

12.3, number 1abd: Let $\vec{v} = 2\vec{i} - 4\vec{j} + \sqrt{5}\vec{k}$ and $\vec{u} = -2\vec{i} + 4\vec{j} - \sqrt{5}\vec{k}$. Find $\vec{v} \cdot \vec{u}$, $|\vec{v}|$, $|\vec{u}|$, the cosine of the angle between \vec{v} and \vec{u} , and the projection of \vec{u} onto \vec{v} .

Answer:

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{v} \cdot \vec{u} &= (2\vec{i} - 4\vec{j} + \sqrt{5}\vec{k}) \cdot (-2\vec{i} + 4\vec{j} - \sqrt{5}\vec{k}) \\ &= 2(-2) + (-4)(4) + \sqrt{5}(-\sqrt{5}) = -4 - 16 - 5 = \boxed{-25}.\end{aligned}$$

$$|\vec{v}| = \sqrt{(2)^2 + (-4)^2 + (\sqrt{5})^2} = \sqrt{4 + 16 + 5} = \sqrt{25} = \boxed{5}.$$

$$|\vec{u}| = \sqrt{(-2)^2 + (4)^2 + (-\sqrt{5})^2} = \sqrt{4 + 16 + 5} = \boxed{5}.$$

We know that $\vec{v} \cdot \vec{u} = |\vec{v}||\vec{u}|\cos\theta$, where θ is the angle between \vec{v} and \vec{u} . So,

$$-25 = 5(5)\cos\theta$$

and $\boxed{-1 = \cos\theta}$.

Of course this means that the angle between \vec{v} and \vec{u} is π radians (or 180 degrees). In other words \vec{v} and \vec{u} point in opposite directions. Of course, our answer to the last part of the problem will exactly confirm this.

$$\text{proj}_{\vec{v}} \vec{u} = \frac{\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v}}{\vec{v} \cdot \vec{v}} \vec{v} = \frac{-25}{25} \vec{v} = -\vec{v}$$

The projection of \vec{u} onto \vec{v} is $-\vec{v}$.