

Cross Product of Two Vectors Matrix

As shown below, the determinant of the matrix can be used to derive the formula for the cross product of two vectors.

$$\mathbf{A} = p\mathbf{i} + q\mathbf{j} + r\mathbf{k}$$

$$\mathbf{B} = x\mathbf{i} + y\mathbf{j} + z\mathbf{k}$$

$$\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ p & q & r \\ x & y & z \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B} &= (qz - ry)\mathbf{i} - (pz - rx)\mathbf{j} + (py - qx)\mathbf{k} \\ &= (qz - ry)\mathbf{i} + (rx - pz)\mathbf{j} + (py - qx)\mathbf{k} \end{aligned}$$

Cross Product of Two Vectors Formula

$$\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B} = \|\mathbf{A}\| \|\mathbf{B}\| \sin \theta \mathbf{n}$$

$\|\mathbf{A}\|$ = length of vector A

$\|\mathbf{B}\|$ = length of vector B

θ = angle between A and B

\mathbf{n} = unit vector perpendicular to the plane containing a and b