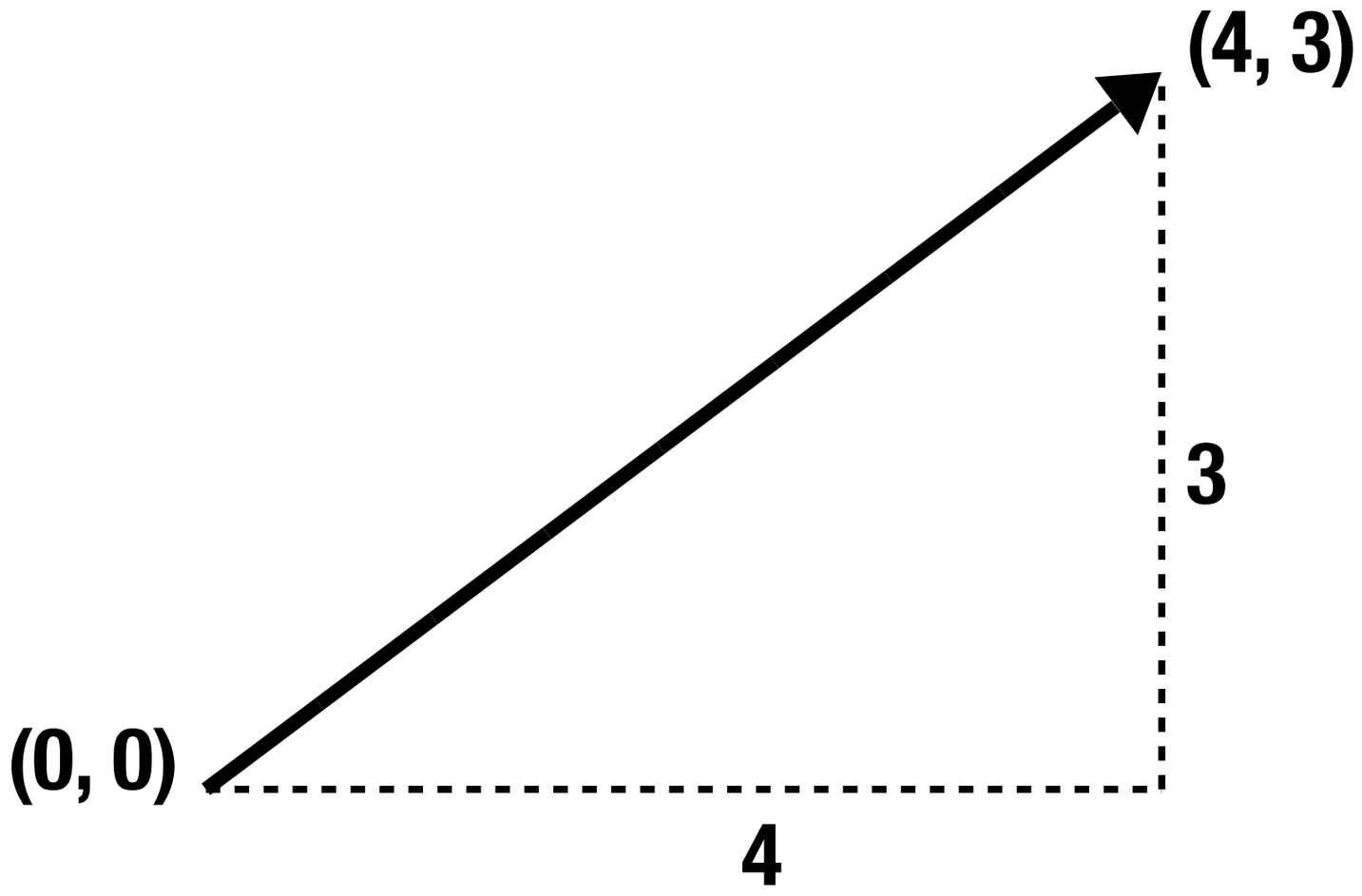
The Vector

step01_whatdoesavectorlooklike

a vector is made up of components.

