQ}}{\left|\overrightarrow{PQ}\right|}=\frac{3\hat{i}+3\hat{j}+3\hat{k}}{3\sqrt{3}}=\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\hat{i}+\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\hat{j}+\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\hat{k}.$$

Question 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 $\vec{a} + \vec{b}$

Answer

The given vectors are $\vec{a} = 2\hat{i} - \hat{j} + 2\hat{k}$ and $\vec{b} = -\hat{i} + \hat{j} - \hat{k}$.

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

$\vec{b} = -\hat{i} + \hat{j} - \hat{k}$

$\therefore \vec{a} + \vec{b} = (2-1)\hat{i} + (-1+1)\hat{j} + (2-1)\hat{k} = 1\hat{i} + 0\hat{j} + 1\hat{k} = \hat{i} + \hat{k}$

$\left|\vec{a} + \vec{b}\right| = \sqrt{1^2 + 1^2} = \sqrt{2}$

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

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

Question 10:

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

Answer

Let $\vec{a} = 5\hat{i} - \hat{j} + 2\hat{k}$.

$\therefore |\vec{a}| = \sqrt{5^2 + (-1)^2 + 2^2} = \sqrt{25 + 1 + 4} = \sqrt{30}$

$$\therefore \hat{a} = \frac{\vec{a}}{|\vec{a}|} = \frac{5\hat{i} - \hat{j} + 2\hat{k}}{\sqrt{30}}$$

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

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

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

Question 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.

Answer

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 observed that $\vec{b}=-4\hat{i}+6\hat{j}-8\hat{k}=-2\left(2\hat{i}-3\hat{j}+4\hat{k}\right)=-2\vec{a}$

$\therefore \vec{b}=\lambda\vec{a}$

where,

$\lambda=-2$

Hence, the given vectors are collinear.

Question 12:

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

Answer

Let $\vec{a}=\hat{i}+2\hat{j}+3\hat{k}$.

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

Hence, the direction cosines of $\vec{a}$ are $\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{14}},\frac{2}{\sqrt{14}},\frac{3}{\sqrt{14}}\right)$.

Question 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.

Answer

The given points are A (1, 2, −3) and B (−1, −2, 1).

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

$\Rightarrow \overrightarrow{AB} = -2\hat{i} - 4\hat{j} + 4\hat{k}$

$\therefore \left|\overrightarrow{AB}\right| = \sqrt{(-2)^2 + (-4)^2 + 4^2} = \sqrt{4+16+16} = \sqrt{36} = 6$

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

Question 14:

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

Answer

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

Then,

$|\vec{a}| = \sqrt{1^2 + 1^2 + 1^2} = \sqrt{3}$

Therefore, the direction cosines of $\vec{a}$ 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.

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

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

Question 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 ration 2:1

(i) internally

(ii) externally

Answer

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:

$$\frac{m\vec{b}+n\vec{a}}{m+n}$$

ii. Externally:

$$\frac{m\vec{b}-n\vec{a}}{m-n}$$

Position vectors of P and Q are given as:

$\overrightarrow{OP}=\hat{i}+2\hat{j}-\hat{k}$ 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 given by,

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

$$=\frac{-\hat{i}+4\hat{j}+\hat{k}}{3}=-\frac{1}{3}\hat{i}+\frac{4}{3}\hat{j}+\frac{1}{3}\hat{k}$$

(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,

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

$$=-3\hat{i}+3\hat{k}$$

Question 16:

Find the position vector of the mid point of the vector joining the points P (2, 3, 4) and Q (4, 1, – 2).

Answer

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

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

$$=\frac{6\hat{i}+4\hat{j}+2\hat{k}}{2}=3\hat{i}+2\hat{j}+\hat{k}$$

Question 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.

