

Created by T. Madas

# WORK and VECTORS

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**Question 1** (\*\*)

The vectors  $\mathbf{i}$  and  $\mathbf{j}$  are horizontal unit vectors perpendicular to each other.

A bead of mass 0.2 kg is threaded on a smooth straight horizontal wire.

The bead is at rest at the point  $A$  with position vector  $(2\mathbf{i} + 5\mathbf{j})$  m.

A single force  $(2.6\mathbf{i} - 0.1\mathbf{j})$  N acts on the bead and moves it to the point  $B$  with position vector  $(17\mathbf{i} - 5\mathbf{j})$  m.

Find the speed of the bead at  $B$ .

$$\boxed{20 \text{ ms}^{-1}}, \boxed{20 \text{ ms}^{-1}}$$

SOLVE BY FINDING  $\overrightarrow{AB}$

$$\overrightarrow{AB} = \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a} = (17\mathbf{i} - 5\mathbf{j}) - (2\mathbf{i} + 5\mathbf{j}) = 15\mathbf{i} - 10\mathbf{j}$$

FIND THE WORK DONE (IN OR OUT) BY THE FORCE

$$W = \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{s} = (2.6\mathbf{i} - 0.1\mathbf{j}) \cdot (15\mathbf{i} - 10\mathbf{j})$$

$$= 39 + 1 = 40 \text{ J}$$

BY ENERGIES

WORK IN = GRAV IN KINETIC ENERGY

$$40 = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$$

$$40 = \frac{1}{2} \times 0.2 \times v^2$$

$$v^2 = 400$$

$$v = 20 \text{ ms}^{-1}$$

## Question 2 (\*\*)

The vectors  $\mathbf{i}$ ,  $\mathbf{j}$  and  $\mathbf{k}$  are unit vectors mutually perpendicular to each other.

A particle  $P$  moves from the point  $A$ , with position vector  $(2\mathbf{i} + 4\mathbf{j} + a\mathbf{k})$  m, where  $a$  is a constant, to the point  $B$ , with position vector  $(3\mathbf{i} + a\mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k})$  m, under the action of a constant force  $\mathbf{F} = (4\mathbf{i} + a\mathbf{j} + 3\mathbf{k})$  N.

The work done by  $\mathbf{F}$ , as it moves  $P$  from  $A$  to  $B$ , is 18 J.

Find the possible values of  $a$ .

$$a = -1, a = 8$$

Handwritten solution showing the calculation of work done:

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{AB} &= \vec{b} - \vec{a} = (3, a, 2) - (2, 4, a) = (1, a-4, 2-a) \\ W &= \vec{F} \cdot \vec{AB} \\ \Rightarrow 18 &= (4, a, 3) \cdot (1, a-4, 2-a) \\ \Rightarrow 18 &= 4 + a(a-4) + 3(2-a) \\ \Rightarrow 18 &= 4 + a^2 - 4a + 6 - 3a \\ \Rightarrow 0 &= a^2 - 7a - 6 \\ \Rightarrow (a+1)(a-8) &= 0 \\ \therefore a &= -1 \quad \text{or} \quad 8 \end{aligned}$$

**Question 3 (\*\*\*)**

A small bead is threaded on a smooth, straight horizontal wire which passes through the point  $A(3, -4)$  and the point  $B(5, 4)$ .

The bead moves under the action of a single horizontal force  $\mathbf{F}$  of magnitude 65 N, whose line of action is parallel to the straight line with equation

$$5x - 12y = 10.$$

Given that all distances are measured in m, find the work done by  $\mathbf{F}$  as it moves the bead from  $A$  to  $B$ .

320 J

Handwritten solution for Question 3:

Line:  $5x - 12y = 10$   
 $5x - 10 = 12y$   
 $y = \frac{5x - 10}{12} = \frac{5}{12}x - \frac{5}{6}$

Diagram: A right-angled triangle with a horizontal base of 12 and a vertical height of 5. A vector arrow labeled  $\mathbf{F}$  points upwards from the base.

