

Lecture 1  
**Vectors, Dot Products**

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Based on Dr. Ralph Chikhany's Slide

# Logistics

- Course Website: <https://2prime.github.io/teaching/2024-linear-algebra>
- (anonymous) form: <https://forms.gle/Dtw6PRFdnbk8NQWRA>
- **Textbook:** Introduction to Linear Algebra - Fifth Edition, Gilbert Strang
- **Reference:** <http://web.mit.edu/18.06/www/>
- **Grading:**
  - Attendance & Participation 5%
  - Quizzes 15%
  - Problem Sets 10%
  - Exams 70%

# Homework

- **6 Problem Sets**

- Latex and overleaf (not required)
- Late work policy:
  - For your first late assignment within 12 hours after the deadline (as indicated on Gradescope), no point deductions.
  - All subsequent assignments submitted within 12 hours after the deadline will convert to a zero at the end of semester.
  - In all cases, work submitted 12 hours or more after the deadline will not be accepted.

# Overview of the Course

Brightspace  
Gradescope  
Campuswire

# What is due next week (and every week)

Problem Set 1 – Friday 2/9 11.59 pm

(Late work policy applies)

Recap Quiz 1 – Sunday 2/4 11.59 am ??

(No late work accepted)

Access through  
Gradescope

Note: Recap Quiz 1 is timed for 60 minutes to help you get used to the format.

Future quizzes will be timed for 30-45 minutes

# Intro to the Course

What is Linear Algebra?

## Linear

- ▶ having to do with lines/planes/etc.
- ▶ For example,  $x + y + 3z = 7$ , not  $\sin$ ,  $\log$ ,  $x^2$ , etc.

## Algebra

- ▶ solving equations involving numbers and symbols
- ▶ from al-jabr (Arabic), meaning reunion of broken parts
- ▶ 9<sup>th</sup> century Abu Ja'far Muhammad ibn Muso al-Khwarizmi

study of variables and the rules for manipulating these variables in formulas, rule of calculation

$$\begin{array}{l} 2x + y = 1 \\ x + y = 1 \end{array} \rightarrow \underline{A} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad 1 = \begin{bmatrix} 2, 1 \\ 1, 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

lecture 2

# Some Applications

Large classes of engineering problems, no matter how huge, can be reduced to linear algebra:

$$Ax = b \quad \text{or}$$

$$Ax = \lambda x$$

“...and now it's just linear algebra”

**Civil Engineering:** How much traffic flows through the four labeled segments?

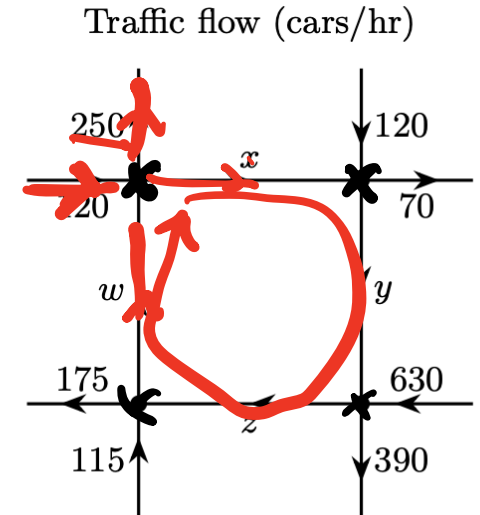
~~~~~> system of linear equations:

$$w + 120 = x + 250$$

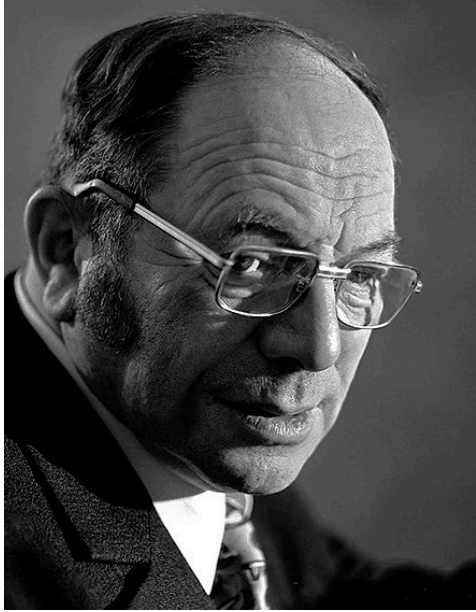
$$x + 120 = y + 70$$

$$y + 630 = z + 390$$

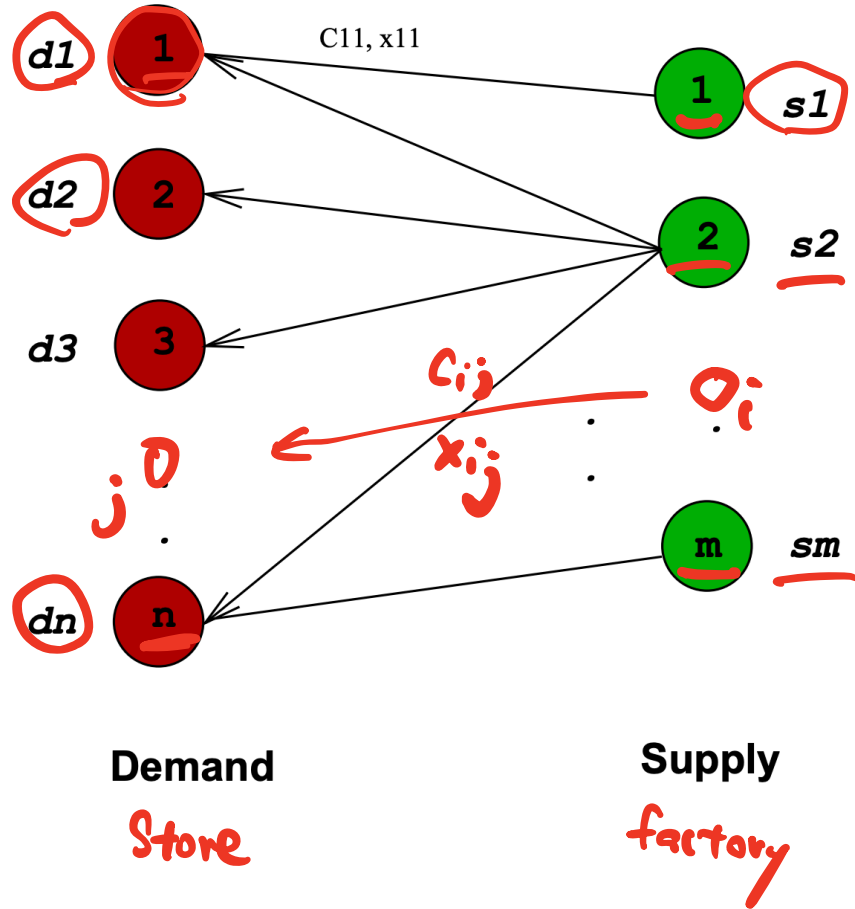
$$z + 115 = w + 175$$



# Linear Programming



Leonid Kantorovich  
Nobel Prize in Econ (1975)



Optimal Transport

cost to transport

$$\sum_{(i,j)} C_{ij} x_{ij}$$

Supply side

$$x_{11} + x_{12} + \dots + x_{1n} = s_1$$

⋮

$$x_{m1} + x_{m2} + \dots + x_{mn} = s_m$$

Demand

$$x_{11} + x_{21} + \dots + x_{m1} = d_1$$

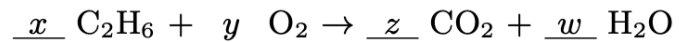
⋮

$$x_{1n} + x_{2n} + \dots + x_{mn} = d_n$$



# Some Applications

Chemistry: Balancing reaction equations



