

Lect 1 Vector algebra

①

Vector algebra:

scalar: quantities have magnitude but no direction

→ mass, charge, density, temperature, etc

non-relativistic

vector: quantities have both magnitude & direction

\vec{r} , \vec{v} , \vec{a} . Vectors can be considered as an array of numbers

$$\vec{r} = (x, y, z), \quad \vec{v} = (v_x, v_y, v_z) = v_x \vec{i} + v_y \vec{j} + v_z \vec{k}$$

$$= x \vec{i} + y \vec{j} + z \vec{k}$$

↑

unit basis

$$\textcircled{1} \quad \vec{A} + \vec{B} = (A_x, A_y, A_z) + (B_x, B_y, B_z) = (A_x + B_x, A_y + B_y, A_z + B_z) \\ = \vec{B} + \vec{A}$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = A_x B_x + A_y B_y + A_z B_z = \vec{B} \cdot \vec{A} \Rightarrow \vec{A} \cdot \vec{A} = A_x^2 + A_y^2 + A_z^2 \\ \text{norm } |\vec{A}| = \sqrt{\vec{A} \cdot \vec{A}}$$

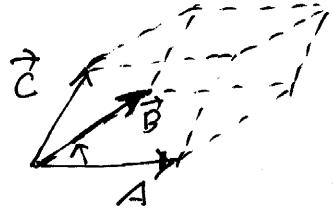
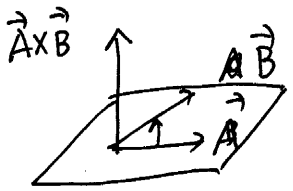
$$\textcircled{3} \quad \vec{A} \times \vec{B} = \begin{vmatrix} \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ A_x & A_y & A_z \\ B_x & B_y & B_z \end{vmatrix} = (A_y B_z - A_z B_y, A_z B_x - B_z A_x, A_x B_y - A_y B_x) \\ = -\vec{B} \times \vec{A} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \vec{A} \times \vec{A} = 0$$

$$\textcircled{4} \quad \vec{A} \cdot (\vec{B} \times \vec{C}) = \begin{vmatrix} A_x & A_y & A_z \\ B_x & B_y & B_z \\ C_x & C_y & C_z \end{vmatrix} = \vec{B} \cdot (\vec{C} \times \vec{A}) = \vec{C} \cdot (\vec{A} \times \vec{B})$$

$$\textcircled{5} \vec{A} \times (\vec{B} \times \vec{C}) = \vec{B}(\vec{A} \cdot \vec{C}) - \vec{C}(\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B})$$

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

$$\textcircled{6} (\vec{A} \times \vec{B}) \cdot (\vec{C} \times \vec{D}) = (\vec{A} \cdot \vec{C})(\vec{B} \cdot \vec{D}) - (\vec{A} \cdot \vec{D})(\vec{B} \cdot \vec{C})$$



$\vec{C} \cdot (\vec{A} \times \vec{B})$
volume of the
parallelepiped

§ Position, displacement;

$$\vec{r} = x\vec{i} + y\vec{j} + z\vec{k} \quad r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$$

$$\hat{r} = \frac{\vec{r}}{r} = \frac{x\vec{i} + y\vec{j} + z\vec{k}}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}}$$

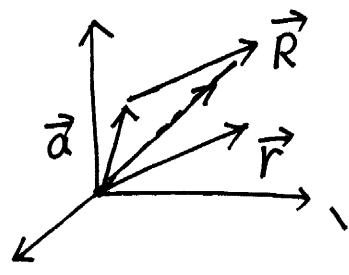
$$\vec{r}_{12} = \vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2, \quad |\vec{r}_{12}| = |\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2|, \quad \hat{r}_{12} = \frac{\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2}{|\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2|}$$

§ transformations of vector

translation

①. vector \vec{r} is translated

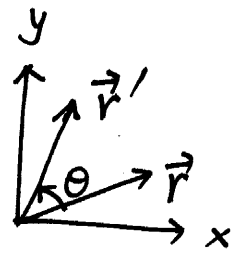
by \vec{a} , the resultant



$$\vec{R} = \vec{r} + \vec{a} \quad \text{using the matrix method}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} R_x \\ R_y \\ R_z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} r_x \\ r_y \\ r_z \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} a_x \\ a_y \\ a_z \end{pmatrix}$$

