

Exercise 5C

- 1 For each problem, calculate the vector product in the bracket first and then perform the scalar product on the answer.

$$\mathbf{a} \quad \mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 3 & 0 & 4 \end{vmatrix} = 4\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} - 3\mathbf{k}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{a} \cdot (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}) &= (5\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k}) \cdot (4\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} - 3\mathbf{k}) \\ &= 20 - 2 + 3 = 21 \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbf{b} \quad \mathbf{c} \times \mathbf{a} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ 3 & 0 & 4 \\ 5 & 2 & -1 \end{vmatrix} = -8\mathbf{i} + 23\mathbf{j} + 6\mathbf{k}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{b} \cdot (\mathbf{c} \times \mathbf{a}) &= (\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}) \cdot (-8\mathbf{i} + 23\mathbf{j} + 6\mathbf{k}) \\ &= -8 + 23 + 6 = 21 \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbf{c} \quad \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ 5 & 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 3\mathbf{i} - 6\mathbf{j} + 3\mathbf{k}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{c} \cdot (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}) &= (3\mathbf{i} + 4\mathbf{k}) \cdot (3\mathbf{i} - 6\mathbf{j} + 3\mathbf{k}) \\ &= 9 + 12 = 21 \end{aligned}$$

$$2 \quad \mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ 2 & 1 & -1 \\ 2 & -3 & -5 \end{vmatrix} = -8\mathbf{i} + 8\mathbf{j} - 8\mathbf{k}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{a} \cdot (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}) &= (\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} - 2\mathbf{k}) \cdot (-8\mathbf{i} + 8\mathbf{j} - 8\mathbf{k}) \\ &= -8 - 8 + 16 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

If $\mathbf{a} \cdot (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}) = 0$ then \mathbf{a} is perpendicular to $\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}$.

This means that \mathbf{a} is parallel to the plane containing \mathbf{b} and \mathbf{c} (in fact $\mathbf{a} = \frac{1}{8}\mathbf{b} + \frac{3}{8}\mathbf{c}$).

$$3 \quad \overline{AB} \times \overline{AD} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ 3 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = -2\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + 6\mathbf{k}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Volume of the parallelepiped} &= |\overline{AE} \cdot (\overline{AB} \times \overline{AD})| = |(\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + 3\mathbf{k}) \cdot (-2\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + 6\mathbf{k})| \\ &= |-2 + 1 + 18| = 17 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Alternatively, volume} = \begin{vmatrix} e_1 & e_2 & e_3 \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \\ d_1 & d_2 & d_3 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = 1(0 - 2) - 1(0 - 1) + 3(6 - 0) = 17$$

- 4 Let the vertices A, B, D and E have position vectors $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{d}$ and \mathbf{e} respectively.

$$\overrightarrow{AB} = \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a} = 4\mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{k}$$

$$\overrightarrow{AD} = \mathbf{d} - \mathbf{a} = 3\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k}$$

$$\overrightarrow{AE} = \mathbf{e} - \mathbf{a} = 3\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}$$

Using the scalar triple product

$$\overrightarrow{AE} \cdot (\overrightarrow{AB} \times \overrightarrow{AD}) = \begin{vmatrix} 3 & 1 & 1 \\ 4 & 0 & -2 \\ 3 & 2 & -1 \end{vmatrix} = 3(0+4) - 1(-4+6) + 1(8-0) = 12 - 2 + 8 = 18$$

$$\text{So volume of parallelepiped} = \left| \overrightarrow{AE} \cdot (\overrightarrow{AB} \times \overrightarrow{AD}) \right| = 18$$

- 5 Let the vertices A, B, C and D have position vectors $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c}$ and \mathbf{d} respectively.

$$\overrightarrow{AB} = \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a} = 3\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}$$

$$\overrightarrow{AC} = \mathbf{c} - \mathbf{a} = \mathbf{j} - 2\mathbf{k}$$

$$\overrightarrow{AD} = \mathbf{d} - \mathbf{a} = 2\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}$$

$$\overrightarrow{AB} \cdot (\overrightarrow{AC} \times \overrightarrow{AD}) = \begin{vmatrix} 3 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 \\ 2 & -1 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 3(1-2) - 1(0+4) + 1(0-2) = -9$$

$$\text{Volume of tetrahedron} = \frac{1}{6} \left| \overrightarrow{AB} \cdot (\overrightarrow{AC} \times \overrightarrow{AD}) \right| = \frac{9}{6} = \frac{3}{2}$$

