

Introduction to vectorsVectors & Linear CombinationsQ: Why do we need vectors?

We cannot add apples & oranges

A column vector

$$\underline{v} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{array}{l} \leftarrow \text{first component} \\ \leftarrow \text{second component} \end{array}$$

Vector addition

$$\underline{v} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{bmatrix}, \underline{w} = \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \underline{v} + \underline{w} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 + w_1 \\ v_2 + w_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Note

$$\underline{v} + \underline{w} = \underline{w} + \underline{v}$$

Scalar Multiplication

$$c \underline{v} = \begin{bmatrix} c v_1 \\ c v_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Ex

$$2 \underline{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 v_1 \\ 2 v_2 \end{bmatrix}, -\underline{v} = \begin{bmatrix} -v_1 \\ -v_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Linear Combination

$$c\underline{v} + d\underline{w}$$

Special cases

$$1\underline{v} + 1\underline{w} = \text{sum of vectors}$$

$$1\underline{v} - 1\underline{w} = \text{difference of vectors}$$

$$0\underline{v} + 0\underline{w} = \text{zero vector}$$

$$\underline{0} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \neq 0$$

$$c\underline{v} + 0\underline{w} = \text{vector } c\underline{v} \text{ in the direction of } \underline{v}$$

Q: How to represent vector \underline{v} ?

Point in the plane

Two numbers $\begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{bmatrix}$ + Arrow from $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

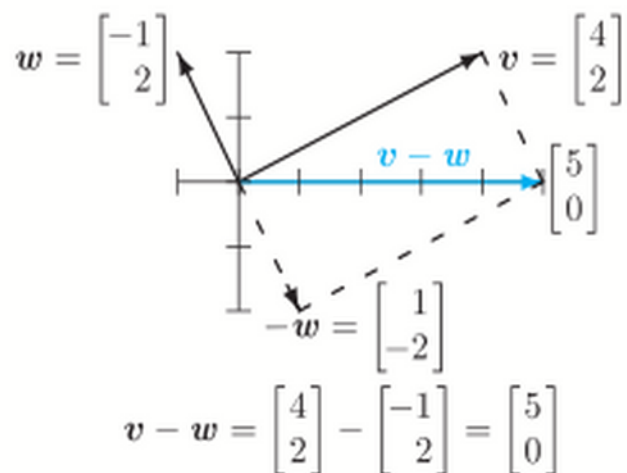
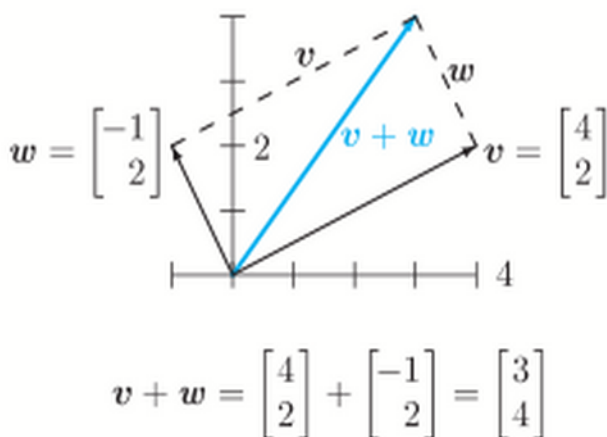


Figure 1: Vector addition $v + w = (3, 4)$ produces the diagonal of a parallelogram. The linear combination on the right is $v - w = (5, 0)$.

Vectors in 3-Dim

$$\underline{v} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ v_3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{array}{l} \leftarrow \text{1st component} \\ \leftarrow \text{2nd} \quad \quad \quad \text{"} \\ \leftarrow \text{3rd} \quad \quad \quad \text{"} \end{array}$$

Visualization

column vector \underline{v} \longleftrightarrow arrow from origin
+
pts where arrow ends

