

# Lecture 02

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## *Vector II: Norm and Inner Product*

**Instructor: Ruoyu Sun**



香港中文大學(深圳)  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen

数据科学学院  
School of Data Science

# Recall

In the last lecture ...

- Definition of (column) vectors

- Basic vector operations (addition, multiplication, linear combination)

$$v+w$$

$$\text{scalar } cv+wd = (\dots)$$

$$\alpha \cdot v = (\alpha_1 v_1, \dots, \alpha_n v_n)$$

# Learning Goals Today

- **Today: More** vector operations

[Sec 1.2 of textbook, 5th edition]  
**Default:** 5th edition textbook

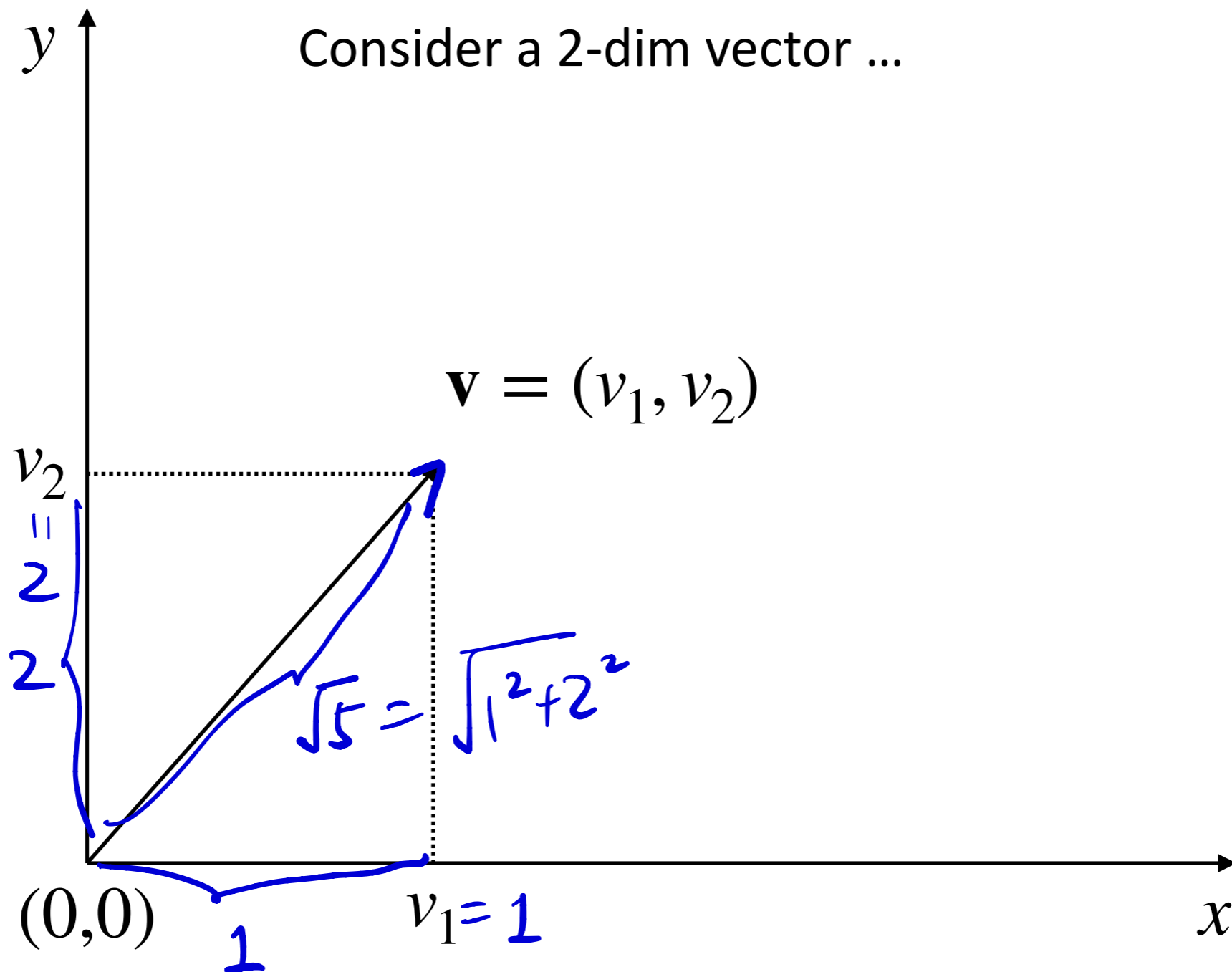
- Outline: (1) Vector Length; (2) Inner Product.

After this lecture, you should be able to:

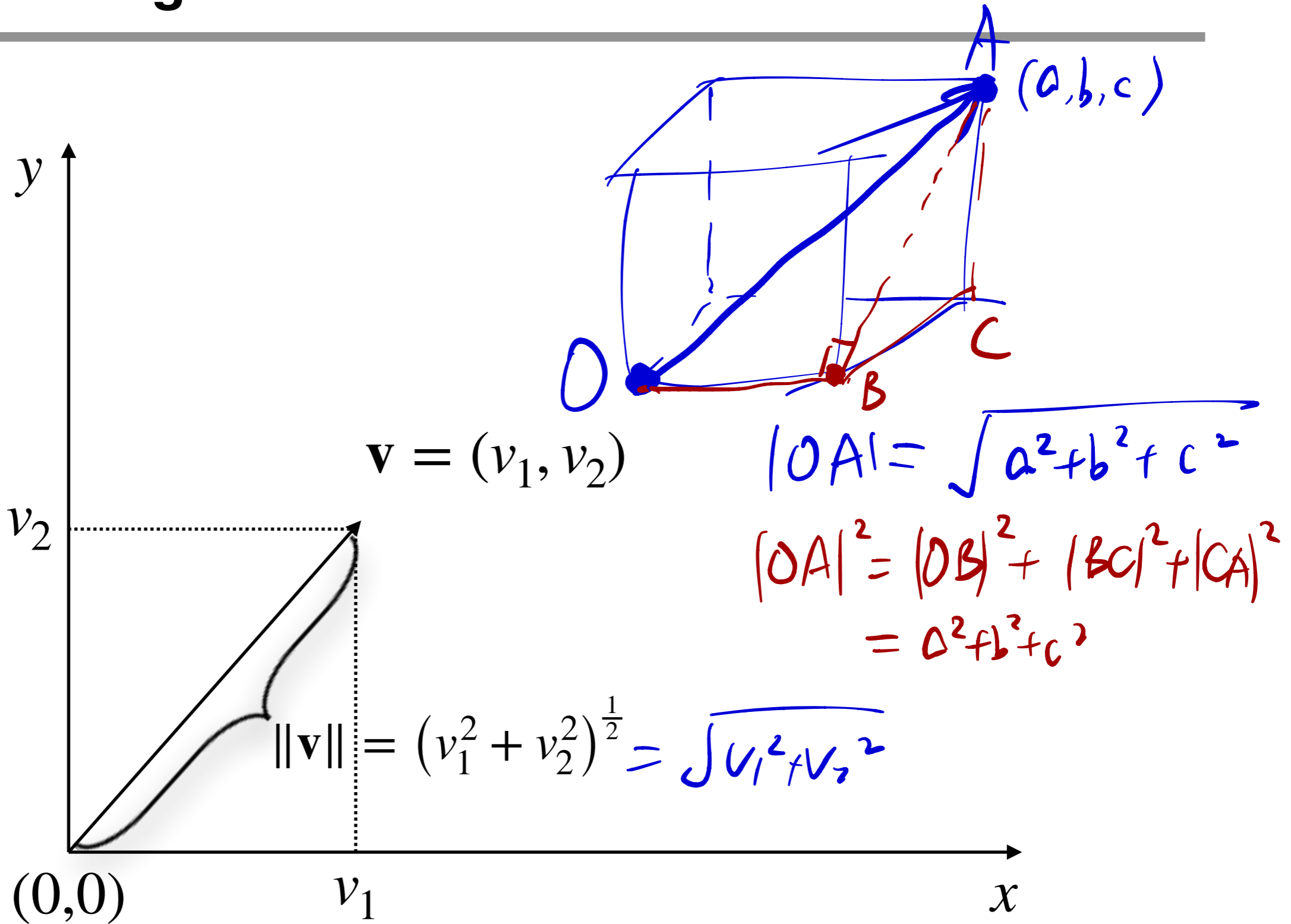
- calculate the norm of a vector
- calculate the inner product of two vectors
- utilize Cauchy-Schwartz inequality and triangular inequality
- provide real-world applications of "inner product"

# Part I Length and Norm

# Vector Lengths



# Vector Lengths



# Vector Lengths

For higher dimensional vector ...

A generalized notion of “vector length” ...

Definition ( $\ell_2$ -norm) *范数*.

Let  $\mathbf{v} = (v_1, \dots, v_n)$  Be a vector. The  $\ell_2$  norm of  $\mathbf{v}$ , denoted by  $\|\mathbf{v}\|_2$ , is defined as

$$\|\mathbf{v}\|_2 := (v_1^2 + \dots + v_n^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

*is defined as (appear in the first time).*

# Vector Lengths

For higher dimensional vector ...

A generalized notion of “*vector length*” ...

Definition (  $\ell_2$ -norm)

Let  $\mathbf{v} = (v_1, \dots, v_n)$  be a vector. The  $\ell_2$  norm of  $\mathbf{v}$ , denoted by  $\|\mathbf{v}\|_2$  is defined as

$$\|\mathbf{v}\|_2 := \left( v_1^2 + \dots + v_n^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$\|\mathbf{v}\| = \|\mathbf{v}\|_2$$