~~~~~> system of linear equations, one equation for each element.

$$2x = z$$

$$6x = 2w$$

$$2y = 2z$$

Geometry and Astronomy: Find the equation of a circle passing through 3 given points, say  $(1, 0)$ ,  $(0, 1)$ , and  $(1, 1)$ . The general form of a circle is  $a(x^2 + y^2) + bx + cy + d = 0$ .

~~~~~> system of linear equations:

$$a + b + d = 0$$

$$a + c + d = 0$$

$$2a + b + c + d = 0$$

Very similar to: compute the orbit of a planet:

$$ax^2 + by^2 + cxy + dx + ey + f = 0$$

# Some Applications

Biology: In a population of rabbits...

- ▶ half of the new born rabbits survive their first year
- ▶ of those, half survive their second year
- ▶ the maximum life span is three years
- ▶ rabbits produce 0, 6, 8 rabbits in their first, second, and third years

If I know the population in 2016 (in terms of the number of first, second, and third year rabbits), then what is the population in 2017?

~~~~~> system of linear equations:

$$\begin{aligned} 6y_{2016} + 8z_{2016} &= x_{2017} \\ \frac{1}{2}x_{2016} &= y_{2017} \\ \frac{1}{2}y_{2016} &= z_{2017} \end{aligned}$$

$$x_{2016} = x_{2017}$$

$$y_{2016} = y_{2017}$$

$$z_{2016} = z_{2017}$$

Question

Does the rabbit population have an asymptotic behavior? Is this even a linear algebra question? Yes, it is!

$$\underline{Ax = x} \quad \text{eigenvalue problem}$$

# Some Applications

**Biology:** In a population of rabbits...

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- ▶ of those, half survive their second year
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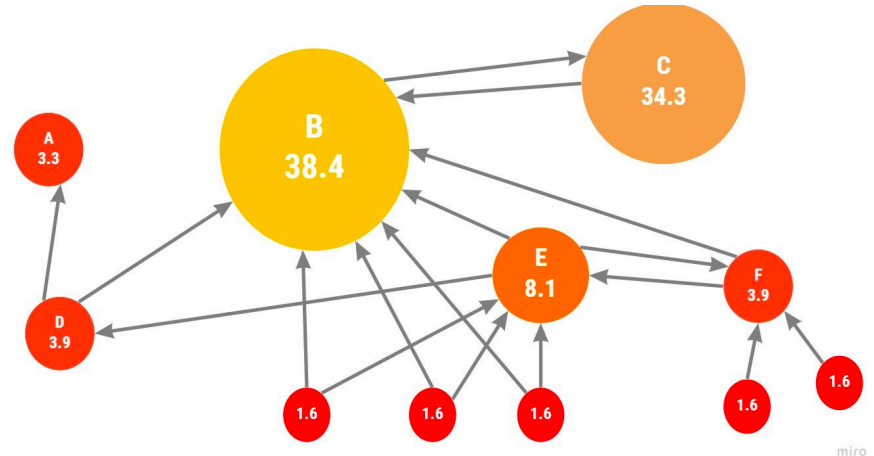
If I know the population in 2016 (in terms of the number of first, second, and third year rabbits), then what is the population in 2017?

~~~~~> system of linear equations:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} & 6y_{2016} + 8z_{2016} & = x_{2017} \\ \frac{1}{2}x_{2016} & & = y_{2017} \\ \frac{1}{2}y_{2016} & & = z_{2017} \end{array}$$

## Question

Does the rabbit population have an asymptotic behavior? Is this even a linear algebra question? Yes, it is!



“PageRank” Algorithm

**Google:** “The 25 billion dollar eigenvector.” Each web page has some importance, which it shares via outgoing links to other pages

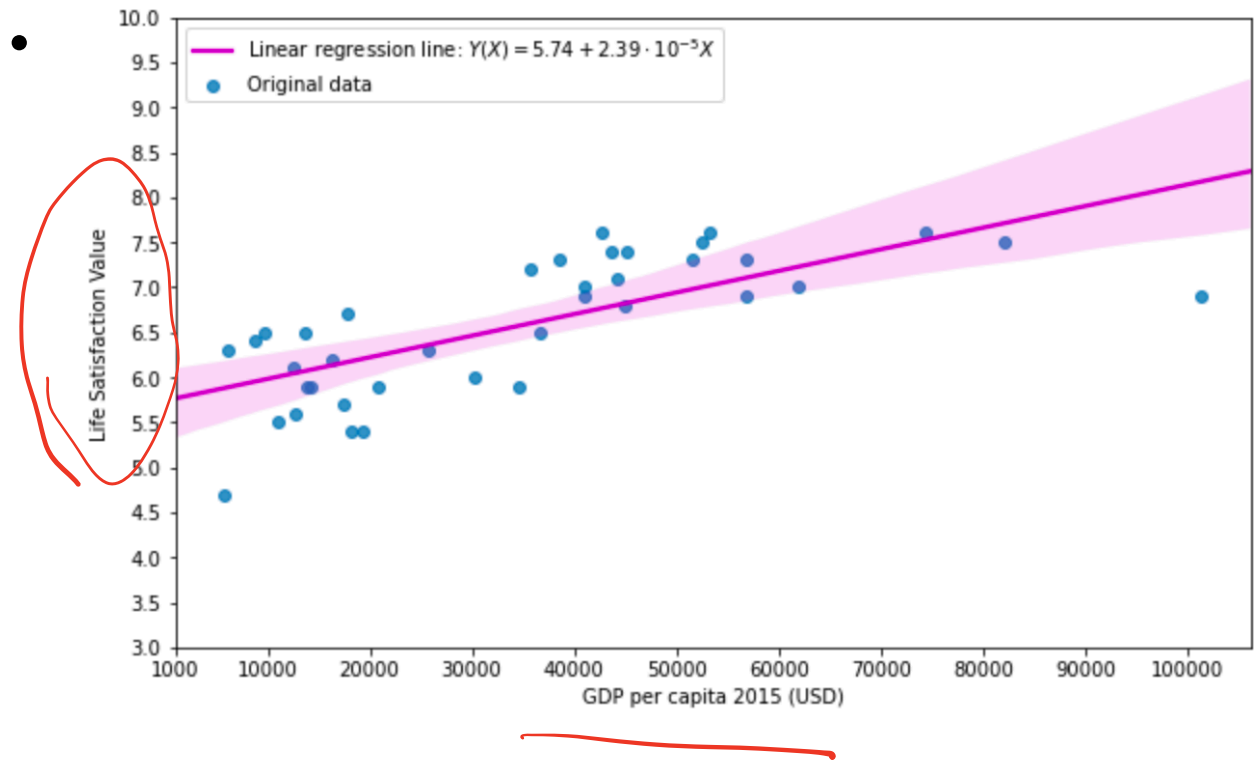
~~~~~> system of linear equations (in gazillions of variables).



