

VECTORS, TENSORS, AND MATRICES

I Main Topics

- A Vector length and direction
- B Vector Products
- C Tensor notation vs. matrix notation

II Vector Products

A Vector length: $|\mathbf{A}| = \sqrt{A_x^2 + A_y^2 + A_z^2}$

B A vector \mathbf{A} can be defined by its length $|\mathbf{A}|$ and the direction of a unit vector \mathbf{a} that is in the same direction as \mathbf{A} . The unit vector \mathbf{a} has x,y,z components $A_x\mathbf{i}/|\mathbf{A}|$, $A_y\mathbf{j}/|\mathbf{A}|$, and $A_z\mathbf{k}/|\mathbf{A}|$, respectively, where \mathbf{i} , \mathbf{j} , and \mathbf{k} are unit vectors along the x,y, and z axes, respectively. $\mathbf{A} = |\mathbf{A}|\mathbf{a}$.

C Example: If $\mathbf{A} = 0\mathbf{i} + 3\mathbf{j} + 4\mathbf{k}$, then $|\mathbf{A}| = \sqrt{0^2 + 3^2 + 4^2} = \sqrt{25} = 5$, and

$$\mathbf{a} = \frac{0}{5}\mathbf{i} + \frac{3}{5}\mathbf{j} + \frac{4}{5}\mathbf{k}.$$

II Products of Vectors

A Dot product: $\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} = M$

- 1 \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} are vectors, and M is a scalar corresponding to a length.
- 2 If unit vectors \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} parallel vectors \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} , respectively, and the angle from \mathbf{a} to \mathbf{b} (and from \mathbf{A} to \mathbf{B}) is θ_{ab} , then, recalling that

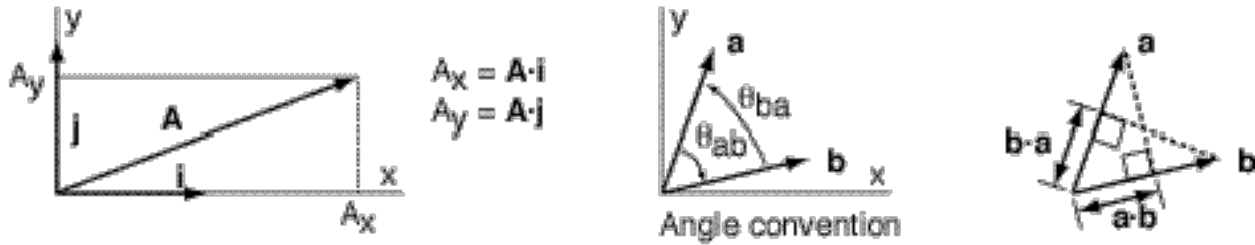
$$\cos\theta_{ab} = \cos(-\theta_{ab}) = \cos(\theta_{ba}) = \cos(\theta) \dots$$

a $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = \cos\theta = \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{a}$

b $\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} = |\mathbf{A}|\mathbf{a} \cdot |\mathbf{B}|\mathbf{b} = |\mathbf{A}|\mathbf{B}|(\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}) = |\mathbf{A}|\mathbf{B}|(\cos\theta)$

c Example: If $\mathbf{A} = 2\mathbf{i} + 0\mathbf{j} + 0\mathbf{k}$, and $\mathbf{B} = 0\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} + 0\mathbf{k}$, $\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} = (2)(2)\cos(90^\circ) = 0$

- 3 If \mathbf{b} is a unit vector, then $\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{b}$ (or $\mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{A}$) is the length of the projection of \mathbf{A} onto the direction defined by \mathbf{b} .



4 Dot product tables of Cartesian basis vectors

	\mathbf{i}	\mathbf{j}	\mathbf{k}			$B_x \mathbf{i}$	$B_y \mathbf{j}$	$B_z \mathbf{k}$
$\mathbf{i} \cdot$	1	0	0		$A_x \mathbf{i} \cdot$	$A_x B_x$	0	0
$\mathbf{j} \cdot$	0	1	0		$A_y \mathbf{j} \cdot$	0	$A_y B_y$	0
$\mathbf{k} \cdot$	0	0	1		$A_z \mathbf{k} \cdot$	0	0	$A_z B_z$

$$5 \quad \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} = (A_x \mathbf{i} + A_y \mathbf{j} + A_z \mathbf{k}) \cdot (B_x \mathbf{i} + B_y \mathbf{j} + B_z \mathbf{k}) = A_x B_x + A_y B_y + A_z B_z$$