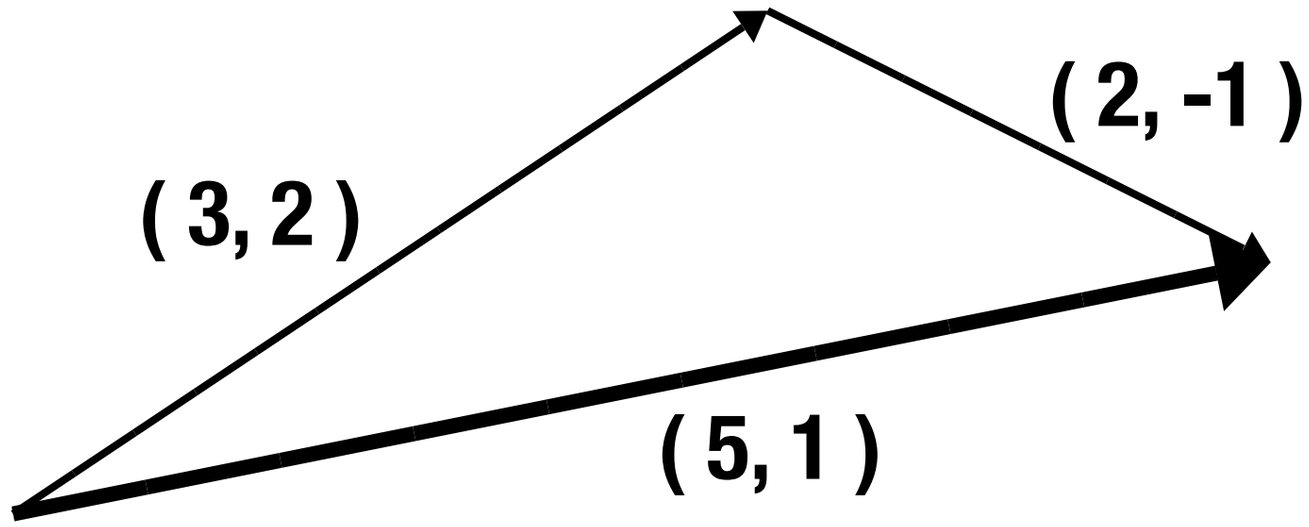
a 2D vector is made up of X and Y.

vectors are often visualized as arrows point from (0,0) to (X,Y)



step02_addingvectors

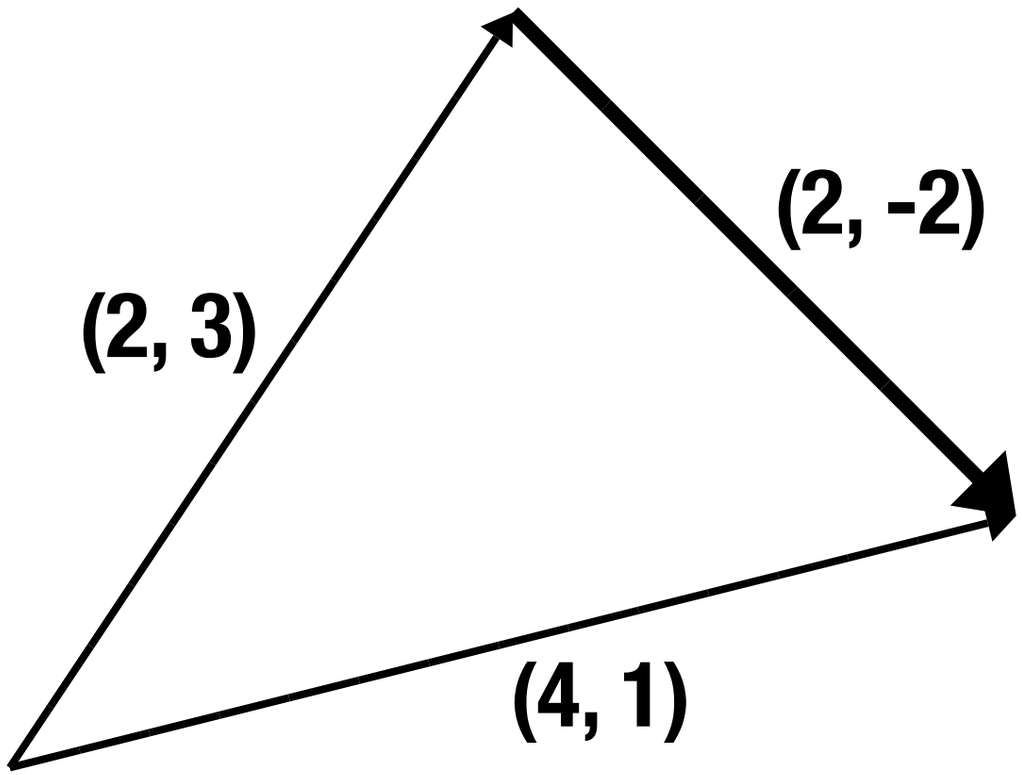
adding 2 vectors means to connect the tip of one vector to the end of another.