- $\mathbf{F}$  is in the direction  $12\mathbf{i} + 5\mathbf{j}$ .
- $|12\mathbf{i} + 5\mathbf{j}| = 13$
- Hence  $\mathbf{F} = \frac{65}{13}(12\mathbf{i} + 5\mathbf{j})$

Work:  $\mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{s}$   
 $\mathbf{AB} = \mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A} = (5, 4) - (3, -4) = (2, 8)$   
 Thus  
 Work =  $(60\mathbf{i} + 25\mathbf{j}) \cdot (2\mathbf{i} + 8\mathbf{j})$   
 $= 120 + 200$   
 $= 320 \text{ J}$

**Question 4** (\*\*\*)

The vectors  $\mathbf{i}$ ,  $\mathbf{j}$  and  $\mathbf{k}$  are unit vectors mutually perpendicular to each other.

A particle of mass 5 kg is initially at rest at the point  $P$  with position vector  $(4\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + 7\mathbf{k})$  m when is acted by a force  $\mathbf{F}$  which causes it to move to the point  $Q$  with position vector  $(9\mathbf{i} + 9\mathbf{j} - 3\mathbf{k})$  m.

It is further given that

$$\mathbf{F} = [(\lambda + 1)\mathbf{i} + (\lambda + \mu)\mathbf{j} + (1 + \lambda - 2\mu)\mathbf{k}] \text{ N},$$

where  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$  are scalar constants.

If  $\mathbf{F}$  is acting in the direction  $PQ$ , determine the speed of the particle as it passes  $Q$ .

,  $6 \text{ ms}^{-1}$

START WITH THE VECTOR  $\overrightarrow{PQ}$

$$\overrightarrow{PQ} = \mathbf{q} - \mathbf{p} = (9, 9, -3) - (4, -1, 7) = (5, 10, -10)$$

SCALE THIS VECTOR TO  $(1, 2, -2)$

$$\rightarrow (2\lambda + 1, \lambda + \mu, 1 + \lambda - 2\mu) \text{ PROPORTIONAL TO } (1, 2, -2)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{2\lambda + 1}{1} = \frac{\lambda + \mu}{2} = \frac{1 + \lambda - 2\mu}{-2}$$

① & ②

$$2\lambda + 2 = \lambda + \mu \quad -2\lambda - 2 = 1 + \lambda - 2\mu$$

$$\lambda = \mu - 2 \quad 4\mu - 3\lambda = 3$$

③ & ④

$$2(\mu - 2)(\mu - 2) = 3$$

$$-2\mu + 4 = 3 \quad 3 = \mu$$

⑤

$$\lambda = 1, \mu = 3, \text{ so } \mathbf{F} = (2, 4, -6)$$

GETTING THE WORK DONE BY THE FIELD

$$W = \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{s} = (2, 4, -6) \cdot (5, 10, -10) = 10 + 40 + 60 = 110$$

FINALLY BY ENERGY, NOTING IT STARTS FROM REST

$$\text{KE INCREASE} = \text{WORK DONE BY F}$$

$$\frac{1}{2}mv^2 = 110$$

$$v^2 = 44$$

$$|v| = 6.63 \text{ ms}^{-1}$$

## Question 5 (\*\*\*\*)

The vectors  $\mathbf{i}$ ,  $\mathbf{j}$  and  $\mathbf{k}$  are unit vectors mutually perpendicular to each other.

A particle, of mass  $0.5 \text{ kg}$ , passes through the point  $A$  whose position vector is  $(12\mathbf{i} - 15\mathbf{j} - 2\mathbf{k}) \text{ m}$ , with speed  $U \text{ ms}^{-1}$ . The particle is moving due to the action of the following two constant forces,  $\mathbf{F}_1$ , and  $\mathbf{F}_2$ .

$$\mathbf{F}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} \text{ N} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{F}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} k-2 \\ 2k+3 \\ 3k-1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ N},$$

where  $k$  is a scalar constant.

Determine the value of  $U$ , given further that it passes through the point  $B$ , whose position vector is  $(-8\mathbf{i} + 5\mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k}) \text{ m}$ , with speed  $29 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ .

$$\boxed{\phantom{00000}}, \quad \boxed{U = 5 \text{ ms}^{-1}}$$

$\mathbf{F}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$        $A(12, -15, -2)$     speed  $U \text{ ms}^{-1}$   
 $\mathbf{F}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} k-2 \\ 2k+3 \\ 3k-1 \end{pmatrix}$        $B(-8, 5, 2)$     speed  $29 \text{ ms}^{-1}$   
 PARTICLE OF MASS,  $m = 0.5 \text{ kg}$

