

1. Prove the following identities. Note how formulae (a)-(c) "tensorize" vector operations

(a)  $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = \text{tr}(\mathbf{a} \otimes \mathbf{b})$

(b)  $\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = -2 \text{ax}\{\text{sk}(\mathbf{a} \otimes \mathbf{b})\}$ ; the operation 'ax' was defined in lectures. The operation 'sk' computes the skew-symmetric tensor associated with a tensor  $\mathbf{A}$  by the formula  $\text{sk}(\mathbf{A}) = (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{A}^T)/2$ ; easy to check that  $\text{sk}(\mathbf{A})$  is skew-symmetric.

(c)  $\mathbf{a} \times (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}) = \text{tr}(\mathbf{a} \otimes \mathbf{c})\mathbf{b} - \text{tr}(\mathbf{a} \otimes \mathbf{b})\mathbf{c}$

(d)  $\mathbf{a} \cdot (\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{b}) = (\mathbf{A}^T \cdot \mathbf{a}) \cdot \mathbf{b}$ ; this equality is often used as a definition of  $\mathbf{A}^T$ .

(e)  $\mathbf{a} \otimes (\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{b}) = (\mathbf{a} \otimes \mathbf{b}) \cdot \mathbf{A}^T$ ;

(a)  $\underline{a} \cdot \underline{b} \quad \{ \epsilon, 0, \hat{e}_i \}$

$$\underline{a} = a_i \hat{e}_i \quad \underline{b} = b_j \hat{e}_j$$

$$\underline{a} \cdot \underline{b} = a_i b_j \hat{e}_i \cdot \hat{e}_j = a_i b_i \quad \text{--- LHS}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{RHS: } \text{tr}(\underline{a} \otimes \underline{b}) &= \text{tr}(a_i \hat{e}_i \otimes b_j \hat{e}_j) \\ &= \text{tr}(a_i b_j \hat{e}_i \otimes \hat{e}_j) \\ &= a_i b_i = \text{LHS} \end{aligned}$$

(b)  $\underline{a} \times \underline{b} = -2 \text{ax}(\text{sk}(\underline{a} \otimes \underline{b}))$

$$\text{LHS: } \underline{a} \times \underline{b} = \epsilon_{ijk} a_i b_j \hat{e}_k \quad \text{in } \{ \epsilon, 0, \hat{e}_i \}$$

$$\text{RHS: } \underline{a} \otimes \underline{b} = a_i b_j \hat{e}_i \otimes \hat{e}_j =: \underline{A}$$

$$\text{sk}(\underline{a} \otimes \underline{b}) = \text{sk}(\underline{A}) = \frac{1}{2} (\underline{A} - \underline{A}^T)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} (\underline{a} \otimes \underline{b} - (\underline{a} \otimes \underline{b})^T)$$

$$(\underline{a} \otimes \underline{b})^T = (a_i b_j \hat{e}_i \otimes \hat{e}_j)^T = a_j b_i \hat{e}_i \otimes \hat{e}_j$$

$$\text{sk}(\underline{a} \otimes \underline{b}) = \frac{1}{2} \{ a_i b_j \hat{e}_i \otimes \hat{e}_j - a_j b_i \hat{e}_i \otimes \hat{e}_j \}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} (a_i b_j - a_j b_i) \hat{e}_i \otimes \hat{e}_j$$

Is  $sk(\underline{a} \otimes \underline{b})$  skew symmetric? **Yes.**

$$\begin{aligned} \{sk(\underline{a} \otimes \underline{b})\}^T &= \frac{1}{2} (a_j b_i - a_i b_j) \hat{e}_i \otimes \hat{e}_j \\ &= -sk(\underline{a} \otimes \underline{b}) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Call } \underline{W} = \frac{1}{2} (a_i b_j - a_j b_i) \hat{e}_i \otimes \hat{e}_j$$

$$ax(\underline{W}) = -\frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{ijk} W_{ij} \hat{e}_k \quad (\text{from lecture})$$

$$\text{But } W_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} (a_i b_j - a_j b_i)$$

$$ax(\underline{W}) = -\frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{ijk} \cdot \frac{1}{2} (a_i b_j - a_j b_i) \hat{e}_k$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= -\frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{ijk} \cdot \frac{1}{2} (a_i b_j + a_i b_j) \hat{e}_k \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{ijk} a_i b_j \hat{e}_k \end{aligned}$$

