

Let $\langle \mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3 \rangle$ be an ordered basis of \mathbf{E} and let $\mathbf{v}_1 = |\mathbf{v}_1|\mathbf{u}_1$, $\mathbf{v}_2 = |\mathbf{v}_2|(\cos\theta\mathbf{u}_1 + \sin\theta\mathbf{u}_2)$ and $\mathbf{v}_3 = |\mathbf{v}_3|(\sin\phi\cos\psi\mathbf{u}_1 + \sin\phi\sin\psi\mathbf{u}_2 + \cos\phi\mathbf{u}_3)$, where the ordered orthonormal basis $\langle \mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{u}_3 \rangle$ is obtained from $\langle \mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3 \rangle$ by the Gram-Schmidt orthonormalization process. $\langle \mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3 \rangle$ has the same orientation as $\langle \mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{u}_3 \rangle$. $\mathbf{u}_1\mathbf{u}_2 = +\mathbf{u}_3$ if this orientation is positive and $\mathbf{u}_1\mathbf{u}_2 = -\mathbf{u}_3$ if this orientation is negative. In particular, $\mathbf{u}_1\mathbf{u}_2 + \mathbf{u}_2\mathbf{u}_1 = \mathbf{0}$.

$$\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_1 = |\mathbf{v}_1||\mathbf{v}_2|(\cos\theta\mathbf{u}_1^2 + \sin\theta\mathbf{u}_1\mathbf{u}_2) = |\mathbf{v}_1||\mathbf{v}_2|(-\cos\theta + \sin\theta(\mathbf{u}_1\mathbf{u}_2));$$

$$\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_1 = |\mathbf{v}_1||\mathbf{v}_2|(\cos\theta\mathbf{u}_1^2 + \sin\theta\mathbf{u}_2\mathbf{u}_1) = |\mathbf{v}_1||\mathbf{v}_2|(-\cos\theta - \sin\theta(\mathbf{u}_1\mathbf{u}_2)).$$

Hence $(\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_2 + \mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_1)/2$ is the *scalar* $-|\mathbf{v}_1||\mathbf{v}_2|\cos\theta = -\mathbf{v}_1 \bullet \mathbf{v}_2$ and

$$(\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_2 - \mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_1)/2 \text{ is the vector } |\mathbf{v}_1||\mathbf{v}_2|\sin\theta(\mathbf{u}_1\mathbf{u}_2) = \mathbf{v}_1 \times \mathbf{v}_2.$$

If \mathbf{w}_1 and \mathbf{w}_2 are linearly dependent non-zero *vectors*, then $\mathbf{w}_1 = |\mathbf{w}_1|\mathbf{u}$ and $\mathbf{w}_2 = \pm|\mathbf{w}_2|\mathbf{u}$, for some unit *vector* \mathbf{u} , where the sign is “+” or is “-”, according as \mathbf{w}_1 and \mathbf{w}_2 point in the same direction or in opposite directions and $\mathbf{w}_1\mathbf{w}_2 = \mathbf{w}_2\mathbf{w}_1 = |\mathbf{w}_1||\mathbf{w}_2|\mathbf{u}^2 = -|\mathbf{w}_1||\mathbf{w}_2|\cos 0$, if \mathbf{w}_1 and \mathbf{w}_2 point in the same direction and $\mathbf{w}_1\mathbf{w}_2 = \mathbf{w}_2\mathbf{w}_1 = -|\mathbf{w}_1||\mathbf{w}_2|\mathbf{u}^2 = -|\mathbf{w}_1||\mathbf{w}_2|\cos \pi$, if \mathbf{w}_1 and \mathbf{w}_2 point in opposite directions. In both cases $\mathbf{w}_1\mathbf{w}_2 = (\mathbf{w}_1\mathbf{w}_2 + \mathbf{w}_2\mathbf{w}_1)/2 = -\mathbf{w}_1 \bullet \mathbf{w}_2$. Further, in both cases $(\mathbf{w}_1\mathbf{w}_2 - \mathbf{w}_2\mathbf{w}_1)/2 = \mathbf{0} = \mathbf{w}_1 \times \mathbf{w}_2$.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3 = |\mathbf{v}_1||\mathbf{v}_2||\mathbf{v}_3| & (\cos\theta\sin\phi\cos\psi\mathbf{u}_1^3 + \sin\theta\sin\phi\cos\psi(\mathbf{u}_1\mathbf{u}_2\mathbf{u}_1) + \\ & \cos\theta\sin\phi\sin\psi(\mathbf{u}_1^2\mathbf{u}_2) + \sin\theta\sin\phi\sin\psi(\mathbf{u}_1\mathbf{u}_2^2) + \\ & \cos\theta\cos\phi(\mathbf{u}_1^2\mathbf{u}_3) + \sin\theta\cos\phi(\mathbf{u}_1\mathbf{u}_2\mathbf{u}_3)) \end{aligned}$$

