

$$\text{cos-dist}(A, B) = 1 - \text{cos-sim}(A, B)$$

$$\text{cos-sim}(A, B) = \frac{\langle A, B \rangle}{\|A\| \cdot \|B\|} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n A_i \cdot B_i}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n A_i^2} \cdot \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n B_i^2}}$$

Triangle inequality for cosine distance takes a form of (of course it doesn't hold):

$$\text{cos-dist}(A, C) \not\leq \text{cos-dist}(A, B) + \text{cos-dist}(B, C)$$

which is equivalent to:

$$1 - \text{cos-sim}(A, C) \not\leq 1 - \text{cos-sim}(A, B) + 1 - \text{cos-sim}(B, C)$$

and after simple transformations:

$$1 + \text{cos-sim}(A, C) \not\leq \text{cos-sim}(A, B) + \text{cos-sim}(B, C)$$

Now, you're trying to find such three vectors A, B and C that:

$$1 + \text{cos-sim}(A, C) < \text{cos-sim}(A, B) + \text{cos-sim}(B, C)$$

Let $A, B, C \in \mathbb{R}^2$ and all of them are of unit length $A = [1, 0]$, $B = \left[\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right]$, $C = [0, 1]$. Note that vectors A and C are orthogonal, so we would get simply 0:

$$\text{cos-sim}(A, C) = \frac{0}{\sqrt{1}\sqrt{1}} = 0$$

Each pair of vectors A & B as well as B & C would give the same value:

$$\text{cos-sim}(A, B) = \frac{\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} + 0}{\sqrt{1}\sqrt{1}} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, \quad \text{cos-sim}(B, C) = \frac{0 + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}}{\sqrt{1}\sqrt{1}} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$$

. Finally, we could defeat primary inequality by proving that:

$$1 + 0 < \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$$

$$1 < \sqrt{2} \approx 1.41 \dots$$

<https://stats.stackexchange.com/questions/198080/proving-that-cosine-distance-function-defined-by-cosine-similarity-between-two-u>