

**For your reference (section 13.3):**

Algebraic definition of the *dot product*: If we write  $\vec{v} = \langle v_1, v_2, v_3 \rangle$  and  $\vec{w} = \langle w_1, w_2, w_3 \rangle$ , then  $\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w} = v_1w_1 + v_2w_2 + v_3w_3$ .

Geometric definition of the *dot product*:  $\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w} = \|\vec{v}\| \|\vec{w}\| \cos \theta$ , where  $\theta$  is the angle between the two vectors, and we always choose  $\theta$  between 0 and  $\pi$ .

Dot product facts:  $\cos \theta = \frac{\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w}}{\|\vec{v}\| \|\vec{w}\|}$ ,  $\|\vec{v}\|^2 = \vec{v} \cdot \vec{v}$ ,  $\vec{v} \cdot (\vec{u} + \vec{w}) = \vec{v} \cdot \vec{u} + \vec{v} \cdot \vec{w}$ ,  $\lambda(\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w}) = (\lambda\vec{v}) \cdot \vec{w} = \vec{v} \cdot (\lambda\vec{w})$ .

The *equation for a plane* with normal vector  $\vec{n} = a\vec{i} + b\vec{j} + c\vec{k}$  containing the point  $(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  can be written  $a(x - x_0) + b(y - y_0) + c(z - z_0) = 0$ . This is  $\vec{n} \cdot \langle x - x_0, y - y_0, z - z_0 \rangle = 0$ .

Given a direction  $\vec{w}$ , a vector  $\vec{v}$  can be written as the sum of a component of  $\vec{v}$  parallel to the direction of  $\vec{w}$  (denoted  $\vec{v}_{\text{parallel}}$ ) and a component perpendicular to the direction of  $\vec{w}$  (denoted  $\vec{v}_{\text{perp}}$ ).  $\vec{v}_{\text{parallel}} = \left( \vec{v} \cdot \frac{\vec{w}}{\|\vec{w}\|} \right) \frac{\vec{w}}{\|\vec{w}\|}$  and  $\vec{v}_{\text{perp}} = \vec{v} - \vec{v}_{\text{parallel}}$ .

**Definitions are equivalent.**

Use the geometric definition of the dot product to find the algebraic definition. Expand  $(v_1\vec{i} + v_2\vec{j} + v_3\vec{k}) \cdot (w_1\vec{i} + w_2\vec{j} + w_3\vec{k})$ . Assume the properties  $\vec{u} \cdot (\vec{v} + \vec{w}) = \vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} + \vec{u} \cdot \vec{w}$  and  $\lambda(\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w}) = (\lambda\vec{v}) \cdot \vec{w} = \vec{v} \cdot (\lambda\vec{w})$  to do the expansion.

**Example.** Find  $\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v}$  where  $\vec{u} = 4\vec{i} - 6\vec{k}$  and  $\vec{v} = -\vec{i} + \vec{j} + \vec{k}$ .

**Example.** Find  $\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v}$  where  $\vec{u} = 3\vec{i} + \vec{j} - \vec{k}$  and  $\vec{v}$  is a vector of length 2 oriented at an angle of  $\pi/4$  away from the direction of  $\vec{u}$ .

**For your reference (section 13.4):**

Algebraic definition of the *cross product*: If we write  $\vec{v} = \langle v_1, v_2, v_3 \rangle$  and  $\vec{w} = \langle w_1, w_2, w_3 \rangle$ , then  $\vec{v} \times \vec{w} = (v_2w_3 - v_3w_2)\vec{i} + (v_3w_1 - v_1w_3)\vec{j} + (v_1w_2 - v_2w_1)\vec{k}$ .

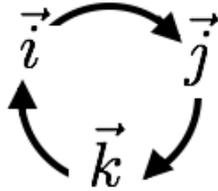
Geometric definition of the *cross product*:  $\vec{v} \times \vec{w} = \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{area of parallelogram} \\ \text{with edges } \vec{v} \text{ and } \vec{w} \end{array} \right) \vec{n}$ , where  $\vec{n}$  is a unit normal vector perpendicular to the parallelogram with direction given by the right hand rule.

