

## Vectors 6: Solution

1. (i)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} &= |\mathbf{a}||\mathbf{b}| \cos 60^\circ \\ &= 2(1) \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \\ &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} |2\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b}|^2 &= (2\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b}) \cdot (2\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b}) \\ &= 4\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a} - 2\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} - 2\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{b} \\ &= 4|\mathbf{a}|^2 - 4\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} + |\mathbf{b}|^2 \\ &= 4(2)^2 - 4(1) + 1^2 \\ &= 13 \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore |2\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b}| = \sqrt{13}$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned} |2\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}|^2 &= 4|\mathbf{a}|^2 + 4\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} + |\mathbf{b}|^2 \\ &= 4(2)^2 + 4(1) + 1^2 \\ &= 21 \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore |2\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}| = \sqrt{21}$$

(ii)

$$\begin{aligned} (2\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b}) \cdot (2\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}) &= |2\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b}||2\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}| \cos \theta \\ 4|\mathbf{a}|^2 + 2\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} - 2\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} - |\mathbf{b}|^2 &= \sqrt{13}\sqrt{21} \cos \theta \\ 4|\mathbf{a}|^2 - |\mathbf{b}|^2 &= \sqrt{13}\sqrt{21} \cos \theta \\ 4(2)^2 - 1^2 &= \sqrt{13}\sqrt{21} \cos \theta \\ \cos \theta &= \frac{15}{\sqrt{13}\sqrt{21}} \\ \therefore \theta &\approx 24.8^\circ \end{aligned}$$

2. (a)

$$\begin{aligned} \overrightarrow{OC} \cdot \overrightarrow{OD} &= (\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}) \cdot (\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b}) \\ &= \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{a} - \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{b} \\ &= |\mathbf{a}|^2 + \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{a} - |\mathbf{b}|^2 \\ &= |\mathbf{a}|^2 - |\mathbf{b}|^2 \\ &= |\mathbf{a}|^2 - |\mathbf{a}|^2 \text{ (since } OA = OB) \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

(b)

$$\begin{aligned} \overrightarrow{BA} &= \overrightarrow{OA} - \overrightarrow{OB} = \mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b} \\ \overrightarrow{AE} &= \frac{1}{2}\overrightarrow{BA} = \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{a} - \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{b} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Area } OAE &= \frac{1}{2} |\overrightarrow{AO} \times \overrightarrow{AE}| \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left| -\mathbf{a} \times \left( \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{a} - \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{b} \right) \right| \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left| -\frac{1}{2}\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{a} + \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} \right| \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left| 0 + \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} \right| \\ &= \frac{1}{4} |\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}| \end{aligned}$$

(c)

$$\begin{aligned} \overrightarrow{OE} &= \overrightarrow{OA} + \overrightarrow{AE} \\ &= \mathbf{a} + \left( \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{a} - \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{b} \right) \\ &= \frac{3}{2}\mathbf{a} - \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{b} \\ |\overrightarrow{OE} \cdot \overrightarrow{OB}| &= \left| \left( \frac{3}{2}\mathbf{a} - \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{b} \right) \cdot \frac{\mathbf{b}}{|\mathbf{b}|} \right| \\ &= \frac{1}{|\mathbf{b}|} \left| \frac{3}{2}\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} - \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{b} \right| \\ &= \frac{1}{|\mathbf{b}|} \left| \frac{3}{2}\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} - \frac{1}{2}|\mathbf{b}|^2 \right| \\ &= \frac{1}{3} \left| \frac{3}{2}\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} - \frac{3^2}{2} \right| \\ &= \frac{1}{3} \left| \frac{3}{2}\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} - \frac{9}{2} \right| \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} &= |\mathbf{a}||\mathbf{b}| \cos \theta \\ &= 3 \times 3 \cos 60^\circ \\ &= \frac{9}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore |\overrightarrow{OE} \cdot \overrightarrow{OB}| &= \frac{1}{3} \left| \frac{3}{2} \left( \frac{9}{2} \right) - \frac{9}{2} \right| \\ &= \frac{1}{3} \left( \frac{9}{4} \right) \\ &= \frac{3}{4} \end{aligned}$$

