

Electromagnetics

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Chapter 1

Vector Basics

1.1 Recommended Texts

The following books are recommended for the course. The first one will be followed by the instructor.

1. Engineering Electromagnetics 8th Edition by John Buck & William H. Hayt
2. Electromagnetics John D. Kraus
3. Introduction to Electrodynamics by David J. Griffiths
4. Classical Electrodynamics by John David Jackson

1.2 What is a Vector?

From a mathematical standpoint a vector is an element of a vector space. From a physical point of view a vector is a quantity that requires a magnitude as well as a direction to be represented.

1.3 Unit vectors in Rectangular Coordinate System

In a Rectangular Coordinate System (RCS), a vector can be represented as a linear sum of three unit vectors, namely \vec{a}_x , \vec{a}_y and \vec{a}_z . In case of two dimensions, \vec{a}_z is not needed. This is also depicted in figure 1.1.

1.4 Dot Product

Suppose we have two vectors \vec{A} and \vec{B} . \vec{A} can be represented as:

$$\vec{A} = A_x \vec{a}_x + A_y \vec{a}_y + A_z \vec{a}_z$$



Figure 1.1

Similarly, \vec{B} can be represented as:

$$\vec{B} = B_x \vec{a}_x + B_y \vec{a}_y + B_z \vec{a}_z$$

Their dot product, $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B}$, which is a scalar quantity, is defined as:

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = |\vec{A}| |\vec{B}| \cos \theta$$

In case when θ becomes 90° the dot product automatically reduces to zero. Thus one can easily conclude that the dot product of two perpendicular vectors shall always be zero. This makes expressing the dot product in terms of its components pretty straight forward.

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} &= (A_x \vec{a}_x + A_y \vec{a}_y + A_z \vec{a}_z) \cdot (B_x \vec{a}_x + B_y \vec{a}_y + B_z \vec{a}_z) \\ \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} &= A_x B_x + A_y B_y + A_z B_z \end{aligned} \quad (1.1)$$

A vector can also be represented in the form of column vector as:

$$\vec{A} = \begin{bmatrix} A_x \\ A_y \\ A_z \end{bmatrix} \quad \vec{B} = \begin{bmatrix} B_x \\ B_y \\ B_z \end{bmatrix}$$

In that case the dot product, also called inner product in this context, is defined as:

$$\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{B}$$

If the vectors \vec{A} and \vec{B} are of the order $n \times 1$ their inner product will have the order $1 \times (n \times n) \times 1 = 1 \times 1$. Thus the result will be a scalar quantity. The opposite of the inner product is known as the outer product also called the cross product which we will get to in a later topic.

1.4.1 Cauchy Bunyakovsky Schwarz Inequality

The theorem states:

$$|\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B}| \leq |\vec{A}||\vec{B}|$$

It's easy to see why this is the case by replacing $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B}$ by it's value:

$$|\vec{A}||\vec{B}| \cos \theta \leq |\vec{A}||\vec{B}|$$

This inequality changes to an equality when both vectors are collinear.

1.4.2 The Triangle Inequality

$$|\vec{A}| + |\vec{B}| \geq |\vec{A} + \vec{B}|$$

It's quite easy to see why that is the case in the case of two dimensions. At this moment it should be useful to point out that:

$$|\vec{A}| = \sqrt{A_x^2 + A_y^2 + A_z^2}$$

$$|\vec{A}|^2 = \vec{A} \cdot \vec{A}$$

This shall be useful in proving the Parallelogram Equality.

1.4.3 The Parallelogram Equality

The equality states:

$$|\vec{A} + \vec{B}|^2 + |\vec{A} - \vec{B}|^2 = 2(|\vec{A}|^2 + |\vec{B}|^2)$$

To prove it:

$$\begin{aligned} |\vec{A} + \vec{B}|^2 &= (\vec{A} + \vec{B}) \cdot (\vec{A} + \vec{B}) \\ &= \vec{A} \cdot \vec{A} + \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} + \vec{B} \cdot \vec{A} + \vec{B} \cdot \vec{B} \\ &= |\vec{A}|^2 + 2\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} + |\vec{B}|^2 \end{aligned}$$

Similarly:

$$\begin{aligned} |\vec{A} - \vec{B}|^2 &= (\vec{A} - \vec{B}) \cdot (\vec{A} - \vec{B}) \\ &= \vec{A} \cdot \vec{A} - \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} - \vec{B} \cdot \vec{A} + \vec{B} \cdot \vec{B} \\ &= |\vec{A}|^2 - 2\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} + |\vec{B}|^2 \end{aligned}$$

Thus:

$$|\vec{A} + \vec{B}|^2 + |\vec{A} - \vec{B}|^2 = 2|\vec{A}|^2 + 2|\vec{B}|^2 = 2(|\vec{A}|^2 + |\vec{B}|^2)$$

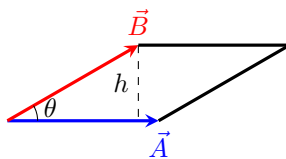


Figure 1.2: A parallelogram formed by two vectors \vec{A} and \vec{B}

1.4.4 Some practical applications

Some common places in Physics where you will find the dot product being applied are:

- The formulas for work done.

$$W = \vec{F} \cdot \vec{d}$$

$$dW = \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{l}$$

$$W = \int_L \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{l}$$

- The formulas for Electric and Magnetic flux.

