

# TRIPLE PRODUCT AND PRODUCT OF FOUR VECTORS

## PREVIOUS EAMCET BITS

1. The volume of the tetrahedron having the edges  $\vec{i} + 2\vec{j} - \vec{k}, \vec{i} + \vec{j} + \vec{k}, \vec{i} - \vec{j} + \lambda\vec{k}$  as conterminous, is  $\frac{2}{3}$  cubic units. Then  $\lambda$  [EAMCET 2009]
- 1) 1                      2) 2                      3) 3                      4) 4

Ans: 1

Sol.  $V = \frac{1}{6} [\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}] = \frac{2}{3}$  cubic units

$\Rightarrow \lambda = 1$

2. If  $\vec{a} = \vec{i} + \vec{j} + \vec{k}, \vec{b} = \vec{i} - \vec{j} + \vec{k}, \vec{c} = \vec{i} + \vec{j} + \vec{k}, \vec{d} = \vec{i} - \vec{j} - \vec{k}$ , then observe the following lists [EAMCET 2008]

List - I

i)  $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}$

ii)  $\vec{b} \cdot \vec{c}$

iii)  $[\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}]$

iv)  $\vec{b} \times \vec{c}$

List - II

A)  $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{d}$

B) 3

C)  $\vec{b} \cdot \vec{d}$

D)  $2\vec{j} - 2\vec{k}$

E)  $2\vec{j} + 2\vec{k}$

F) 4

The correct match of List-I to List - II

	i	ii	iii	iv		i	ii	iii	iv
1)	C	A	B	F	2)	C	A	F	E
3)	A	C	B	F	4)	A	C	F	D

Ans: 2

Sol.  $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = (\vec{i} + \vec{j} + \vec{k}) \cdot (\vec{i} - \vec{j} + \vec{k}) = 1 - 1 + 1 = 1$

$\vec{b} \cdot \vec{c} = (\vec{i} - \vec{j} + \vec{k}) \cdot (\vec{i} + \vec{j} + \vec{k}) = 1 - 1 + 1 = 1$

$$[\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}] = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 \end{vmatrix} = 1(1-1) - 1(-1-1) + 1(1+1) = 0 + 2 + 2 = 4$$

$$\vec{b} \times \vec{c} = \begin{vmatrix} \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 \end{vmatrix} = \vec{i}(1-1) - \vec{j}(-1-1) + \vec{k}(1+1) = 2\vec{j} + 2\vec{k}$$

$\vec{a} \cdot \vec{d} = (\vec{i} + \vec{j} + \vec{k}) \cdot (\vec{i} - \vec{j} - \vec{k}) = 1 - 1 - 1 = -1$

$\vec{b} \cdot \vec{d} = (\vec{i} - \vec{j} + \vec{k}) \cdot (\vec{i} - \vec{j} - \vec{k}) = 1 + 1 - 1 = 1$

3. Let  $\vec{a}$  be a unit vector,  $\vec{b} = 2\vec{i} + \vec{j} - \vec{k}$  and  $\vec{c} = \vec{i} + 3\vec{k}$ , the maximum value of  $[\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}]$  is [EAMCET 2008]

- 1) -1                      2)  $\sqrt{10} + \sqrt{6}$                       3)  $\sqrt{10} - \sqrt{6}$                       4)  $\sqrt{59}$

Ans: 4

Sol.  $b \times c = \begin{vmatrix} i & j & k \\ 2 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & 3 \end{vmatrix} = i(3-0) - j(6+1) + k(0-1) = 3i - 7j - k$

$[abc] = a \cdot (b \times c) = a \cdot (3i - 7j - k)$   
 $= |a| |3i - 7j - k| \cos \theta$  where  $\theta = (a, 3i - 7j - k)$   
 $= \sqrt{9+49+1} \cdot \cos \theta$   
 $= \sqrt{59} \cos \theta$

$\therefore$  Maximum value of  $[\bar{a}\bar{b}\bar{c}]$  is  $\sqrt{59}$

4. The volume (in cubic units) of the tetrahedron with edges  $\vec{i} + \vec{j} + \vec{k}$ ,  $\vec{i} - \vec{j} + \vec{k}$  and  $\vec{i} + 2\vec{j} - \vec{k}$  is [EAMCET 2007]