Larry Page flies around in a private 747 because he paid attention in his linear algebra class!

# Some Application

- Learning from data: <https://math.mit.edu/classes/18.065/2019SP/>



find the best linear fit!

# Overview of the Course

- ▶ Solve the matrix equation  $Ax = b$ 
  - ▶ Solve systems of linear equations using matrices, row reduction, and inverses.
  - ▶ Solve systems of linear equations with varying parameters using parametric forms for solutions, the geometry of linear transformations, the characterizations of invertible matrices, and determinants.
- ▶ Solve the matrix equation  $Ax = \lambda x$ 
  - ▶ Solve eigenvalue problems through the use of the characteristic polynomial.
  - ▶ Understand the dynamics of a linear transformation via the computation of eigenvalues, eigenvectors, and diagonalization.
- ▶ Almost solve the equation  $Ax = b$ 
  - ▶ Find best-fit solutions to systems of linear equations that have no actual solution using least squares approximations.

# Overview of the Course

Your previous math courses probably focused on how to do (sometimes rather involved) computations.

- ▶ Compute the derivative of  $\sin(\log x) \cos(e^x)$ .
- ▶ Compute  $\int_0^1 (1 - \cos(x)) dx$ .

This is important, **but** Wolfram Alpha can do all these problems better than any of us can. Nobody is going to hire you to do something a computer can do better.

If a computer can do the problem better than you can, then it's just an algorithm: this is not real problem solving.

So what are we going to do?

- ▶ About half the material focuses on how to do linear algebra computations—that is still important.
- ▶ The other half is on *conceptual* understanding of linear algebra. This is much more subtle: it's about figuring out *what question* to ask the computer, or whether you actually need to do any computations at all.



**Let's get this show started!**



## Strang Sections 1.1 and 1.2

Course notes adapted from *Introduction to Linear Algebra* by Strang (5<sup>th</sup> ed), and *Interactive Linear Algebra* by Margalit and Rabinoff.



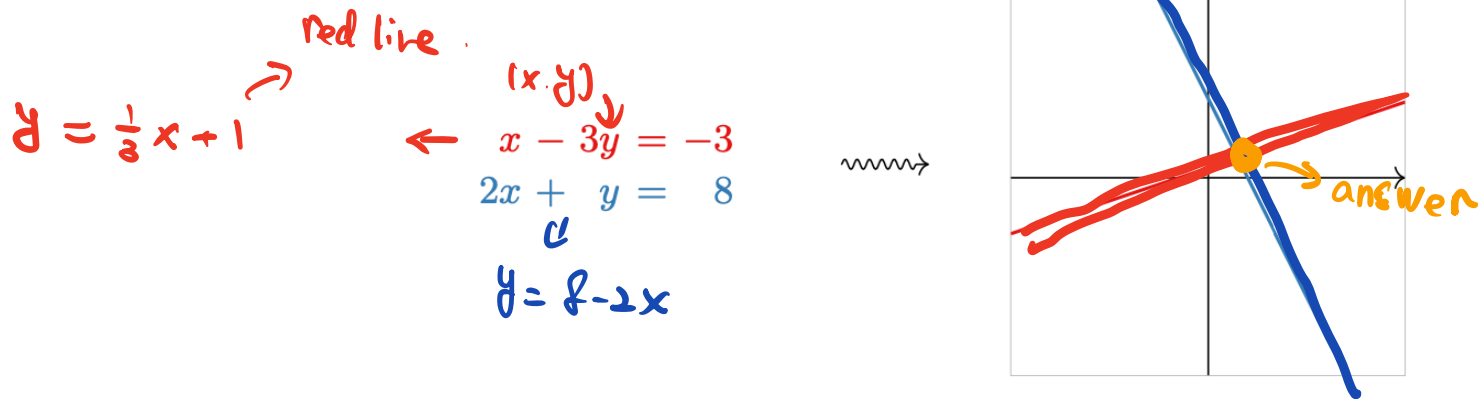


## 1.1 - Vectors

Course notes adapted from *Introduction to Linear Algebra* by Strang (5<sup>th</sup> ed), and *Interactive Linear Algebra* by Margalit and Rabinoff.

# Motivation

We want to think about the *algebra* in linear algebra (systems of equations and their solution sets) in terms of *geometry* (points, lines, planes, etc).



This will give us better insight into the properties of systems of equations and their solution sets.

To do this, we need to introduce  $n$ -dimensional space  $\mathbf{R}^n$ , and **vectors** inside it.

# Motivation

later:  $\{\mathbb{R}\}$

Recall that  $\mathbb{R}$  denotes the collection of all real numbers, i.e. the number line.  $\mathbb{R}^2$  2-dim plane

Definition

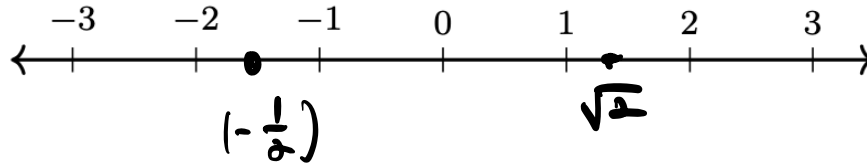
Let  $n$  be a positive whole number. We define

$\mathbb{R}^n$  = all ordered  $n$ -tuples of real numbers  $(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n)$ .