$\mathbf{u}_1^3 = -\mathbf{u}_1$ and $\mathbf{u}_1\mathbf{u}_2\mathbf{u}_1 = \mathbf{u}_2$ are palindromic and are *vectors*;

$\mathbf{u}_1^2\mathbf{u}_2 = -\mathbf{u}_2 = \mathbf{u}_2\mathbf{u}_1^2$, $\mathbf{u}_1\mathbf{u}_2^2 = -\mathbf{u}_1 = \mathbf{u}_2^2\mathbf{u}_1$ and $\mathbf{u}_1^2\mathbf{u}_2 = -\mathbf{u}_2 = \mathbf{u}_2\mathbf{u}_1^2$ are *vectors*;

$\mathbf{u}_1\mathbf{u}_2\mathbf{u}_3 + \mathbf{u}_3\mathbf{u}_2\mathbf{u}_1 = 0$; in fact, $\mathbf{u}_1\mathbf{u}_2\mathbf{u}_3$ is the positive or negative *scalar* ± 1 , according as the orientation of the original ordered basis $\langle \mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3 \rangle$ is negative or positive.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3 = |\mathbf{v}_1||\mathbf{v}_2||\mathbf{v}_3| & (\sin\theta\cos\phi(\mathbf{u}_1\mathbf{u}_2\mathbf{u}_3) - (\cos\theta\sin\phi\cos\psi + \sin\theta\sin\phi\sin\psi)\mathbf{u}_1 \\ & + (\sin\theta\sin\phi\cos\psi - \cos\theta\sin\phi\sin\psi)\mathbf{u}_2 - (\cos\theta\cos\phi)\mathbf{u}_3) \\ = |\mathbf{v}_1||\mathbf{v}_2||\mathbf{v}_3| & (\sin\theta\cos\phi(\mathbf{u}_1\mathbf{u}_2\mathbf{u}_3) - \sin\phi(\cos(\psi-\theta)\mathbf{u}_1 + \sin(\psi-\theta)\mathbf{u}_2) - \cos\theta\cos\phi\mathbf{u}_3) \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_1 = |\mathbf{v}_1||\mathbf{v}_2||\mathbf{v}_3|(\sin\theta\cos\phi(\mathbf{u}_3\mathbf{u}_2\mathbf{u}_1) - \sin\phi(\cos(\psi-\theta)\mathbf{u}_1 + \sin(\psi-\theta)\mathbf{u}_2) - \cos\theta\cos\phi\mathbf{u}_3)$$

Hence $(\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3 - \mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_1)/2$ is the *scalar* $|\mathbf{v}_1||\mathbf{v}_2||\mathbf{v}_3|\sin\theta\cos\phi(\mathbf{u}_1\mathbf{u}_2\mathbf{u}_3) = \text{Vol}[\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3]\psi$, where $\text{Vol}[\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3] = |\mathbf{v}_1||\mathbf{v}_2||\mathbf{v}_3|\sin\theta\cos\phi$ is the volume of the parallelepiped with adjacent edges $\mathbf{v}_1 = OV_1$, $\mathbf{v}_2 = OV_2$ and $\mathbf{v}_3 = OV_3$ and $\psi = \pm 1$, the sign of ψ being opposite to the sign of the orientation of the ordered basis $\langle \mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3 \rangle$.

