

14.4: CROSS (VECTOR) PRODUCT

Larson 750
 •, x notation
 by Josiah
 Gibbs
 (U.S. phys.)

$\vec{a} \times \vec{b}$ ($\vec{a}, \vec{b}$ in V_3) is a vector.

(A) Determinant of a 2×2 Matrix
 (Order 2)

$$\begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix} = ad - bc$$

scalar

x - butterfly

(B) Determinant of a 3×3 Matrix
 (Order 3)

Method 1: Expansion by Cofactors

$$\begin{vmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{vmatrix} \leftarrow \text{Choose a "magic" row or column, say Row 1.}$$

Take the corresponding signs from the sign matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} + & - & + \\ - & + & - \\ + & - & + \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{"checkerboard"}$$

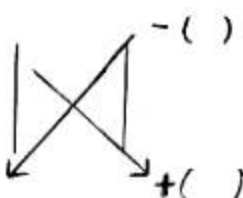
$$\begin{vmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{vmatrix} = \underbrace{+}_{\text{from sign matrix}} \underbrace{a}_{\text{1st magic entry}} \underbrace{\begin{vmatrix} e & f \\ h & i \end{vmatrix}}_{\text{deleted row, column with "a"}}$$

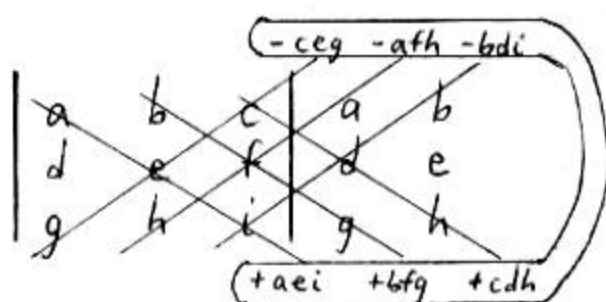
$$- b \begin{vmatrix} d & f \\ g & i \end{vmatrix} + c \begin{vmatrix} d & e \\ g & h \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= a(ei - fh) - b(di - fg) + c(dh - eg)$$

Method 2 Sarrus's Rule (only for Order 3)

- ① Rewrite 1st, 2nd columns on the right.
- ② Add products along the 3 full diagonals, $\diagup \diagup \diagup$
- ③ Subtract $\diagdown \diagdown \diagdown$

Like 2x2 



(equivalent
to result
from Method 1)

③ $\vec{a} \times \vec{b}$

If $\vec{a} = \langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle$,
 $\vec{b} = \langle b_1, b_2, b_3 \rangle$, then

$$\vec{a} \times \vec{b} = \begin{vmatrix} \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \end{vmatrix}$$

← Vectors, so not technically
a "determinant."

Ex (#2) If $\vec{a} = \langle -5, 1, -1 \rangle$, $\vec{b} = \langle 3, 6, -2 \rangle$, find $\vec{a} \times \vec{b}$.

$$\vec{a} \times \vec{b} = \begin{vmatrix} \oplus & \ominus & \oplus \\ \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ -5 & 1 & -1 \\ 3 & 6 & -2 \end{vmatrix} \quad \leftarrow \text{for Method 1}$$

Method 1

$$= \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 6 & -2 \end{vmatrix} \vec{i} - \begin{vmatrix} -5 & -1 \\ 3 & -2 \end{vmatrix} \vec{j} + \begin{vmatrix} -5 & 1 \\ 3 & 6 \end{vmatrix} \vec{k}$$

↑ ↑
magic entry careful!

$$= [-2 - (-6)]\vec{i} - [10 - (-3)]\vec{j} + [-30 - 3]\vec{k}$$

$$= \boxed{4\vec{i} - 13\vec{j} - 33\vec{k} \text{ or } \langle 4, -13, -33 \rangle}$$

