

1. Magnitude of a vector.

The scalar product can be used to determine the length of a vector \vec{u} since:

$$\vec{u} \cdot \vec{u} = |\vec{u}| |\vec{u}| \cos(\widehat{uu}) = |\vec{u}|^2$$

from which: $|\vec{u}| = \sqrt{\vec{u} \cdot \vec{u}}$

So, we obtain, using the coordinates of the vector $\vec{u} = (u_1, u_2)$,

$$|\vec{u}| = \sqrt{u_1^2 + u_2^2}$$

For $\vec{u} = (3, 4)$, we have that

$$|\vec{u}| = \sqrt{u_1^2 + u_2^2} = \sqrt{3^2 + 4^2} = \sqrt{25} = 5$$

1. Angle between two vectors.

From the definition of the scalar product, $\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = |\vec{u}| |\vec{v}| \cos(\widehat{uv})$ we can convert the cosine to another value:

$$\cos(\widehat{uv}) = \frac{\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v}}{|\vec{u}| |\vec{v}|}$$

Applying the function arcsine to both sides of the equality we obtain (ang=angle):

$$\text{ang}(\vec{u}, \vec{v}) = \arccos\left(\frac{\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v}}{|\vec{u}| |\vec{v}|}\right)$$

So, if we have two vectors $\vec{u} = (u_1, u_2)$ and $\vec{v} = (v_1, v_2)$ we have:

$$\text{ang}(\vec{u}, \vec{v}) = \text{ang}(\vec{v}, \vec{u}) = \arccos\left(\frac{u_1 v_1 + u_2 v_2}{\sqrt{u_1^2 + u_2^2} \cdot \sqrt{v_1^2 + v_2^2}}\right)$$

Find the angle formed by $\vec{u} = (2, 3)$ and $\vec{v} = (-1, 4)$. In this case, applying the previous formula, we obtain:

$$\text{ang}(\vec{u}, \vec{v}) = \arccos\left(\frac{2 \cdot (-1) + 3 \cdot 4}{\sqrt{2^2 + 3^2} \cdot \sqrt{(-1)^2 + 4^2}}\right) = \arccos(0.67267) = 47^\circ 43' 35''$$