3. (i)  $\mathbf{a} \times (\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a}) = \mathbf{0}$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{a} = \mathbf{0}$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{0}$$

This implies  $\overrightarrow{OA}$  and  $\overrightarrow{OB}$  are parallel and since they have a common point  $O$ , they are collinear.

$$(ii) \overrightarrow{OQ} = \frac{2\overrightarrow{OB} + 3\overrightarrow{OA}}{5} = \frac{1}{5}(2\mathbf{b} + 3\mathbf{a})$$

$$\begin{aligned}
|\vec{OQ} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{b}}| &= \left| \frac{1}{5}(2\mathbf{b} + 3\mathbf{a}) \cdot \frac{\mathbf{b}}{|\mathbf{b}|} \right| \\
&= \frac{1}{5|\mathbf{b}|} |2\mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{b} + 3\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}| \\
&= \frac{1}{5|\mathbf{b}|} |2|\mathbf{b}|^2 + 0| \text{ (since } \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \text{ are perpendicular)} \\
&= \frac{2|\mathbf{b}|^2}{5|\mathbf{b}|} \\
&= \frac{2|\mathbf{b}|}{5}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Since } |\vec{OQ} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{b}}| = 3$$

$$\implies \frac{2}{5}|\mathbf{b}| = 3$$

$$\implies |\mathbf{b}| = \frac{15}{2}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
2\sqrt{14} &= \frac{1}{2} |\vec{OA} \times \vec{OB}| \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \left| \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ p \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \right| \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \left| \begin{pmatrix} 12 \\ -4 \\ p+3 \end{pmatrix} \right| \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{12^2 + 4^2 + (p+3)^2} \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{160 + (p+3)^2}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\implies 4(14) = \frac{1}{4}(160 + (p+3)^2)$$

$$224 = 160 + (p+3)^2$$

$$(p+3)^2 = 64$$

$$p+3 = 8 \text{ or } -8$$

$$p = 5 \text{ or } -11$$

4. (a) Since  $\mathbf{a}$  is perpendicular to  $\mathbf{a} + 3\mathbf{b}$ ,

$$\mathbf{a} \cdot (\mathbf{a} + 3\mathbf{b}) = 0$$

$$\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a} + 3\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = 0$$

$$|\mathbf{a}|^2 + 3\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = 0$$

$$1 + 3\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = 0$$

$$\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = -\frac{1}{3}$$

Since the angle between  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$  is  $\frac{2\pi}{3}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
\cos \frac{2\pi}{3} &= \frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}}{|\mathbf{a}||\mathbf{b}|} \\
-0.5 &= \frac{-\frac{1}{3}}{1 \times |\mathbf{b}|} \\
-0.5|\mathbf{b}| &= -\frac{1}{3} \\
|\mathbf{b}| &= \frac{2}{3}
\end{aligned}$$

(b)

$$\begin{aligned}
|\mathbf{b} - 2\mathbf{a}|^2 &= (\mathbf{b} - 2\mathbf{a}) \cdot (\mathbf{b} - 2\mathbf{a}) \\
&= |\mathbf{b}|^2 - 4\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} + 4|\mathbf{a}|^2 \\
&= \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^2 - 4\left(-\frac{1}{3}\right) + 4(1) \\
&= \frac{4}{9} + \frac{4}{3} + 4 \\
&= \frac{52}{9} \\
|\mathbf{b} - 2\mathbf{a}| &= \sqrt{\frac{52}{9}} = \frac{2\sqrt{13}}{3}
\end{aligned}$$

(c) By ratio theorem,

$$\vec{OP} = \lambda\mathbf{b} + (1 - \lambda)\mathbf{a}.$$

Area of triangle  $OAP$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \frac{1}{2} |\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{p}| \\
&= \frac{1}{2} |\mathbf{a} \times (\lambda\mathbf{b} + (1 - \lambda)\mathbf{a})| \\
&= \frac{1}{2} |\lambda\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} + (1 - \lambda)\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{a}| \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \lambda |\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}| \\
&= \frac{\lambda}{2} \|\mathbf{a}\|\|\mathbf{b}\| \sin \theta \\
&= \frac{\lambda}{2} \left| 1 \left(\frac{2}{3}\right) \sin \frac{2\pi}{3} \right| \\
&= \frac{\lambda\sqrt{3}}{6}
\end{aligned}$$

(d)  $|\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}|$  is the length of projection of  $\mathbf{b}$  onto  $\mathbf{a}$ .  $|\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}|$  is the shortest distance from  $B$  to the line  $\vec{OA}$ .

