

12.3 This problem is problem 3, from Exam 2, from Fall 2024. Express $\vec{v} = 3\vec{i} + \vec{j}$ as the sum of a vector parallel to $\vec{b} = 4\vec{i} + 8\vec{j}$ plus a vector perpendicular to \vec{b} . Check your answer. Make sure it is correct.

Answer: There is a picture on the next page. We compute

$$\begin{aligned} \text{proj}_{\vec{b}} \vec{v} &= \frac{\vec{v} \cdot \vec{b}}{\vec{b} \cdot \vec{b}} \vec{b} \\ &= \frac{12 + 8}{16 + 64} (4\vec{i} + 8\vec{j}) = \frac{1}{4} (4\vec{i} + 8\vec{j}) = \vec{i} + 2\vec{j}. \end{aligned}$$

Observe that

$$\vec{v} - (\vec{i} + 2\vec{j}) = 2\vec{i} - \vec{j}.$$

The vector $\vec{v} = 3\vec{i} + \vec{j}$ is equal to $\vec{i} + 2\vec{j}$ plus $2\vec{i} - \vec{j}$ with $\vec{i} + 2\vec{j}$ parallel to $\vec{b} = 4\vec{i} + 8\vec{j}$ and $2\vec{i} - \vec{j}$ perpendicular to $\vec{b} = 4\vec{i} + 8\vec{j}$.

Check. We verify the three assertions:

$$\begin{aligned} (\vec{i} + 2\vec{j}) + (2\vec{i} - \vec{j}) &= 3\vec{i} + \vec{j} \checkmark \\ (\vec{i} + 2\vec{j}) &= \frac{1}{4}(4\vec{i} + 8\vec{j}) \checkmark \\ (2\vec{i} - \vec{j}) \cdot (4\vec{i} + 8\vec{j}) &= 8 - 8 = 0 \checkmark \end{aligned}$$

