

Fact: Let \vec{u} and \vec{v} be in \mathbb{R}^n . The angle θ between \vec{u} and \vec{v} is defined to be $0^\circ \leq \theta \leq 180^\circ$



Fact: For all \vec{u}, \vec{v} in \mathbb{R}^n : $\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = \|\vec{u}\| \|\vec{v}\| \cos \theta$

Comment: In \mathbb{R}^4 and higher dimensions, this is a definition of θ .

Comment: In the special case where \vec{u} and \vec{v} are unit vectors, $\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v}$ gives the value of $\cos \theta$.

Example: Find the angle between $\vec{u} = [1, -4]$ and $\vec{v} = [2, 3]$

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} &= \|\vec{u}\| \|\vec{v}\| \cos \theta \\ -10 &= \sqrt{17} \sqrt{13} \cos \theta \\ \frac{-10}{\sqrt{17} \sqrt{13}} &= \cos \theta \\ \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{-10}{\sqrt{17} \sqrt{13}} \right) &= \theta \\ \theta &\approx 132^\circ\end{aligned}$$



Example: If $0^\circ \leq \theta < 90^\circ$, what is the sign of $\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v}$?

What if $\theta = 90^\circ$?

What if $90^\circ < \theta \leq 180^\circ$?

$0^\circ \leq \theta < 90^\circ$	$\theta = 90^\circ$	$90^\circ < \theta \leq 180^\circ$
$\Rightarrow \cos \theta > 0$	$\Rightarrow \cos \theta = 0$	$\Rightarrow \cos \theta < 0$
$\Rightarrow \vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} > 0$	$\Rightarrow \vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = 0$	$\Rightarrow \vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} < 0$

$$\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = \underbrace{\|\vec{u}\| \|\vec{v}\|}_{> 0} \cos \theta$$

Definition: Vectors \vec{u} and \vec{v} are orthogonal if $\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = 0$.



Comment: The following statements are equivalent in 2D and 3D:

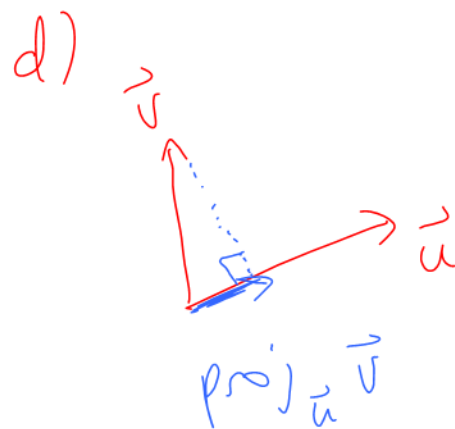
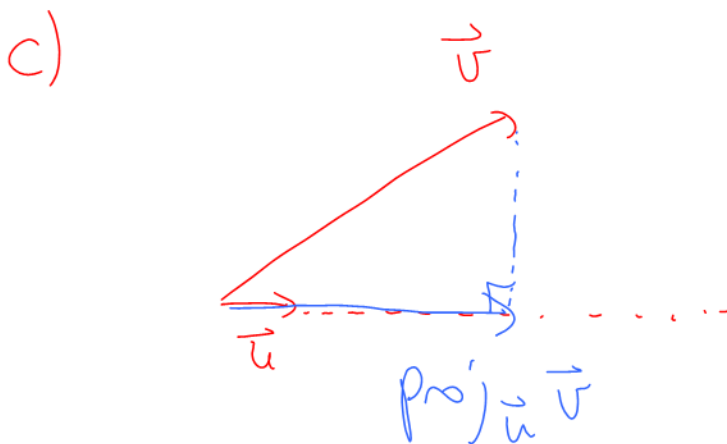
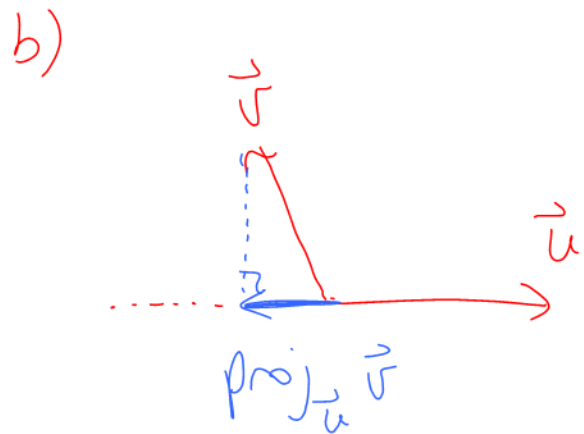
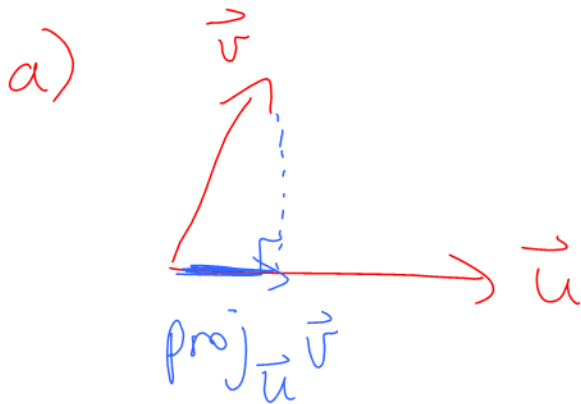
Vectors \vec{u} and \vec{v} are perpendicular (geometry language)