$\mathbb{R}^n$   $\{\mathbb{R}\} \wedge n$

Example

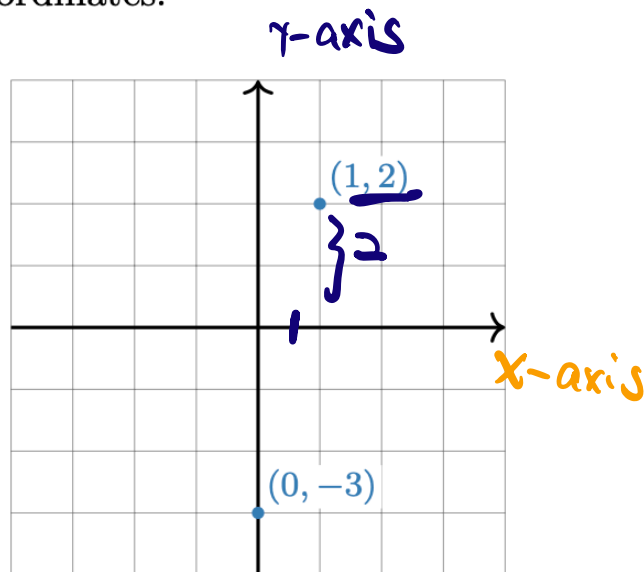
When  $n = 1$ , we just get  $\mathbb{R}$  back:  $\mathbb{R}^1 = \mathbb{R}$ . Geometrically, this is the number line.



$(1, 2, 0) \neq (2, 1, 0)$

# Motivation

When  $n = 2$ , we can think of  $\mathbf{R}^2$  as the *plane*. This is because every point on the plane can be represented by an ordered pair of real numbers, namely, its  $x$ - and  $y$ -coordinates.

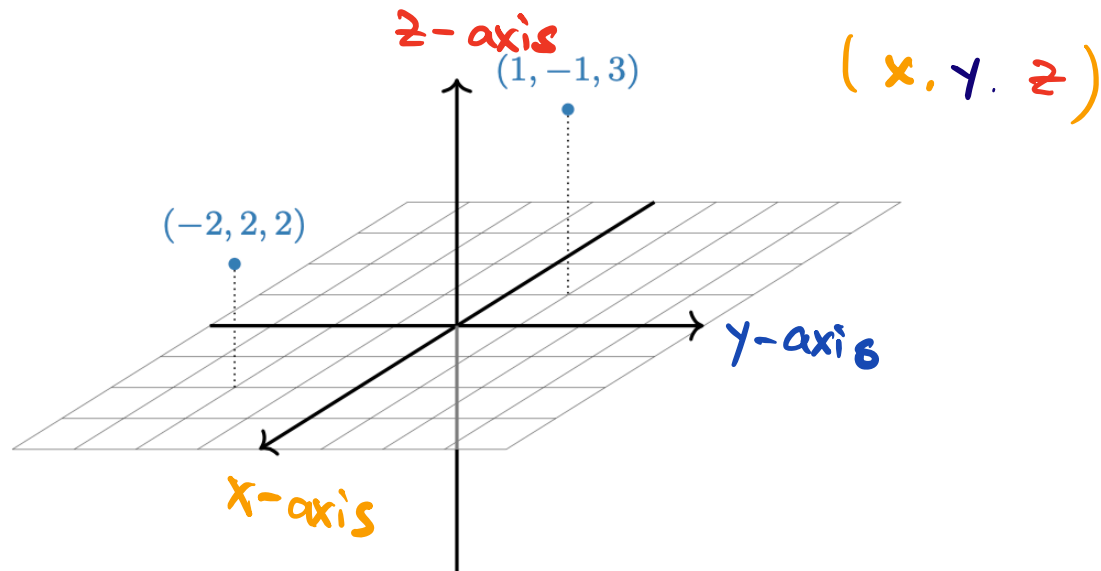


such that  
 $\mathbb{R}^2 := \{(x, y) \mid x, y \in \mathbb{R}\}$   
↑  
the set of all possible

We can use the elements of  $\mathbf{R}^2$  to *label* points on the plane, but  $\mathbf{R}^2$  is not defined to be the plane!

# Motivation

When  $n = 3$ , we can think of  $\mathbf{R}^3$  as the *space* we (appear to) live in. This is because every point in space can be represented by an ordered triple of real numbers, namely, its  $x$ -,  $y$ -, and  $z$ -coordinates.



Again, we can use the elements of  $\mathbf{R}^3$  to *label* points in space, but  $\mathbf{R}^3$  is not defined to be space!

# Motivation

So what is  $\mathbf{R}^4$ ? or  $\mathbf{R}^5$ ? or  $\mathbf{R}^n$ ?

...go back to the *definition*: ordered  $n$ -tuples of real numbers

$$(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n).$$

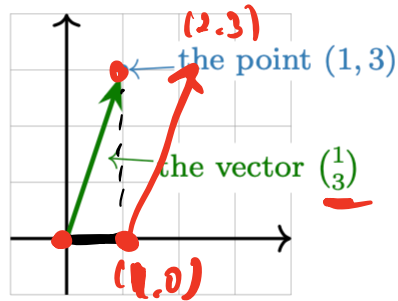
They're still “geometric” spaces, in the sense that our intuition for  $\mathbf{R}^2$  and  $\mathbf{R}^3$  sometimes extends to  $\mathbf{R}^n$ , but they're harder to visualize.

We'll make definitions and state theorems that apply to any  $\mathbf{R}^n$ , but we'll only draw pictures for  $\mathbf{R}^2$  and  $\mathbf{R}^3$ .

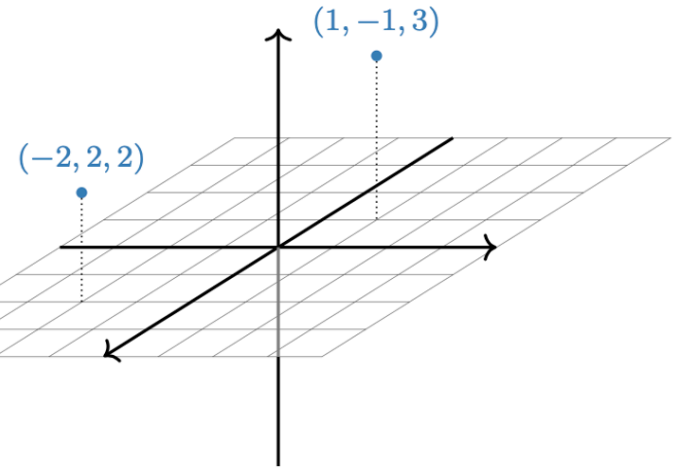
# Vectors

In the previous slides, we were thinking of elements of  $\mathbf{R}^n$  as **points**: in line, plane, space, etc.

We can also think of them as **vectors**: arrows with a given length and direction.



$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$  is a vector  
horizontally move 1  
vertically move 3



So the vector points *horizontally* in the amount of its  $x$ -coordinate, and *vertically* in the amount of its  $y$ -coordinate.

Green vector = Red vector.

