

## 2.10.24

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### Question:

Let  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}$  and  $\mathbf{z}$  be three vectors each of magnitude  $\sqrt{2}$  and the angle between each pair of them is  $\frac{\pi}{3}$ . If  $\mathbf{a}$  is a non-zero vector perpendicular to  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{y} \times \mathbf{z}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$  is a non-zero vector perpendicular to  $\mathbf{y}$  and  $\mathbf{z} \times \mathbf{x}$ , then

$$1) \mathbf{b} = (\mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{z})(\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{x})$$

$$2) \mathbf{a} = (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{y})(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{z})$$

$$3) \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = -(\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{y})(\mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{z})$$

$$4) \mathbf{a} = -(\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{y})(\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{y})$$

solution :

defining : triple vector product

$$(\mathbf{x} \times (\mathbf{y} \times \mathbf{z})) = (\mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{z})\mathbf{y} - (\mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{y})\mathbf{z}$$

as mentioned in the question :

$$\|\mathbf{x}\| = \sqrt{2}, \|\mathbf{y}\| = \sqrt{2}, \|\mathbf{z}\| = \sqrt{2}$$

$$\mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{y} = 1, \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{z} = 1, \mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{z} = 1$$

If  $\mathbf{a}$  is a non-zero vector perpendicular to  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{y} \times \mathbf{z}$  this implies :

$$\mathbf{a}^\top \mathbf{x} = 0, \mathbf{a}^\top (\mathbf{y} \times \mathbf{z}) = 0$$

this implies that  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{y} \times \mathbf{z}$  lie in the same plane and their vector product is parallel to  $\mathbf{a}$   
so the vector product of

$$\mathbf{a} \times (\mathbf{x} \times (\mathbf{y} \times \mathbf{z})) = 0$$

$$\mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{z} = 1, \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{y} = 1$$

$$\mathbf{a} \times (\mathbf{x} \times (\mathbf{y} \times \mathbf{z})) = (\mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{z})(\mathbf{y} \times \mathbf{a}) - (\mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{y})(\mathbf{z} \times \mathbf{a}) = \mathbf{a} \times (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{z})$$

as  $\mathbf{a}$  is parallel to  $\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{z}$  so we can say that :

$$\mathbf{a} = k(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{z})$$

$k$  is a constant

If  $\mathbf{b}$  is a non-zero vector perpendicular to  $\mathbf{y}$  and  $\mathbf{z} \times \mathbf{x}$  this implies :

$$\mathbf{b}^\top \mathbf{y} = 0, \mathbf{b}^\top (\mathbf{z} \times \mathbf{x}) = 0$$

this implies that  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{y} \times \mathbf{z}$  lie in the same plane and their vector product is parallel to  $\mathbf{a}$

so the vector product of

$$\mathbf{b}X(\mathbf{y}X(\mathbf{z}X\mathbf{x})) = 0$$

$$\mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{y} = 1, \mathbf{z}^\top \mathbf{y} = 1$$

$$\mathbf{b}X(\mathbf{y}X(\mathbf{z}X\mathbf{x})) = (\mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{x})(\mathbf{z}X\mathbf{b}) - (\mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{z})(\mathbf{x}X\mathbf{b}) = \mathbf{b}X(\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{x}) = 0$$

as  $\mathbf{b}$  is parallel to  $\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{x}$  so we can say that :

$$\mathbf{b} = m(\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{x})$$

m is a constant

now we check options one by one :

option (a)

$$\mathbf{b} = (\mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{z})(\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{x})$$

we are putting b on both sides=

$$m(\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{x}) = (m(\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{x})^\top \mathbf{z})(\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{x})$$

$$m(\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{x}) = m(\mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{z} - \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{z})(\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{x})$$

$$m(\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{x}) = m(\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{x})$$

option A is correct .

option (b)

$$\mathbf{a} = (\mathbf{a}^\top \mathbf{y})(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{z})$$

we are putting a on both sides=

$$k(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{z}) = (k(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{z})^\top \mathbf{y})(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{z})$$

$$k(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{z}) = (k(\mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{z})(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{z}))$$

$$k(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{z}) = k(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{z})$$

option B is correct .

option (c)

$$\mathbf{a}^\top \mathbf{b} = -(\mathbf{a}^\top \mathbf{y})(\mathbf{b}^\top \mathbf{z})$$

we are putting a and b on both sides=

$$k(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{z})m(\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{x}) = -(m(\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{x}) \cdot \mathbf{z})(k(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{z})^\top \mathbf{y})$$

$$-km = -km$$

option C is correct .

option D is correct because option B is correct.

for plotting we are assuming the position vector :

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{y} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{z} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

