

Scalar “dot” Product

The dot product of any two vectors is:

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

It is commutative:

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

It is distributive over the vector addition:

$$\vec{A} \cdot (\vec{B} + \vec{C}) = \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} + \vec{A} \cdot \vec{C}$$

If $\vec{A} \perp \vec{B}$ then $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = 0$

On unit vectors:

$$\hat{i} \cdot \hat{i} = 1$$

$$\hat{j} \cdot \hat{j} = 1$$

$$\hat{k} \cdot \hat{k} = 1$$

Any other combination = 0

General equation on arbitrary 3D vectors:

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = A_x B_x + A_y B_y + A_z B_z$$

Vector “cross” Product

The cross product of any two vectors is:

$$\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = \vec{C}$$

where

$$C = AB \sin \theta$$

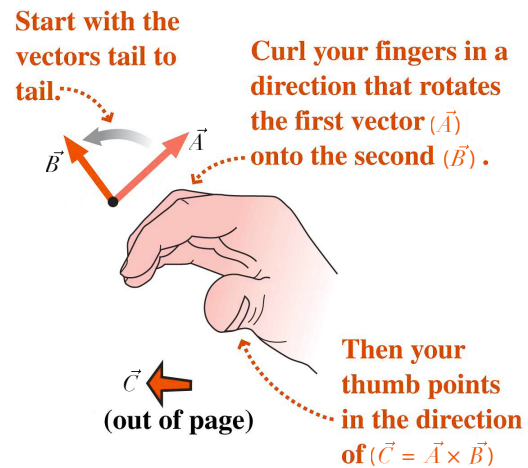
$$\vec{C} \perp \vec{A}$$

and

$$\vec{C} \perp \vec{B}$$

The direction of \vec{C} is given by the

Right-Hand-Rule:



It is anti-commutative:

$$\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = -\vec{B} \times \vec{A}$$

It is distributive over the vector addition:

$$\vec{A} \times (\vec{B} + \vec{C}) = \vec{A} \times \vec{B} + \vec{A} \times \vec{C}$$

$$(\vec{B} + \vec{C}) \times \vec{A} = \vec{B} \times \vec{A} + \vec{C} \times \vec{A}$$

If $\vec{A} \parallel \vec{B}$ then $\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = 0$

On unit vectors:

$$\begin{array}{l} \hat{i} \times \hat{j} = \hat{k} \\ \hat{j} \times \hat{k} = \hat{i} \\ \hat{k} \times \hat{i} = \hat{j} \end{array}$$

General equation on arbitrary 3D vectors:

$$\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = (A_y B_z - B_y A_z) \hat{i} + (A_z B_x - B_z A_x) \hat{j} + (A_x B_y - B_x A_y) \hat{k}$$