The *parallelogram* formed by the vectors  $\vec{v}$  and  $\vec{w}$  has base length  $\|\vec{v}\|$  and height  $\|\vec{w}\| \sin \theta$  where  $\theta$  is the angle between the vectors ( $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$ ), so it has *area*  $\|\vec{v}\| \|\vec{w}\| \sin \theta = \|\vec{v} \times \vec{w}\|$

There are two possible vector directions normal to the parallelogram formed by two vectors. The *right hand rule* is a convention for choosing one of the two normal vectors. Draw  $\vec{v}$  and  $\vec{w}$  with their tails at the same point. Point your index finger along vector  $\vec{v}$  and your middle finger along vector  $\vec{w}$  (you may have to turn your hand over to do this). The direction of your thumb is the direction of  $\vec{v} \times \vec{w}$ .

**Example.** Using the geometric definition, what is  $\vec{i} \times \vec{j}$ ? What is  $\vec{j} \times \vec{i}$ ?

One way people sometimes remember these relationships is with the following diagram:



**Example.** Find  $\vec{v} \times \vec{v}$  using the geometric definition.

**Example.** Find  $\vec{v} \times \vec{w}$  using the algebraic definition with  $\vec{v} = 3\vec{i} - 2\vec{j} + 4\vec{k}$  and  $\vec{w} = \vec{i} + 2\vec{j} - \vec{k}$

We can use *determinant* notation to remember the algebraic definition:  $\vec{v} \times \vec{w} =$

$$\begin{vmatrix} \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ v_1 & v_2 & v_3 \\ w_1 & w_2 & w_3 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} v_2 & v_3 \\ w_2 & w_3 \end{vmatrix} \vec{i} - \begin{vmatrix} v_1 & v_3 \\ w_1 & w_3 \end{vmatrix} \vec{j} + \begin{vmatrix} v_1 & v_2 \\ w_1 & w_2 \end{vmatrix} \vec{k} = (v_2w_3 - v_3w_2)\vec{i} + (v_3w_1 - v_1w_3)\vec{j} + (v_1w_2 - v_2w_1)\vec{k}$$

Construct a *normal vector* to a plane by finding the cross product of two vectors parallel to the plane.

An *area vector* for a planar shape is a vector that points normal to the plane containing the shape, with magnitude equal to the area of the shape.

The *volume of a parallelepiped* with base given by the parallelogram formed by  $\vec{v}$  and  $\vec{w}$ , and with the other sides formed by  $\vec{u}$  has volume  $\|\vec{v} \times \vec{w}\|(\|\vec{u}\| \cos \theta) = |\vec{u} \cdot (\vec{v} \times \vec{w})| =$

$$\text{abs} \left( \begin{vmatrix} u_1 & u_2 & u_3 \\ v_1 & v_2 & v_3 \\ w_1 & w_2 & w_3 \end{vmatrix} \right).$$

**Example.** Let points (0, 1, 2), (2, -1, 3) and (0, 0, 1) form a triangle that lies in a plane.

- Find a normal vector to the plane and construct an equation for the plane
- Find the area of the triangle and construct an area vector for it.

**Example.** Find the volume of the parallelepiped with sides parallel to  $\vec{u} = (3, 4, 5)$ ,  $\vec{v} = (5, 4, 3)$ ,  $\vec{w} = (1, 1, 1)$ .

**Matlab Examples:**

```
vecu = [4,0,-6]; vecv = [-1,1,1];
dot(vecu,vecv) %example 1
vecu = [3,1,-1];
norm(vecu)*2*cos(pi/4) %example 2
cross([1,0,0],[0,1,0]) %example 3
cross([0,1,0],[1,0,0])
vecv = [3,-2,4]; vecw = [1,2,-1];
cross(vecv,vecw) %example 4
```

```
pt = [0,1,2] % Find the plane.
vecu = pt-[2,-1,3];
vecv = pt-[0,0,1];
vecn = cross(vecu,vecv)
syms x y z
g = @(x,y,z) dot(vecn, [x,y,z]-pt)
```

**Command list**

```
dot          cross
```