THE RESULTANT OF  $\mathbf{F}_1$  &  $\mathbf{F}_2$  IS  $\mathbf{F}$

$$\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{F}_1 + \mathbf{F}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} k-2 \\ 2k+3 \\ 3k-1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} k-4 \\ 2k+7 \\ 3k+4 \end{pmatrix}$$

THE VECTOR  $\overrightarrow{AB}$  IS GIVEN BY

$$\overrightarrow{AB} = \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a} = (-8, 5, 2) - (12, -15, -2) = (-20, 20, 4) = 4(-5, 5, 1)$$

$\mathbf{F}$  MUST BE IN THE DIRECTION OF  $(-5, 5, 1)$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} k-4 \\ 2k+7 \\ 3k+4 \end{pmatrix} = \lambda \begin{pmatrix} -5 \\ 5 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow -5\lambda = k-4$$

$$\Rightarrow 5\lambda = 2k+7$$

$$\Rightarrow 0 = 2k+3$$

$$\Rightarrow k = -1.5$$

WORK DONE BY  $\mathbf{F}$  IS GIVEN BY

$$W = \mathbf{F} \cdot \overrightarrow{AB} = \begin{pmatrix} -5 \\ 5 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} -20 \\ 20 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} = 100 + 100 + 4 = 204 \text{ J}$$

BY OVERTHS

$$\Rightarrow KE_A + \text{Work} = KE_B$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{2}mu^2 + W = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} \times U^2 + 204 = \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} \times 29^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{4}U^2 + 204 = \frac{541}{4}$$

$$\Rightarrow U^2 + 816 = 541$$

$$\Rightarrow U^2 = 25$$

$$\Rightarrow |U| = 5 \text{ ms}^{-1}$$

**Question 6 (\*\*\*\*)**

The vectors  $\mathbf{i}$ ,  $\mathbf{j}$  and  $\mathbf{k}$  are unit vectors mutually perpendicular to each other.

A particle of mass 2 kg, which is free to move in any direction, is acted by two forces

$$\mathbf{F}_1 = (-5\mathbf{i} + 4\mathbf{j} - 9\mathbf{k}) \text{ N} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{F}_2 = (\alpha\mathbf{i} + \beta\mathbf{j} + \gamma\mathbf{k}) \text{ N},$$

where  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  are scalar constants.

These two forces cause the particle to move **directly** from the point  $P$  with position vector  $(4\mathbf{i} - 3\mathbf{j} + 5\mathbf{k}) \text{ m}$  to the point  $Q$  with position vector  $(-4\mathbf{i} + 5\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}) \text{ m}$ .

If the respective speeds of the particle at  $P$  and  $Q$  are  $4 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  and  $14 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ , determine the values of  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$ .

$$\boxed{\phantom{000}}, \quad [\alpha, \beta, \gamma] = [-5, 6, 4]$$

Find the velocity first and the vector for

$$\mathbf{F}_1 + \mathbf{F}_2 = (\alpha - 5)\mathbf{i} + (\beta + 4)\mathbf{j} + (\gamma - 9)\mathbf{k}$$

$$\mathbf{PQ} = \mathbf{Q} - \mathbf{P}$$

$$= (-4 - 4)\mathbf{i} + (5 - (-3))\mathbf{j} + (1 - 5)\mathbf{k}$$

$$= (-8)\mathbf{i} + 8\mathbf{j} - 4\mathbf{k}$$

As the particle is not constrained to move on a fixed path the resultant must be in the direction  $\mathbf{PQ}$ , say  $(-8, 8, -4)$

$$\therefore \alpha - 5 = -8$$

$$\beta + 4 = 8$$

$$\gamma - 9 = -4$$

$$\therefore \text{Resultant} = \mathbf{R} = (-8, 8, -4)$$

By dotting the resultant with  $\mathbf{PQ}$ , we get the work done

$$\Rightarrow \text{Work Done} = \text{Resultant dotted with } \mathbf{PQ}$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{W} = \mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{PQ}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{2}mv^2 - \frac{1}{2}mv^2 = (-8, 8, -4) \cdot (-8, 8, -4)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{2} \times 2 \times 14^2 - \frac{1}{2} \times 2 \times 4^2 = 64 + 64 + 16$$

$$\Rightarrow 98 - 16 = 80$$

$$\Rightarrow 80 = 80$$

$$\therefore \alpha = -5$$

$$\beta = 4$$

$$\gamma = 4$$

**Question 7 (\*\*\*\*)**

The vectors  $\mathbf{i}$ ,  $\mathbf{j}$  and  $\mathbf{k}$  are unit vectors mutually perpendicular to each other.

