

We noticed that there is some confusion concerning the concept of cosine similarity. Therefore this additional explanation:

Given two vectors **a** and **b** we know that the angle **alpha** between these vectors can be computed with help of the formula:

$$\cos(\alpha) = \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} / |\mathbf{a}| |\mathbf{b}|$$

where $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}$ denotes the dot product of both vectors and $|\mathbf{a}|$ and $|\mathbf{b}|$ their lengths, therefore:

$$\alpha = \arccos(\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} / |\mathbf{a}| |\mathbf{b}|).$$

Once we know **alpha** we can find the **cosine similarity** between both vectors - it is:

$$1 - \alpha / 180.$$

[Keep in mind that there are two implementations of **arccos**: one returns **alpha** in *degrees* (this is what we need when we divide alpha by 180) or in *radians* (then we should divide **alpha** by **pi**) – use the first one!]

For example, suppose that we have two vectors:

$$\mathbf{a} = (0, 5, 4, 0, 3, 0) \text{ and}$$

$$\mathbf{b} = (5, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0).$$

Then the following Matlab code:

```
a=[0, 5, 4, 0, 3, 0]
b=[5, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0]
ab=a*transpose(b)
cos_ab=ab/(norm(a)*norm(b))
alpha=acosd(cos_ab)
cossim=1-alpha/180
```

will produce:

```
ab = 9
cos_ab = 0.2449
alpha = 75.8212
cossim = 0.5788
```

Notice that the Matlab function `acosd` returns the result in degrees (and not radians) – exactly what we need!

We can define the cosine similarity (in Matlab) as:

```
function cs=cos_sim(v1,v2)
THETA=sum(v1.*v2)/(norm(v1)*norm(v2));
cs=1-acosd(THETA)/180;
```

You can easily rewrite this function in Python!