5. (a)

$$\vec{AB} = \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a}$$

$$\vec{BC} = 2\mathbf{b} - k\mathbf{a}$$

Since  $B$  lies on  $AC$ ,  $A, B$  and  $C$  are collinear, that is,

$$\lambda \overrightarrow{AB} = \overrightarrow{BC}$$

$$\lambda(\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a}) = 2\mathbf{b} - k\mathbf{a}$$

Comparing coefficients,  $\lambda = 2$ .  
 $\therefore k = 2$ .

$$\overrightarrow{OC} = \overrightarrow{OB} + \overrightarrow{BC}$$

$$= \mathbf{b} + 2\mathbf{b} - 2\mathbf{a}$$

$$= 3\mathbf{b} - 2\mathbf{a}$$

(b)

$$\overrightarrow{ON} = (\overrightarrow{OB} \cdot \hat{OA}) \hat{OA}$$

$$\frac{3}{4}\mathbf{a} = \left( \mathbf{b} \cdot \frac{\mathbf{a}}{|\mathbf{a}|} \right) \frac{\mathbf{a}}{|\mathbf{a}|}$$

$$\frac{3}{4}\mathbf{a} = \frac{(\mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{a})}{|\mathbf{a}|^2} \mathbf{a}$$

$$\frac{3}{4}\mathbf{a} = \frac{4}{|\mathbf{a}|^2} \mathbf{a}$$

Comparing coefficient,

$$\frac{3}{4} = \frac{4}{|\mathbf{a}|^2}$$

$$|\mathbf{a}|^2 = \frac{16}{3}$$

$$|\mathbf{a}| = \frac{4}{\sqrt{3}}$$

(c)

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}}{|\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}|}$$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{4}{\frac{4}{\sqrt{3}} \times \sqrt{2^2 + 2^2 + 2^2}}$$

$$\theta = 60^\circ$$

(d) Since  $\overrightarrow{BC} = 2\mathbf{b} - 2\mathbf{a}$  (from (a)) and  $\overrightarrow{AB} = \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a}$ , we have  $\overrightarrow{BC} = 2\overrightarrow{AB}$ .

Hence, the diagram of the parallelogram

is as follows:



From the diagram above,

$$\overrightarrow{DE} = \overrightarrow{BO}$$

$$= -\overrightarrow{OB}$$

$$= -\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 2 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$$

6. (a)

$$\overrightarrow{OA} = \overrightarrow{BQ}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \overrightarrow{OQ} - \overrightarrow{OB}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \overrightarrow{OQ} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\overrightarrow{OQ} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

(b) It is the projection vector of  $\mathbf{a}$  onto  $\mathbf{b}$ .

(c)

$$|\mathbf{a}| < |\mathbf{b}|$$

$$\sqrt{p^2 + (p-1)^2 + 2^2} < \sqrt{1 + 2^2 + 2^2}$$

$$\sqrt{2p^2 - 2p + 5} < 3$$

$$2p^2 - 2p + 5 < 9$$

$$2p^2 - 2p - 4 < 0$$

$$p^2 - p - 2 < 0$$

$$(p-2)(p+1) < 0$$

$$-1 < p < 2$$

Since  $p > 0$ , we obtain  $0 < p < 2$ .

(d) When  $p = 2$ ,

$$\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}) \cdot (\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b}) &= \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= 3 - 3 + 0 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}$  and  $\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b}$  are perpendicular.

Note that  $\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}$  and  $\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b}$  are the diagonals of the parallelogram  $OAQB$ .

The diagonals are perpendicular implies that the parallelogram is a rhombus.

Thus,  $|\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}|$  is the area of the rhombus  $OAQB$ .