- 6 a Let the vertices A, B, C and D have position vectors $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c}$ and \mathbf{d} respectively.

$$\overrightarrow{BC} = \mathbf{c} - \mathbf{b} = -2\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}$$

$$\overrightarrow{BD} = \mathbf{d} - \mathbf{b} = 2\mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k}$$

$$\overrightarrow{BC} \times \overrightarrow{BD} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ -2 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 2 \end{vmatrix} = 2\mathbf{i} + 4\mathbf{j} - 4\mathbf{k}$$

$$\text{Area of face } BCD = \frac{1}{2} \left| \overrightarrow{BC} \times \overrightarrow{BD} \right| = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{2^2 + 4^2 + (-4)^2} = \frac{\sqrt{36}}{2} = 3$$

- b The normal to the face BCD is in the direction of $\overrightarrow{BC} \times \overrightarrow{BD}$, i.e. in the direction $2\mathbf{i} + 4\mathbf{j} - 4\mathbf{k}$

$$\text{As } |2\mathbf{i} + 4\mathbf{j} - 4\mathbf{k}| = \sqrt{2^2 + 4^2 + (-4)^2} = 6$$

$$\text{The unit vector normal to the face is } \frac{1}{6}(2\mathbf{i} + 4\mathbf{j} - 4\mathbf{k}) = \frac{1}{3}(\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} - 2\mathbf{k})$$

Multiplying by -1 also gives a vector normal to the face BCD , so $-\frac{1}{3}(\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} - 2\mathbf{k})$ is a solution.

- c $\overrightarrow{BA} = \mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b} = -\mathbf{i} + 3\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k}$

$$\overrightarrow{BA} \cdot (\overrightarrow{BC} \times \overrightarrow{BD}) = (-\mathbf{i} + 3\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k}) \cdot (2\mathbf{i} + 4\mathbf{j} - 4\mathbf{k}) = -2 + 12 + 4 = 14$$

$$\text{Volume of tetrahedron} = \frac{1}{6} \left| \overrightarrow{BA} \cdot (\overrightarrow{BC} \times \overrightarrow{BD}) \right| = \frac{14}{6} = \frac{7}{3}$$

- 7 a Let the vertices A, B, C and D have position vectors $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c}$ and \mathbf{d} respectively. (Note $\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{0}$.)
Now find the length of all edges, as a tetrahedron is regular if all of its edges are the same length.

$$\overline{AB} = \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a} = \mathbf{b}, \text{ so } |\overline{AB}| = 2$$

$$\overline{AC} = \mathbf{c} - \mathbf{a} = \mathbf{c}, \text{ so } |\overline{AC}| = \sqrt{1^2 + (\sqrt{3})^2} = 2$$

$$\overline{AD} = \mathbf{d} - \mathbf{a} = \mathbf{d}, \text{ so } |\overline{AD}| = \sqrt{1^2 + \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{2\sqrt{6}}{3}\right)^2} = \sqrt{1 + \frac{3}{9} + \frac{24}{9}} = 2$$

$$\overline{BC} = \mathbf{c} - \mathbf{b} = -\mathbf{i} + \sqrt{3}\mathbf{j}, \text{ so } |\overline{BC}| = \sqrt{(-1)^2 + (\sqrt{3})^2} = 2$$

$$\overline{BD} = \mathbf{d} - \mathbf{b} = -\mathbf{i} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}\mathbf{j} + \frac{2\sqrt{6}}{3}\mathbf{k}, \text{ so } |\overline{BD}| = \sqrt{(-1)^2 + \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{2\sqrt{6}}{3}\right)^2} = \sqrt{1 + \frac{3}{9} + \frac{24}{9}} = 2$$

$$\overline{CD} = \mathbf{d} - \mathbf{c} = \frac{-2\sqrt{3}}{3}\mathbf{j} + \frac{2\sqrt{6}}{3}\mathbf{k}, \text{ so } |\overline{CD}| = \sqrt{\left(\frac{-2\sqrt{3}}{3}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{2\sqrt{6}}{3}\right)^2} = \sqrt{\frac{4}{3} + \frac{8}{3}} = 2$$