- 6 For unit vectors \mathbf{e}_r and \mathbf{e}_s along axes of a Cartesian frame

a $\mathbf{e}_r \cdot \mathbf{e}_s = 1$ if $r = s$

b $\mathbf{e}_r \cdot \mathbf{e}_s = 0$ if $r \neq s$

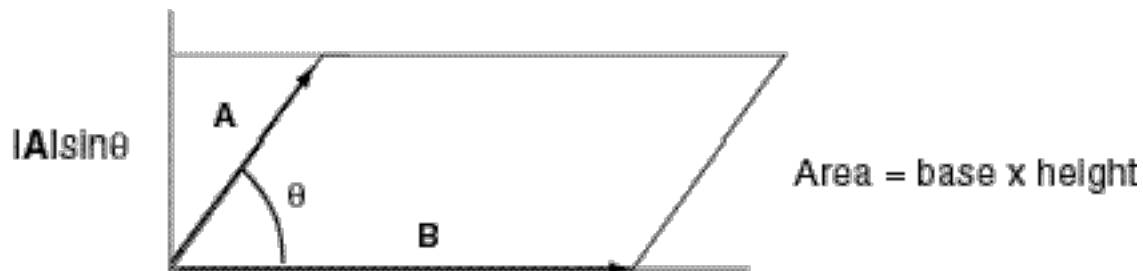
- 7 In Matlab, $\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B}$ is performed as $\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{A}(:,) * \mathbf{B}(:,)$ or $\mathbf{C} = \text{sum}(\mathbf{A} * \mathbf{B})$

- 8 Uses in geology for dot products: all kinds of projections

B Cross product: $\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{C}$

- 1 \mathbf{C} is a vector perpendicular to both \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} , so \mathbf{C} is perpendicular to the plane containing \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} . \mathbf{C} points in the direction of our thumb if the other fingers on your right hand first point in the direction of \mathbf{A} and then curl to point in the direction of \mathbf{B} . (i.e., \mathbf{A} , \mathbf{B} , and \mathbf{C} form a right-handed set). As a result, $\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B} = -\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{A}$.

- 2 If unit vectors \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} parallel vectors \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} , respectively, and the angle between \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} (and between \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B}) is θ , then ...
- $\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = \sin\theta \mathbf{n}$, where \mathbf{n} is a unit vector normal to the \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} plane
 - $\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B} = |\mathbf{A}||\mathbf{a}| |\mathbf{B}||\mathbf{b}| = |\mathbf{A}||\mathbf{B}|(\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}) = |\mathbf{A}||\mathbf{B}|(\sin\theta)\mathbf{n}$
 - Example: If $\mathbf{A} = 2\mathbf{i} + 0\mathbf{j} + 0\mathbf{k}$, and $\mathbf{B} = 0\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} + 0\mathbf{k}$, $\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B} = (2)(2)\sin(90^\circ)\mathbf{k} = 4\mathbf{k}$
- 3 The length (magnitude) of \mathbf{C} is the area of the parallelogram defined by vectors \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} , where \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} are along adjacent side of the parallelogram. In the figure below, $\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B}$ points into the page, and $\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{A}$ points out of the page.



4 Cross product tables of Cartesian basis vectors

	\mathbf{i}	\mathbf{j}	\mathbf{k}			$B_x \mathbf{i}$	$B_y \mathbf{j}$	$B_z \mathbf{k}$
$\mathbf{i} \times$	0	\mathbf{k}	$-\mathbf{j}$		$A_x \mathbf{i} \times$	$\mathbf{0}$	$A_x B_y \mathbf{k}$	$-A_x B_z \mathbf{j}$
$\mathbf{j} \times$	$-\mathbf{k}$	0	\mathbf{i}		$A_y \mathbf{j} \times$	$-A_y B_x \mathbf{k}$	$\mathbf{0}$	$A_y B_z \mathbf{i}$
$\mathbf{k} \times$	\mathbf{j}	$-\mathbf{i}$	0		$A_z \mathbf{k} \times$	$A_z B_x \mathbf{j}$	$-A_z B_y \mathbf{i}$	$\mathbf{0}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 5 \quad \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} &= (A_x \mathbf{i} + A_y \mathbf{j} + A_z \mathbf{k}) \cdot (B_x \mathbf{i} + B_y \mathbf{j} + B_z \mathbf{k}) \\
 &= (A_y B_z - A_z B_y) \mathbf{i} - (A_x B_z - A_z B_x) \mathbf{j} + (A_x B_y - A_y B_x) \mathbf{k}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$6 \quad \mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ A_x & A_y & A_z \\ B_x & B_y & B_z \end{vmatrix}$$