# Imagine Manhattan





# Vector Algebra

- ▶ We can add two vectors together:

$$\begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a+x \\ b+y \\ c+z \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1+3 \\ 2+4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}$$

- ▶ We can multiply, or **scale**, a vector by a real number  $c$ :

$$c \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c \cdot x \\ c \cdot y \\ c \cdot z \end{pmatrix}.$$

scale  $\times$  vector

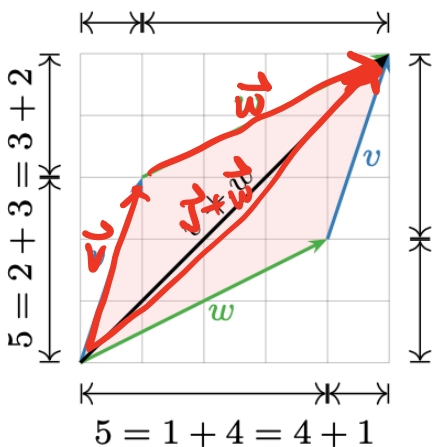
$$\begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} \neq \begin{pmatrix} ax \\ by \\ cz \end{pmatrix}$$

We call  $c$  a **scalar** to distinguish it from a vector. If  $v$  is a vector and  $c$  is a scalar,  $cv$  is called a **scalar multiple** of  $v$ .

(And likewise for vectors of length  $n$ .) For instance,

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 7 \\ 9 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad -2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ -4 \\ -6 \end{pmatrix}.$$

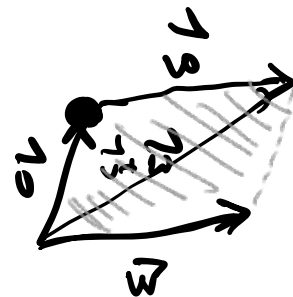
# Vector Addition and Subtraction



## The parallelogram law for vector addition

Geometrically, the sum of two vectors  $v, w$  is obtained as follows: place the tail of  $w$  at the head of  $v$ . Then  $v + w$  is the vector whose tail is the tail of  $v$  and whose head is the head of  $w$ . Doing this both ways creates a **parallelogram**. For example,

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}.$$



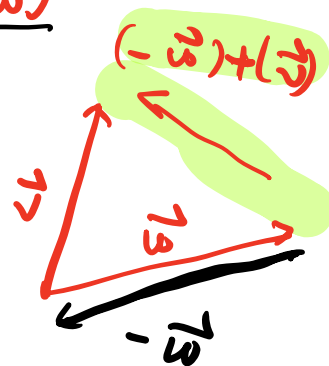
Why? The width of  $v + w$  is the sum of the widths, and likewise with the heights.

## Vector subtraction

$$\vec{v} - \vec{w} = \vec{v} + (-\vec{w})$$

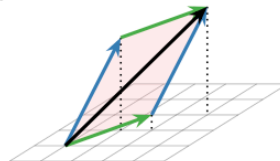
Geometrically, the difference of two vectors  $v, w$  is obtained as follows: place the tail of  $v$  and  $w$  at the same point. Then  $v - w$  is the vector from the head of  $v$  to the head of  $w$ . For example,

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}.$$



Why? If you add  $v - w$  to  $w$ , you get  $v$ .

This works in higher dimensions too!



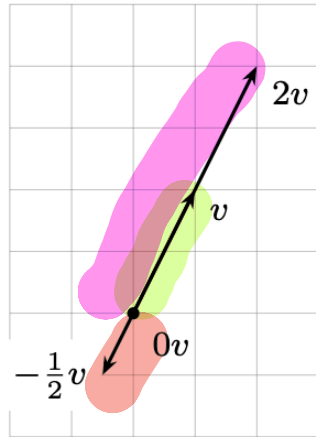
# Scalar Multiplication - Geometry

## Scalar multiples of a vector

These have the same *direction* but a different *length*.

$$0 \cdot \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \cdot a \\ 0 \cdot b \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \vec{0}$$

Some multiples of  $v$ .



$$v = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

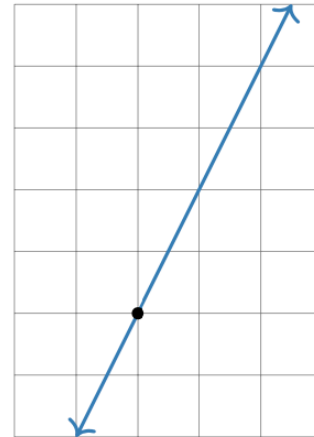
$$2v = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$-\frac{1}{2}v = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{1}{2} \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$0v = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

negative .

All multiples of  $v$ .



$$0 \cdot \vec{v} = \vec{0} \neq 0$$

So the scalar multiples of  $v$  form a *line*.

# Linear Combinations

We can add and scalar multiply in the same equation:

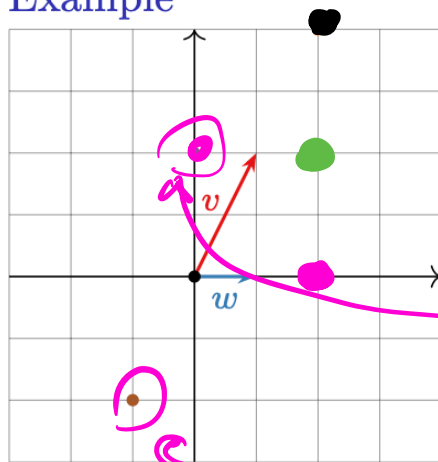
$$w = \underbrace{c_1 v_1} \oplus \underbrace{c_2 v_2} \oplus \cdots \oplus \underbrace{c_p v_p}$$

where  $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_p$  are scalars,  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_p$  are vectors in  $\mathbf{R}^n$ , and  $w$  is a vector in  $\mathbf{R}^n$ .

## Definition

We call  $w$  a **linear combination** of the vectors  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_p$ . The scalars  $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_p$  are called the **weights** or **coefficients**.

## Example



Let  $v = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $w = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ .

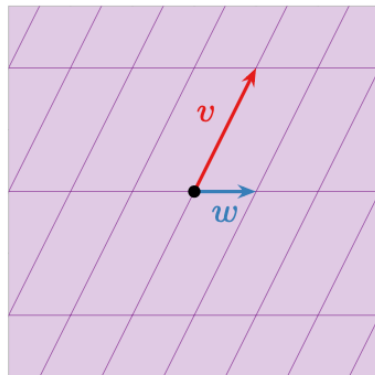
What are some linear combinations of  $v$  and  $w$ ?

- ▶  $v + w = \begin{pmatrix} 1+1 \\ 2+0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$
- ▶  $v - w = \begin{pmatrix} 1-1 \\ 2-0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$
- ▶  $2v + 0w = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$
- ▶  $2w$
- ▶  $-v$

# Poll

Poll

Is there any vector in  $\mathbf{R}^2$  that is *not* a linear combination of  $v$  and  $w$ ?