② rotation:



vector \vec{r} is rotated around the z-axis

by an angle θ :

$\vec{r}' = R_z(\theta) \vec{r}$, its components satisfy the matrix relation:

$$\begin{pmatrix} r'_x \\ r'_y \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos\theta & -\sin\theta & 0 \\ \sin\theta & \cos\theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} r_x \\ r_y \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

generally, for a 3d rotation: $\vec{r}' = R \vec{r}$,

$$\text{or } \begin{pmatrix} r'_x \\ r'_y \\ r'_z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} R_{xx} & R_{xy} & R_{xz} \\ R_{yx} & R_{yy} & R_{yz} \\ R_{zx} & R_{zy} & R_{zz} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} r_x \\ r_y \\ r_z \end{pmatrix}$$

\Downarrow 3×3 orthogonal matrix: $R^T R = I$.

$$\det R = 1$$

③ inversion

$$\vec{r}' = -\vec{r}$$

$$\text{or } \begin{pmatrix} r'_x \\ r'_y \\ r'_z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & & \\ & -1 & \\ & & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} r_x \\ r_y \\ r_z \end{pmatrix}$$

④ reflection with respect to xy, yz, zx-planes.

$$\text{xy: } \begin{pmatrix} r'_x \\ r'_y \\ r'_z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & \\ & 1 & \\ & & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} r_x \\ r_y \\ r_z \end{pmatrix},$$

$$yz: \begin{pmatrix} r'_x \\ r'_y \\ r'_z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & & \\ & 1 & \\ & & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} r_x \\ r_y \\ r_z \end{pmatrix}$$

$$zx: \begin{pmatrix} r'_x \\ r'_y \\ r'_z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & \\ & -1 & \\ & & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} r_x \\ r_y \\ r_z \end{pmatrix}$$

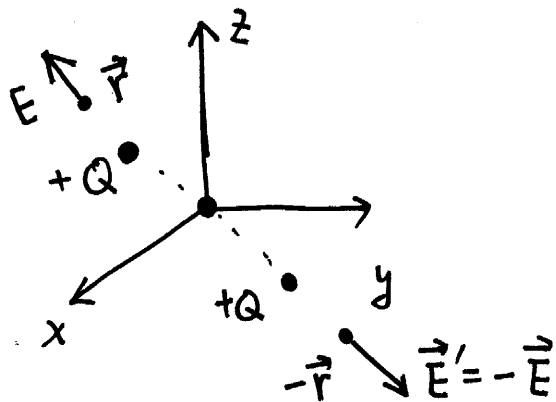
All the transformations which keep the norm of \vec{r} unchanged, can be decomposed into a series of the above operations.

\vec{E} pseudo-vector:

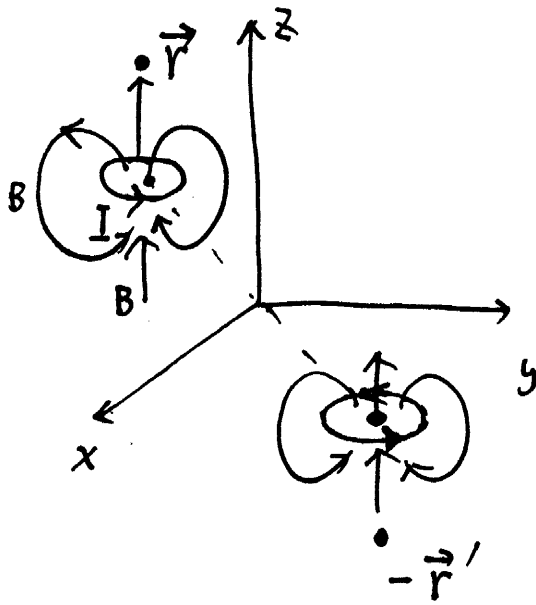
\vec{E} - ^{vector} is an ordinary vector, satisfying the above transformation.

\vec{B} - is pseudo vector. Under spatial rotations, \vec{B} transforms as the same as \vec{E} .

But under inversion: $\vec{E} \rightarrow -\vec{E}$, $\vec{B} \rightarrow \vec{B}$.



inversion of a charge Q and its electric field



the inversion
of a current loop
and its surrounding
B-field.

\vec{B} is even under spatial inversion, thus is quite different from usual vectors. — pseudo-vector or axial vector