

HW 1 due Friday before class.

Office Hours: MTWTh after class.

This week: Arithmetic of vectors.

What is a vector?

Let \mathbb{R}^n be the set of column vectors with n real coordinates

$$\vec{v} = \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\vec{0} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \text{ the } \underline{\text{zero vector}}.$$

We define two algebraic operations:

• Addition.

Given $\vec{u}, \vec{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, we define

$$\vec{u} + \vec{v} = \begin{pmatrix} u_1 + v_1 \\ u_2 + v_2 \\ \vdots \\ u_n + v_n \end{pmatrix}$$

we are defining this

• Scalar Multiplication.

Given vector $\vec{u} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ & "scalar" $a \in \mathbb{R}$
we define a vector $a\vec{u}$ by

$$a\vec{u} = \begin{pmatrix} au_1 \\ au_2 \\ \vdots \\ au_n \end{pmatrix}.$$

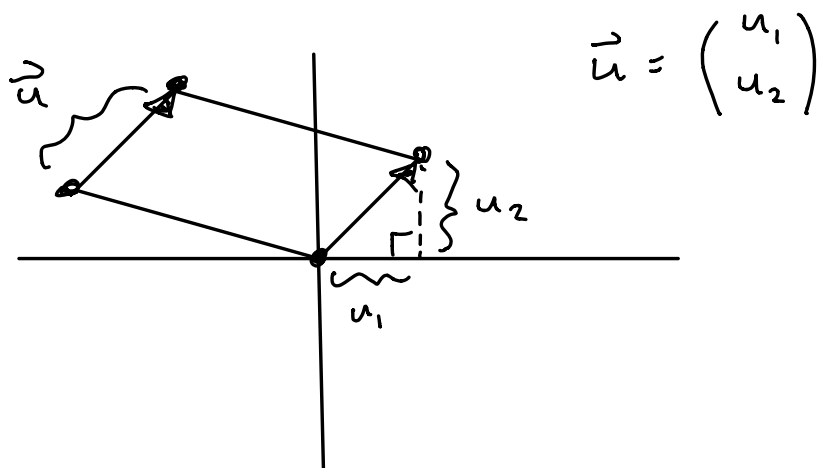
One can check that these operations satisfy the following obvious rules:

- $\vec{u} + \vec{v} = \vec{v} + \vec{u}$
- $\vec{u} + (\vec{v} + \vec{w}) = (\vec{u} + \vec{v}) + \vec{w}$
- $\vec{u} + \vec{0} = \vec{u}$
- $0\vec{u} = \vec{0}$
- $1\vec{u} = \vec{u}$
- $a(b\vec{u}) = (ab)\vec{u}$
- $a(\vec{u} + \vec{v}) = a\vec{u} + a\vec{v}$
- $(a+b)\vec{u} = a\vec{u} + b\vec{u}$

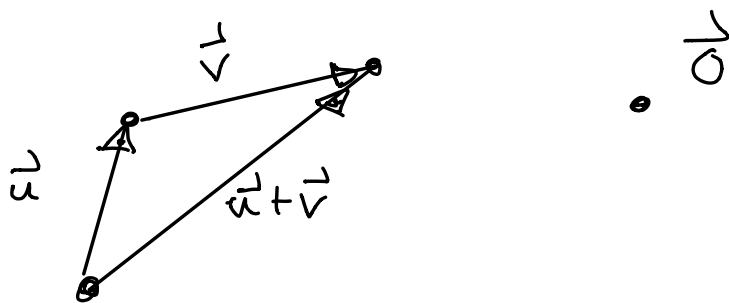
This is
it.

But what does this mean?

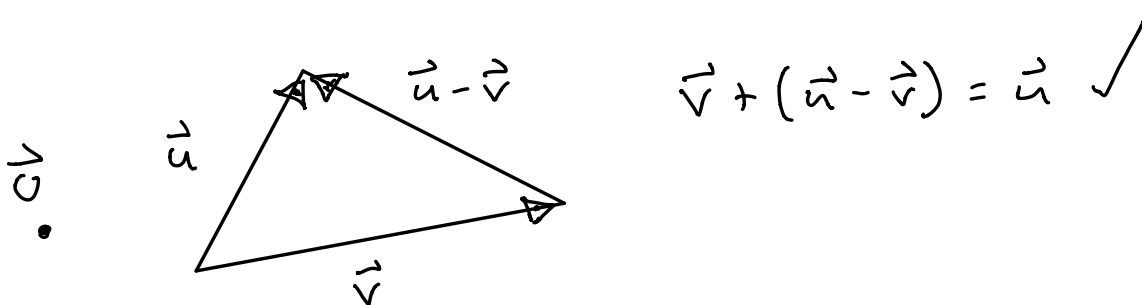
Picture :



