

# Basic Properties of Vectors

- Each vector in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is uniquely determined by two points  $P = (p_1, \dots, p_n)$  and  $Q = (q_1, \dots, q_n)$  by identifying the ray  $\overrightarrow{PQ}$  with the vector  $\mathbf{v} = \langle q_1 - p_1, \dots, q_n - p_n \rangle$  based at the origin.

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- Given a vector  $\mathbf{v} = \langle v_1, \dots, v_n \rangle$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and a **scalar**  $\lambda$  in  $\mathbb{R}$ , we define the scalar product of  $\mathbf{v}$  by  $\lambda$  to be the vector  $\lambda\mathbf{v} = \langle \lambda v_1, \dots, \lambda v_n \rangle$ .

## Computation with Vectors

Consider the vectors  $\mathbf{v} = \langle 1, 2, 3 \rangle$  and  $\mathbf{w} = \langle -1, 0, 1 \rangle$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .  
Compute the vectors  $3\mathbf{v}$ ,  $-\mathbf{w}$ , and  $3\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{w}$ ; then, determine the magnitude  $\|3\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{w}\|$  of the vector  $3\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{w}$ .

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(a.) By definition of scalar multiplication, we have that  $3\mathbf{v} = 3\langle 1, 2, 3 \rangle = \langle 3, 6, 9 \rangle$  and  $-\mathbf{w} = -\langle -1, 0, 1 \rangle = \langle 1, 0, -1 \rangle$ .

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Consequently, it follows that  $3\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{w} = \langle 3, 6, 9 \rangle + \langle 1, 0, -1 \rangle = \langle 4, 6, 8 \rangle$ .

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- Given two vectors  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , we have the **Triangle Inequality**

$$\|\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w}\| \leq \|\mathbf{v}\| + \|\mathbf{w}\|$$

with equality if and only if one of  $\mathbf{v}$  or  $\mathbf{w}$  is 0 or  $\mathbf{v} = \lambda\mathbf{w}$  ( $\lambda > 0$ ).

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$$\mathbf{r}(t) = \langle P \rangle + t\mathbf{v} = \langle p_1 + tv_1, \dots, p_n + tv_n \rangle,$$

where  $\langle P \rangle = \langle p_1, \dots, p_n \rangle$  and  $t$  is a real number in  $(-\infty, \infty)$ .

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- Given vectors  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  with angle  $\theta$  between them, we have that

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We say that  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  are **orthogonal** if  $\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w} = 0$ . Observe that in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  or  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , this is equivalent to the notion of “perpendicular” vectors.

## True (a.) or False (b.)

Given that two lines  $l_1$  and  $l_2$  are both parallel to the line  $l_3$ , it must be true that the lines  $l_1$  and  $l_2$  are parallel.

## True (a.) or False (b.)

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(a.) True. Lines are uniquely determined by a point  $P$  and a directional vector  $\mathbf{v}$ . Parallel lines have the same (up to a scalar multiple) directional vector, so the directional vector of  $\ell_1$  and  $\ell_2$  must be the same.

## True (a.) or False (b.)

Given that two lines  $\ell_1$  and  $\ell_2$  are both orthogonal to the line  $\ell_3$ , it must be true that the lines  $\ell_1$  and  $\ell_2$  are orthogonal.

## True (a.) or False (b.)

Given that two lines  $\ell_1$  and  $\ell_2$  are both orthogonal to the line  $\ell_3$ , it must be true that the lines  $\ell_1$  and  $\ell_2$  are orthogonal.

b.) False. For example,  $\ell_1$  and  $\ell_2$  could be skew. Consider the lines  $\ell_1 = t\langle 1, 1, 1 \rangle$ ,  $\ell_2 = t\langle 2, 1, 2 \rangle$ , and  $\ell_3 = t\langle 1, 0, -1 \rangle$ . We have that

$$\mathbf{v}_1 \cdot \mathbf{v}_3 = \langle 1, 1, 1 \rangle \cdot \langle 1, 0, -1 \rangle = 0 \text{ and}$$

$$\mathbf{v}_2 \cdot \mathbf{v}_3 = \langle 2, 1, 2 \rangle \cdot \langle 1, 0, -1 \rangle = 0 \text{ but}$$

$$\mathbf{v}_1 \cdot \mathbf{v}_2 = \langle 1, 1, 1 \rangle \cdot \langle 2, 1, 2 \rangle = 5,$$

hence  $\ell_1$  and  $\ell_2$  are not orthogonal, as their directional vectors are not.

