

Let $\vec{a} = \langle 3, 5 \rangle$, $\vec{b} = \langle 7, 2 \rangle$, and $\vec{v} = \langle 1, 3, -2 \rangle$.

1. Find the projection of \vec{a} onto \vec{b}

$$\begin{aligned} \text{proj}_{\vec{b}} \vec{a} &= \text{comp}_{\vec{b}} \vec{a} \left(\frac{\vec{b}}{\|\vec{b}\|} \right) \\ &= \left(\vec{a} \cdot \frac{\vec{b}}{\|\vec{b}\|} \right) \left(\frac{\vec{b}}{\|\vec{b}\|} \right) = \left(\frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}{(\|\vec{b}\|)^2} \right) \vec{b} \\ &= \left(\frac{(3)(7) + (5)(2)}{\sqrt{7^2 + 2^2}} \right) \langle 7, 2 \rangle \\ &= \left(\frac{31}{53} \right) \langle 7, 2 \rangle = \left\langle \frac{217}{53}, \frac{62}{53} \right\rangle \end{aligned}$$

2. Find two vectors perpendicular to \vec{b} .

In order to be perpendicular to \vec{b} , the dot product must be zero.

$$\langle x, y \rangle \cdot \langle 7, 2 \rangle = 0 \Rightarrow 7x + 2y = 0.$$

The vectors $\langle -2, 7 \rangle$ and $\langle 2, -7 \rangle$ seem like the most obvious choices.

Any other choice will turn out to be a multiple of these two, since there are only two directions perpendicular to this vector.

3. Find three vectors perpendicular to \vec{v} .

$$\langle x, y, z \rangle \cdot \langle 1, 3, -2 \rangle = 0 \Rightarrow 1x + 3y - 2z = 0.$$

$\langle 1, 1, 2 \rangle$ is the first that occurs to me, since $1 + 3 = 4$, and $4 = (2)(2)$.

Also, $\langle -1, -1, 2 \rangle$.

But for something completely different, how about $\langle 3, 1, 3 \rangle$?

Notice: none of these three are multiples of any of the others. In space, there are an infinite number of directions perpendicular to any given vector.