A particle  $P$  moves from the point  $A$ , with position vector  $(-10\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + 3\mathbf{k})$  m to the point  $B$ , with position vector  $(8\mathbf{i} + 11\mathbf{j} + 9\mathbf{k})$  m, under the action of the following three forces  $\mathbf{F}_1$ ,  $\mathbf{F}_2$  and  $\mathbf{F}_3$ .

- $\mathbf{F}_1 = (\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} + 6\mathbf{k})$  N.
- $\mathbf{F}_2 = (7\mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j} + 4\mathbf{k})$  N
- $\mathbf{F}_3 = [(2k - 1)\mathbf{i} + (2k + 2)\mathbf{j} + (3 - 2k)\mathbf{k}]$  N, where  $k$  is a scalar constant.

Determine the work done by the three forces in moving the particle from  $A$  to  $B$ .

$$\boxed{\phantom{000}}, \quad \boxed{W = 420 \text{ J}}$$

Handwritten solution for Question 7:

$A(-10, -1, 3)$      $B(8, 11, 9)$   
 $\vec{AB} = \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a} = (8, 11, 9) - (-10, -1, 3) = (18, 12, 6) = 2(3, 2, 1)$   
THE RESULTANT OF THE 3 FORCES MUST ACT IN THAT DIRECTION  
 $\mathbf{F}_1 + \mathbf{F}_2 + \mathbf{F}_3 = \alpha(3, 2, 1)$   
 $(1, 2, 6) + (7, -2, 4) + ((2k-1), (2k+2), (3-2k)) = (3\alpha, 2\alpha, \alpha)$   
 $(2k+7, 2k+2, 3-2k) = (3\alpha, 2\alpha, \alpha)$   
 $\alpha = 3-2k$   
 $2\alpha = 2k+2 \Rightarrow 2(3-2k) = 2k+2$   
 $6-4k = 2k+2$   
 $4 = 6k \Rightarrow k = \frac{2}{3}$   
 $\alpha = 3 - 2(\frac{2}{3}) = \frac{5}{3}$   
THIS  $\mathbf{F}$  (Resultant) is  $(5, 10, 5)$  &  $\vec{AB} = (18, 12, 6)$   
 $W = \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{r} = (5, 10, 5) \cdot (18, 12, 6)$   
 $= 5(3, 2, 1) \cdot 6(3, 2, 1)$   
 $= 30(3, 2, 1) \cdot (3, 2, 1)$   
 $= 30(9 + 4 + 1)$   
 $= 30 \times 14$   
 $= 420 \text{ J}$



**Question 8 (\*\*\*\*)**

The vectors  $\mathbf{i}$ ,  $\mathbf{j}$  and  $\mathbf{k}$  are unit vectors mutually perpendicular to each other.

A particle, of mass  $0.5 \text{ kg}$ , passes through the point  $A$  whose position vector is  $(14\mathbf{i} - 10\mathbf{j}) \text{ m}$ , with speed  $5 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ . The particle is moving due to the action of the following two constant forces,  $\mathbf{F}_1$ , and  $\mathbf{F}_2$ .

$$\mathbf{F}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} -\lambda \\ 2\lambda \\ \nu \end{pmatrix} \text{ N} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{F}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} \mu - 2 \\ 2\mu + 3 \\ 3\mu - 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ N},$$

where  $\lambda$ ,  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  are scalar constants.

It further given that the particle passes through the point  $B$ , whose position vector is  $(-6\mathbf{i} + 10\mathbf{j} + 4\mathbf{k}) \text{ m}$ , with speed  $29 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ .

