

6.1 Inner Product, Length, and Orthogonality

6.1.1 Multiplying Vectors

There are two ways to multiply vectors u and v :

1. the **cross product** $u \times v$. We will not be discussing cross products in this class.
2. the **dot product** $u \cdot v$. The dot product is also called the **inner product**.

number

Inner Product

Definition 6.1. The inner product (or dot product) of two $x \times 1$ vectors u and v

$$u = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ \vdots \\ u_n \end{bmatrix} \quad v = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{bmatrix}$$

is the product $u \cdot v = u^T v$.

$$u \cdot v = [u_1 \quad u_2 \quad \cdots \quad u_n] \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{bmatrix} = u_1 v_1 + u_2 v_2 + \cdots + u_n v_n$$

IMPORTANT: Notice that when you take the dot product of two vectors you have a scalar answer. The dot product is a single number.

Example 6.1.1. Find $u \cdot v$ for $u = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$ and $v = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ -7 \end{bmatrix}$

$$u \cdot v = 1(-1) + 2(2) + 3(-7) = -1 + 4 - 21 = -18$$

Properties of the Inner Product

Properties of the Inner Product: Let $u, v,$ and w be vectors in \mathbb{R}^n , and let c be a scalar. Then

1. $u \cdot v = v \cdot u$
2. $(u + v) \cdot w = u \cdot w + v \cdot w$
3. $(cu) \cdot v = c(u \cdot v) = u \cdot (cv)$
4. $u \cdot u \geq 0$, and $u \cdot u = 0 \Leftrightarrow u = 0$

Properties 2 and 3 can be combined into

$$(c_1 u_1 + \cdots + c_p u_p) \cdot w = c_1(u_1 \cdot w) + \cdots + c_p(u_p \cdot w)$$

$$u \cdot u = u_1^2 + u_2^2 + \cdots + u_n^2$$

6.1.2 Length of a Vector

Length of a Vector

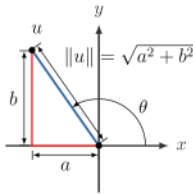
Definition 6.2. The length (or norm) of a vector v is the nonnegative scalar $\|v\|$ defined by

$$\|v\| = \sqrt{v \cdot v} = \sqrt{v_1^2 + v_2^2 + \dots + v_n^2}, \quad \text{and } \|v\|^2 = v \cdot v$$

A **unit vector** is a vector of length 1.

If v is a vector the unit vector in the direction of v is $\frac{v}{\|v\|}$ ← length = 1

The process of changing a vector v into a unit vector is called **normalizing** v .



$$\|v\|^2 = v \cdot v$$

magnitude

Example 6.1.2. For $v = \langle -1, 2, -7 \rangle$

1. Find the length of v . $\|v\| = \sqrt{(-1)^2 + (2)^2 + (-7)^2} = \sqrt{54}$
2. Find a unit vector in the direction of v .
3. Write v as (magnitude) · (direction) where the direction is a unit vector.

#2)
$$\frac{v}{\|v\|} = \left\langle -\frac{1}{\sqrt{54}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{54}}, \frac{-7}{\sqrt{54}} \right\rangle$$

#3)
$$v = \sqrt{54} \left\langle -\frac{1}{\sqrt{54}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{54}}, \frac{-7}{\sqrt{54}} \right\rangle$$

unit vector = direction.

Example 6.1.3. Find the dot product between $u = \langle 12, 3, -5 \rangle$ and $v = \langle 2, -3, 3 \rangle$

$$u \cdot v = 12(2) + 3(-3) + (-5)(3) = 0$$

Orthogonal Vectors

Definition 6.3. Two vectors u and v are **orthogonal (perpendicular)** to each other if $u \cdot v = 0$.

Theorem 6.1. Two vectors u and v are orthogonal if and only if $\|u + v\|^2 = \|u\|^2 + \|v\|^2$. (ie. the Pythagorean theorem is true)