7 For unit vectors \mathbf{e}_r and \mathbf{e}_s along axes of a Cartesian frame

a $\mathbf{e}_p \times \mathbf{e}_q = \mathbf{e}_r$ if $p,q = 1,2$ or $2,3$ or $3,1$

b $\mathbf{e}_r \times \mathbf{e}_q = -\mathbf{e}_p$ if $r,q = 3,2$ or $2,1$ or $1,3$

b $\mathbf{e}_p \times \mathbf{e}_q = 0$ if $p = q$

8 In Matlab, $\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B}$ is performed as $\mathbf{C} = \text{cross}(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B})$

9 Uses in geology for cross products: finding poles to planes in three-point problems; finding fold axes from poles to bedding.

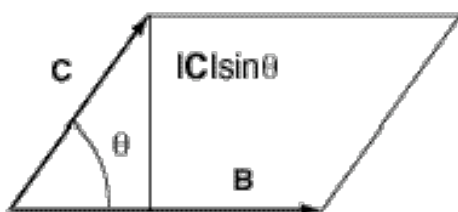
C Scalar triple product: $(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}) = \mathbf{A} \cdot (\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{C}) = V$

1 The vector triple product is a scalar (i.e., a number) that corresponds to a volume.

2 $|V|$ is the volume of a parallelepiped with edges along \mathbf{A} , \mathbf{B} , and \mathbf{C} .

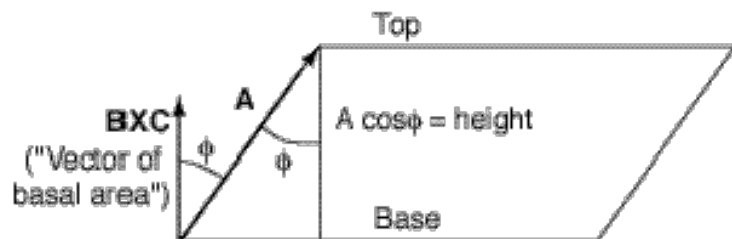
$(\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{C})$ gives the area of the base, and the dot product of this with \mathbf{A} gives the base times the component of \mathbf{A} normal to the base (i.e., the base times the height). The absolute value of V guarantees that the volume is non-negative.

View of top/base of parallelepiped



$$\text{Basal area} = (C \sin \theta)(B) = |\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{C}|$$

View of side of parallelepiped



$$\text{Volume} = (\text{base})(\text{height}) = |\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{C}|(A \cos \phi) = |\mathbf{A} \cdot (\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{C})|$$

$$3 \quad V = \mathbf{A} \cdot (\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{C}) = \mathbf{A} \cdot \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ B_x & B_y & B_z \\ C_x & C_y & C_z \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} A_x & A_y & A_z \\ B_x & B_y & B_z \\ C_x & C_y & C_z \end{vmatrix} = A_x(B_y C_z - B_z C_y) - A_y(B_x C_z - B_z C_x) + A_z(B_x C_y - B_y C_x)$$

4 The determinant of a 3x3 matrix gives the volume of a parallelepiped.

5 In Matlab, $V = \mathbf{A} \cdot (\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{C})$ is performed as $V = \text{sum}(\mathbf{A} \cdot \text{cross}(\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}))$

6 Use in geology: solutions of equations, estimating volume of ore bodies

7 If at least two of the vectors $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}$ are parallel to each other, then $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}$ cannot define a parallelepiped, at least two rows of the matrix in (3) are linearly dependent, and the determinant of (3) is zero, and the three planes defined by $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}$ will not intersect in a unique point

8 Proof that $\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B}$ is perpendicular to the plane of \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B}

a If \mathbf{C} is not perpendicular to the \mathbf{AB} plane, then \mathbf{C} must be non-perpendicular to both \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} , i.e., $\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{C} \neq 0$ and $\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} \neq 0$.

b $|\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{C}| = |\mathbf{A} \cdot (\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B})| = |\mathbf{B} \cdot (\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{A})| = 0$

c $|\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{C}| = |\mathbf{B} \cdot (\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B})| = |\mathbf{A} \cdot (\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{B})| = 0$

d The postulate that \mathbf{C} is not perpendicular to the \mathbf{AB} plane thus is disproved, so \mathbf{C} is perpendicular to the \mathbf{AB} plane.

D Invariants

1 Quantities that do not depend on the orientation of a coordinate system.

2 Examples

a Dot product of two vectors (a length)

b Scalar triple product (a volume)