All 6 edges have the same length and so the tetrahedron is regular.

$$\mathbf{b} \quad \overline{AB} \cdot (\overline{AC} \times \overline{AD}) = \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & \sqrt{3} & 0 \\ 1 & \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3} & \frac{2\sqrt{6}}{3} \end{vmatrix} = 2 \frac{2\sqrt{6}\sqrt{3}}{3} = \frac{4\sqrt{18}}{3} = 4\sqrt{2}$$

$$\text{Volume of tetrahedron} = \frac{1}{6} |\overline{AB} \cdot (\overline{AC} \times \overline{AD})| = \frac{4\sqrt{2}}{6} = \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{3}$$

- 8 a $\overline{AB} = (-\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k}) - (\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k}) = -2\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + 3\mathbf{k}$
 $\overline{AC} = (2\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}) - (\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k}) = \mathbf{i} - 3\mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k}$

$$\overline{AB} \times \overline{AC} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ -2 & -1 & 3 \\ 1 & -3 & 2 \end{vmatrix} = 7\mathbf{i} + 7\mathbf{j} + 7\mathbf{k}$$

$$\mathbf{b} \quad \text{Area of triangle ABC} = \frac{1}{2} |\overline{AB} \times \overline{AC}| = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{7^2 + 7^2 + 7^2} = \frac{\sqrt{147}}{2} = \frac{7\sqrt{3}}{2}$$

$$\mathbf{c} \quad \overline{AO} \cdot (\overline{AB} \times \overline{AC}) = (-\mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}) \cdot (7\mathbf{i} + 7\mathbf{j} + 7\mathbf{k}) = -7 - 14 + 7 = -14$$

$$\text{Volume of tetrahedron} = \frac{1}{6} |\overline{AO} \cdot (\overline{AB} \times \overline{AC})| = \frac{14}{6} = \frac{7}{3}$$

$$9 \text{ a } \overrightarrow{AB} = \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a} = \mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}, \quad \overrightarrow{BC} = \mathbf{c} - \mathbf{b} = -3\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} - 2\mathbf{k}$$

$$\overrightarrow{AB} \times \overrightarrow{BC} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ 1 & -2 & 1 \\ -3 & -1 & -2 \end{vmatrix} = 5\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} - 7\mathbf{k}$$

$$\overrightarrow{BD} = \mathbf{d} - \mathbf{b} = -\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{k}, \quad \overrightarrow{DC} = \mathbf{c} - \mathbf{d} = -2\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} - 4\mathbf{k}$$

$$\overrightarrow{BD} \times \overrightarrow{DC} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ -1 & 0 & 2 \\ -2 & -1 & -4 \end{vmatrix} = 2\mathbf{i} - 8\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}$$

$$b \text{ i } \overrightarrow{AB} \times \overrightarrow{BC} = -\overrightarrow{BA} \times \overrightarrow{BC} \Rightarrow |\overrightarrow{AB} \times \overrightarrow{BC}| = |\overrightarrow{BA} \times \overrightarrow{BC}|$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{So area of triangle } ABC &= \frac{1}{2} |\overrightarrow{BA} \times \overrightarrow{BC}| = |\overrightarrow{AB} \times \overrightarrow{BC}| \\ &= \frac{1}{2} |-5\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + 7\mathbf{k}| = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{25 + 1 + 49} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{75} = \frac{5\sqrt{3}}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$b \text{ ii } \overrightarrow{AB} \times \overrightarrow{BC} = -\overrightarrow{BA} \times \overrightarrow{BC} \Rightarrow \overrightarrow{BA} \times \overrightarrow{BC} = -\overrightarrow{AB} \times \overrightarrow{BC}$$

$$\overrightarrow{BD} \cdot (\overrightarrow{BA} \times \overrightarrow{BC}) = (-\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{k}) \cdot (-5\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + 7\mathbf{k}) = 5 + 14 = 19$$

$$\text{So volume of tetrahedron } ABCD = \frac{1}{6} |\overrightarrow{BD} \cdot (\overrightarrow{BA} \times \overrightarrow{BC})| = \frac{19}{6}$$

$$10 \text{ a } \mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ 2 & -1 & 3 \\ 4 & -2 & 5 \end{vmatrix} = \mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j}$$