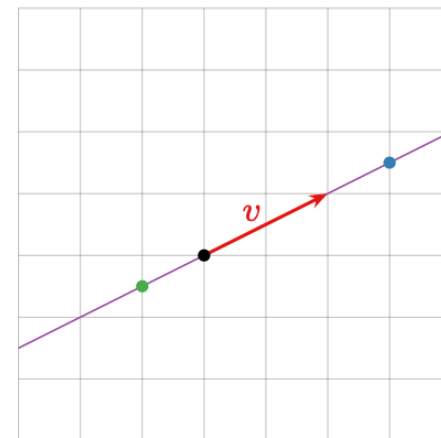


# Examples

What are some linear combinations of  $v = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ ?

a line

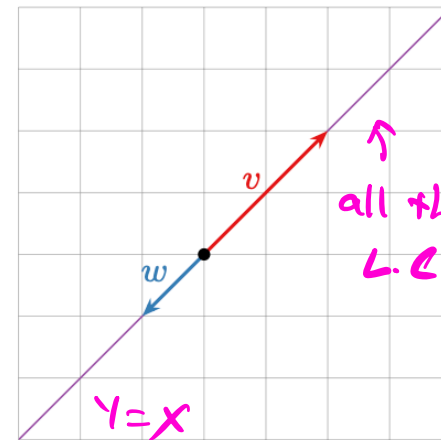
$$c \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2c \\ c \end{pmatrix}$$



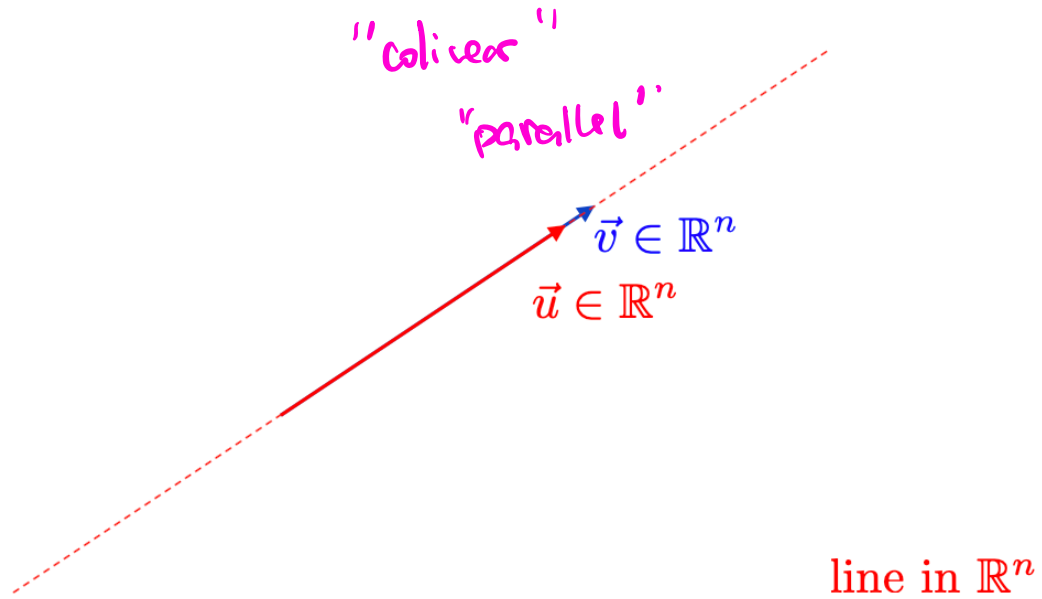
What are all linear combinations of

$v = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $w = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$ ?

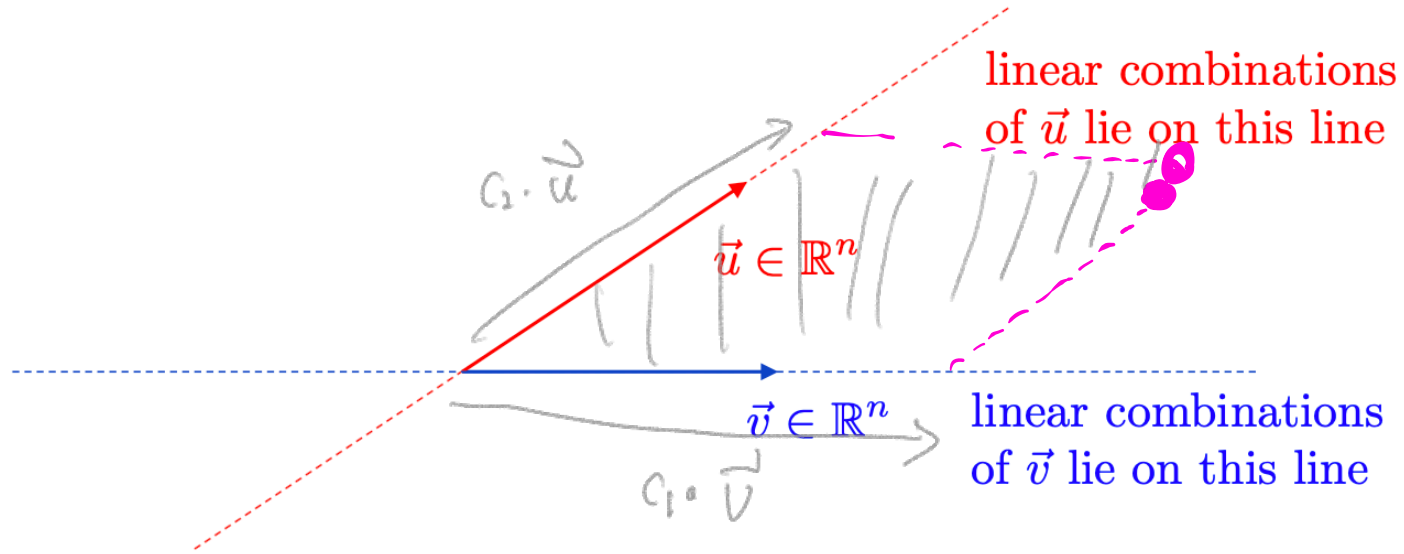
$$c_1 \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} + c_2 \cdot \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2c_1 - c_2 \\ 2c_1 - c_2 \end{pmatrix}$$



# Geometric Interpretation of Linear Combinations



# Geometric Interpretation of Linear Combinations



linear combinations of  $\vec{u}$  and  $\vec{v}$  lie on a plane in  $\mathbb{R}^n$



# Vector Equations

## Question

Is  $\begin{pmatrix} 8 \\ 16 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$  a linear combination of  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $\begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$ ?

$$c_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix} + c_2 \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 8 \\ 16 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \quad \leftarrow \text{solve this equation}$$

$$\begin{cases} c_1 - c_2 = 8 \\ 2c_1 - 2c_2 = 16 \\ 6c_1 - c_2 = 3 \end{cases}$$

For Now Guess!

$$c_1 = -1 \quad c_2 = -9$$

$\leftarrow$  teach this in Lecture 3.