# Vector Lengths

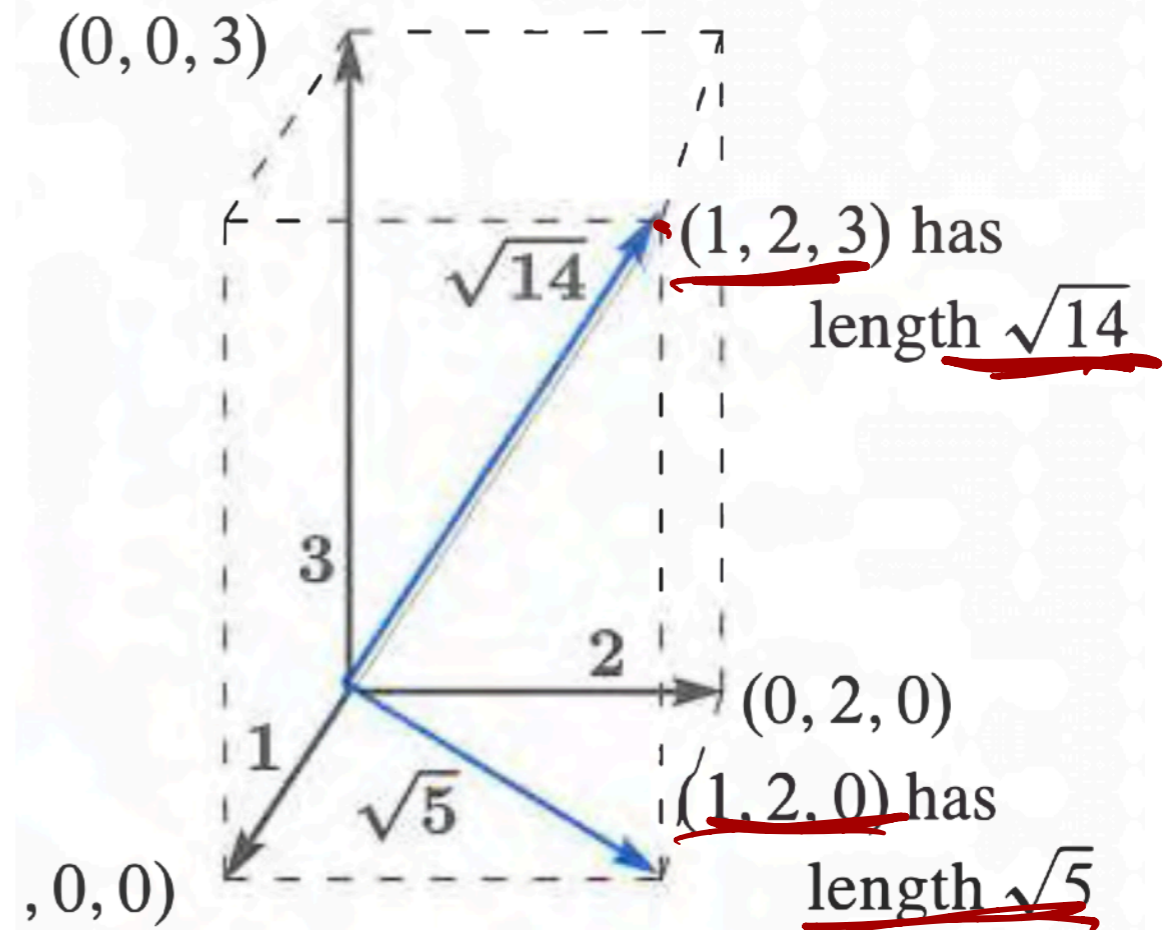
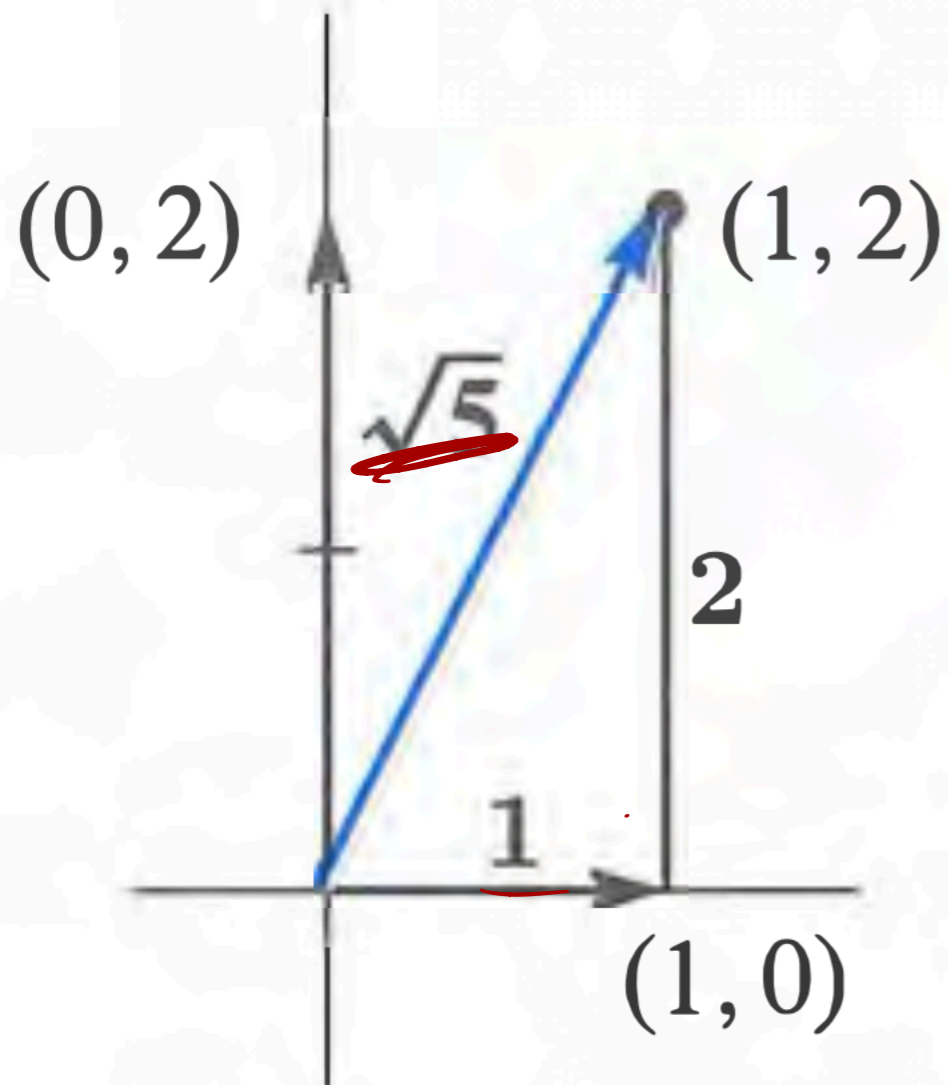
For higher dimensional vector ...

A generalized notion of “*vector length*” ...