Determine the value of each of the constants  $\lambda$ ,  $\mu$  and  $\nu$ .

$$\boxed{\phantom{000}}, \boxed{\lambda = 2}, \boxed{\mu = -1}, \boxed{\nu = 5}$$

**Step 1: Find the resultant force  $\mathbf{F}$**

$\mathbf{F}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} -\lambda \\ 2\lambda \\ \nu \end{pmatrix}$        $A(14, -10, 0)$ , speed  $5 \text{ ms}^{-1}$   
 $\mathbf{F}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} \mu - 2 \\ 2\mu + 3 \\ 3\mu - 1 \end{pmatrix}$        $B(-6, 10, 4)$ , speed  $29 \text{ ms}^{-1}$   
 Particle mass,  $m = 0.5 \text{ kg}$

THE RESULTANT OF  $\mathbf{F}_1$  &  $\mathbf{F}_2$  IS  $\mathbf{F}$

$$\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{F}_1 + \mathbf{F}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -\lambda \\ 2\lambda \\ \nu \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \mu - 2 \\ 2\mu + 3 \\ 3\mu - 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -\lambda + \mu - 2 \\ 2\lambda + 2\mu + 3 \\ \nu + 3\mu - 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

THE VECTOR  $\overrightarrow{AB}$  IS GIVEN BY

$$\overrightarrow{AB} = \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a} = (-6, 10, 4) - (14, -10, 0) = (-20, 20, 4) = 4(-5, 5, 1)$$

$\mathbf{F}$  MUST ACT IN THE DIRECTION OF  $\overrightarrow{AB}$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} -\lambda + \mu - 2 \\ 2\lambda + 2\mu + 3 \\ \nu + 3\mu - 1 \end{pmatrix} = \alpha \begin{pmatrix} -5 \\ 5 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} -5\alpha = -\lambda + \mu - 2 \\ 5\alpha = 2\lambda + 2\mu + 3 \\ \alpha = \nu + 3\mu - 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} -5(-\lambda + \mu - 2) = -\lambda + \mu - 2 \\ 5(2\lambda + 2\mu + 3) = 2\lambda + 2\mu + 3 \\ -5(\nu + 3\mu - 1) = -\lambda + \mu - 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 5\lambda - 5\mu + 10 = -\lambda + \mu - 2 \\ 10\lambda + 10\mu + 15 = 2\lambda + 2\mu + 3 \\ -5\nu - 15\mu + 5 = -\lambda + \mu - 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

**Step 2: Use the speed to find work done**

$$\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} -\lambda + \mu - 2 \\ 2\lambda + 2\mu + 3 \\ \nu + 3\mu - 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} -20 \\ 20 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 20\lambda - 20\mu + 40 \\ 40\lambda + 40\mu + 20 \\ 4\nu + 12\mu - 4 \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 2\lambda - 2\mu + 4 = 0 \\ 4\lambda + 4\mu + 2 = 0 \\ \nu + 3\mu - 1 = 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

ANOTHER EQUATION WILL BE OBTAINED WITH ENERGY

$$KE_A + W = KE_B$$

$$\frac{1}{2}mv_A^2 + W = \frac{1}{2}mv_B^2$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \times 0.5 \times 5^2 + W = \frac{1}{2} \times 0.5 \times 29^2$$

$$W = 204$$

NEXT THE WORK DONE BY  $\mathbf{F}$  IS GIVEN BY

$$\Rightarrow W = \mathbf{F} \cdot \overrightarrow{AB} = \begin{pmatrix} -\lambda + \mu - 2 \\ 2\lambda + 2\mu + 3 \\ \nu + 3\mu - 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} -20 \\ 20 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} = 204$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 20\lambda - 20\mu + 40 \\ 40\lambda + 40\mu + 20 \\ 4\nu + 12\mu - 4 \end{pmatrix} = 204$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 5\lambda - 5\mu + 10 = 51 \\ 10\lambda + 10\mu + 5 = 51 \\ 5\nu + 3\mu - 1 = 51 \end{pmatrix}$$

**Step 3: Finally solving the 3 equations**

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2\lambda - 2\mu + 4 = 0 \\ 4\lambda + 4\mu + 2 = 0 \\ 5\lambda - 5\mu + 10 = 51 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2\lambda - 2\mu = -4 \\ 4\lambda + 4\mu = -2 \\ 5\lambda - 5\mu = 41 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \lambda - \mu = -2 \\ \lambda + \mu = -0.5 \\ 5\lambda - 5\mu = 41 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \lambda - \mu = -2 \\ \lambda + \mu = -0.5 \\ 5(\lambda - \mu) = 41 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \lambda - \mu = -2 \\ \lambda + \mu = -0.5 \\ 5(-2) = 41 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \lambda - \mu = -2 \\ \lambda + \mu = -0.5 \\ -10 = 41 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \lambda - \mu = -2 \\ \lambda + \mu = -0.5 \\ \lambda = 2 \end{pmatrix}$$