## True (a.) or False (b.)

Given that  $\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w} < 0$ , the angle  $\theta$  between  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  is acute.



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b.) False. Combining the formula  $\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w} = \|\mathbf{v}\| \|\mathbf{w}\| \cos \theta$  with the fact that  $\|\mathbf{v}\|$  and  $\|\mathbf{w}\|$  are by definition positive, we conclude that  $\cos \theta < 0$ . Considering that  $\cos \theta \geq 0$  whenever  $0 \leq \theta \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$  or  $\frac{3\pi}{2} \leq \theta < 2\pi$ , we must have that  $\frac{\pi}{2} < \theta < \frac{3\pi}{2}$ , from which it follows that  $\theta$  is obtuse.

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Given that  $\mathbf{u}$  is orthogonal to  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$ ,  $\mathbf{u}$  is orthogonal to  $\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w}$ .

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a.) True. Explicitly, we will assume that  $\mathbf{u} = \langle u_1, \dots, u_n \rangle$ ,  $\mathbf{v} = \langle v_1, \dots, v_n \rangle$ , and  $\mathbf{w} = \langle w_1, \dots, w_n \rangle$ . We are given that  $u_1 v_1 + \dots + u_n v_n = \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0$  and  $u_1 w_1 + \dots + u_n w_n = \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{w} = 0$ . Considering that  $\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w} = \langle v_1 + w_1, \dots, v_n + w_n \rangle$ , we have that

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{u} \cdot (\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w}) &= u_1 \langle v_1 + w_1 \rangle + \dots + u_n \langle v_n + w_n \rangle \\ &= \langle u_1 v_1 + \dots + u_n v_n \rangle + \langle u_1 w_1 + \dots + u_n w_n \rangle = 0.\end{aligned}$$

# Basic Properties of Vectors

- We define a real  $n \times n$  **matrix** to be an  $n \times n$  array of real numbers. Recall that the sum of two  $n \times n$  matrices  $[a_{ij}]$  and  $[b_{ij}]$  is defined to be the matrix  $[s_{ij}]$  such that  $s_{ij} = a_{ij} + b_{ij}$ , and the product of the same  $n \times n$  matrices is defined to be the matrix  $[p_{ij}]$  such that

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Put another way, the entry of  $[p_{ij}]$  in the  $i$ th row and  $j$ th column is the sum of the products of the entries  $a_{ik}$  in the  $i$ th row and  $k$ th column of  $[a_{ij}]$  and  $b_{kj}$  in the  $k$ th row and  $j$ th column of  $[b_{ij}]$ .

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- Given a  $2 \times 2$  matrix  $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$ , the **determinant** of  $A$  is the scalar

$$\det(A) = \begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix} = ad - bc.$$

## Computation with Matrices

Consider the matrices  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$ . Compute the matrices  $A + B$  and  $AB$ ; then, find the determinant of  $A + B$ .

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By definition of matrix addition and multiplication, we have that

$$A + B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 + 1 & 2 + 0 \\ 3 + 0 & 4 - 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 3 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$AB = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \cdot 1 + 2 \cdot 0 & 1 \cdot 0 + 2 \cdot -1 \\ 3 \cdot 1 + 4 \cdot 0 & 3 \cdot 0 + 4 \cdot -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ 3 & -4 \end{bmatrix}.$$



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Consequently, we have that  $\det(A + B) = 2 \cdot 3 - 2 \cdot 3 = 0$ .

