

Cross product

Definition: Cross product on \mathbb{R}^3

Take some $v, w \in \mathbb{R}^3$. Cross product of the vector will be based on the determinant of the components of v, w in the following way:

$$\begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ v_3 \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \\ w_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \det \begin{bmatrix} v_2 & w_2 \\ v_3 & w_3 \end{bmatrix} \\ \det \begin{bmatrix} v_3 & w_3 \\ v_1 & w_1 \end{bmatrix} \\ \det \begin{bmatrix} v_1 & w_1 \\ v_2 & w_2 \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

- ◆ The cross product will be a vector also in \mathbb{R}^3 that is **orthogonal** to both of the vectors v, w
 - ◆ We can see this by taking the plane formed by v and w , and creating a vector that is orthogonal to that plane

Proof: Cross product orthogonality

For our first case, we have to work to show that $v \cdot (v \times w) = 0 \in \mathbb{R}$.

$$\begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ v_3 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} v_2w_3 - v_3w_2 \\ v_3w_1 - v_1w_3 \\ v_1w_2 - v_2w_1 \end{bmatrix} \\ = v_1(v_2w_2 - v_3w_2) + v_2(v_3w_1 - v_1w_3) + v_3(v_1w_2 - v_2w_1)$$

When expanded, this simplifies to zero.

For our second case, we have to show that $w \cdot (v \times w) = 0 \in \mathbb{R}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \\ w_3 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} v_2w_3 - v_3w_2 \\ v_3w_1 - v_1w_3 \\ v_1w_2 - v_2w_1 \end{bmatrix} \\ = w_1(v_2w_2 - v_3w_2) + w_2(v_3w_1 - v_1w_3) + w_3(v_1w_2 - v_2w_1)$$

Which when expanded, also simplifies to zero.

Proof: Say that $v, w, u \in \mathbb{R}^3$. Then, $\det [v \ w \ u] = w \cdot (w \times u)$

TBA