The  $\ell_2$ -norm is also called an Euclidean norm or *length*

We often abbreviate  $\|\cdot\|_2$  as  $\|\cdot\|$

# Vector Lengths

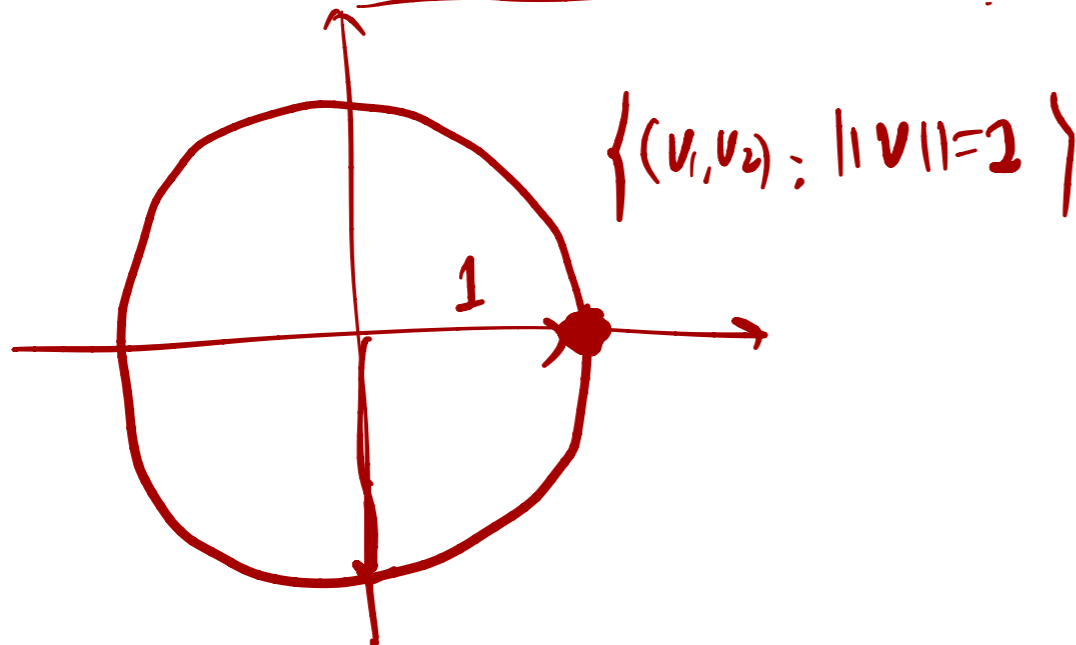


# Unit Vector: extension of number 1 to vector

## Definition (Unit Vector)

A vector  $\mathbf{v}$  is called a **unit vector** if  $\|\mathbf{v}\| = 1$

For any non-zero vector  $\mathbf{v}$ ,  $\frac{\mathbf{v}}{\|\mathbf{v}\|}$  is a unit vector



sphere  
surface.  
(not ball).

Practice. Prove  $\frac{u}{\|u\|}$  is unit vector, if  $u \neq 0$ .

35% get correct proof.

Wrong proof. 1  $u = \|u\|$ , so  $\frac{u}{\|u\|} = \frac{u}{u} = 1$ .

vector      scalar

only true if  $u$  is scalar and  $u \geq 0$ .

Incomplete proof Let  $\alpha = \|u\|$  ①

$$\left\| \frac{u}{\|u\|} \right\| \stackrel{\text{①}}{=} \left\| \frac{u}{\alpha} \right\| \stackrel{?}{=} \frac{\|u\|}{\alpha} = 1$$

$$\left| \frac{u}{\alpha} \right| = \frac{|u|}{\alpha}$$

take it outside  
major step

# General Advice for "proof"

\* Use Definition.

Want to prove  $\frac{u}{\|u\|} = v$  is unit vector

$$\iff \|v\| = 1.$$

Def of norm  $\iff$

$$\sqrt{v_1^2 + \dots + v_n^2} = 1.$$

Define  $\alpha = \|u\|$ , then  $v = \frac{u}{\alpha} = \frac{1}{\alpha} \cdot u$

Next,  $v = (\frac{1}{\alpha} u_1, \frac{1}{\alpha} u_2, \dots, \frac{1}{\alpha} u_n)$  Scalar Vec

figure out what to prove by definition.

Thus

$$\|v\| = \sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{\alpha} u_1\right)^2 + \dots + \left(\frac{1}{\alpha} u_n\right)^2}$$
$$= \frac{\sqrt{u_1^2 + \dots + u_n^2}}{\sqrt{\alpha^2}} = \frac{\|u\|}{|\alpha|} = 1.$$

$\alpha = \|u\|$

Property For scalar  $\alpha$ , vector  $v$ ,

$$\|\alpha v\| = |\alpha| \cdot \|v\|.$$

# Unit Vector: Examples

Examples (Unit Vector)

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \sqrt{3} \\ \sqrt{3} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} \\ -1/2 \\ 1/2 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Part II Inner Product



# Vector Operations

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**Question 1:** Can you think about any other vector operations?

# Vector Operations

Question 1: Can you think about any other vector operations?

Vector Addition

$$\begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \\ \vdots \\ w_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 + w_1 \\ v_2 + w_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_n + w_n \end{bmatrix}$$

Scalar. Vector  $\alpha \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha v_1 \\ \alpha v_2 \end{pmatrix}$ .

$\downarrow$   
Scalar

Q: What should "vector times vector" be? How to DEFINE?

$\begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \end{pmatrix}$

> 3 answers.

not a formal notation

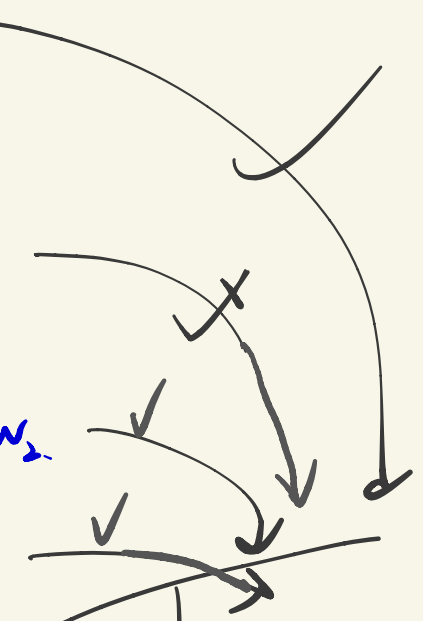
Answer 1  $\begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{pmatrix} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} v_1 w_1 \\ v_2 w_2 \end{pmatrix}$

Answer 2  $\begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{pmatrix} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \end{pmatrix} = \|v\| \cdot \|w\|$

Answer 3  $\begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{pmatrix} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \end{pmatrix} = v_1 v_2 w_1 w_2$

Answer 4  $\begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{pmatrix} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \end{pmatrix} = v_1 w_1$

Answer 5  $\begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{pmatrix} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \end{pmatrix} = \sin(v, w) \cdot e^{v_2 + w_2}$



n=1 should be consistent with product.