*(Note: A purple circle highlights the identity  $\epsilon_{ijk} a_j b_i \hat{e}_k = -\epsilon_{ijk} a_i b_j \hat{e}_k$  with an arrow pointing to the term  $-a_j b_i$  in the previous line.)*

$$\begin{aligned} RHS &= -2 ax(sk(\underline{a} \otimes \underline{b})) = -2 \left( -\frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{ijk} a_i b_j \hat{e}_k \right) \\ &= \epsilon_{ijk} a_i b_j \hat{e}_k \\ &= LHS \quad \checkmark \end{aligned}$$

$$(c) \quad \underline{a} \times (\underline{b} \times \underline{c}) = \underline{b} (\underline{a} \otimes \underline{c}) - \underline{c} (\underline{a} \otimes \underline{b})$$

$$\parallel$$

$$(\underline{a} \cdot \underline{c}) \underline{b} - (\underline{a} \cdot \underline{b}) \underline{c} \quad // \text{ from problem (a)}$$

$$(d) \quad \underline{a} \cdot (\underline{A} \cdot \underline{b}) = (\underline{A}^T \cdot \underline{a}) \cdot \underline{b} \quad (\text{to show})$$

LHS

$$\underline{A} \cdot \underline{b} = A_{ij} b_j \hat{e}_i \quad \text{in } \{\hat{e}_1, 0, \hat{e}_i\}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{a} \cdot (\underline{A} \cdot \underline{b}) &= a_k \hat{e}_k \cdot (A_{ij} b_j \hat{e}_i) \\ &= a_k A_{ij} b_j \delta_{ki} = a_i A_{ij} b_j \end{aligned}$$

RHS

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{A}^T \cdot \underline{a} &= A_{ji} \hat{e}_i \otimes \hat{e}_j \cdot a_k \hat{e}_k = A_{ji} \hat{e}_i a_k \delta_{jk} \\ &= A_{ji} a_j \hat{e}_i \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (\underline{A}^T \cdot \underline{a}) \cdot \underline{b} &= (A_{ji} a_j \hat{e}_i) \cdot b_k \hat{e}_k = A_{ji} a_j b_k \delta_{ik} \\ &= A_{ji} a_j b_i \xrightarrow{i \leftrightarrow j} A_{ij} a_i b_j \\ &= \text{LHS} \end{aligned}$$

$$(e) \underbrace{\underline{a} \otimes (\underline{A} \cdot \underline{b})}_{\text{tensor}} \stackrel{?}{=} \underbrace{(\underline{a} \otimes \underline{b})}_{\text{tensor}} \cdot \underline{A}^T$$

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{\text{LHS}}: \underline{a} \otimes (\underline{A} \cdot \underline{b}) &= a_k \hat{e}_k \otimes (A_{ij} b_j \hat{e}_i) \\ &= a_k A_{ij} b_j \hat{e}_k \otimes \hat{e}_i \quad m \in \{1, 0, \hat{e}_i\} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{\text{RHS}}: (\underline{a} \otimes \underline{b}) \cdot \underline{A}^T &= (a_i b_j \hat{e}_i \otimes \hat{e}_j) \cdot (A_{mn} \hat{e}_n \otimes \hat{e}_m) \end{aligned}$$

$$[\text{Use identity: } (\underline{a} \otimes \underline{b}) \cdot (\underline{c} \otimes \underline{d}) = (\underline{b} \cdot \underline{c}) \underline{a} \otimes \underline{d}]$$

