

$$\sqrt{20} \sqrt{34} \cos \theta = 22 \Rightarrow \cos \theta = \frac{22}{\sqrt{20} \sqrt{34}}$$

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## Dot product: geometric definition

- The computational definition of the dot product:

$$\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = \sum_{i=1}^n u_i v_i = u_1 v_1 + u_2 v_2 + \dots + u_n v_n$$

- The geometric definition of the dot product:

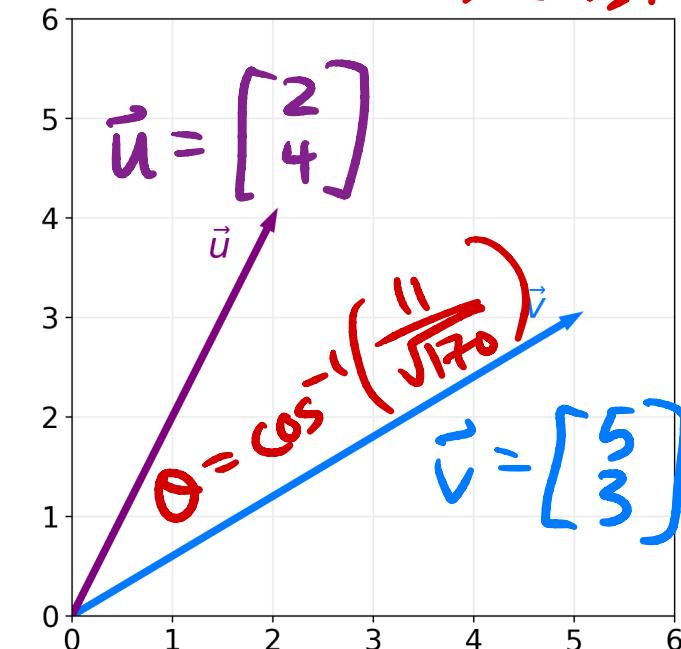
$$\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = \|\vec{u}\| \|\vec{v}\| \cos \theta$$

where  $\theta$  is the angle between  $\vec{u}$  and  $\vec{v}$ .

- The two definitions are equivalent! This equivalence allows us to find the angle  $\theta$  between two vectors.

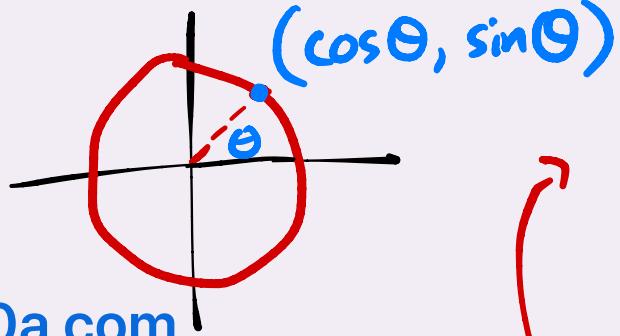
$$\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = (2)(5) + (4)(3) = 22$$

$$\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = \|\vec{u}\| \|\vec{v}\| \cos \theta = \sqrt{2^2 + 4^2} \sqrt{5^2 + 3^2} \cos \theta = \sqrt{20} \sqrt{34} \cos \theta$$



equal!

Question 🤔



Answer at [q.dsc40a.com](http://q.dsc40a.com)

What is the value of  $\theta$  in the plot to the right?

