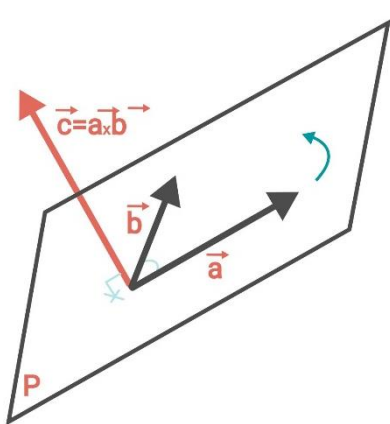


Given two vectors in 3 dimensions, that is, with three components, we can define a new operation: the vector product. The vector product between two vectors  $\vec{a}$  and  $\vec{b}$  is another vector  $\vec{c}$ .

We define the vector product by:  $\vec{c} = \vec{a} \times \vec{b}$ . Also, it is possible to denote the vector product using the symbol  $\wedge$ . So that  $\vec{c} = \vec{a} \wedge \vec{b}$ .

The resultant vector  $\vec{c}$  to the vector product between two vectors  $\vec{a}$  and  $\vec{b}$  has the following properties:

1. The vector  $\vec{c}$  is perpendicular to the plane formed by two vectors  $\vec{a}$  and  $\vec{b}$ .
2. The direction of the vector  $\vec{c}$  is given by applying the "rule of the corkscrew" or the "rule of the right hand":



It is the direction of rotation a corkscrew would move when opening a bottle. With a corkscrew, or a screw "towards the right" (clockwise,) the corkscrew or the screw "goes into" the bottle. Also, it is possible to use the corkscrew or a screw in another sense: when one screws a corkscrew "towards the left" (counterclockwise), the corkscrew or the screw "comes out" of the bottle).