Vectors \vec{u} and \vec{v} are orthogonal (algebra language)

Comment: In higher dimensions it's more appropriate to use the word **orthogonal** rather than perpendicular.

Definition: The **projection** of \vec{v} onto \vec{u} is written $\text{proj}_{\vec{u}}\vec{v}$. This could be read as the projection onto \vec{u} of \vec{v} .

Example: Let's draw a few instances of $\text{proj}_{\vec{u}}\vec{v}$

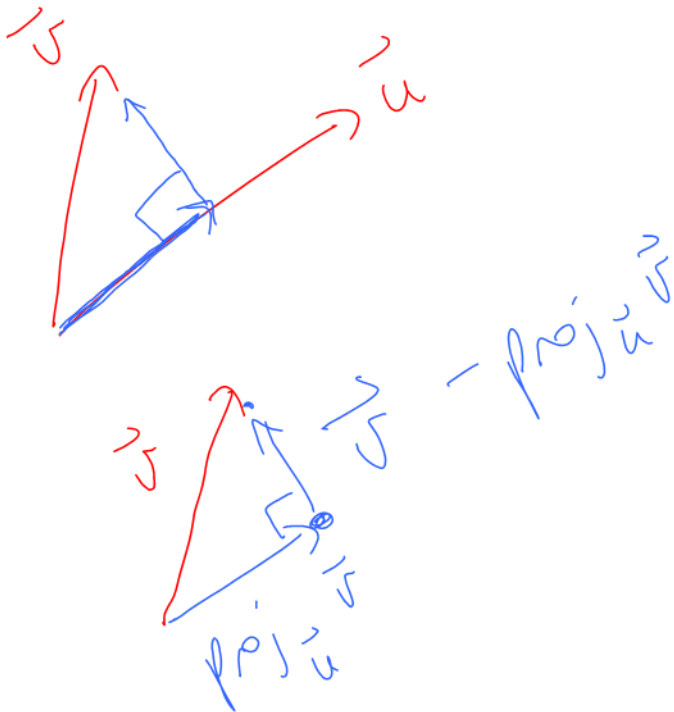


Fact: $\text{proj}_{\vec{u}} \vec{v} = \frac{\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v}}{\|\vec{u}\|^2} \vec{u}$

Example: Find $\text{proj}_{\vec{u}} \vec{v}$ for $\vec{u} = [1, 2]$ and $\vec{v} = [1, 3]$

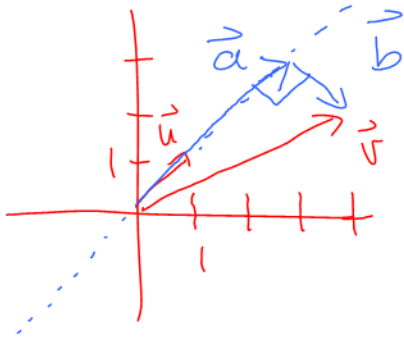
$$\begin{aligned} \text{proj}_{\vec{u}} \vec{v} &= \frac{\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v}}{\|\vec{u}\|^2} \vec{u} \\ &= \frac{7}{5} \vec{u} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{7}{5} [1, 2] \end{aligned}$$

Fact: Given vectors \vec{u}, \vec{v} in \mathbb{R}^n , there is exactly one way to decompose \vec{v} into two vectors that are parallel and perpendicular to \vec{u} .



Example: Let $\vec{u} = [1, 1]$ and $\vec{v} = [4, 2]$. Find vectors \vec{a} and \vec{b} so that $\vec{v} = \vec{a} + \vec{b}$, \vec{a} is parallel to \vec{u} , and \vec{b} is perpendicular to \vec{u} .

Rough



$$\begin{aligned}
 \vec{a} &= \text{proj}_{\vec{u}} \vec{v} \\
 &= \frac{\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v}}{\|\vec{u}\|^2} \vec{u} \\
 &= \frac{6}{2} [1, 1] \\
 &= 3 [1, 1] \\
 &= [3, 3]
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \vec{v} &= \vec{a} + \vec{b} \\
 \vec{b} &= \vec{v} - \vec{a} \\
 &= [4, 2] - [3, 3] \\
 &= [1, -1]
 \end{aligned}$$