

CROSS PRODUCT

1. Let $\vec{u} = u_x \hat{x} + u_y \hat{y} + u_z \hat{z}$ be a vector in \mathbb{R}^3 . Determine two vectors \vec{v} and \vec{w} such that

$$\vec{u} = \vec{v} \times \vec{w}.$$

It is possible to solve this problem by brute force; find a better way if you can.

HINT: What properties should \vec{v} and \vec{w} have?

NOTATION:

- u_x, u_y, u_z are constants, *not* partial derivatives;
- $\hat{x}, \hat{y}, \hat{z}$ are the standard basis vectors in \mathbb{R}^3 , also written as $\hat{i}, \hat{j}, \hat{k}$.