

1 Vectors in \mathbb{R}^n

1.8 Cross Product in \mathbb{R}^3

Example

Given $\vec{v}, \vec{u} \in \mathbb{R}^3$, find $\vec{w} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ that is perpendicular to both \vec{u} and \vec{v} .

Definition

The cross product of \vec{u} and \vec{v} is:

$$\vec{u} \times \vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} u^2v_3 - u_3v_2 \\ -(u_1v_3 - u_3v_1) \\ u_1v_2 - u_2v_1 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^3$$

Theorem 1.1: Properties

1. $(\vec{u} \times \vec{v}) \cdot \vec{u} = 0$
2. $(\vec{u} \times \vec{v}) \cdot \vec{v} = 0$
3. $\|\vec{u} \times \vec{v}\| = \|\vec{u}\| \|\vec{v}\| \sin \theta$

Note: Cross product satisfies the right-hand rule

Example

Suppose: $\vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\vec{e}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ What is $\text{proj}_{\vec{e}_1} \vec{v}$?

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{proj}_{\vec{e}_1} \vec{v} &= \frac{\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}}{\left\| \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\|^2} \\ &= \frac{2}{1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Example

Suppose: $\vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\vec{e}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ What is $\text{proj}_{-\vec{e}_1} \vec{v}$?

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{proj}_{-\vec{e}_1} \vec{v} &= \frac{\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}}{\left\| \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\|^2} \\ &= \frac{-2}{1} \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Definition

Let $\vec{v}, \vec{w} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ with $\vec{w} \neq 0$. The **projection of \vec{v} onto \vec{w}** is defined by

$$\text{perp}_{\vec{w}} = \vec{v} - \text{proj}_{\vec{w}}(\vec{v})$$

Properties:

1. $\text{proj}_{\vec{w}}(\vec{v})$ is perpendicular to $\text{perp}_{\vec{w}}(\vec{v})$
2. $\text{proj}_{\vec{w}}(c\vec{v}) = c \cdot \text{proj}_{\vec{w}}(\vec{v})$
3. $\text{proj}_{\vec{w}}(\vec{v} + \vec{u}) = \text{proj}_{\vec{w}}(\vec{v}) + \text{proj}_{\vec{w}}(\vec{u})$
4. $\text{proj}_{\vec{w}}(\text{proj}_{\vec{w}}(\vec{v})) = \text{proj}_{\vec{w}}(\vec{v})$

Proof of 4:

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{proj}_{\vec{w}}(\text{proj}_{\vec{w}}(\vec{v})) &= \text{proj}_{\vec{w}}\left(\frac{\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w}}{\|\vec{w}\|^2} \vec{w}\right) \\ &= \frac{\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w}}{\|\vec{w}\|^2} \cdot \frac{\vec{w} \cdot \vec{w}}{\|\vec{w}\|^2} \vec{w} \\ &= \frac{\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w}}{\|\vec{w}\|^2} \vec{w} \\ &= \text{proj}_{\vec{w}}(\vec{v}) \end{aligned}$$

□

Standard Inner Product in \mathbb{C}^n

Instead of dot product, we define the **Standard inner product**.

Definition

The **standard inner product** of $\vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \\ \vdots \\ w_n \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{C}^n$ is

$$\langle \vec{v}, \vec{w} \rangle = v_1 \overline{w_1} + v_2 \overline{w_2} + \cdots + v_n \overline{w_n}$$

Definition

The **length** of the vector $\vec{v} \in \mathbb{C}^n$ is $\|\vec{v}\| = \sqrt{\vec{v} \cdot \vec{v}}$