

multivariable calculus

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1 Dot Product

$x + 2y + 3z = 0$ equation of a plane

Let $\vec{OP} = (x, y, z)$, $\vec{A} = (1, 2, 3)$, then $\vec{OP} \cdot \vec{A} = 0 \Rightarrow P$ on a plane going through the origin point (O). **Remember to use vectors in multivariable calculus!**

2 Determinants

2.1 In a plane

Area of a triangle:

$$\begin{aligned}\pm \text{Area} &= \frac{1}{2} |\vec{A}| \cdot |\vec{B}| \sin \theta = \frac{1}{2} |\vec{A}'| \cdot |\vec{B}| \cos \theta' = \frac{1}{2} \vec{A}' \cdot \vec{B} = \frac{1}{2} (-a_2, a_1) \cdot (b_1, b_2) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} (a_1 b_2 - a_2 b_1) = \det(A, B) = \frac{1}{2} \begin{vmatrix} a_1 & a_2 \\ b_1 & b_2 \end{vmatrix}\end{aligned}$$

(\vec{A}' : \vec{A} rotated by 90° anticlockwise)

2.2 In a space

2.2.1 volume of solids

Theorem Geometrically, $\det(\vec{A}, \vec{B}, \vec{C}) = \pm \text{Volume of parallelepiped}$
cross product of 2 vectors in 3d space:

Def

$$\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = \begin{vmatrix} a_2 & a_3 \\ b_2 & b_3 \end{vmatrix} \hat{i} - \begin{vmatrix} a_1 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_3 \end{vmatrix} \hat{j} + \begin{vmatrix} a_1 & a_2 \\ b_1 & b_2 \end{vmatrix} \hat{k} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \end{vmatrix}$$

(3×3 only for remembering)

In particular, $\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = -\vec{B} \times \vec{A}$, and $\vec{A} \times \vec{A} = 0$

Theorem $|\vec{A} \times \vec{B}|$ is the area of the parallelogram spanned by \vec{A} and \vec{B} .

$\text{dir}(\vec{A} \times \vec{B})$ is perpendicular to the plane of the parallelogram.

use **right-hand rule** to determine the direction of the cross product.
 For example, $\hat{i} \times \hat{j} = \hat{k}$

Another look at volume:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Volume} &= \text{area}(\text{base}) \cdot \text{height} = |\vec{B} \times \vec{C}| \cdot (\vec{A} \cdot \vec{n}) = |\vec{B} \times \vec{C}| \cdot \left(\vec{A} \cdot \frac{\vec{B} \times \vec{C}}{|\vec{B} \times \vec{C}|} \right) \\ &= \vec{A} \cdot (\vec{B} \times \vec{C}) = \det(\vec{A}, \vec{B}, \vec{C}) \end{aligned}$$

which makes sense with formulas.

To decide that P is on the plane $P_1P_2P_3$:

$$\text{Volume} = \det(\overrightarrow{P_1P}, \overrightarrow{P_1P_2}, \overrightarrow{P_1P_3}) = 0$$

Other solution (\vec{N} is a normal vector of the plane.):

$$\overrightarrow{P_1P} \perp \vec{N}$$

How to find a normal vector? Use the cross product of 2 vectors on the plane!

$$\vec{N} = \overrightarrow{P_1P_2} \times \overrightarrow{P_1P_3}$$

So the two solutions are equivalent. (triple product = det.)

$$\overrightarrow{P_1P} \cdot (\overrightarrow{P_1P_2} \times \overrightarrow{P_1P_3}) = \det(\overrightarrow{P_1P}, \overrightarrow{P_1P_2}, \overrightarrow{P_1P_3}) = 0$$

3 Matrices

Ex. exchange of coordinate systems.

multiplying matrices

$(AB)X$

AB represents: do transformation B first, then do transformation A .

Identity matrix I

Example: in the plane, rotation by 90° counterclockwise:

$$\text{use } R = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Inverse matrix: for a square matrix A , $AA^{-1} = A^{-1}A = I$

So a linear system $AX = b$ can be solved.

To find the invert matrix: adjoint matrix is introduced.

4 Square Systems