(3, 2) + (2, -1) = (5, 1)

step03_subtractingvectors

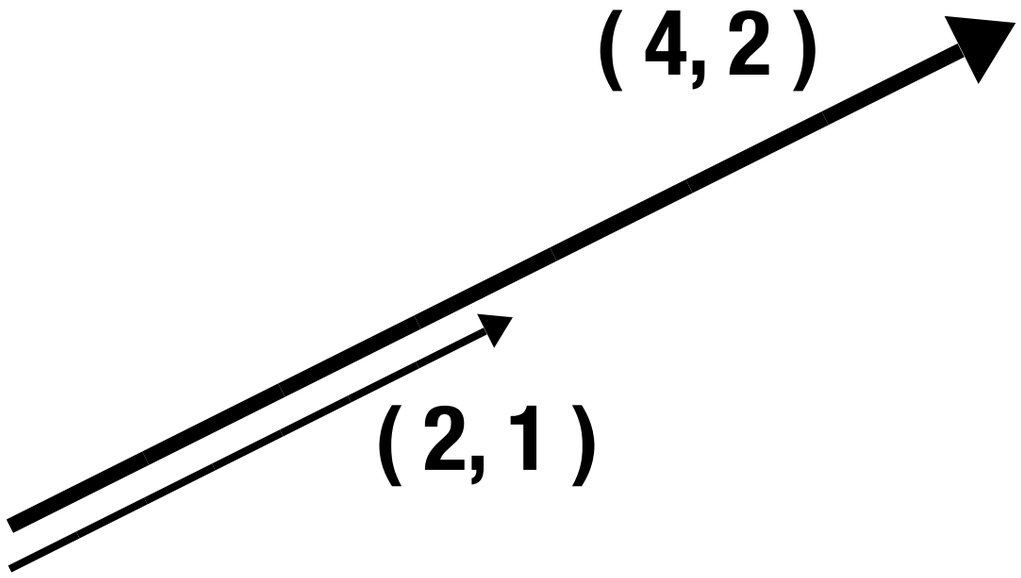
the result of the subtraction of two vectors is a vector drawn between the two tips of the original vectors. the tip point towards the first of the two operands.



(4, 1) - (2, 3) = (2, -2)