As $\mathbf{a} = 2(\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c})$, \overrightarrow{OP} is perpendicular to \overrightarrow{OQ} and to \overrightarrow{OR} , i.e. \overrightarrow{OP} is perpendicular to the plane OQR .

$$b \text{ } |\overrightarrow{OP}| = |\mathbf{a}| = \sqrt{2^2 + 4^2} = \sqrt{20} = 2\sqrt{5}$$

$$\text{Area of } OQR = \frac{1}{2} |\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}| = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1^2 + 2^2} = \frac{\sqrt{5}}{2}$$

$$\text{Volume of tetrahedron} = \frac{1}{3} \times \text{base} \times \text{height} = \frac{1}{3} \times \frac{\sqrt{5}}{2} \times 2\sqrt{5} = \frac{5}{3}$$

c Using the scalar triple product:

$$\mathbf{a} \cdot (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}) = \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 4 & 0 \\ 2 & -1 & 3 \\ 4 & -2 & 5 \end{vmatrix} = 2(-5 + 6) - 4(10 - 12) = 2 + 8 = 10$$

$\mathbf{a} \cdot (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c})$ is $6 \times$ volume of tetrahedron (from part b), so result verified.

11 a The volume of the parallelepiped = $|\overrightarrow{AB} \cdot (\overrightarrow{BD} \times \overrightarrow{BC})|$

The volume of the tetrahedron = $\frac{1}{6} |\overrightarrow{EC} \cdot (\overrightarrow{EM} \times \overrightarrow{NC})|$

Now from the diagram:

$$\overrightarrow{EC} = \overrightarrow{AB}$$

$$\overrightarrow{EM} = \frac{1}{2} \overrightarrow{BD}$$

$$\overrightarrow{NC} = \overrightarrow{NB} + \overrightarrow{BC}$$

Using these results and the fact that both the vector product and the scalar product are distributive over vector addition, this gives:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Volume of the tetrahedron} &= \frac{1}{12} \left| \overrightarrow{AB} \cdot (\overrightarrow{BD} \times (\overrightarrow{NB} + \overrightarrow{BC})) \right| \\ &= \frac{1}{12} \left| \overrightarrow{AB} \cdot ((\overrightarrow{BD} \times \overrightarrow{NB}) + (\overrightarrow{BD} \times \overrightarrow{BC})) \right| && \text{as vector product distributive} \\ &= \frac{1}{12} \left| \overrightarrow{AB} \cdot (\overrightarrow{BD} \times \overrightarrow{NB}) + \overrightarrow{AB} \cdot (\overrightarrow{BD} \times \overrightarrow{BC}) \right| && \text{as scalar product distributive} \end{aligned}$$

But $\overrightarrow{BD} \times \overrightarrow{NB}$ is perpendicular to \overrightarrow{AB} so $\overrightarrow{AB} \cdot (\overrightarrow{BD} \times \overrightarrow{NB}) = 0$

So the expression for the volume of the tetrahedron simplifies to $\frac{1}{12} |\overrightarrow{AB} \cdot (\overrightarrow{BD} \times \overrightarrow{BC})|$

Hence the ratio of the two volumes is 12 : 1

- b** The ratio remains unchanged since the argument in part **a** does not use any data about N other than it lies on the line AB .