Method 2

$$\begin{array}{cccccc} & \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} & \vec{i} & \vec{j} \\ \begin{array}{c} -5 \\ 3 \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 6 \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} -1 \\ -2 \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} -5 \\ 3 \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 6 \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} -1 \\ -2 \end{array} \\ \hline & \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} & \vec{i} & \vec{j} \\ & \begin{array}{c} -5 \\ 3 \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 6 \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} -1 \\ -2 \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} -5 \\ 3 \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 6 \end{array} \end{array}$$

$-(3\vec{k}) - (-6\vec{i}) - (10\vec{j})$
 $+(-2\vec{i}) + (-3\vec{j}) + (-30\vec{k})$

$$= -2\vec{i} - 3\vec{j} - 30\vec{k} - 3\vec{k} + 6\vec{i} - 10\vec{j}$$

$$= \boxed{4\vec{i} - 13\vec{j} - 33\vec{k} \text{ or } \langle 4, -13, -33 \rangle}$$

can do 1,5

① Basic Properties

$\vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{c}$ in V_3 ,
 m scalar

$\vec{a} \times \vec{0} = \vec{0} = \vec{0} \times \vec{a}$ $\vec{a} \times \vec{a} = \vec{0}$	$\} \vec{0}$
$(i) \vec{b} \times \vec{a} = -(\vec{a} \times \vec{b})$ $(ii) (m\vec{a}) \times \vec{b} = m(\vec{a} \times \vec{b}) = \vec{a} \times (m\vec{b})$ $(iii) \vec{a} \times (\vec{b} + \vec{c}) = (\vec{a} \times \vec{b}) + (\vec{a} \times \vec{c})$ $(iv) (\vec{a} + \vec{b}) \times \vec{c} = (\vec{a} \times \vec{c}) + (\vec{b} \times \vec{c})$	$\} \begin{array}{l} \text{"x" is anticommutative} \\ \text{Scalar mult. is flexible re "x"} \\ \text{Dot, cross products distribute} \\ \text{over vector "+" from either side} \end{array}$
(v), (vi) Later	

"x" is not commutative or associative.

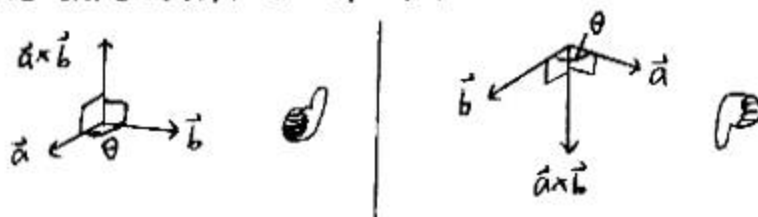
⑤ Geometry

Direction of $\vec{a} \times \vec{b}$

$$\boxed{\begin{array}{l} \vec{a} \times \vec{b} \perp \vec{a} \\ \vec{a} \times \vec{b} \perp \vec{b} \end{array}} \leftarrow \text{Show } (\vec{a} \times \vec{b}) \cdot \vec{a} = 0.$$

Right-Hand Rule

If its fingers curl "through θ " ($0 < \theta < \pi$) from $\vec{a}$ to $\vec{b}$, then its thumb points in the direction of $\vec{a} \times \vec{b}$.



Length of $\vec{a} \times \vec{b}$

$$\underbrace{\|\vec{a} \times \vec{b}\|}_{\text{vector}} = \underbrace{\|\vec{a}\|}_{\text{scalar}} \underbrace{\|\vec{b}\|}_{\text{scalar}} \sin \theta \quad (*)$$

Proof (Optional) - p. 713

Recall $\underbrace{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}_{\text{scalar}} = \|\vec{a}\| \|\vec{b}\| \cos \theta$

$$\vec{a} \parallel \vec{b} \Leftrightarrow \theta = 0 \text{ or } \theta = \pi \text{ or } \vec{a} = \vec{0} \text{ or } \vec{b} = \vec{0}$$

↗ ↘

$$\Leftrightarrow \sin \theta = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \|\vec{a}\| \|\vec{b}\| \sin \theta = 0$$