step04_multiplyingvectors

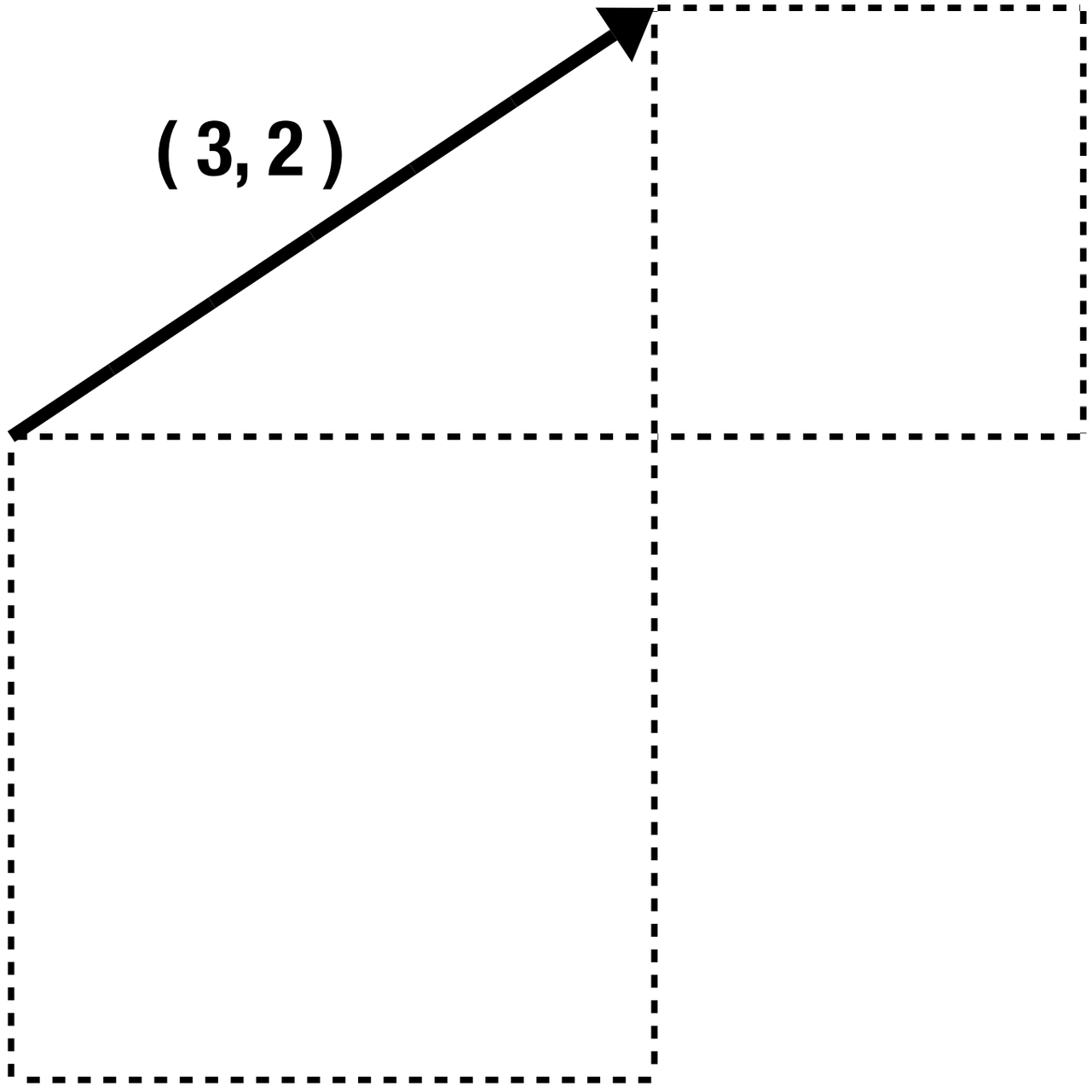
multiplying a vector with a scalar (a number) changes the length of the vector.
numbers between 0 and 1 will give you a shorter vector.
numbers between 1 and ∞ will give you a longer vector.
negative numbers will change the direction of a vector.



(2, 1) * 2 = (4, 2)