~~What is correct?~~

What is GOOD?

$n=1, v_1 \cdot w_1 = \sin(v, w)$ , not consistent

# Notation

$\|v\|$  v.s.  $|v|$  *use this one*

$|v|$   $\rightarrow$  extending def  
for  $|v|$   
absolute val

Both are fine.

$\rightarrow$  remind you,

$v$  is vector

Write  $\vec{v}$  or  $v$ , are both fine.  
*arrow helps remind you it's an arrow*

# Vector Operations

**Question 1:** Can you think about any other vector operations?

Vector Addition

$$\begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \\ \vdots \\ w_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 + w_1 \\ v_2 + w_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_n + w_n \end{bmatrix}$$

How about

$$\begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \\ \vdots \\ w_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 w_1 \\ v_2 w_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_n w_n \end{bmatrix} ?$$

This is “point-wise product”.

# Dot Product

## Definition (Dot Product)

A dot product between two vectors (of the same size)

$$\mathbf{v} = (v_1, \dots, v_n)$$

$$\mathbf{w} = (w_1, \dots, w_n)$$

is defined as

$$\langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^n v_i w_i$$

$$(v_1, v_2)$$

$$(w_1, w_2)$$

$$\langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \rangle = v_1 w_1 + v_2 w_2$$

$\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w}$

**Example:** Calculate the dot product of  $(-1, 2, 2)$  and  $(1, 0, -3)$

$$= (-1) \cdot 1 + 2 \cdot 0 + 2 \cdot (-3)$$
$$= -7$$

# Dot Product is also called Inner Product

~~don't write  $u \times w$~~

Sometime we also write a dot product as  $v \cdot w$  or  $v^T w$

Recommend writing as  $\langle v, w \rangle$  to avoid confusion.

A *dot product* is called an inner product in more general settings

内积

Commutative rule

Property:  $\langle v, v \rangle = \|v\|^2$  and  $\langle v, w \rangle = \langle w, v \rangle$   $\sum_i v_i w_i = \sum_i w_i v_i$

$$v \cdot v = v_1 \cdot v_1 + \dots + v_n \cdot v_n = \sum_{i=1}^n v_i^2 = \|v\|^2$$

**Reading:** Inner product naturally induces a norm and every “inner product space” is a “normed vector space”

Associative rule. ( $\forall v, w, u \in V$ )

$$\langle v, w+u \rangle = \langle v, w \rangle + \langle v, u \rangle$$

or  $v \cdot (w+u) = v \cdot w + v \cdot u.$



## Exercise

**Multi-Choice:** The dot product of two vectors is:

- (A) always a scalar ✓
- (B) sometimes a vector, sometimes a scalar

**Judge:** True or False.

The dot product of any two vectors is well-defined.

False.

$$(2, 3) \cdot (1, 4, 5) = ?$$

possible way:  $2 \cdot 1 + 3 \cdot 4 + 0 \cdot 5$  NOT in our definition

# Application: Evaluation and Ranking

## Evaluate an object: how?

e.g. how much to pay for a soccer/basketball player?  
—e.g. Messi's salary? Neymar's salary?

## Rank (compare) two objects: how?

e.g. is University A better than University B?

e.g. is soccer player A better than soccer player B?

Use data                      quantitative go-B

# Application: Comparison and Evaluation

## Evaluate an object: how?

e.g. how much to pay for a soccer/basketball player?  
—e.g. Messi's salary? Neymar's salary?

$(4, 10)$

## Rank (compare) two objects: how?

$> (1, 2)$

e.g. is University A better than University B?

e.g. is soccer player A better than soccer player B?

### Short answer:

**Step 1:** "vectorize" object

—(then want to compare two vectors)

$M \rightarrow (2, 3)$

$L \rightarrow (1, 10)$

**Step 2:** compare weighted sum of two vectors

# Example: Sports Player Comparison

Example: You want to compare two soccer players

Player 1

	Assists	Shoots	intercepts
Value	7	8	10

Vectorize

$(7, 8, 10)$

Player 2

	Assists	Shoots	intercepts
Value	10	10	6

Vectorize

$(10, 10, 6)$

# Example: Sports Player Comparison

Example: You want to compare two soccer players

Player 1

	Assists	Shoots	intercepts	Total	
"weight"	20%	50%	30%		Weights
"Feature"	7	8	10		Vectorize
contribution	1.4	4	3	8.4	

$$(0.2, 0.5, 0.3) \cdot (7, 8, 10) = 8.4$$

# Example: Sports Player Comparison

Example: You want to compare two soccer players

Player 1

*(0 m/g)*

“weight”

“Feature”

	Assists	Shoots	intercepts	Total
Weight	20%	50%	30%	
Value	7	8	10	
contribution	1.4	4	3	8.4

Weights

Vectorize

“Score”: weighted sum

Player 2

*(2 m/s)*

“weight”

“Feature”

	Assists	Shoots	intercepts	Total
Weight	20%	50%	30%	
Value	10	10	6	
contribution	2	5	1.8	8.8

“Score”

*inner product*

# Example: ~~University Comparison~~

## Evaluation

### Application 1: (general: score computation)

$v$  represents a set of “features” of an object,

$w$  is a vector of the same size (often called a weight vector),

Score: inner product  $w^T v$  is a weighted sum of the feature values.

### Examples:

	Soccer player	University ranking	Your example?
“Feature”	Contribution type	Univ. indicator	?
“Weight”	Manual weight	Manual weight	?
“Score”	salary	Evaluation score	?

# Application: Evaluation

Sub-application: evaluation.  
(Useful for ranking, comparing, etc.)