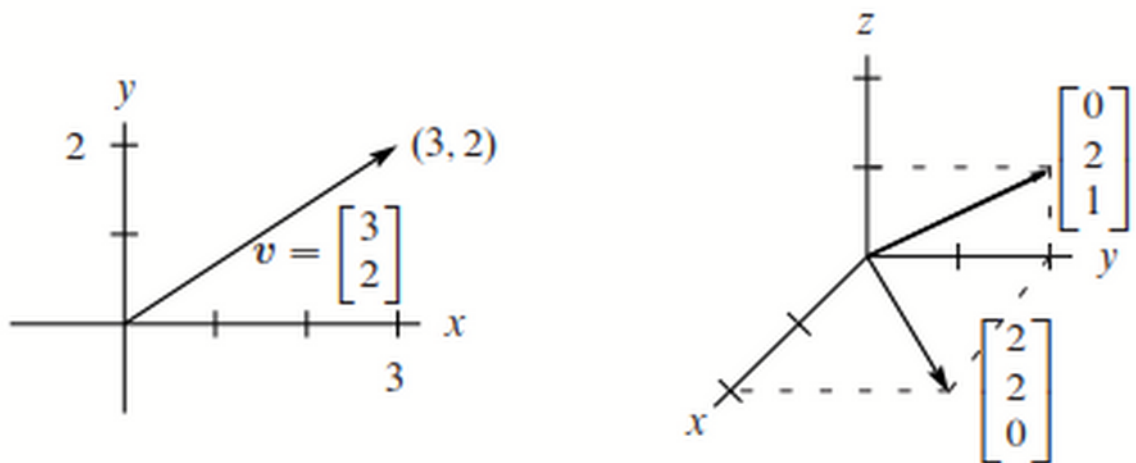


Figure 2: Vectors $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$ and $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$ correspond to points (x, y) and (x, y, z) .

Notation

$\underline{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$ same as $\underline{v} = (1, 1, -1)$
 $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$ diff. from $[1 \ 1 \ -1]$ (save space)
(column vector) (row vector)

$$([1 \ 1 \ -1] = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}^T)$$

Vector Addition

$$\underline{u} = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ u_3 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \underline{w} = \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \\ w_3 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \underline{u} + \underline{w} = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 + w_1 \\ u_2 + w_2 \\ u_3 + w_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Linear Combination

$$c\underline{u} + d\underline{v} + e\underline{w}$$

Ex $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} + 4 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - 2 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix}$

Q: What's the picture of all combinations of $c\underline{u}$?

The combinations of $c\underline{u}$ fill a line

(exception: if $\underline{u} = \underline{0}$)

Q: What's the picture of all combinations of $c\underline{u} + d\underline{v}$?

The combinations of $c\underline{u} + d\underline{v}$ fill a plane

(exceptions: if $\underline{u} = \underline{v} = \underline{0}$

or

\underline{u} & \underline{v} in the same direction)

Q: What's the picture of all combinations of $\underline{cu} + \underline{dv} + \underline{ew}$?

The combinations of $\underline{cu} + \underline{dv} + \underline{ew}$ fill 3-D space