It is immediate that $(\mathbf{v}_l\mathbf{v}_m\mathbf{v}_n - \mathbf{v}_n\mathbf{v}_m\mathbf{v}_l)/2 = \pm(\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3 - \mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_1)/2$, where the ordered triple $\langle l, m, n \rangle$ is a permutation of the sequence $\langle 1, 2, 3 \rangle$ and where the sign is “+” or is “-”, according as the permutation is even or is odd. (In particular, $\mathbf{u}_l\mathbf{u}_m\mathbf{u}_n = \mathbf{u}_1\mathbf{u}_2\mathbf{u}_3$).

$(\mathbf{v}_1 \times \mathbf{v}_2) \bullet \mathbf{v}_3 = (|\mathbf{v}_1||\mathbf{v}_2|\sin\theta(\mathbf{u}_1 \times \mathbf{u}_2)) \bullet |\mathbf{v}_3|\cos\phi\mathbf{u}_3 = |\mathbf{v}_1||\mathbf{v}_2||\mathbf{v}_3|\sin\theta\cos\phi((\mathbf{u}_1 \times \mathbf{u}_2) \bullet \mathbf{u}_3)$; thus $(\mathbf{v}_1 \times \mathbf{v}_2) \bullet \mathbf{v}_3 = -(\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3 - \mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_1)/2$ follows from $(\mathbf{u}_1 \times \mathbf{u}_2) \bullet \mathbf{u}_3 = -(\mathbf{u}_1\mathbf{u}_2\mathbf{u}_3)$, both being equal either to 1, or to -1, according to the orientation of the ordered basis. It also follows from $(\mathbf{u}_1 \times \mathbf{u}_2) \bullet \mathbf{u}_3 = \mathbf{u}_1 \bullet (\mathbf{u}_2 \times \mathbf{u}_3)$, that $(\mathbf{v}_1 \times \mathbf{v}_2) \bullet \mathbf{v}_3 = \mathbf{v}_1 \bullet (\mathbf{v}_2 \times \mathbf{v}_3)$.

If $\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2$ and \mathbf{w}_3 are linearly dependent *vectors*, then it is straightforward to show that $(\mathbf{w}_1\mathbf{w}_2\mathbf{w}_3 - \mathbf{w}_3\mathbf{w}_2\mathbf{w}_1)/2 = (\mathbf{w}_1 \times \mathbf{w}_2) \bullet \mathbf{w}_3 = 0$.

We also give a direct algebraic proof that $(\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3 - \mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_1)/2 = -\mathbf{v}_1 \bullet (\mathbf{v}_2 \times \mathbf{v}_3)$, using the quaternion identity $(\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3 - \mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_1)/2 = (\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_1 - \mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2)/2$.

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3 - \mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_1)/2 &= (\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3 - \mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_1)/4 + (\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_1 - \mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2)/4. \\ &= (\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3 - \mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2)/4 + (\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_1 - \mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_1)/4. \\ &= \mathbf{v}_1(\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3 - \mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2)/4 + (\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3 - \mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2)\mathbf{v}_1/4 \\ &= \mathbf{v}_1(\mathbf{v}_2 \times \mathbf{v}_3)/2 + (\mathbf{v}_2 \times \mathbf{v}_3)\mathbf{v}_1/2 \\ &= -\mathbf{v}_1 \bullet (\mathbf{v}_2 \times \mathbf{v}_3). \end{aligned}$$

Any vector \mathbf{v} may be expressed as a linear combination of the elements of any basis of \mathbf{E} . Specifically, let $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3\}$ be a basis of \mathbf{E} . Then:

$$[\mathbf{v}_1 \bullet (\mathbf{v}_2 \times \mathbf{v}_3)]\mathbf{v} = [\mathbf{v}_2 \bullet (\mathbf{v}_3 \times \mathbf{v})]\mathbf{v}_1 + [\mathbf{v}_1 \bullet (\mathbf{v}_3 \times \mathbf{v}_2)]\mathbf{v}_2 + [\mathbf{v} \bullet (\mathbf{v}_1 \times \mathbf{v}_2)]\mathbf{v}_3.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{In fact: } (\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3 - \mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_1)\mathbf{v} &= \mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v} \\ &= \mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}\mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2 + \mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}\mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2 - \mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_2 + \mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_2 - \mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v} \\ &= \mathbf{v}_1(\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v}\mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2) + (\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}\mathbf{v}_3 - \mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}\mathbf{v}_1)\mathbf{v}_2 + \mathbf{v}_3(\mathbf{v}\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_2 - \mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}). \end{aligned}$$

