
Subject: Meaning of outer product

Posted by [Paul Sorenson](#) on Sat, 13 Jul 2002 00:33:56 GMT

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Greetings,

IDL documentation says: "Note - If A and B arguments are vectors, then C = MATRIX_MULTIPLY(A, B) is a matrix with $C_{ij} = A_i B_j$. Mathematically, this is equivalent to the outer product. . . ." But I'm having difficulty reconciling this with my understanding of outer product. . .

$$c.x = a.y*b.z - a.z*b.y$$
$$c.y = a.z*b.x - a.x*b.z$$
$$c.z = a.x*b.y - a.y*b.x$$

... which yields a vector (c) instead of a 2D array. Can anyone shed some light on this?

-Paul Sorenson

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