- 1) 4                                      2) 2/3                                      3) 1/6                                      4) 1/3  
 Ans: 2

Sol.  $V = \frac{1}{6} \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & -1 \end{vmatrix} = \frac{2}{3}$

5.  $\vec{i} - 2\vec{j}, 3\vec{j} + \vec{k}$  and  $\lambda\vec{i} - 3\vec{j}$  are coplanar then = [EAMCET 2006]  
 1) -1                                      2) 1/2                                      3) -3/2                                      4) 2  
 Ans: 3

Sol.  $\bar{a}, \bar{b}, \bar{c}$  are coplanar  $\Rightarrow \begin{vmatrix} a_1 & b_1 & c_1 \\ a_2 & b_2 & c_2 \\ a_3 & b_3 & c_3 \end{vmatrix} = 0 \Rightarrow \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 1 \\ \lambda & 3 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = 0$

$1(0-3) + 2(0-\lambda) + 0(0-3\lambda) = 0$   
 $\lambda = \frac{-3}{2}$

6. If the volume of the parallelepiped with coterminous edges  $4\vec{i} + 5\vec{j} + \vec{k}$ ,  $-\vec{j} + \vec{k}$  and  $3\vec{i} + 9\vec{j} + p\vec{k}$  is 34 cubic units, then p = ..... [EAMCET 2006]  
 1) 4                                      2) -13                                      3) 13                                      4) 6  
 Ans: 1 or 3

Sol. Volume =  $|[a \ b \ c]| = \begin{vmatrix} 4 & 5 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 3 & 9 & p \end{vmatrix} = 34$

$\Rightarrow |4p+18| = 34 \Rightarrow p = -13$  or  $4$

7. Observe the following lists [EAMCET 2005]

List - I

- A)  $[\bar{a} \ \bar{b} \ \bar{c}]$   
 B)  $(\bar{c} \times \bar{a}) \times \bar{b}$   
 C)  $\bar{a} \times (\bar{b} \times \bar{c})$

List - II

- 1)  $|\bar{a}| |\bar{b}| \cos(\bar{a}\bar{b})$   
 2)  $(\bar{a} \cdot \bar{b}) \bar{b} - (\bar{a}\bar{b}) \bar{c}$   
 3)  $\bar{a} \cdot \bar{b} \times \bar{c}$

D)  $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}$

4)  $|\vec{a}| |\vec{b}|$

5)  $(\vec{b} \cdot \vec{c})\vec{a} - (\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b})\vec{c}$

	A	B	C	D
1)	1	2	3	4
3)	3	2	5	1

	A	B	C	D
2)	3	5	2	1
4)	2	3	4	1

Ans: 2

Sol.  $[\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}] = \vec{a} \cdot (\vec{b} \times \vec{c})$

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

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

$$\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = |\vec{a}| |\vec{b}| \cos(\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b})$$

8.  $\vec{c} \cdot (\vec{b} + \vec{c}) \times (\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}) =$

[EAMCET 2004]

- 1)  $\vec{c} \cdot \vec{b} \times \vec{a}$                       2)  $\vec{0}$                       3)  $\vec{c} \cdot \vec{a} \times \vec{b}$                       4)  $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{c} \times \vec{b}$

Ans: 1

Sol.  $(\vec{c} \cdot \vec{b} + \vec{c} \cdot \vec{c}) \times (\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}) = \vec{c} \cdot (\vec{b} \times \vec{a}) = [\vec{c} \vec{b} \vec{a}]$

9. If  $3\vec{i} + 3\vec{j} + \sqrt{3}\vec{k}, \vec{i} + \vec{k}, \sqrt{3}\vec{i} + \sqrt{3}\vec{j} + \lambda\vec{k}$  are coplanar, then  $\lambda =$

[EAMCET 2004]

- 1) 1                      2) 2                      3) 3                      4) 4

Ans: 1

Sol.  $\begin{vmatrix} 3 & 3 & \sqrt{3} \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ \sqrt{3} & \sqrt{3} & \lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0 \Rightarrow \lambda = 1$

10. If  $\vec{a} = \vec{i} + \vec{j} + \vec{k}, \vec{b} = \vec{i} + \vec{j}, \vec{c} = \vec{i}$  and  $(\vec{a} \times \vec{b}) \times \vec{c} = \lambda\vec{a} + \mu\vec{b}$ , then  $\lambda + \mu =$