Transform a linear system to

Is a vector  
a L.C. of other vectors

Vector multiply a vector



1.2 – Lengths and Dot Products

↓ Geometric view

length and angle between vectors,

# Dot Product

We need a notion of *angle* between two vectors, and in particular, a notion of *orthogonality* (i.e. when two vectors are perpendicular). This is the purpose of the dot product.

# Dot Product

We need a notion of *angle* between two vectors, and in particular, a notion of *orthogonality* (i.e. when two vectors are perpendicular). This is the purpose of the dot product.

## Definition

The **dot product** of two vectors  $x, y$  in  $\mathbf{R}^n$  is

★ Vector dot Vector  $\rightarrow$  scalar

$$x \cdot y = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x_1 y_1 + x_2 y_2 + \cdots + x_n y_n.$$

special case of  
Matrix  $\times$  Vector  
in Lecture 2

Thinking of  $x, y$  as column vectors, this is the same as  $x^T y$ .

## Example

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix} = (1 \quad 2 \quad 3) \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix} = 1 \cdot 4 + 2 \cdot 5 + 3 \cdot 6 = 32.$$

# Dot Product

Many usual arithmetic rules hold, as long as you remember you can only dot two vectors together, and that the result is a scalar.

- ▶  $\vec{x} \cdot \vec{y} = \vec{y} \cdot \vec{x}$  commutative.
- ▶  $(\vec{x} + \vec{y}) \cdot \vec{z} = \vec{x} \cdot \vec{z} + \vec{y} \cdot \vec{z}$  distributive law.
- ▶  $(c\vec{x}) \cdot \vec{y} = c(\vec{x} \cdot \vec{y})$  associative w.r.t scalar vector multiplication.

Geometric

Dotting a vector with itself is special:

$$\sqrt{\vec{x} \cdot \vec{x}} = \|\vec{x}\| \quad \leftarrow \quad \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix} = \underbrace{x_1^2}_{\substack{\vee \\ 0}} + \underbrace{x_2^2}_{\substack{\vee \\ 0}} + \dots + \underbrace{x_n^2}_{\substack{\vee \\ 0}} \geq 0$$

Hence:

- ▶  $x \cdot x \geq 0$
- ▶  $x \cdot x = 0$  if and only if  $x = 0$ .

$$\left\| \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} \right\| = \sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2}$$

**Important:**  $x \cdot y = 0$  does *not* imply  $x = 0$  or  $y = 0$ . For example,  
 $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 0$ .

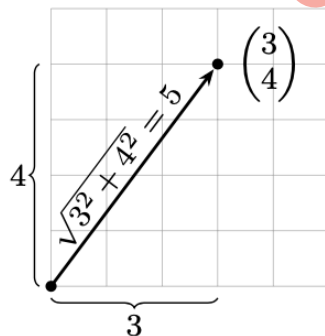
# Dot Product and Length

## Definition

The **length** or **norm** of a vector  $x$  in  $\mathbf{R}^n$  is

$$\|x\| = \sqrt{x \cdot x} = \sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2 + \cdots + x_n^2}.$$

Why is this a good definition? The Pythagorean theorem!



$$\left\| \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \right\| = \sqrt{3^2 + 4^2} = 5$$

## Fact

If  $x$  is a vector and  $c$  is a scalar, then  $\|cx\| = |c| \cdot \|x\|$ .

*c maybe negative number*

$$\left\| \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix} \right\| = \left\| 2 \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \right\| = 2 \left\| \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \right\| = 10$$

# Dot Product and Distance

## Definition

The **distance** between two points  $x, y$  in  $\mathbf{R}^n$  is

$$\text{dist}(x, y) = \|y - x\|.$$

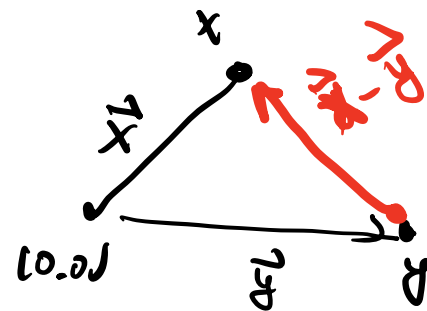
This is just the length of the vector from  $x$  to  $y$ .

## Example

Let  $x = (1, 2)$  and  $y = (4, 4)$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{dist}(x, y) &= \left\| \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \right\| = \left\| \begin{pmatrix} 1-4 \\ 2-4 \end{pmatrix} \right\| = \left\| \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \right\| \\ &= \sqrt{3^2 + 2^2} = \sqrt{13} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{dist}(x, y) := \|\vec{x} - \vec{y}\|.$$



# Dot Products

## Definition

A **unit vector** is a vector  $v$  with length  $\|v\| = 1$ .

## Example

The unit coordinate vectors are unit vectors:

$$\|e_1\| = \left\| \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\| = \sqrt{1^2 + 0^2 + 0^2} = 1$$

$$e_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad e_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

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## Definition

Let  $x$  be a nonzero vector in  $\mathbf{R}^n$ . The **unit vector in the direction of  $x$**  is the vector  $\frac{x}{\|x\|}$ . ← unit

This is in fact a unit vector:

$$\text{scalar} \left\| \frac{x}{\|x\|} \right\| = \frac{1}{\|x\|} \|x\| = \underline{1}$$

scalar



# Dot Products

## Example

What is the unit vector in the direction of  $x = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$ ?

$$\|\vec{x}\| = \sqrt{3^2 + 4^2} = 5$$

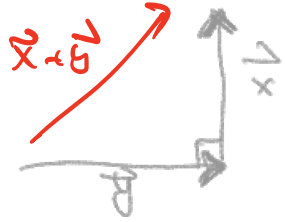
$$\text{unit } \frac{x}{\|x\|} = \frac{1}{5} \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3/5 \\ 4/5 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Orthogonality

## Definition

Two vectors  $x, y$  are **orthogonal** or **perpendicular** if  $x \cdot y = 0$ .

Notation:  $x \perp y$  means  $x \cdot y = 0$ .



