

12.3 This problem is problem 2, from the Final Exam from Fall 2024. Express $\vec{v} = \vec{i} + 7\vec{j}$ as the sum of a vector parallel to $\vec{b} = \vec{i} + 2\vec{j}$ and a vector perpendicular to \vec{b} . Please make sure that your answer is correct.

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

$$\begin{aligned} \text{proj}_{\vec{b}} \vec{v} &= \frac{\vec{v} \cdot \vec{b}}{\vec{b} \cdot \vec{b}} \vec{b} \\ &= \frac{(\vec{i} + 7\vec{j}) \cdot (\vec{i} + 2\vec{j})}{(\vec{i} + 2\vec{j}) \cdot (\vec{i} + 2\vec{j})} (\vec{i} + 2\vec{j}) \\ &= \frac{15}{5} (\vec{i} + 2\vec{j}) \\ &= 3\vec{i} + 6\vec{j}. \end{aligned}$$

We also compute

$$\vec{v} - \text{proj}_{\vec{b}} \vec{v} = (\vec{i} + 7\vec{j}) - (3\vec{i} + 6\vec{j}) = -2\vec{i} + \vec{j}.$$

We conclude that

$\vec{v} = (3\vec{i} + 6\vec{j}) + (-2\vec{i} + \vec{j}), \text{ with } 3\vec{i} + 6\vec{j} \text{ parallel to } \vec{b} \text{ and } -2\vec{i} + \vec{j} \text{ perpendicular to } \vec{b}$
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Check. Observe that

- $(3\vec{i} + 6\vec{j}) + (-2\vec{i} + \vec{j}) = 1\vec{i} + 7\vec{j} = \vec{v} \checkmark,$
- $3\vec{i} + 6\vec{j}$, which is equal to 3 times \vec{b} is parallel to $\vec{b} \checkmark,$ and
- $(-2\vec{i} + \vec{j}) \cdot \vec{b} = (-2\vec{i} + \vec{j}) \cdot (\vec{i} + 2\vec{j}) = 0. \checkmark$