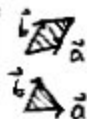
$$\Leftrightarrow \underbrace{\|\vec{a} \times \vec{b}\|}_{(*)} = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \vec{a} \times \vec{b} = \vec{0}$$

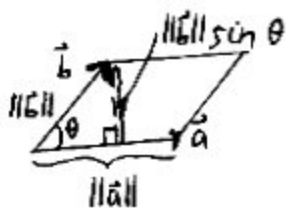
$$\vec{a} \parallel \vec{b} \Leftrightarrow \vec{a} \times \vec{b} = \underbrace{\vec{0}}_{\text{vector}}$$

Recall $\vec{a} \perp \vec{b} \Leftrightarrow \underbrace{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}_{\text{scalar}} = 0$

$\|\vec{a} \times \vec{b}\|$ = area of parallelogram determined by $\vec{a}, \vec{b}$
 $\frac{1}{2} \|\vec{a} \times \vec{b}\|$ = triangle



Proof

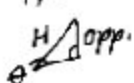


$$\begin{aligned} \text{Area} &= (\text{base})(\text{height}) \\ &= \|\vec{a}\| \|\vec{b}\| \sin \theta \\ &= \|\vec{a} \times \vec{b}\| \end{aligned}$$

See 14.1.7

$$\sin \theta = \frac{\text{opp.}}{H}$$

$$\text{opp.} = H \sin \theta$$



3 noncollinear points in $\mathbb{R}^3$ determine

do not lie
on the same line

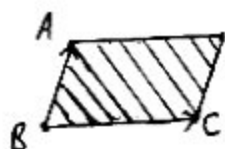
(a) one triangle, and

(b) different parallelograms

with the same area.

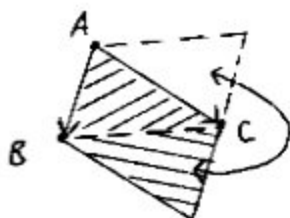
The 3 given
points are
3 of the 4
vertices.

How are
 $\vec{BA} \times \vec{BC}$,
 $\vec{BC} \times \vec{BA}$ related?



$$\begin{aligned} \text{Area} &= \|\vec{BA} \times \vec{BC}\| \\ &= \|\vec{BC} \times \vec{BA}\| \end{aligned}$$

opposite vectors
have same lengths



$$\begin{aligned} &= \|\vec{AB} \times \vec{AC}\| \\ &\text{etc.} \end{aligned}$$

Area of triangle ABC = $\frac{1}{2}$ (any of these)

Use all 3 points!

Ex Find the area of the triangle determined by $A(8, -3, 2)$, $B(3, -2, 1)$, and $C(11, 3, 0)$.

Sol'n

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{AB} &= \langle 3-8, -2-(-3), 1-2 \rangle \\ &= \langle -5, 1, -1 \rangle\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{AC} &= \langle 11-8, 3-(-3), 0-2 \rangle \\ &= \langle 3, 6, -2 \rangle\end{aligned}$$

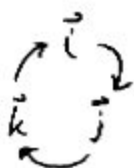
From ③, $\vec{AB} \times \vec{AC} = \langle 4, -13, -33 \rangle$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Area} &= \frac{1}{2} \|\langle 4, -13, -33 \rangle\| \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{(4)^2 + (-13)^2 + (-33)^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1274} \\ &\approx \boxed{17.8}\end{aligned}$$

⑤ $\vec{i}, \vec{j}, \vec{k}$

Wheel:

face board



(vector) $\times$ (successor) = (3rd)

$\vec{i} \times \vec{j} = \vec{k}$; $\vec{j} \times \vec{k} = \vec{i}$ and $\|\vec{i} \times \vec{j}\| = 1$ (why? see 14.4.5)

(vector) $\times$ (predecessor) = -(3rd)