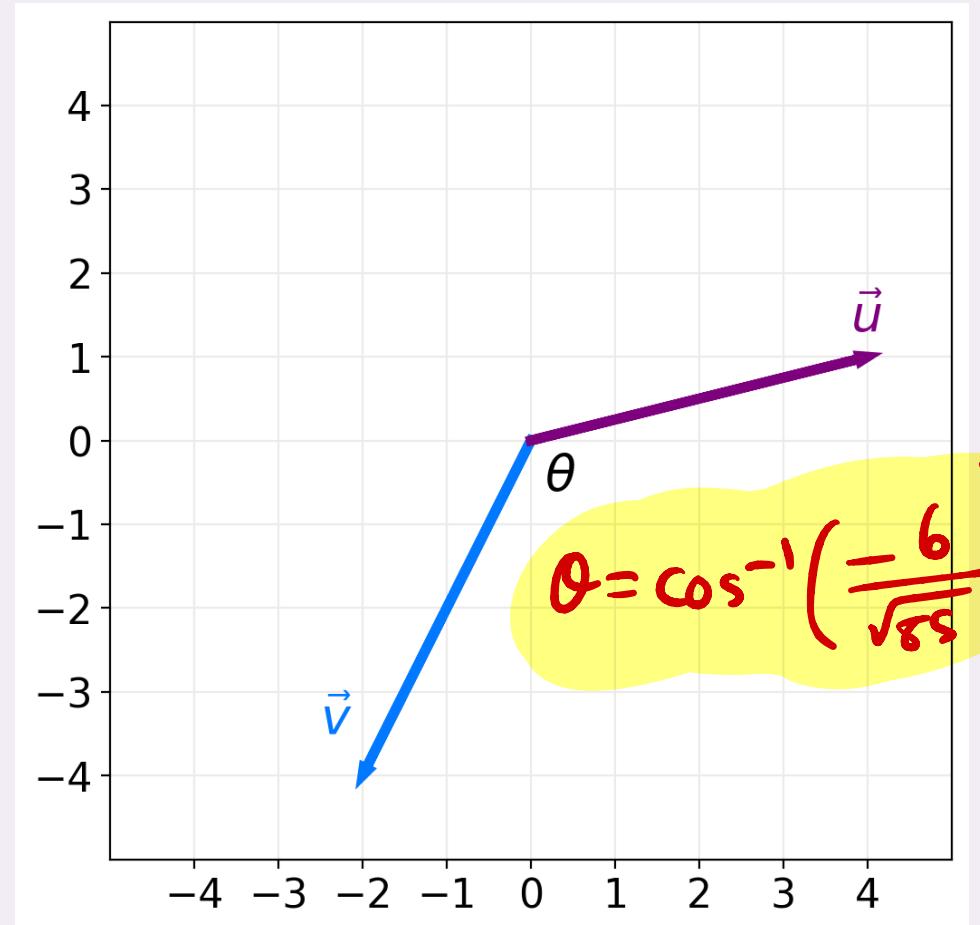
$$\vec{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ -4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\textcircled{1} \quad \vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = \vec{u}^T \vec{v} = [4 \quad 1] \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ -4 \end{bmatrix} = 4(-2) + 1(-4) = -12$$

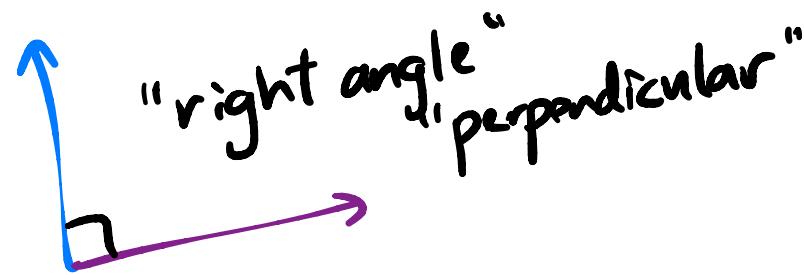
$$\textcircled{2} \quad \vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = \|\vec{u}\| \|\vec{v}\| \cos \theta = \sqrt{4^2 + 1^2} \sqrt{(-2)^2 + (-4)^2} \cos \theta = \sqrt{17} \sqrt{20} \cos \theta$$

$$\sqrt{17} \sqrt{20} \cos \theta = -12$$

$$\Rightarrow \cos \theta = \frac{-12}{\sqrt{17} \sqrt{20}} = \frac{-6}{\sqrt{17} \sqrt{5}} = \frac{-6}{\sqrt{85}}$$



## Orthogonal vectors



- Recall:  $\cos 90^\circ = 0$ .
- Since  $\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = \|\vec{u}\| \|\vec{v}\| \cos \theta$ , if the angle between two vectors is  $90^\circ$ , their dot product is  $\|\vec{u}\| \|\vec{v}\| \cos 90^\circ = 0$ .
- If the angle between two vectors is  $90^\circ$ , we say they are perpendicular, or more generally, **orthogonal**.
- Key idea:

two vectors are **orthogonal**  $\iff \vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = 0$

"if and only if"  
bidirectional statement

## Exercise

Find a non-zero vector in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  orthogonal to:

Infinitely many possibilities!

$$\vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \\ -8 \end{bmatrix}$$

→ could find solutions to

$$2u_1 + 5u_2 - 8u_3 = 0$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 12 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix} : (2)(2) + (12)(5) + (8)(-8) \\ = 4 + 60 - 64 \\ = 0$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 8 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} : (0)(2) + (8)(5) + (5)(-8) \\ = 40 - 40 \\ = 0$$