**Goal:** to evaluate a city, a university, an employee, a basketball player, a movie director

**Step 1:** Set up “features” (indicators)

**Step 2:** Evaluate each feature of the object, obtaining a feature vector

Vectorize object

**Step 3:** Provide weights to the features; get weight vector

Setting weights

**Step 4:** Compute the inner product, to get the “score”

“scalarize” object

Remark: “Score” can be used in other areas, e.g. machine learning



## Application: Ranking (via Evaluation)

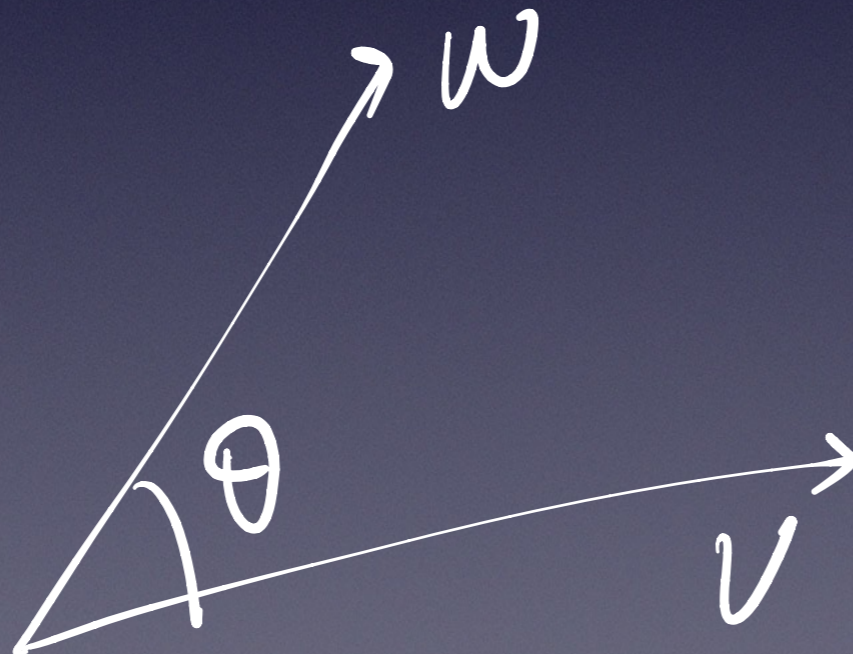
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**Ranking:** Given n subjects, rank them (排名 or 排序)

**Example:** Rank soccer players

**Example:** Rank universities

# Part III Angle Between Two Vectors



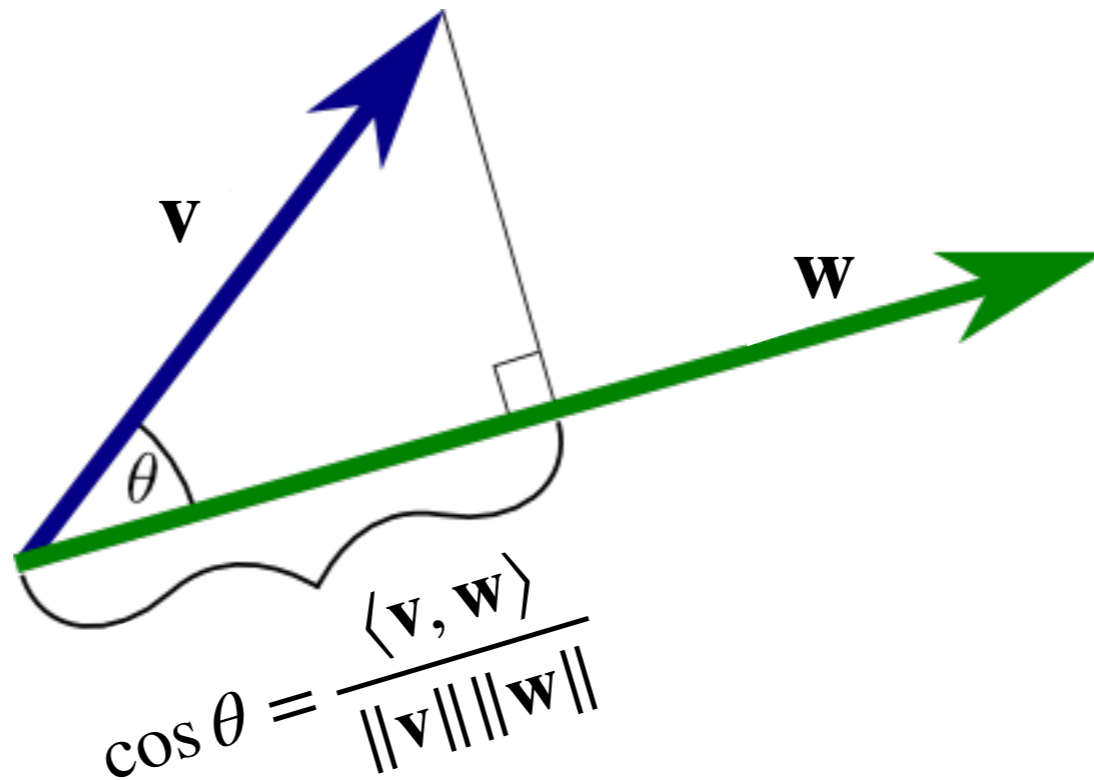
# Cosine Formula

Cosine Formula: If  $v, w$  are nonzero vectors, and  $\text{Angle}(v, w) = \theta$ , then

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\langle v, w \rangle}{\|v\| \|w\|}$$

*skip proof.*

Also called: cosine similarity of  $v$  and  $w$



# Cauchy-Schwartz Inequality Relation of Dot Product and Norm

柯西不等式

Cauchy-Schwarz Inequality ✓

$$\theta = \angle(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}) \quad \text{or } |\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w}| \quad |\langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \rangle| \leq \|\mathbf{v}\| \|\mathbf{w}\|$$

