

30. We consider all possible products and then simplify using relations such as  $\hat{i} \cdot \hat{k} = 0$  and  $\hat{i} \cdot \hat{i} = 1$ . Thus,

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} &= (a_x \hat{i} + a_y \hat{j} + a_z \hat{k}) \cdot (b_x \hat{i} + b_y \hat{j} + b_z \hat{k}) \\ &= a_x b_x \hat{i} \cdot \hat{i} + a_x b_y \hat{i} \cdot \hat{j} + a_x b_z \hat{i} \cdot \hat{k} + a_y b_x \hat{j} \cdot \hat{i} + a_y b_y \hat{j} \cdot \hat{j} + \cdots \\ &= a_x b_x (1) + a_x b_y (0) + a_x b_z (0) + a_y b_x (0) + a_y b_y (1) + \cdots\end{aligned}$$

which is seen to reduce to the desired result (one might wish to show this in two dimensions before tackling the additional tedium of working with these three-component vectors).