

Proposition: If $\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = 0$ and $\vec{u} \neq \vec{0}$, $\vec{v} \neq \vec{0}$ then $\vec{u} \perp \vec{v}$ (\vec{u} & \vec{v} are perpendicular).

Proof:

by Theorem² we have:

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v}}{\|\vec{u}\| \|\vec{v}\|}$$

and $\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = 0$ (is given) then

$$\cos \theta = \frac{0}{\|\vec{u}\| \|\vec{v}\|} = 0$$

$$\therefore \theta = \cos^{-1}(0) = \frac{\pi}{2} = 90^\circ$$

$\Rightarrow \vec{u} \perp \vec{v}$ or \vec{u} & \vec{v} are perpendicular. \square

Cross Product

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If $\vec{u} = (u_1, u_2, u_3)$ and $\vec{v} = (v_1, v_2, v_3)$ are vectors in \mathbb{R}^3 , then the cross product of \vec{u} and \vec{v} respectively which is denoted

by $\vec{u} \times \vec{v}$ and defined by:

$$\vec{u} \times \vec{v} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ u_1 & u_2 & u_3 \\ v_1 & v_2 & v_3 \end{vmatrix} = (-1)^{1+1} (u_2 v_3 - u_3 v_2) \hat{i}$$