Answer

Position vectors of points A, B, and C are respectively given as:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

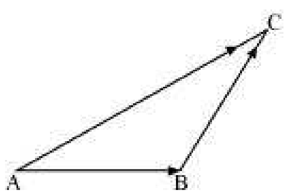
$$\left|\overrightarrow{CA}\right|^2 = 2^2 + (-1)^2 + 1^2 = 4 + 1 + 1 = 6$$

$$\therefore \left|\overrightarrow{AB}\right|^2 + \left|\overrightarrow{CA}\right|^2 = 36 + 6 = 41 = \left|\overrightarrow{BC}\right|^2$$

Hence, ABC is a right-angled triangle.

Question 18:

In triangle ABC which of the following is **not** true:



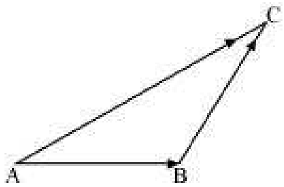
A. $\overrightarrow{AB} + \overrightarrow{BC} + \overrightarrow{CA} = \vec{0}$

B. $\overrightarrow{AB} + \overrightarrow{BC} - \overrightarrow{AC} = \vec{0}$

C. $\overrightarrow{AB} + \overrightarrow{BC} - \overrightarrow{CA} = \vec{0}$

D. $\overrightarrow{AB} - \overrightarrow{CB} + \overrightarrow{CA} = \vec{0}$

Answer



On applying the triangle law of addition in the given triangle, we have:

$$\overrightarrow{AB}+\overrightarrow{BC}=\overrightarrow{AC} \qquad ...(1)$$

$$\Rightarrow \overrightarrow{AB}+\overrightarrow{BC}=-\overrightarrow{CA}$$

$$\Rightarrow \overrightarrow{AB}+\overrightarrow{BC}+\overrightarrow{CA}=\vec{0} \qquad ...(2)$$

$\therefore$ The equation given in alternative A is true.

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

$$\Rightarrow \overrightarrow{AB}+\overrightarrow{BC}-\overrightarrow{AC}=\vec{0}$$

$\therefore$ The equation given in alternative B is true.

From equation (2), we have:

$$\overrightarrow{AB}-\overrightarrow{CB}+\overrightarrow{CA}=\vec{0}$$

$\therefore$ The equation given in alternative D is true.

Now, consider the equation given in alternative C:

$$\overrightarrow{AB}+\overrightarrow{BC}-\overrightarrow{CA}=\vec{0}$$

$$\Rightarrow \overrightarrow{AB}+\overrightarrow{BC}=\overrightarrow{CA} \qquad ...(3)$$

From equations (1) and (3), we have:

$$\overrightarrow{AC}=\overrightarrow{CA}$$

$$\Rightarrow \overrightarrow{AC}=-\overrightarrow{AC}$$

$$\Rightarrow \overrightarrow{AC}+\overrightarrow{AC}=\vec{0}$$

$$\Rightarrow 2\overrightarrow{AC}=\vec{0}$$

$$\Rightarrow \overrightarrow{AC}=\vec{0}, \text{ which is not true.}$$

Hence, the equation given in alternative C is **incorrect**.

The correct answer is **C.**

Question 19:

If $\vec{a}$ and $\vec{b}$ are two collinear vectors, then which of the following are **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 same direction, but different magnitudes

Answer

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

Therefore, we have:

$\vec{b}=\lambda\vec{a}$ (For some scalar λ)

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

$\vec{b}=\lambda\vec{a}.$

$$\Rightarrow b_1\hat{i}+b_2\hat{j}+b_3\hat{k}=\lambda\left(a_1\hat{i}+a_2\hat{j}+a_3\hat{k}\right)$$

$$\Rightarrow b_1\hat{i}+b_2\hat{j}+b_3\hat{k}=(\lambda a_1)\hat{i}+(\lambda a_2)\hat{j}+(\lambda a_3)\hat{k}$$

$$\Rightarrow b_1=\lambda a_1, b_2=\lambda a_2, b_3=\lambda a_3$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{b_1}{a_1}=\frac{b_2}{a_2}=\frac{b_3}{a_3}=\lambda$$

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

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

Hence, the statement given in **D** is **incorrect**.

The correct answer is **D**.