

MA4271 Tutorial Week 3

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Problem 1 Let $u, v, w \in \mathbb{R}^3$ be three linearly independent vectors. Prove that

$$((u \times v) \cdot w)^2 = \begin{vmatrix} u \cdot u & u \cdot v & u \cdot w \\ v \cdot u & v \cdot v & v \cdot w \\ w \cdot u & w \cdot v & w \cdot w \end{vmatrix}$$

Let $z_1 = (u_1, v_1, w_1)$, $z_2 = (u_2, v_2, w_2)$, $z_3 = (u_3, v_3, w_3)$, we have $\det(z_1, z_2, z_3) = \det(u, v, w)$

$$\begin{aligned} A &= \begin{vmatrix} u \cdot u & u \cdot v & u \cdot w \\ v \cdot u & v \cdot v & v \cdot w \\ w \cdot u & w \cdot v & w \cdot w \end{vmatrix} \\ &= \det(u_1 z_1 + u_2 z_2 + u_3 z_3, v_1 z_1 + v_2 z_2 + v_3 z_3, w_1 z_1 + w_2 z_2 + w_3 z_3) \end{aligned}$$

By multi-additivity of determinant and \det is 0 if two columns/rows are linearly dependent,

$$\begin{aligned} A &= \\ &= \det(u_1 z_1, v_2 z_2, w_3 z_3) + \det(u_1 z_1, v_3 z_3, w_2 z_2) + \\ &+ \det(u_2 z_2, v_3 z_3, w_1 z_1) + \det(u_2 z_2, v_1 z_1, w_3 z_3) + \\ &+ \det(u_3 z_3, v_1 z_1, w_2 z_2) + \det(u_3 z_3, v_2 z_2, w_1 z_1) \end{aligned}$$

By multi-homogeneity of determinant,

$$\begin{aligned} A &= \\ &= u_1 u_2 u_3 \det(z_1, z_2, z_3) + u_1 v_3 w_2 \det(z_1, z_3, z_2) + \\ &+ u_2 v_3 w_1 \det(z_2, z_3, z_1) + u_2 v_1 w_3 \det(z_2, z_1, z_3) + \\ &+ u_3 v_1 w_2 \det(z_3, z_1, z_2) + u_3 v_2 w_1 \det(z_3, z_2, z_1) \end{aligned}$$

Perform swap on determinant.

$$\begin{aligned} A &= (u_1 u_2 w_3 - u_1 v_3 w_2 + u_2 v_3 w_1 - u_2 v_1 w_3 + u_3 v_1 w_2 - u_3 v_2 w_1) \det(z_1, z_2, z_3) \\ &= \det(u, v, w)^2 \\ &= ((u \times v) \cdot w)^2 \end{aligned}$$