$\vec{j} \times \vec{i} = -\vec{k}$; $\vec{k} \times \vec{j} = -\vec{i}$ and $\|\vec{j} \times \vec{i}\| = 1$

$\vec{a} \times \vec{b}$ Table

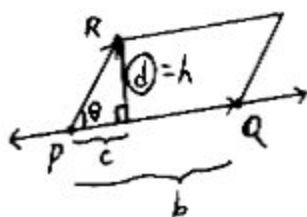
		"x"		
$\vec{a} \backslash \vec{b}$	$\vec{i}$	$\vec{j}$	$\vec{k}$	
$\vec{i}$	$\vec{0}$	$\vec{k}$	$-\vec{j}$	
$\vec{j}$	$-\vec{k}$	$\vec{0}$	$\vec{i}$	
$\vec{k}$	$\vec{j}$	$-\vec{i}$	$\vec{0}$	✓

"x" is anticommutative

Like a
skew-sym
matrix

⑥ The Distance Between a Point and a Line

Proof on
Ex 3, p. 715
uses sin,
not $\cos$



Area of $\triangle = bh$

$$h = \frac{\text{Area}}{b}$$

(Use all
3 points)

$$d = \frac{\|\vec{PQ} \times \vec{PR}\|}{\|\vec{PQ}\|} = \frac{\|\vec{PR} \times \vec{PQ}\|}{\|\vec{PQ}\|}$$

Recall $c = \text{comp}_{\vec{PQ}} \vec{PR} = \frac{\vec{PR} \cdot \vec{PQ}}{\|\vec{PQ}\|}$ (point off line omitted)

Up to R

$\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}$ can be defined
as $\|\vec{a}\| \|\vec{b}\| \cos \theta$
 $\|\vec{a}\| \|\vec{b}\| \sin \theta$

Not Traveling
Salesman
Problem

⑦ Triple Scalar Product (TSP, Box Product)

Prop. (v) $\boxed{\text{TSP} = (\vec{a} \times \vec{b}) \cdot \vec{c} = \vec{a} \cdot (\vec{b} \times \vec{c})}$ (scalar)

ie., You can switch "x" and "."

ie., Cross 2 successive vectors in order, and
dot the result with the 3rd $\Rightarrow$ same #

Nonsense: $\underbrace{(\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b})}_{\text{scalar}} \times \underbrace{\vec{c}}_{\text{vector}}$

#21
(unassigned?)

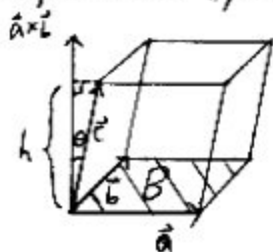
For computation:

$$\text{TSP} = \begin{vmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \\ c_1 & c_2 & c_3 \end{vmatrix} \begin{matrix} \leftarrow \vec{a} \\ \leftarrow \vec{b} \\ \leftarrow \vec{c} \end{matrix}$$

Can do: $\text{TSP} = \begin{vmatrix} \vec{a} & \vec{b} & \vec{c} \end{vmatrix}$ by columns ; $|A| = |\widehat{A^T}|$
matrix $\widehat{A}$ -transpose (rows $\leftrightarrow$ cols)

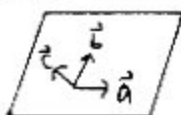
$$|TSP| = \text{volume of box (parallelepiped)} \\ \uparrow \quad \uparrow \\ \text{abs. value} \quad \text{determined by } \vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{c}$$