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$$\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{w} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{e}_1 & \mathbf{e}_2 & \mathbf{e}_3 \\ v_1 & v_2 & v_3 \\ w_1 & w_2 & w_3 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} v_2 & v_3 \\ w_2 & w_3 \end{vmatrix} \mathbf{e}_1 - \begin{vmatrix} v_1 & v_3 \\ w_1 & w_3 \end{vmatrix} \mathbf{e}_2 + \begin{vmatrix} v_1 & v_2 \\ w_1 & w_2 \end{vmatrix} \mathbf{e}_3.$$

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One [method](#) of computing the cross product is to write the array

$$\begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{e}_1 & \mathbf{e}_2 & \mathbf{e}_3 & \mathbf{e}_1 & \mathbf{e}_2 \\ v_1 & v_2 & v_3 & v_1 & v_2 \\ w_1 & w_2 & w_3 & w_1 & w_2 \end{vmatrix};$$

add the three top-left-to-bottom-right full diagonals; and subtract the top-right-to-bottom-left full diagonals.

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- Given vectors  $\mathbf{v} = \langle v_1, v_2, v_3 \rangle$  and  $\mathbf{w} = \langle w_1, w_2, w_3 \rangle$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , we define the **cross product** of  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  to be the vector

$$\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{w} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{e}_1 & \mathbf{e}_2 & \mathbf{e}_3 \\ v_1 & v_2 & v_3 \\ w_1 & w_2 & w_3 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} v_2 & v_3 \\ w_2 & w_3 \end{vmatrix} \mathbf{e}_1 - \begin{vmatrix} v_1 & v_3 \\ w_1 & w_3 \end{vmatrix} \mathbf{e}_2 + \begin{vmatrix} v_1 & v_2 \\ w_1 & w_2 \end{vmatrix} \mathbf{e}_3.$$

One [method](#) of computing the cross product is to write the array

$$\begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{e}_1 & \mathbf{e}_2 & \mathbf{e}_3 & \mathbf{e}_1 & \mathbf{e}_2 \\ v_1 & v_2 & v_3 & v_1 & v_2 \\ w_1 & w_2 & w_3 & w_1 & w_2 \end{vmatrix};$$

add the three top-left-to-bottom-right full diagonals; and subtract the top-right-to-bottom-left full diagonals. From this, one will obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{w} &= \mathbf{e}_1 v_2 w_3 + \mathbf{e}_2 v_3 w_1 + \mathbf{e}_3 v_1 w_2 \\ &\quad - \mathbf{e}_1 v_3 w_2 - \mathbf{e}_2 v_1 w_3 - \mathbf{e}_3 v_2 w_1. \end{aligned}$$

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  - 7  $\|\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{w}\|^2 = \|\mathbf{v}\|^2 \|\mathbf{w}\|^2 - (\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w})^2$

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Properties (5.) and (6.) imply that the cross product is **bilinear**.

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- Explicitly, the plane  $\mathcal{P}$  through the point  $P_0 = (x_0, y_0, z_0)$  is uniquely determined (up to a scalar multiple) by a **normal** vector  $\mathbf{n} = \langle a, b, c \rangle$  according to the following: a point  $P$  lies on  $\mathcal{P}$  if and only if  $\mathbf{n}$  and  $\overrightarrow{P_0P}$  are orthogonal if and only if  $\mathbf{n} \cdot \overrightarrow{P_0P} = 0$  if and only if

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- Given three points  $P = (x_0, y_0, z_0)$ ,  $Q$ , and  $R$ , the equation of the plane through  $P$ ,  $Q$ , and  $R$  can be determined by setting  $\mathbf{n} = \overrightarrow{PQ} \times \overrightarrow{PR}$  and computing the dot product  $d = \mathbf{n} \cdot \langle x_0, y_0, z_0 \rangle$ .

## True (a.) or False (b.)

Given that two lines  $l_1$  and  $l_2$  are both parallel to the plane  $\mathcal{P}$ , it must be true that the lines  $l_1$  and  $l_2$  are parallel.

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b.) False. Lines that are parallel to the plane  $\mathcal{P}$  are orthogonal to the normal vector  $\mathbf{n}$  that defines  $\mathcal{P}$ . Consequently, the statement in question is a reformulation of the previous false statement.

## True (a.) or False (b.)

Given that two lines  $l_1$  and  $l_2$  are both orthogonal to the plane  $\mathcal{P}$ , it must be true that the lines  $l_1$  and  $l_2$  are parallel.