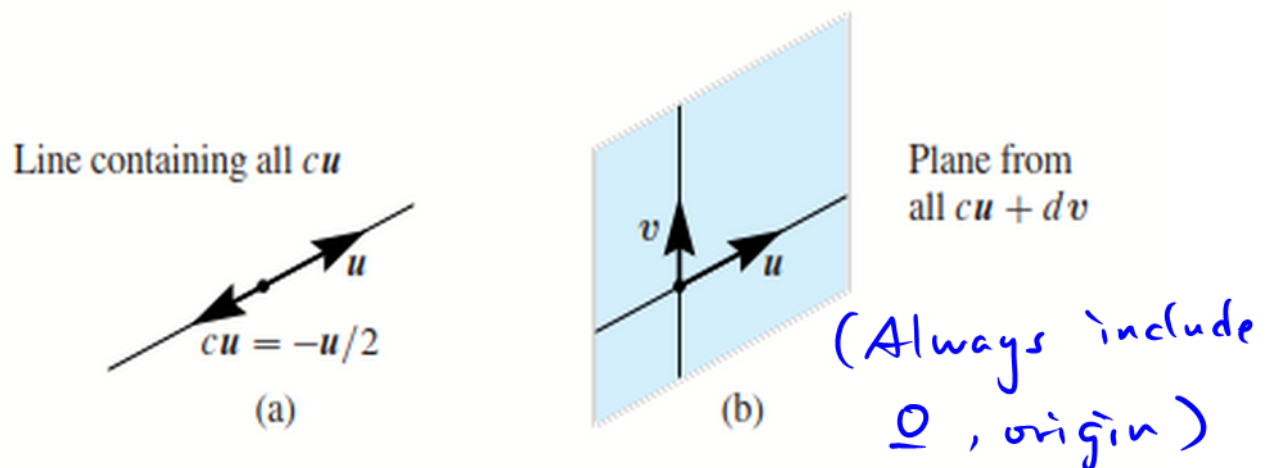


Figure 3: (a) Line through \underline{u} . (b) The plane containing the lines through \underline{u} and \underline{v} .

(exceptions: $\underline{u} = \underline{v} = \underline{w} = \underline{0}$
or
 \underline{w} lies on the plane of $\underline{cu} + \underline{dv}$)

Q: How about n -dim. vectors

Can be easily generalized from the above concepts

$$\underline{u} = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ \vdots \\ u_n \end{bmatrix}, \quad \underline{w} = \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ \vdots \\ w_n \end{bmatrix} \quad \dots$$

(For ease of visualization, focus on 2 or 3-D vectors as examples)

Length & Dot Products

Def The dot product or inner product

of $\underline{u} = (u_1, u_2)$ & $\underline{w} = (w_1, w_2)$

is $\underline{u} \cdot \underline{w} = u_1 w_1 + u_2 w_2$

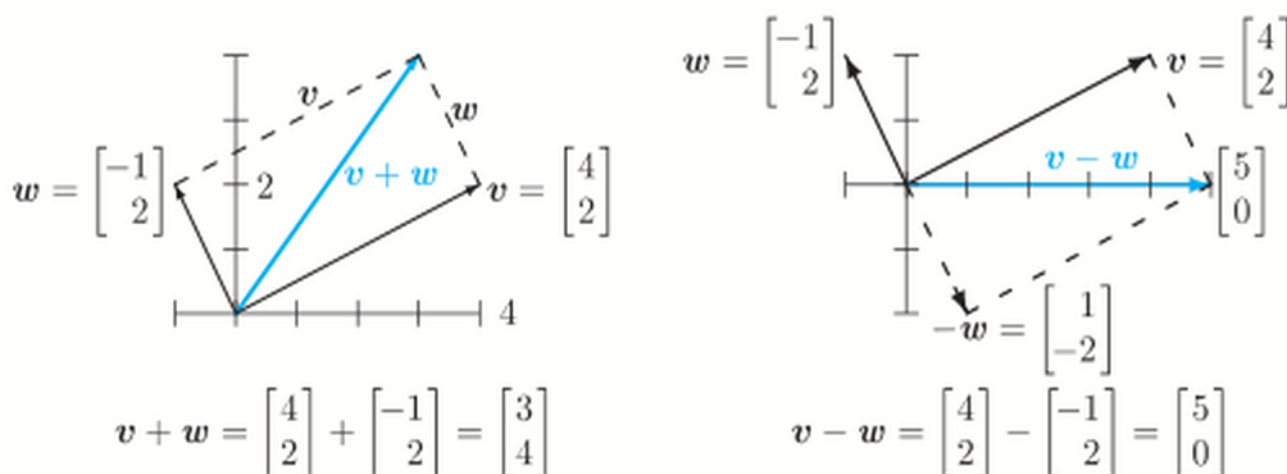


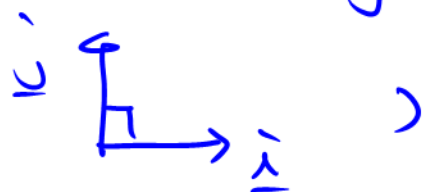
Figure 1: Vector addition $v + w = (3, 4)$ produces the diagonal of a parallelogram. The linear combination on the right is $v - w = (5, 0)$.

Q: What is the dot product of \underline{u} & \underline{w} in Fig 1?

$$\underline{u} \cdot \underline{w} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = -4 + 4 = 0$$

(Two vectors are perpendicular!)