12 Split the pyramid into two tetrahedrons $AEDB$ and $CEDB$ so the volume of the pyramid is just the combined volume of the two tetrahedrons.

$$\overrightarrow{AD} = \mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{k}, \quad \overrightarrow{AB} = \mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}, \quad \overrightarrow{AE} = 4\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{k}$$

$$\overrightarrow{AD} \cdot (\overrightarrow{AB} \times \overrightarrow{AE}) = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 4 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 2 - 16 = -14$$

$$\text{Volume of } AEDB = \frac{1}{6} |-14| = \frac{14}{6} = \frac{7}{3}$$

$$\overrightarrow{CB} = -\mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{k}, \quad \overrightarrow{CD} = -\mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k}, \quad \overrightarrow{CE} = 2\mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j} - 2\mathbf{k}$$

$$\overrightarrow{CB} \cdot (\overrightarrow{CD} \times \overrightarrow{CE}) = \begin{vmatrix} -1 & 0 & -2 \\ -1 & -2 & -1 \\ 2 & -2 & -2 \end{vmatrix} = -2 - 12 = -14$$

$$\text{Volume of } CEDB = \frac{1}{6} |-14| = \frac{14}{6} = \frac{7}{3}$$

$$\text{Hence the combined volume} = \frac{7}{3} + \frac{7}{3} = \frac{14}{3}$$

Challenge

a Let $\mathbf{a} = a_1\mathbf{i} + a_2\mathbf{j} + a_3\mathbf{k}$ $\mathbf{b} = b_1\mathbf{i} + b_2\mathbf{j} + b_3\mathbf{k}$ $\mathbf{c} = c_1\mathbf{i} + c_2\mathbf{j} + c_3\mathbf{k}$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{a} \cdot (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}) &= \begin{vmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \\ c_1 & c_2 & c_3 \end{vmatrix} = a_1(b_2c_3 - b_3c_2) - a_2(b_1c_3 - b_3c_1) + a_3(b_1c_2 - b_2c_1) \\ &= a_1(b_2c_3 - b_3c_2) + a_2(b_3c_1 - b_1c_3) + a_3(b_1c_2 - b_2c_1) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} &= (a_1\mathbf{i} + a_2\mathbf{j} + a_3\mathbf{k}) \times (b_1\mathbf{i} + b_2\mathbf{j} + b_3\mathbf{k}) \\ &= a_1b_2\mathbf{k} - a_1b_3\mathbf{j} - a_2b_1\mathbf{k} + a_2b_3\mathbf{i} + a_3b_1\mathbf{j} - a_3b_2\mathbf{i} = (a_2b_3 - a_3b_2)\mathbf{i} + (a_3b_1 - a_1b_3)\mathbf{j} + (a_1b_2 - a_2b_1)\mathbf{k} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}) \cdot \mathbf{c} &= ((a_2b_3 - a_3b_2)\mathbf{i} + (a_3b_1 - a_1b_3)\mathbf{j} + (a_1b_2 - a_2b_1)\mathbf{k}) \cdot (c_1\mathbf{i} + c_2\mathbf{j} + c_3\mathbf{k}) \\ &= (a_2b_3 - a_3b_2)c_1 + (a_3b_1 - a_1b_3)c_2 + (a_1b_2 - a_2b_1)c_3 \\ &= a_1(b_2c_3 - b_3c_2) + a_2(b_3c_1 - b_1c_3) + a_3(b_1c_2 - b_2c_1) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{So } \mathbf{a} \cdot (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}) = (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}) \cdot \mathbf{c}$$

<p>b $\mathbf{d} \cdot (\mathbf{a} \times (\mathbf{b} + \mathbf{c})) = (\mathbf{d} \times \mathbf{a}) \cdot (\mathbf{b} + \mathbf{c})$ $= (\mathbf{d} \times \mathbf{a}) \cdot \mathbf{b} + (\mathbf{d} \times \mathbf{a}) \cdot \mathbf{c}$ $= \mathbf{d} \cdot (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}) + \mathbf{d} \cdot (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{c})$ $= \mathbf{d} \cdot (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{c})$</p>	<p>applying part a scalar product is distributive over vector addition applying part a scalar product is distributive over vector addition</p>
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c Since the equality holds for any choice of vector \mathbf{d} , it follows that $\mathbf{a} \times (\mathbf{b} + \mathbf{c}) = \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{c}$