

PE1.5 Let $\vec{E} = 3\hat{a}_y + 4\hat{a}_z$ and $\vec{F} = 4\hat{a}_x - 10\hat{a}_y + 5\hat{a}_z$,

(a) Find the component of \vec{E} along \vec{F} .

(b) Determine a unit vector perpendicular to both \vec{E} and \vec{F} .

a) $\vec{E}_F = (\vec{E} \cdot \hat{a}_F) \hat{a}_F$ where

$$\hat{a}_F = \frac{\vec{F}}{|\vec{F}|} = \frac{4\hat{a}_x - 10\hat{a}_y + 5\hat{a}_z}{\sqrt{4^2 + (-10)^2 + 5^2}} = \frac{4\hat{a}_x - 10\hat{a}_y + 5\hat{a}_z}{\sqrt{141}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{E}_F &= \frac{(0(4) + 3(-10) + 4(5))(4\hat{a}_x - 10\hat{a}_y + 5\hat{a}_z)}{(\sqrt{141})^2} \\ &= \frac{-40\hat{a}_x + 100\hat{a}_y - 50\hat{a}_z}{141} \end{aligned}$$

$$\vec{E}_F = -0.2837\hat{a}_x + 0.7092\hat{a}_y - 0.3546\hat{a}_z$$

b) $\vec{E} \times \vec{F} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{a}_x & \hat{a}_y & \hat{a}_z \\ 0 & 3 & 4 \\ 4 & -10 & 5 \end{vmatrix}$

$$\begin{aligned} &= (3(5) - (4)(-10))\hat{a}_x + (4(4) - 0(5))\hat{a}_y \\ &\quad + (0(-10) - 3(4))\hat{a}_z \\ &= 55\hat{a}_x + 16\hat{a}_y - 12\hat{a}_z \end{aligned}$$

$$\pm \frac{\vec{E} \times \vec{F}}{|\vec{E} \times \vec{F}|} = \pm \frac{55\hat{a}_x + 16\hat{a}_y - 12\hat{a}_z}{\sqrt{(55)^2 + 16^2 + (-12)^2}} = \pm (0.9398\hat{a}_x + 0.2734\hat{a}_y - 0.205\hat{a}_z)$$