Intuitively:  $|\cos \theta| = \frac{|\langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \rangle|}{\|\mathbf{v}\| \|\mathbf{w}\|} \leq 1$

$$\left( \sum_{i=1}^n a_i^2 \right) \left( \sum_{i=1}^n b_i^2 \right) \geq \left( \sum_{i=1}^n a_i b_i \right)^2$$

$\|a\|^2 \quad \|b\|^2 \quad (\langle a, b \rangle)^2$

A pure algebraic proof:

$n=2$ :  $(a_1^2 + a_2^2)(b_1^2 + b_2^2) - (a_1 b_1 + a_2 b_2)^2$   
 $= (a_1 b_2 - a_2 b_1)^2 \geq 0$

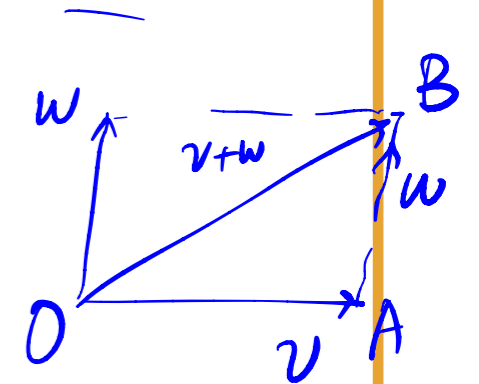
General  $n$ :  $\left( \sum_i a_i^2 \right) \left( \sum_i b_i^2 \right) - \left( \sum_i a_i b_i \right)^2 = \sum_{\substack{i, j \in n \\ i < j}} (a_i b_j - a_j b_i)^2$

(NOT required)  
check yourself

# Triangle Inequality

length of One side of triangular  
 $\leq$  sum of lengths of  
 two sides.

Example (Triangle Inequality)



$$\|v + w\| \leq \|v\| + \|w\|$$

Proof:

$$|OB| \quad |OA| \quad |AB|$$

$$(\|v\| + \|w\|)^2 - \|v+w\|^2$$

$(a, a) = \|a\|^2 \rightarrow$  trick.

$$= \|v\|^2 + \|w\|^2 + 2\|v\|\|w\| - (v+w) \cdot (v+w)$$

Associan rule

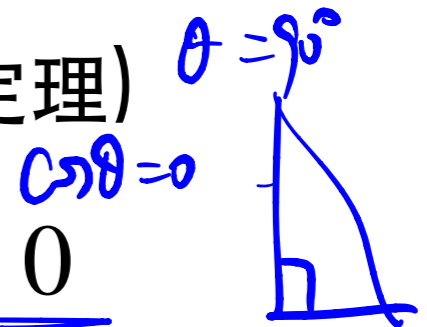
$$= \cancel{\|v\|^2} + \cancel{\|w\|^2} + 2\|v\|\|w\| - (\cancel{v \cdot v} + 2v \cdot w + \cancel{w \cdot w})$$

$$= 2\|v\|\|w\| - 2v \cdot w \geq 0$$

# Pythagoras Law

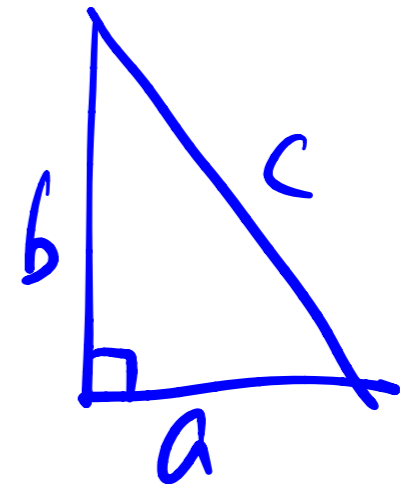
Pythagoras Law (毕达哥拉斯定律, i.e. 勾股定理)

$$\|v\|^2 + \|w\|^2 = \|v - w\|^2 \quad \text{iff} \quad \langle v, w \rangle = 0$$



Proof:

Exercise.



$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$$

# Practice Problem

## Problem (Dot Product)

Can we write find three vectors  $\mathbf{u}$ ,  $\mathbf{v}$ ,  $\mathbf{w}$  such that in a 2D plane

$$\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle < 0 \quad \langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{w} \rangle < 0 \quad \langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \rangle < 0?$$

$$\mathbf{u} = (1,0) \quad \mathbf{v} = (-1,4) \quad \mathbf{w} = (-1,-4)$$

How about four vectors?

# Application: Searching (搜索)

**Searching:** Given a query, find the most 10 relevant entities  
e.g. videos; websites

**This is a ranking problem** Rank entities in a search  
(Will talk about Google's PageRank in ~ Lec 20)

Practically important!  
Millions of people work on this problem



# Application: Searching (搜索)

**Searching:** Given a query, find the most 10 relevant entities  
e.g. videos; websites

**This is a ranking problem:** Rank entities in a search  
(Will talk about Google's PageRank in ~ Lec 20)

Practically important!  
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**Method 1:** Ignore query, just rank all entities by their evaluation scores  
e.g. when searching restaurants, just rank restaurants by scores