Addition: Head-to-Tail

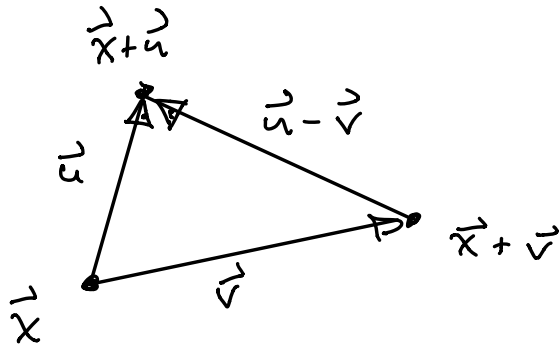


Subtraction:



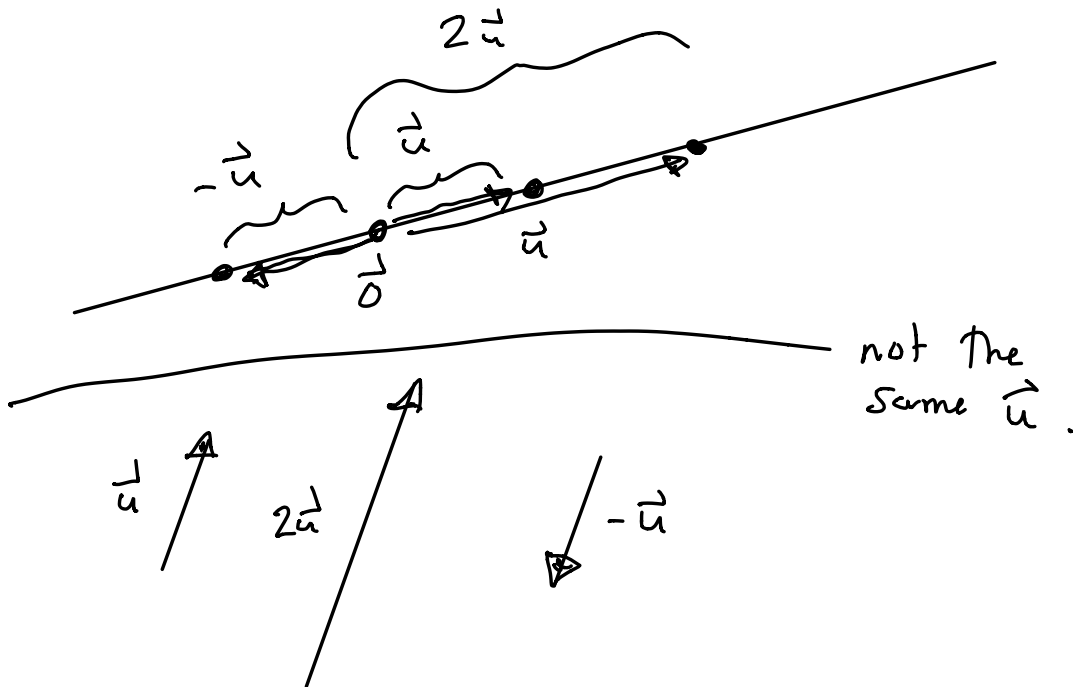
Mnemonic:

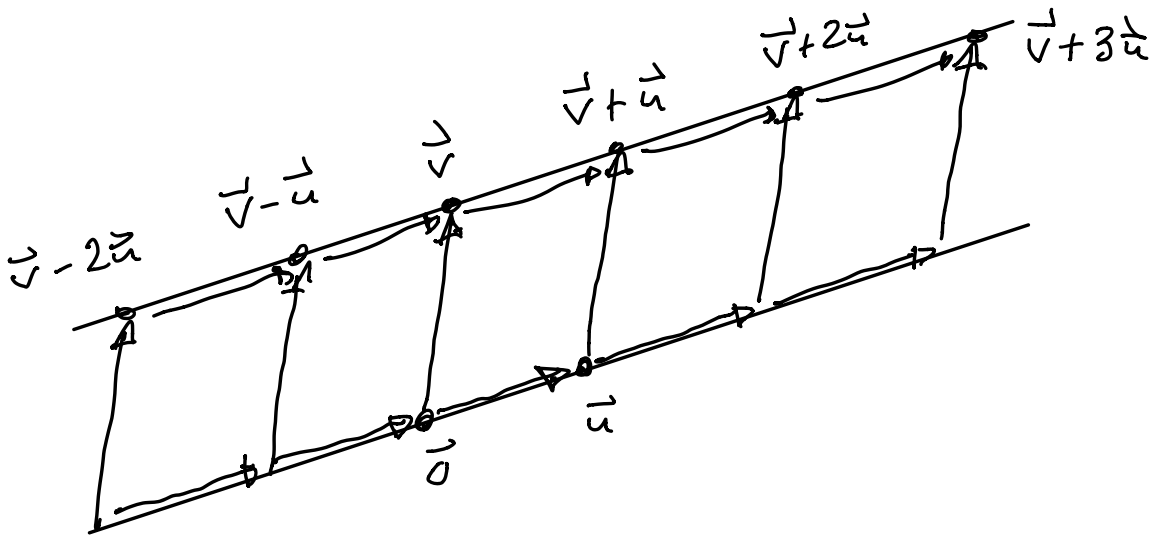
vector = its head - its tail



$$\vec{u} - \vec{v} = (\vec{x} + \vec{u}) - (\vec{x} + \vec{v})$$

Scalar Multiplication.



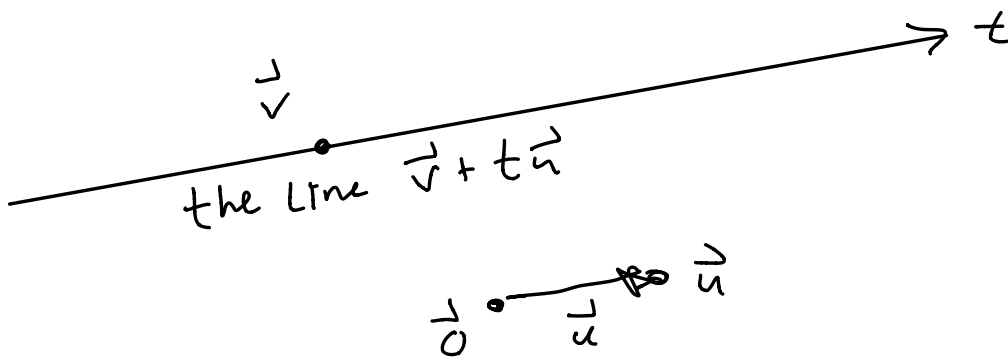


The set of points $\{ \vec{v} + t\vec{u} ; t \in \mathbb{R} \}$ is the line that is

- parallel to the vector \vec{u}
- contains the point \vec{v} .

Notice that this works in any number of dimensions.

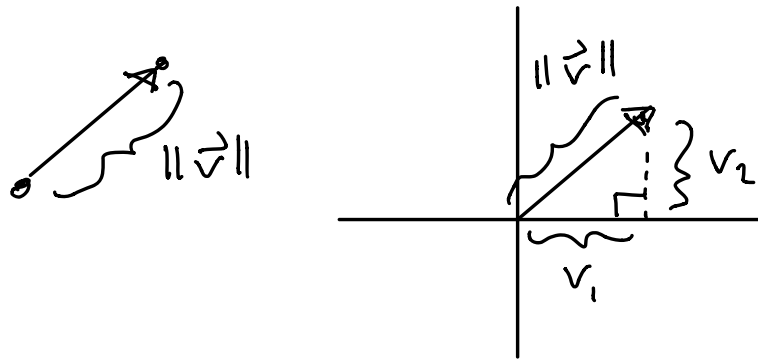
"Parametrized Line"





We have described vectors in terms of Cartesian "rectilinear" coordinates. What about "magnitude & direction"?

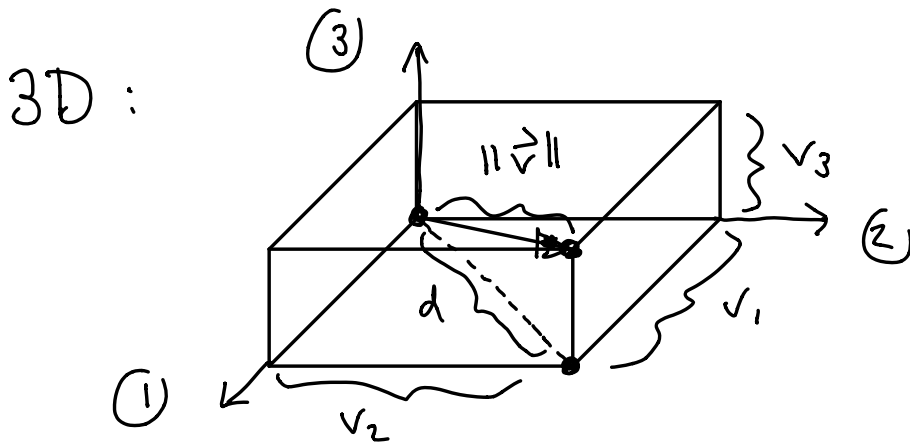
Let $\|\vec{v}\|$ be the length of vector \vec{v} .