[EAMCET 2003]

- 1) 0                      2) 1                      3) 2                      4) 3

Ans: 1

Sol.  $(\vec{a} \times \vec{b}) \times \vec{c} = (\vec{a} \cdot \vec{c})\vec{b} - (\vec{b} \cdot \vec{c})\vec{a} = \vec{b} - \vec{a}$

$$\lambda = -1; \mu = 1 \Rightarrow \lambda + \mu = 0$$

11. If  $[\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}] = 3$ , then the volume (in cubic units) of the parallelepiped with  $2\vec{a} + \vec{b}, 2\vec{b} + \vec{c}$  and  $2\vec{c} + \vec{a}$  as coterminous edges is

[EAMCET 2002]

- 1) 15                      2) 22                      3) 25                      4) 27

Ans: 4

Sol.  $= [2\vec{a} + \vec{b} \quad 2\vec{b} + \vec{c} \quad 2\vec{c} + \vec{a}] = \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 \end{vmatrix} [\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}] = 9 \cdot 3 = 27$

12.  $(\vec{a} + \vec{b}) \cdot (\vec{b} + \vec{c}) \times (\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}) =$

[EAMCET 2002]

- 1) 0                      2)  $-[\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}]$                       3)  $2[\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}]$                       4)  $[\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}]$

Ans:

Sol.  $(\vec{a} + \vec{b}) \cdot (\vec{b} + \vec{c}) \times (\vec{a} + \vec{b} + \vec{c}) = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{vmatrix} [\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}]$   
 $= [0 - 1(-1) + 0] [\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}] = [\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}]$

13.  $[\vec{i} - \vec{j} \quad \vec{j} - \vec{k} \quad \vec{k} - \vec{i}] =$  [EAMCET 2001]

- 1) 0                                      2) 1                                      3) 3                                      4) 2

Ans: 1

Sol.  $\begin{vmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 0$

14. If  $\vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{c}, \vec{d}$  are coplanar vectors then  $(\vec{a} \times \vec{b}) \times (\vec{c} \times \vec{d}) =$  [EAMCET 2001]

- 1) 1                                      2)  $\vec{a}$                                       3)  $\vec{b}$                                       4)  $\vec{0}$

Ans: 4

Sol.  $\vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{c}, \vec{d}$  are coplanar  
 $\vec{a} \times \vec{b}$  and  $\vec{c} \times \vec{d}$  are parallel  
 $\therefore (\vec{a} \times \vec{b}) \times (\vec{c} \times \vec{d}) = \vec{0}$

15. If  $\vec{a} = 2\vec{i} + 3\vec{j} - 4\vec{k}$ ,  $\vec{b} = \vec{i} + \vec{j} + \vec{k}$  and  $\vec{c} = 4\vec{i} + 2\vec{j} + 3\vec{k}$  and  $|\vec{a} \times (\vec{b} \times \vec{c})| =$  [EAMCET 2000]

- 1)  $\sqrt{10}$                                       2) 1                                      3) 2                                      4)  $\sqrt{5}$

Ans: 4

Sol.  $|\vec{a} \times (\vec{b} \times \vec{c})| = |(\vec{a} \cdot \vec{c})\vec{b} - (\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b})\vec{c}|$   
 $= |-2\vec{i} - \vec{k}| = \sqrt{4+1} = \sqrt{5}$

16.  $(\vec{b} \times \vec{c}) \times (\vec{c} \times \vec{a}) =$  [EAMCET 2000]

- 1)  $[\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}]\vec{c}$                                       2)  $[\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}]\vec{b}$                                       3)  $[\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}]\vec{a}$                                       4)  $\vec{a} \times (\vec{b} \times \vec{c})$

Ans: 1

Sol.  $(\vec{b} \times \vec{c}) \times (\vec{c} \times \vec{a}) = ((\vec{b} \times \vec{c})\vec{a})\vec{c} - ((\vec{b} \times \vec{c})\vec{c})\vec{a}$   
 $\Rightarrow [\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}]\vec{c} - 0 = [\vec{a} \vec{b} \vec{c}]\vec{c}$

\*\*\*\*