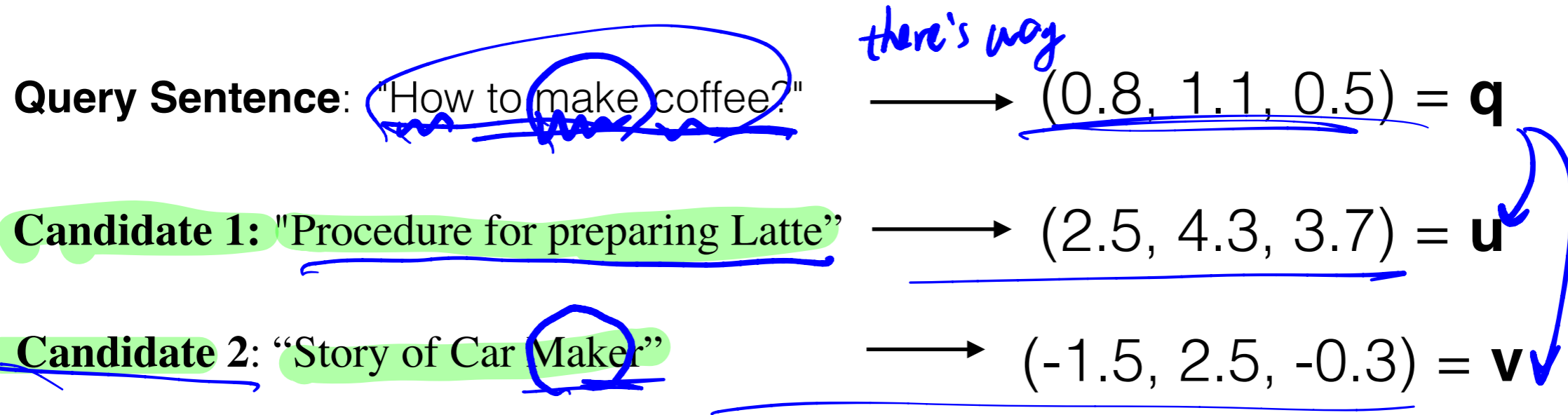
**Method 2:** Find 10 most similar entities to the query

**Challenge:** How do computers know target "sentence" and query  
"sentence" are "similar"?

How to make coffee?

# Application: Searching in a Vector Database

Idea: Vectorize + compute cosine similarity



# Application: Searching in a Vector Database

**Idea: Vectorize + compute cosine similarity**

**Query Sentence:** "How to make coffee?"  $\longrightarrow$   $(0.8, 1.1, 0.5) = \mathbf{q}$  *major challenge*

**Candidate 1:** "Procedure for preparing Latte"  $\longrightarrow$   $(2.5, 4.3, 3.7) = \mathbf{u}$  *0.95*

**Candidate 2:** "Story of Car Maker"  $\longrightarrow$   $(-1.5, 2.5, -0.3) = \mathbf{v}$  *0.33*

Cosine similarity of  $\mathbf{q}$  and  $\mathbf{u}$  is  $\sim 0.95$ :

Cosine similarity of  $\mathbf{q}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  is  $\sim 0.33$

Compare cosine similarity:  $0.95 > 0.33$ .

so candidate 1 is more similar to the query.

# Calculation of Cosine Similarity

Just list the computation procedure for the first pair here.

**First Pair:**  $(0.8, 1.1, 0.5)$  and  $(2.5, 4.3, 3.7)$

1. **Dot Product:**

$$\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0.8 \times 2.5 + 1.1 \times 4.3 + 0.5 \times 3.7 = 2 + 4.73 + 1.85 = 8.58$$

1. **Euclidean Norms:**

$$\|\mathbf{A}\| = \sqrt{0.8^2 + 1.1^2 + 0.5^2} = \sqrt{0.64 + 1.21 + 0.25} = \sqrt{2.1} \approx 1.4491$$

$$\|\mathbf{B}\| = \sqrt{2.5^2 + 4.3^2 + 3.7^2} = \sqrt{6.25 + 18.49 + 13.69} = \sqrt{38.43} \approx 6.2006$$

1. **Cosine Similarity:**

$$\text{Cosine Similarity} = \frac{8.58}{1.4491 \times 6.2006} \approx \frac{8.58}{8.9848} \approx 0.9549$$

# Related Academic Talk

Prof. Ping Li (formally Cornell professor, and Baidu researcher) gave a talk on vector database and search in ~Aug 28, 2023

香港中文大学(深圳) 数据科学学院  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen School of Data Science

SDS COLLOQUIUM SERIES

**Ping LI 李平**  
前康奈尔和罗格斯大学教授  
前百度研究院副院长  
前微软 LinkedIn 杰出工程师  
<https://pltrees.github.io/>

Speaker

**向量化数据计算和向量数据库**

*Abstract 摘要*

大语言模型 (LLM) 的爆发直接激发了工业界和学术界对向量数据库 (Vector DB) 的热情。向量数据库可以比较有效的用于提高大语言模型的时效性和准确性, 同时降低大语言模型的训练成本和降低模型“幻觉” (hallucinations)。向量数据库仅仅是“向量化数据计算”的重要一环。李平最近在中国计算机学会 (CCF) 前沿讲习班《向量学习与检索》做了 3 个小时报告, 并公开分享了一个约 350 页的 ppt: <https://zhuanlan.zhihu.com/p/648188894>, 其部分内容用于本次报告, 包括: 向量相似度函数、向量压缩、向量相似检索、和向量隐私。下面是部分参考文献:

Similarity-score based search is still an active area of research.

# Reading [Not Required to Know]:

## Questions to Explore

The applications listed today are somewhat simple.

Nevertheless, if you are a deep thinker, you may realize:  
the described **methods are NOT perfect**.

There are **many issues!**

e.g. What weights to pick for evaluation?

# What issues do you notice?

Answering each question can lead to a large area...

Lead

# Summary Today

Today, we have learned:

## Math

— **Norm** of vector

$$\|\mathbf{v}\| = \|\mathbf{v}\|_2 := (v_1^2 + \dots + v_n^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

a.k.a. (also known as)  $\ell_2$ -norm

— **Inner product** of vector:  $\langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^n v_i w_i$

— **Angle** of two vectors  $\theta$  satisfies  $\cos \theta = \frac{\langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \rangle}{\|\mathbf{v}\| \|\mathbf{w}\|}$

— **Properties:**

Cauchy-Schwartz inequality

Triangular inequality

## Application

— **Application 1:**

Evaluation

Ranking (via evaluation)

— **Application 2:**

Ranking (via similarity)