By the Pythagorean Theorem

$$\| \vec{x} + \vec{y} \|^2 = \| \vec{x} \|^2 + \| \vec{y} \|^2$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \vec{x} \cdot \vec{y} = 0$$

$$(\vec{x} + \vec{y}) \cdot (\vec{x} + \vec{y})$$

$$= \underbrace{\vec{x} \cdot \vec{x}}_{\| \vec{x} \|^2} + \underbrace{\vec{x} \cdot \vec{y} + \vec{y} \cdot \vec{x}}_{= 0} + \underbrace{\vec{y} \cdot \vec{y}}_{\| \vec{y} \|^2}$$

(Try!)



$$\begin{aligned} & \vec{x}(\vec{x} + \vec{y}) + \vec{y}(\vec{x} + \vec{y}) \\ &= \vec{x} \cdot \vec{x} + \vec{x} \cdot \vec{y} + \vec{y} \cdot \vec{x} + \vec{y} \cdot \vec{y} \end{aligned}$$

$\vec{x} \perp \vec{y}$   
orthogonal

$$\Leftrightarrow \vec{x} \cdot \vec{y} = 0$$

# Some Formulas

Cosine Formula/Alternate Dot Product Definition:

If  $u$  and  $v$  are nonzero vectors then

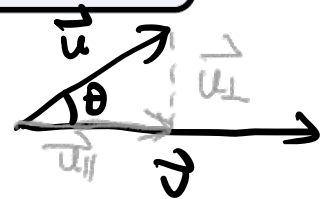
$$\frac{u \cdot v}{\|u\| \|v\|} = \cos \theta$$

The sign of the dot product tells us whether  $\theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$  or  $\theta > \frac{\pi}{2}$ .  
Alternatively, this can be written as  $u \cdot v = \|u\| \|v\| \cos \theta$  for a more general definition of the dot product.

$\theta > 90^\circ$   $\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right)$   $\dots$   $u \cdot v < 0$

$\theta = 90^\circ$   $\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right)$   $\Rightarrow \text{orthogonal} \Rightarrow u \cdot v = 0$

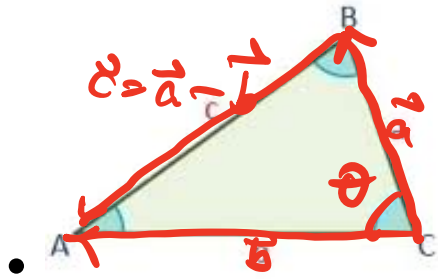
$\theta < 90^\circ$   $\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right)$   $\Rightarrow \cos \theta > 0 \Rightarrow u \cdot v > 0$



$u \cdot v = (\|u\| \cos \theta + \|u\| \sin \theta) \cdot \|v\|$   
 $= \|u\| \cos \theta \cdot \|v\| + \|u\| \sin \theta \cdot \|v\|$

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

# Generalized Pythagorean theorem



$$c^2 = a^2 + b^2 - 2ab \cdot \cos C$$

$$\begin{aligned} \|\vec{a} - \vec{b}\|^2 &= \|\vec{a}\|^2 + \|\vec{b}\|^2 - 2\|\vec{a}\|\|\vec{b}\|\cos\theta \\ &= \|\vec{a}\|^2 + \|\vec{b}\|^2 - 2\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} \end{aligned}$$

# Some Formulas

Cosine Formula/Alternate Dot Product Definition:

If  $u$  and  $v$  are nonzero vectors then

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Schwarz Inequality

A consequence of the previous formula is that

$$|u \cdot v| \leq \|u\| \|v\| \quad -1 < \cos \theta < 1$$

Triangle Inequality

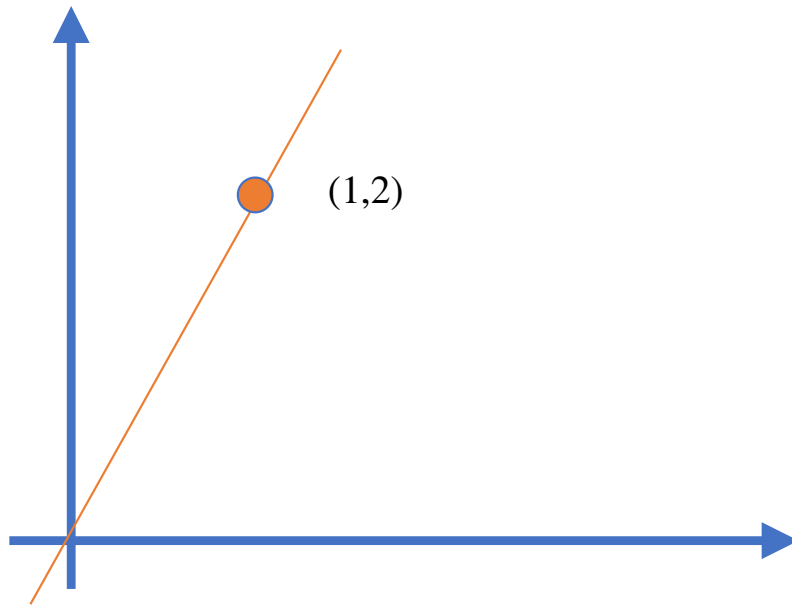
$$\|u + v\| \leq \|u\| + \|v\| \quad -1 < \cos \theta < 1$$

# Motivation: Best fit of linear equation

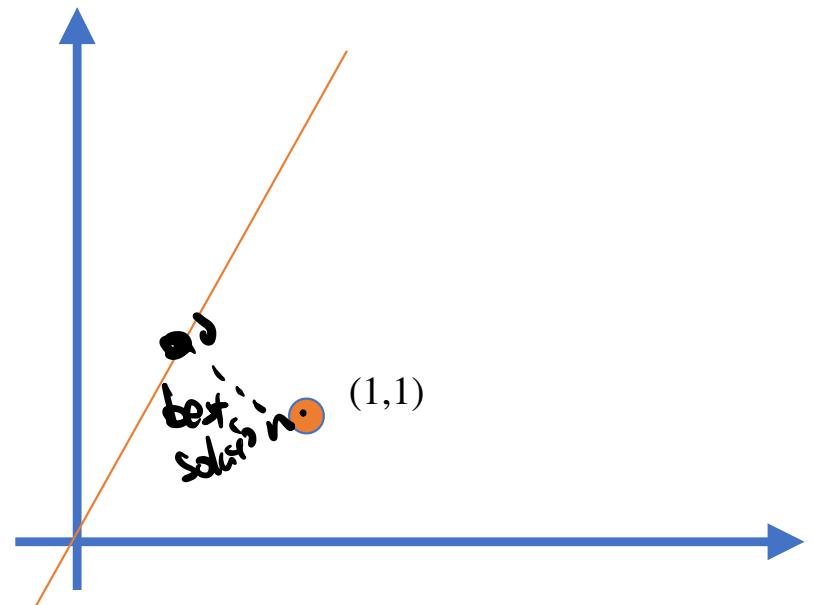
Not Required

overdetermined linear system

$$2x = 2$$
$$x = 1$$



$$2x = 1$$
$$x = 1$$



vector  $\rightarrow \vec{a}$   $\| \lambda \|$

c scalar  $|c|$  absolute value .

$\vec{a} - \vec{b}$   $\leftarrow$  vector