$(\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3 + \mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_1)/2$ is the vector $(-\mathbf{v}_2 \bullet \mathbf{v}_3)\mathbf{v}_1 + (\mathbf{v}_1 \bullet \mathbf{v}_3)\mathbf{v}_2 + (-\mathbf{v}_1 \bullet \mathbf{v}_2)\mathbf{v}_3$. In fact:

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3 + \mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_1)/2 &= (\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3 + \mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2)/2 - (\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2 + \mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_2)/2 + (\mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_2 + \mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_1)/2 \\ &= \mathbf{v}_1(\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3 + \mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2)/2 - ((\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_3 + \mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_1)/2)\mathbf{v}_2 + \mathbf{v}_3(\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_2 + \mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_1)/2. \end{aligned}$$

We may obtain two vector identities for the expression $(\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3 - \mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_1)/2$.

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3 - \mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_1)/2 &= (\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3 + \mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_3)/2 - (\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_3 + \mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_1)/2 \\ &= -\mathbf{v}_3(\mathbf{v}_1 \bullet \mathbf{v}_2) + \mathbf{v}_2(\mathbf{v}_1 \bullet \mathbf{v}_3). \end{aligned}$$

Also, it follows from $(\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3 - \mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_1)/2 = (\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_1 - \mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2)/2$ that

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3 - \mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_1)/2 &= (\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3 + \mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_1)/4 + (\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3 - \mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_1)/4 \\ &\quad - (\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_1 + \mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2)/4 - (\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_1 - \mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2)/4 \\ &= (\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3 + \mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_1)/4 - (\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_1 + \mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2)/4 \\ &= (\mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3 - \mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2)/4 - (\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_1 - \mathbf{v}_3\mathbf{v}_2\mathbf{v}_1)/4 \\ &= \mathbf{v}_1(\mathbf{v}_2 \times \mathbf{v}_3)/2 - (\mathbf{v}_2 \times \mathbf{v}_3)\mathbf{v}_1/2 = \mathbf{v}_1 \times (\mathbf{v}_2 \times \mathbf{v}_3). \end{aligned}$$

In particular, we obtain the Jacobi identity $\mathbf{v}_1 \times (\mathbf{v}_2 \times \mathbf{v}_3) + \mathbf{v}_2 \times (\mathbf{v}_3 \times \mathbf{v}_1) + \mathbf{v}_3 \times (\mathbf{v}_1 \times \mathbf{v}_2) = \mathbf{0}$.

Further, let $\langle \mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3, \mathbf{v}_4 \rangle$ be an ordered quadruple of vectors. Then:

$$(\mathbf{v}_1 \times \mathbf{v}_2) \bullet (\mathbf{v}_3 \times \mathbf{v}_4) = (\mathbf{v}_1 \bullet \mathbf{v}_3)(\mathbf{v}_2 \bullet \mathbf{v}_4) - (\mathbf{v}_1 \bullet \mathbf{v}_4)(\mathbf{v}_2 \bullet \mathbf{v}_3). \text{ In fact:}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbf{v}_1 \times \mathbf{v}_2) \bullet (\mathbf{v}_3 \times \mathbf{v}_4) &= \mathbf{v}_1 \bullet (\mathbf{v}_2 \times (\mathbf{v}_3 \times \mathbf{v}_4)) \\ &= \mathbf{v}_1 \bullet ((\mathbf{v}_2 \bullet \mathbf{v}_4)\mathbf{v}_3 - (\mathbf{v}_2 \bullet \mathbf{v}_3)\mathbf{v}_4) = (\mathbf{v}_1 \bullet \mathbf{v}_3)(\mathbf{v}_2 \bullet \mathbf{v}_4) - (\mathbf{v}_1 \bullet \mathbf{v}_4)(\mathbf{v}_2 \bullet \mathbf{v}_3). \end{aligned}$$