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a.) True. Lines that are orthogonal to the plane  $\mathcal{P}$  are parallel to the normal vector  $\mathbf{n}$  that defines  $\mathcal{P}$ . Consequently, the statement in question is a reformulation of the first true statement.

## True (a.) or False (b.)

The plane  $\mathcal{P}$  defined by the equation  $x + y = 0$  contains the  $z$ -axis.

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a.) True. We note that the normal vector determining the given plane is  $\mathbf{n} = \langle 1, 1, 0 \rangle$ . Consequently, the vector  $\mathbf{e}_3 = \langle 0, 0, 1 \rangle$  that determines the  $z$ -axis is orthogonal to  $\mathbf{n}$  and must therefore be contained in  $\mathcal{P}$ .

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One other way to see it is that all points of the form  $(0, 0, z)$  satisfy the given equation and must therefore lie in the given plane.



## True (a.) or False (b.)

The plane  $\mathcal{P}_1$  defined by the equation  $x + y + z = 1$  and the plane  $\mathcal{P}_2$  defined by the equation  $x + 2y + 3z = 1$  intersect.

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$$\mathbf{r}(t) = \langle 1, 0, 0 \rangle + t\langle 1, -2, 1 \rangle = \langle t + 1, -2t, t \rangle.$$

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One other way to see it is to solve the given system of equations. We find that  $y + z = 2y + 3z$  so that  $y = -2z$ . Plugging this back into the original equation gives  $x - z = 1$  so that  $x = z + 1$ . Bada-bing, bada-boom.

# Vector Spaces and Linear Transformations

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- We say that the **dimension** of a vector space is the (unique) number of vectors in a basis. For instance, the dimension of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is  $n$  since the  $n$  vectors  $\mathbf{e}_1, \dots, \mathbf{e}_n$  form a basis for  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

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- Functions between vector spaces are called **linear transformations**. Given vector spaces  $V$  and  $W$ , a linear transformation  $T : V \rightarrow W$  must satisfy  $T(\lambda_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + \lambda_2 \mathbf{v}_2) = \lambda_1 T(\mathbf{v}_1) + \lambda_2 T(\mathbf{v}_2)$ . Cross product with a fixed vector is an example of a linear transformation.

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- Given that the target space of a linear transformation  $T$  is  $\mathbb{R}$ , we say that  $T$  is a **linear functional**. Examples of linear functionals include (1.) the dot product with a fixed vector and (2.) the determinant.

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The constant function  $T(x, y, z) = 1$  is a linear functional.



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(b.) False. On the contrary, if  $T$  were linear, we would have that  $1 = T(2, 0, 0) = 2T(1, 0, 0) = 2$ . Clearly, this is impossible.

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(a.) True. Given vectors  $\mathbf{v}_1 = \langle x_1, y_1, z_1 \rangle$  and  $\mathbf{v}_2 = \langle x_2, y_2, z_2 \rangle$  and scalars  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$ , we have that

$$\begin{aligned} T(\lambda_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + \lambda_2 \mathbf{v}_2) &= T(\lambda_1 x_1 + \lambda_2 x_2, \lambda_1 y_1 + \lambda_2 y_2, \lambda_1 z_1 + \lambda_2 z_2) \\ &= (2\lambda_1 x_1 + 2\lambda_2 x_2, 2\lambda_1 y_1 + 2\lambda_2 y_2, 2\lambda_1 z_1 + 2\lambda_2 z_2) \\ &= (2\lambda_1 x_1, 2\lambda_1 y_1, 2\lambda_1 z_1) + (2\lambda_2 x_2, 2\lambda_2 y_2, 2\lambda_2 z_2) \\ &= \lambda_1(2x_1, 2y_1, 2z_1) + \lambda_2(2x_2, 2y_2, 2z_2) \\ &= \lambda_1 T(\mathbf{v}_1) + \lambda_2 T(\mathbf{v}_2). \end{aligned}$$

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Essentially, one can think about this linear transformation as stretching a three-dimensional shape by a factor of two in each direction.