$$\phi_E = \vec{E} \cdot \vec{A}$$

$$\phi_M = \vec{B} \cdot \vec{A}$$

- A third one I don't understand yet. Need to confirm this one.

$$Q = \iint_S \vec{D} \cdot d\vec{S}$$

1.5 Cross Product

1.5.1 The Definition

The cross product of two vectors \vec{A} and \vec{B} is given by:

$$\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = |\vec{A}||\vec{B}| \sin \theta \vec{u}_N \quad (1.2)$$

Where $\theta \in [0, \pi]$ and \vec{u}_N is a vector given by the right hand rule where fingers should be curled from the direction of \vec{A} to the direction of \vec{B} . Since the direction of the cross product is dictated by the right hand rule we can already see that it is not a commutative operation. More accurately:

$$\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = -(\vec{B} \times \vec{A}) \quad (1.3)$$

1.5.2 Geometric Significance

As you can see very clearly in figure 1.2 that any two vectors \vec{A} and \vec{B} can uniquely identify a parallelogram. The area of any parallelogram is given by the formula:

$$Area = (base) \times (height) \quad (1.4)$$

In figure 1.2 the base is the length of the vector \vec{A} and the height is shown by the dotted line. But how do we figure out what h really is? By applying trigonometry here we can find out that $h = |\vec{A}| \sin \theta$. Plugging in these values in equation 1.4 we get:

$$Area = (|\vec{B}|)(|\vec{A}| \sin \theta)$$

Ahah, this is exactly the same formula that is given by $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B}$. Thus we can conclude that the area of the parallelogram formed by two vectors \vec{A} and \vec{B} is given by $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B}$.

$$Area = \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B}$$

1.5.3 Calculating Cross Product

Before we learn how to calculate the cross product of any two vectors in terms of the three basic unit vectors \vec{a}_x , \vec{a}_y and \vec{a}_z we should think about what will be the cross production of every possible combination of two of these three unit vectors. We know from equation 1.2 that the cross product of two parallel vectors should be zero because $\sin 90^\circ = 0$. We also know that the magnitude of a unit vector is by definition one. Using these two facts, along with the right hand rule, we can very quickly see that:

$$\vec{a}_x \times \vec{a}_y = \vec{a}_z$$

$$\vec{a}_y \times \vec{a}_z = \vec{a}_x$$

$$\vec{a}_z \times \vec{a}_x = \vec{a}_y$$

Using equation 1.3 we can easily figure out the reverses of these combinations:

$$\vec{a}_y \times \vec{a}_x = -\vec{a}_z$$

$$\vec{a}_z \times \vec{a}_y = -\vec{a}_x$$

$$\vec{a}_x \times \vec{a}_z = -\vec{a}_y$$

Now suppose we have two vectors \vec{A} and \vec{B} , we can express them as:

$$\vec{A} = A_x \vec{a}_x + A_y \vec{a}_y + A_z \vec{a}_z$$

$$\vec{B} = B_x \vec{a}_x + B_y \vec{a}_y + B_z \vec{a}_z$$

Their cross product can be written as:

$$\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = (A_x \vec{a}_x + A_y \vec{a}_y + A_z \vec{a}_z) \times (B_x \vec{a}_x + B_y \vec{a}_y + B_z \vec{a}_z)$$

Expanding this we get:

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{A} \times \vec{B} = & A_x B_x (\vec{a}_x \times \vec{a}_x) + A_x B_y (\vec{a}_x \times \vec{a}_y) + A_x B_z (\vec{a}_x \times \vec{a}_z) \\ & + A_y B_x (\vec{a}_y \times \vec{a}_x) + A_y B_y (\vec{a}_y \times \vec{a}_y) + A_y B_z (\vec{a}_y \times \vec{a}_z) \\ & + A_z B_x (\vec{a}_z \times \vec{a}_x) + A_z B_y (\vec{a}_z \times \vec{a}_y) + A_z B_z (\vec{a}_z \times \vec{a}_z) \end{aligned}$$

Firstly, we can cancel those cross products which are between collinear vectors, as we know that's going to be zero.

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{A} \times \vec{B} &= A_x B_y (\vec{a}_x \times \vec{a}_y) + A_x B_z (\vec{a}_x \times \vec{a}_z) \\ &\quad + A_y B_x (\vec{a}_y \times \vec{a}_x) + A_y B_z (\vec{a}_y \times \vec{a}_z) \\ &\quad + A_z B_x (\vec{a}_z \times \vec{a}_x) + A_z B_y (\vec{a}_z \times \vec{a}_y)\end{aligned}$$

Now, just utilizing the crossproducts of all possible combinations between unit vectors that we just derived a while ago, we can simplify this even further:

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{A} \times \vec{B} &= A_x B_y (\vec{a}_z) + A_x B_z (-\vec{a}_y) \\ &\quad + A_y B_x (-\vec{a}_z) + A_y B_z (\vec{a}_x) \\ &\quad + A_z B_x (\vec{a}_y) + A_z B_y (-\vec{a}_x)\end{aligned}$$

Grouping these terms by unit vectors we get:

$$\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = \vec{a}_x (A_y B_z - A_z B_y) + \vec{a}_y (A_z B_x - A_x B_z) + \vec{a}_z (A_x B_y - A_y B_x) \quad (1.5)$$

We can write this in an elegant way as a determinant:

$$\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = \begin{vmatrix} \vec{a}_x & \vec{a}_y & \vec{a}_z \\ A_x & A_y & A_z \\ B_x & B_y & B_z \end{vmatrix} \quad (1.6)$$