Proof (Optional) p. 716 or:



$$\begin{aligned} V &= Bh \\ &= \|\vec{a} \times \vec{b}\| |\text{comp}_{\vec{a} \times \vec{b}} \vec{c}| \\ &= \|\vec{a} \times \vec{b}\| \left| \frac{\vec{c} \cdot (\vec{a} \times \vec{b})}{\|\vec{a} \times \vec{b}\|} \right| \leftarrow (\vec{a} \times \vec{b}) \text{ otherwise, } TSP=0 \\ &= |(\vec{a} \times \vec{b}) \cdot \vec{c}| \quad \text{("comm.")} \\ &= |TSP| \end{aligned}$$

$$TSP = 0 \Leftrightarrow [\text{position vectors for}] \vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{c} \text{ are coplanar} \\ \text{lie in same plane}$$



$$\begin{array}{lll} \vec{a} \times \vec{b} = \vec{0} & \text{[Position] Vectors are} & \text{Think:} \\ TSP = 0 & \text{collinear} & \text{Area} = 0 \\ & \text{coplanar} & \text{Vol.} = 0 \end{array}$$

① Triple Vector Product

Prop. (vi) $\boxed{\vec{a} \times (\vec{b} \times \vec{c}) = (\vec{a} \cdot \vec{c})\vec{b} - (\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b})\vec{c}}$ (I'll give)

"x" not associative:

$$\text{Often, } \vec{a} \times (\vec{b} \times \vec{c}) \neq (\vec{a} \times \vec{b}) \times \vec{c}$$

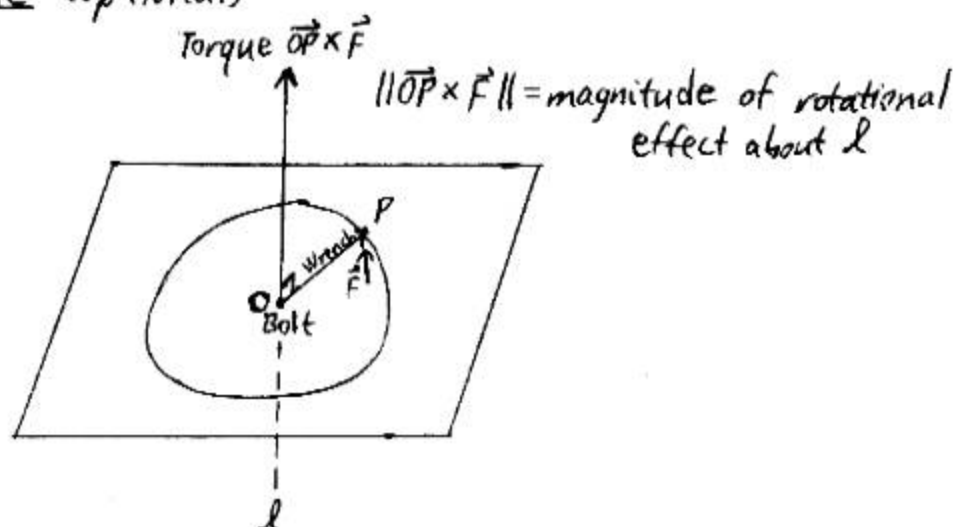
$\vec{a} \times \vec{b}$
Larson 734
uses proj

$\vec{a} = \vec{0}$, or $\vec{b} = \vec{0}$
 $\Rightarrow \vec{a} \parallel \vec{b}$
 $\vec{a} \parallel \vec{c} \Rightarrow \vec{a} \times \vec{b} \perp \vec{c}$
 $\Rightarrow TSP = 0$

dot com

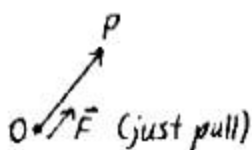
or Moment of $\vec{F}$
about O.
P moves

① Torque (Optional)

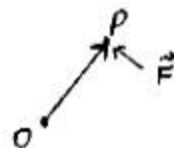


$\|\vec{r}\|$ fixed (constant).
Let's say $\|\vec{F}\|$ is fixed.

When is $\|\vec{r} \times \vec{F}\|$ maximized?



$$\|\vec{r} \times \vec{F}\| = 0$$



$$\|\vec{r} \times \vec{F}\| = \|\vec{r}\| \|\vec{F}\| \sin \theta$$

max'ed (=1) when
 $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$

i.e., when $\vec{F} \perp \vec{r}$