$$\|\vec{v}\|^2 = v_1^2 + v_2^2$$

Pythagorean Theorem.

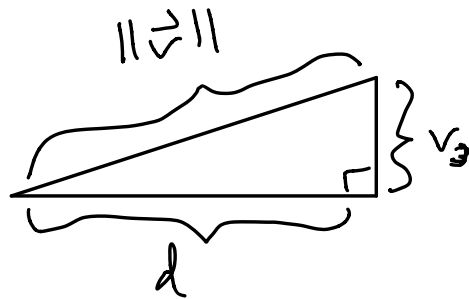
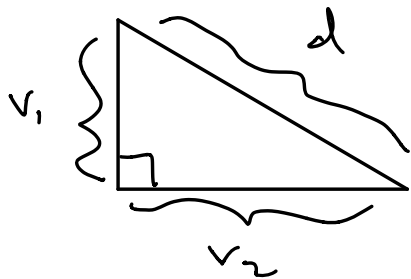
$$\|\vec{v}\| = \sqrt{v_1^2 + v_2^2}$$



How to compute $\|\vec{v}\|$?

Guess: $\|\vec{v}\|^2 = v_1^2 + v_2^2 + v_3^2$

Proof: Two right triangles



$$d^2 = v_1^2 + v_2^2$$

$$\|\vec{v}\|^2 = d^2 + v_3^2$$

$$\|\vec{v}\|^2 = v_1^2 + v_2^2 + v_3^2$$



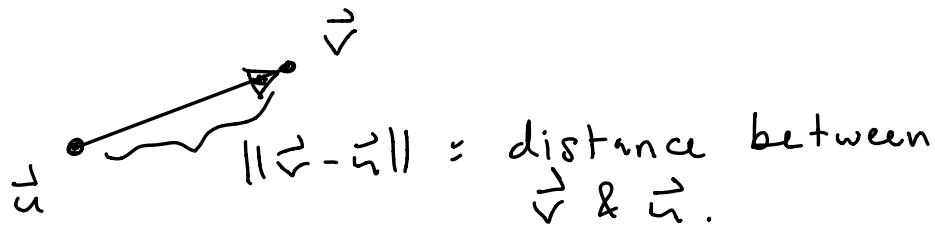
Higher Dimensions ?

Let's just say that

$$\|\vec{v}\|^2 = v_1^2 + v_2^2 + v_3^2 + \dots + v_n^2$$

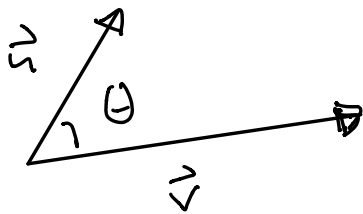
in general. Okay ?

Distance :



$$= \sqrt{(v_1 - u_1)^2 + (v_2 - u_2)^2 + \dots + (v_n - u_n)^2}$$

What About Angles / Direction ?



Let θ be angle between vectors \vec{u} & \vec{v} .

How to compute θ ?

The answer is surprising.

There is a secret third operation of vector arithmetic.

Definition of Dot Product :

Given \vec{u} & $\vec{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, define

$$\vec{u} \bullet \vec{v} = u_1 v_1 + u_2 v_2 + u_3 v_3 + \dots + u_n v_n.$$

This is a scalar, not a vector.

Algebraically, the dot product behaves like multiplication:

- $\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = \vec{v} \cdot \vec{u}$
- $\vec{u} \cdot (\vec{v} + \vec{w}) = \vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} + \vec{u} \cdot \vec{w}$
- $a(\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v}) = (a\vec{u}) \cdot \vec{v} = \vec{u} \cdot (a\vec{v})$.

