

**1.2.12** For the vectors  $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{u}_x + \mathbf{u}_y + \mathbf{u}_z$ ,  $\mathbf{B} = 2\mathbf{u}_x + 2\mathbf{u}_y + 2\mathbf{u}_z$ , and  $\mathbf{C} = 3\mathbf{u}_x + 3\mathbf{u}_y + 3\mathbf{u}_z$ , show that  $\mathbf{A} \times (\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{C}) = \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{A} \bullet \mathbf{C}) - \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{A} \bullet \mathbf{B})$ . Check your answer using MATLAB.

We will compute each side independently and then show that they are equal.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{A} \times (\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{C}) &= \mathbf{A} \times ((B_y C_z - B_z C_y)\mathbf{u}_x \\
 &\quad + (B_z C_x - B_x C_z)\mathbf{u}_y \\
 &\quad + (B_x C_y - B_y C_x)\mathbf{u}_z) \\
 &= \mathbf{A} \times ((2 \cdot 3 - 2 \cdot 3)\mathbf{u}_x + (2 \cdot 3 - 2 \cdot 3)\mathbf{u}_y + (2 \cdot 3 - 2 \cdot 3)\mathbf{u}_z) \\
 &= \mathbf{A} \times (0\mathbf{u}_x + 0\mathbf{u}_y + 0\mathbf{u}_z) \\
 &= (A_y \cdot 0 - A_z \cdot 0)\mathbf{u}_x + (A_z \cdot 0 - A_x \cdot 0)\mathbf{u}_y + (A_x \cdot 0 - A_y \cdot 0)\mathbf{u}_z \\
 &= 0\mathbf{u}_x + 0\mathbf{u}_y + 0\mathbf{u}_z
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{A} \bullet \mathbf{C}) - \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{A} \bullet \mathbf{B}) &= \mathbf{B}((A_x \cdot C_x) + (A_y \cdot C_y) + (A_z \cdot C_z)) \\
 &\quad - \mathbf{C}((A_x \cdot B_x) + (A_y \cdot B_y) + (A_z \cdot B_z)) \\
 &= \mathbf{B}((1 \cdot 3) + (1 \cdot 3) + (1 \cdot 3)) \\
 &\quad - \mathbf{C}((1 \cdot 2) + (1 \cdot 2) + (1 \cdot 2)) \\
 &= 9\mathbf{B} - 6\mathbf{C} \\
 &= (18 - 18)\mathbf{u}_x + (18 - 18)\mathbf{u}_y + (18 - 18)\mathbf{u}_z \\
 &= 0\mathbf{u}_x + 0\mathbf{u}_y + 0\mathbf{u}_z
 \end{aligned}$$

Both sides are equal to the zero vector  $\therefore \mathbf{A} \times (\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{C}) = \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{A} \bullet \mathbf{C}) - \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{A} \bullet \mathbf{B})$ .