$$= a_i b_j A_{mn} \delta_{jn} \hat{e}_i \otimes \hat{e}_m$$

$$= a_i b_j A_{mj} \hat{e}_i \otimes \hat{e}_m$$

$$i \rightarrow k \quad m \rightarrow i : a_k b_j A_{ij} \hat{e}_k \otimes \hat{e}_i$$

$$\therefore \text{LHS} = \text{RHS} \quad \checkmark$$

2. Find the principal values  $\lambda_i$  and principal vectors  $\hat{v}_i$  of the second order tensor  $\underline{D} = 6(\hat{e}_1 \otimes \hat{e}_1) + \hat{e}_1 \otimes \hat{e}_2 + 9(\hat{e}_1 \otimes \hat{e}_3) + 2(\hat{e}_2 \otimes \hat{e}_2) + 2(\hat{e}_2 \otimes \hat{e}_3) + \hat{e}_3 \otimes \hat{e}_3$ . Confirm that  $\hat{v}_i$  are independent, so that we can define the principal CS  $\mathcal{P}$  of  $\underline{D}$ . Is  $\mathcal{P}$  Cartesian? Express  $\underline{D}$  in terms of the unit tensorial basis by  $\hat{v}_i \otimes \hat{v}_j$  in  $\mathcal{P}$  and also find  $[\underline{D}]_{\mathcal{P}}$ .

$$\text{In } \{\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{O}, \hat{e}_i\} \quad [\underline{D}]_{\mathcal{E}} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 1 & 9 \\ 0 & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$D_{ij} = \hat{e}_i \cdot \underline{D} \cdot \hat{e}_j$$

$$\Rightarrow D_{21} = \hat{e}_2 \cdot \underline{D} \cdot \hat{e}_1 = 0$$

$$\text{or } D_{33} = \hat{e}_3 \cdot \underline{D} \cdot \hat{e}_3 = 1$$

Eigenvalues/principal values of  $[\underline{D}]_{\mathcal{E}}$

$$\det [\underline{D} - \lambda \underline{1}]_{\mathcal{E}} = \begin{vmatrix} 6-\lambda & 1 & 9 \\ 0 & 2-\lambda & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1-\lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (1-\lambda)(2-\lambda)(6-\lambda) = 0$$

$$\therefore \lambda_1 = 1, \lambda_2 = 2, \lambda_3 = 6$$

We have 3 different real principal values.

Eigenvectors / principal vectors

$$\text{for } \lambda_1 = 1 : (\underline{D} - \lambda_1 \underline{1}) \cdot \hat{v}_1 = 0 \quad |\hat{v}_1| = 1$$

$$\text{in } \mathcal{E} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 1 & 9 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

$$\text{we will get } \left[ \hat{v}_1 \right]_{\mathcal{E}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{174}} \begin{bmatrix} -7 \\ -10 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{or } \hat{v}_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{174}} (-7\hat{e}_1 - 10\hat{e}_2 + 5\hat{e}_3)$$

$$\text{Similarly for } \lambda_2 = 2 : \hat{v}_2 = \frac{\hat{e}_1 - 4\hat{e}_2}{\sqrt{17}}$$

$$\text{and for } \lambda_3 = 6 : \hat{v}_3 = \hat{e}_1$$

Clearly,  $\hat{v}_i$  are linearly independent.

define the principal CS  
 $\{P, O, \hat{v}_i\}$

$$\text{in } P : \underline{D} = \sum_{i=1}^3 \lambda_i \hat{v}_i \otimes \hat{v}_i$$

$$= \hat{v}_1 \otimes \hat{v}_1 + 2\hat{v}_2 \otimes \hat{v}_2 + 6\hat{v}_3 \otimes \hat{v}_3$$

$$[\underline{D}]_P = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

cannot get  
 by  $\hat{v}_i \cdot \underline{D} \cdot \hat{v}_j$   
 You check

Finally  $P$  is NOT Cartesian

$\Rightarrow$  Cannot find components of  $[\underline{D}]_P$

by using  $\hat{v}_i \cdot \underline{D} \cdot \hat{v}_j$  !