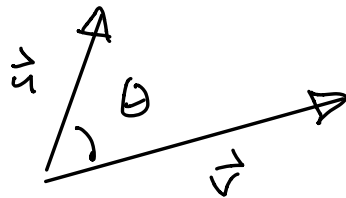
But what does this mean geometrically?

① Lengths.

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{u} \cdot \vec{u} &= u_1 u_1 + u_2 u_2 + \dots + u_n u_n \\ &= u_1^2 + u_2^2 + \dots + u_n^2 \\ &= \|\vec{u}\|^2.\end{aligned}$$

$$\|\vec{u}\| = \sqrt{\vec{u} \cdot \vec{u}}$$

② Angles.



I claim that $\cos \theta = \frac{\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v}}{\|\vec{u}\| \|\vec{v}\|}$.

And it follows that

$$\vec{u} \perp \vec{v} \iff \cos \theta = 0$$

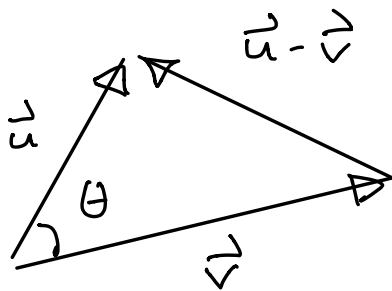
"perpendicular"

$$\iff \vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = 0$$

Let me emphasize:

This gives a very easy way to check if two vectors (in any dimensional space) are perpendicular. 😊

Proof: Consider the triangle:



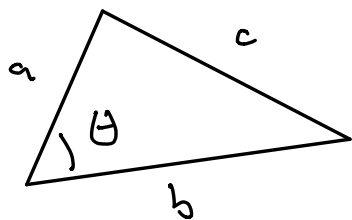
On one hand:

$$\begin{aligned} (*) \quad \|\vec{u} - \vec{v}\|^2 &= (\vec{u} - \vec{v}) \cdot (\vec{u} - \vec{v}) \\ &= \vec{u} \cdot \vec{u} - \vec{v} \cdot \vec{u} - \vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} + \vec{v} \cdot \vec{v} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \vec{u} \cdot \vec{u} + \vec{v} \cdot \vec{v} - 2 \vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} \\
 &= \|\vec{u}\|^2 + \|\vec{v}\|^2 - 2 \vec{u} \cdot \vec{v}
 \end{aligned}$$

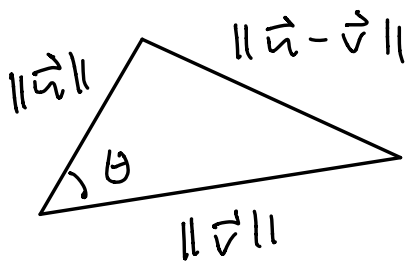
from the basic rules of arithmetic,

On the other hand, the "law of cosines" tells us that



$$c^2 = a^2 + b^2 - 2ab \cos \theta.$$

Special case: If $\theta = 90^\circ$ then this is just the Pythagorean Theorem.



(**)

$$\|\vec{u} - \vec{v}\|^2 = \|\vec{u}\|^2 + \|\vec{v}\|^2 - 2\|\vec{u}\|\|\vec{v}\|\cos \theta.$$

Finally, comparing (*) & (**),

$$\|\vec{u} - \vec{v}\|^2 = \|\vec{u}\|^2 + \|\vec{v}\|^2 - 2 \vec{u} \cdot \vec{v}$$

$$\|\vec{u} - \vec{v}\|^2 = \|\vec{u}\|^2 + \|\vec{v}\|^2 - 2 \|\vec{u}\| \|\vec{v}\| \cos \theta$$

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

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

$$= \frac{\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v}}{\sqrt{\vec{u} \cdot \vec{u}} \sqrt{\vec{v} \cdot \vec{v}}}$$



Thus, angles between vectors are completely determined by the dot product.



Remark: In 20th century, mathematicians discovered some exotic examples of "abstract vector spaces"

with three operations

- "vector addition"
- "scalar multiplication"
- "dot product"

Example: Let S be the sample space of a random experiment.

Let $X: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be any real valued function (called a random variable). The collection of random variables on S is an abstract vector space with "dot product" defined by "covariance"

$$\text{Cov}(X, Y)$$

The "angle" between random variables?

$$\frac{\text{Cov}(X, Y)}{\sqrt{\text{Cov}(X, X)} \sqrt{\text{Cov}(Y, Y)}} \quad \text{is called the "correlation"}$$

This explains why the correlation is a number between -1 & 1 , i.e., because it is analogous to the "cosine of an angle."