(Another easy example $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = 0$)



Note $\underline{w} \cdot \underline{u} = \underline{u} \cdot \underline{w}$

For general n-dim vectors

$$\underline{u} \cdot \underline{w} = \sum_{i=1}^n u_i w_i$$

Length & Unit Vectors

Def The length of a vector \underline{u} is the square root of $\underline{u} \cdot \underline{u}$:

$$\text{length} = \|\underline{u}\| = \sqrt{\underline{u} \cdot \underline{u}}$$

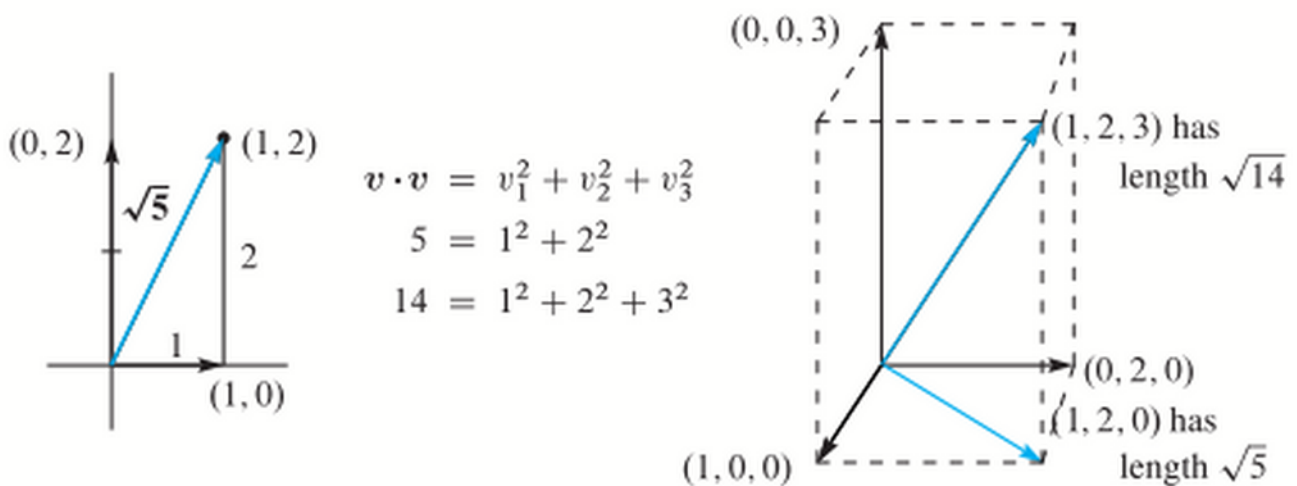


Figure 6: The length $\sqrt{\underline{v} \cdot \underline{v}}$ of two-dimensional and three-dimensional vectors.

Def A unit vector is a vector of length $= 1$, i.e., $\underline{u} \cdot \underline{u} = 1$

Q: How to get unit vector?

$$\underline{u} = \frac{\underline{v}}{\|\underline{v}\|} = \frac{(1, 1, 1, 1)}{\sqrt{4}} = \left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}\right)$$



(unit vector of same direction as \underline{v})

Standard unit vectors

$$\hat{i} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \hat{j} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \underline{u} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta \\ \sin \theta \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(\sqrt{\underline{u} \cdot \underline{u}} = \sqrt{\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta} = 1)$$