step05_lengthofvectors

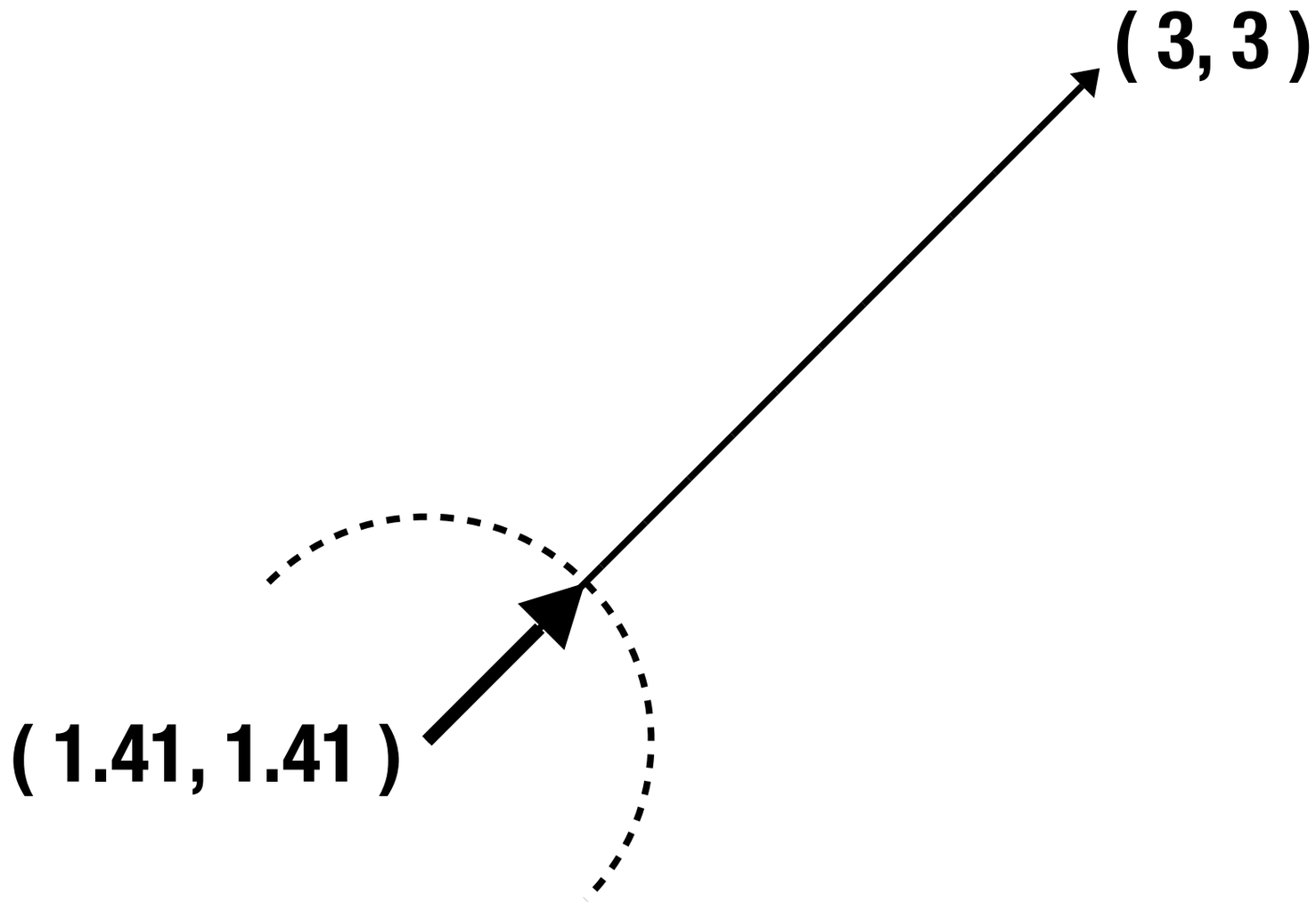
the length of a vector is calculated with the help of the Pythagoras' theorem.



