

Vector Identity 3

$$(\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}) \cdot (\mathbf{c} \times \mathbf{d}) = (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c})(\mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{d}) - (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{d})(\mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{c})$$

Proof

Let $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{a}$, $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{b}$, $\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{c}$, and $\mathbf{D} = \mathbf{d}$.

$$\begin{aligned}
(\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B}) \cdot (\mathbf{C} \times \mathbf{D}) &= \left[\left(\sum_{i=1}^3 \delta_i A_i \right) \times \left(\sum_{j=1}^3 \delta_j B_j \right) \right] \cdot \left[\left(\sum_{k=1}^3 \delta_k C_k \right) \times \left(\sum_{l=1}^3 \delta_l D_l \right) \right] \\
&= \left[\sum_{i=1}^3 \sum_{j=1}^3 (\delta_i \times \delta_j) A_i B_j \right] \cdot \left[\sum_{k=1}^3 \sum_{l=1}^3 (\delta_k \times \delta_l) C_k D_l \right] \\
&= \left(\sum_{i=1}^3 \sum_{j=1}^3 \sum_{m=1}^3 \delta_m \varepsilon_{mij} A_i B_j \right) \cdot \left(\sum_{k=1}^3 \sum_{l=1}^3 \sum_{n=1}^3 \delta_n \varepsilon_{nkl} C_k D_l \right) \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^3 \sum_{j=1}^3 \sum_{k=1}^3 \sum_{l=1}^3 \sum_{m=1}^3 \sum_{n=1}^3 (\delta_m \cdot \delta_n) \varepsilon_{mij} \varepsilon_{nkl} A_i B_j C_k D_l \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^3 \sum_{j=1}^3 \sum_{k=1}^3 \sum_{l=1}^3 \sum_{m=1}^3 \sum_{n=1}^3 \delta_{mn} \varepsilon_{mij} \varepsilon_{nkl} A_i B_j C_k D_l \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^3 \sum_{j=1}^3 \sum_{k=1}^3 \sum_{l=1}^3 \sum_{m=1}^3 \varepsilon_{mij} \varepsilon_{mkl} A_i B_j C_k D_l \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^3 \sum_{j=1}^3 \sum_{k=1}^3 \sum_{l=1}^3 (\delta_{ik} \delta_{jl} - \delta_{il} \delta_{jk}) A_i B_j C_k D_l \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^3 \sum_{j=1}^3 \sum_{k=1}^3 \sum_{l=1}^3 \delta_{ik} \delta_{jl} A_i B_j C_k D_l - \sum_{i=1}^3 \sum_{j=1}^3 \sum_{k=1}^3 \sum_{l=1}^3 \delta_{il} \delta_{jk} A_i B_j C_k D_l \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^3 \sum_{j=1}^3 \sum_{k=1}^3 \delta_{ik} A_i B_j C_k D_j - \sum_{i=1}^3 \sum_{j=1}^3 \sum_{l=1}^3 \delta_{il} A_i B_j C_j D_l \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^3 \sum_{j=1}^3 A_i B_j C_i D_j - \sum_{i=1}^3 \sum_{j=1}^3 A_i B_j C_j D_i \\
&= \left(\sum_{i=1}^3 A_i C_i \right) \left(\sum_{j=1}^3 B_j D_j \right) - \left(\sum_{i=1}^3 A_i D_i \right) \left(\sum_{j=1}^3 B_j C_j \right) \\
&= (\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{C})(\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{D}) - (\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{D})(\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{C})
\end{aligned}$$