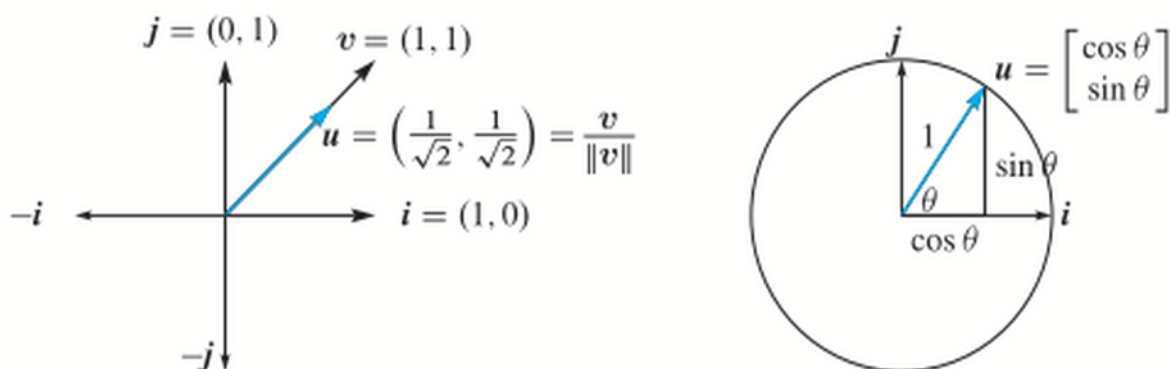
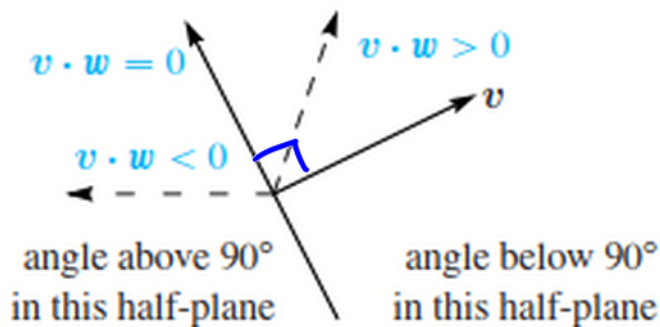


Figure 7: The coordinate vectors \hat{i} and \hat{j} . The unit vector \underline{u} at angle 45° (left) divides $\underline{v} = (1, 1)$ by its length $\|\underline{v}\| = \sqrt{2}$. The unit vector $\underline{u} = (\cos \theta, \sin \theta)$ is at angle θ .

$$(\theta = 0 \Rightarrow \underline{u} = \hat{i}, \quad \theta = 90^\circ \text{ or } \frac{\pi}{2} \text{ radians} \Rightarrow \underline{u} = \hat{j})$$

The Angle between two vectors



Fact

Unit vectors \underline{u}_1 & \underline{u}_2 with angle θ in between have

$$\underline{u}_1 \cdot \underline{u}_2 = \cos \theta$$

$$\Rightarrow |\underline{u}_1 \cdot \underline{u}_2| \leq 1$$

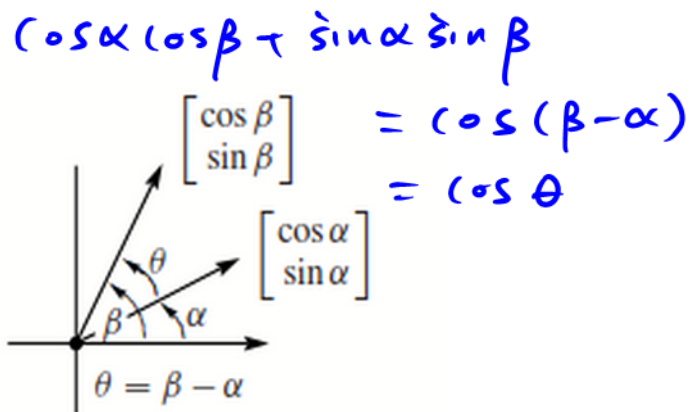
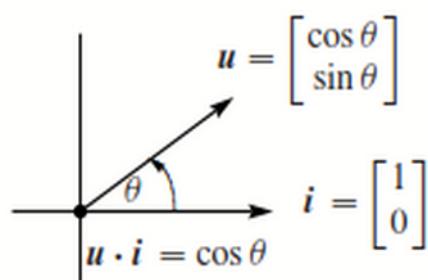


Figure 9: The dot product of unit vectors is the cosine of the angle θ .

Fact Cosine formula

If \underline{u} & \underline{w} are nonzero vectors
then $\frac{\underline{u} \cdot \underline{w}}{\|\underline{u}\| \|\underline{w}\|} = \cos \theta$

($\frac{\underline{u}}{\|\underline{u}\|}, \frac{\underline{w}}{\|\underline{w}\|}$ are unit vectors)

Fact Schwarz inequality

$$|\underline{u} \cdot \underline{w}| \leq \|\underline{u}\| \|\underline{w}\|$$

(comes from $|\cos \theta| \leq 1$)

Fact Triangle inequality

$$\|\underline{u} + \underline{w}\| \leq \|\underline{u}\| + \|\underline{w}\|$$