LENGTH = √ (3 * 3) + (2 * 2) = √13

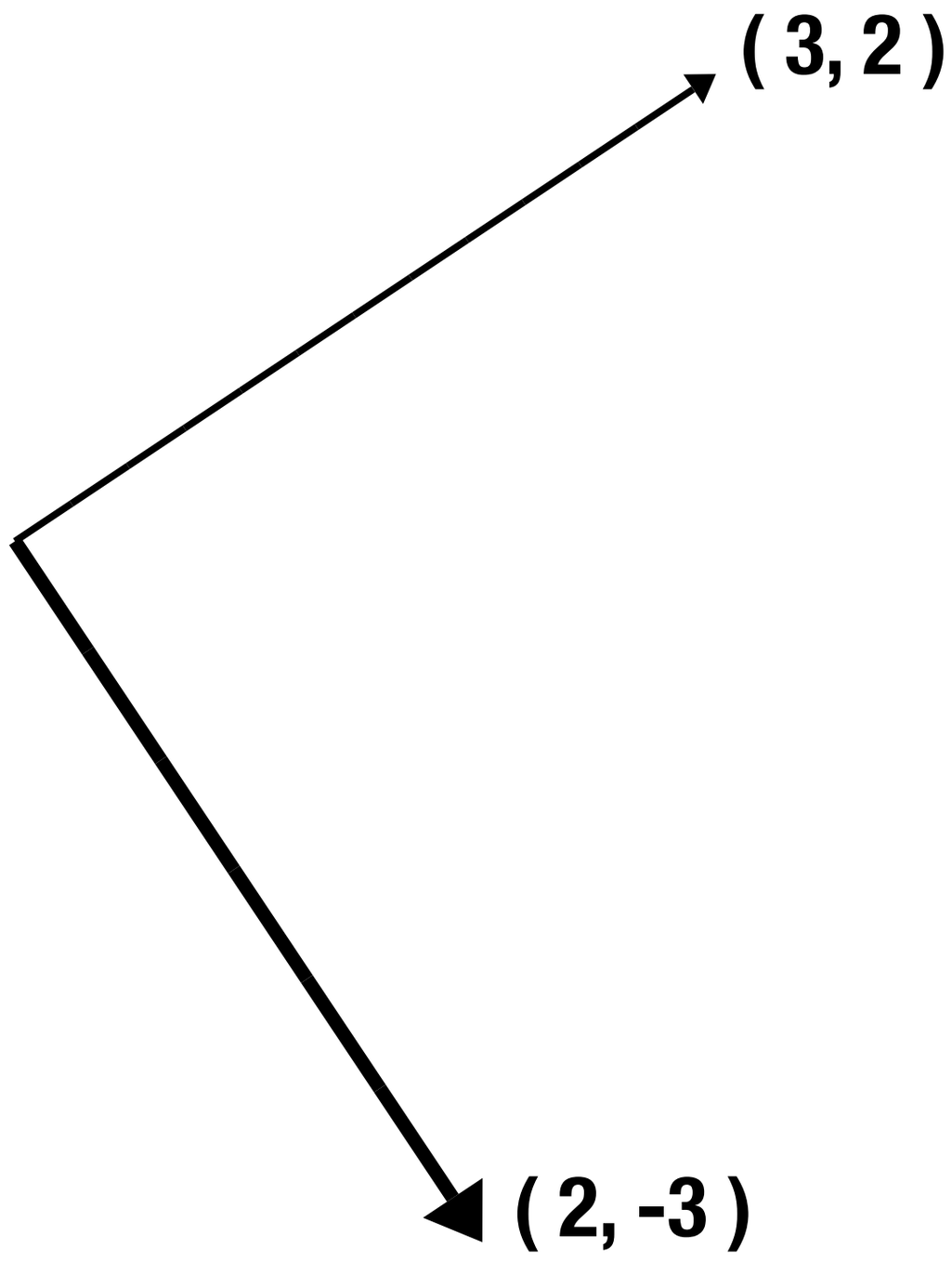
step06_normalizingvectors

normalizing a vector results in a vector of the length of 1,
still pointing in the same direction.



step07_crossproduct

the result of a cross product is a vector perpendicular to the original.
in 3D space it is defined as a vector perpendicular to 2 original vectors.
in 2D space it actually doesn t exist, but used here for the sake of vocabulary consitency.
think of it as the result of the vector (X,Y,0) and the vector along the Z-axis (0,0,1).



MATRIX & QUATERNION FAQ
http://www.j3d.org/matrix_faq/matrfaq_latest.html