
Geometry review, part I

Geometry review I

Vectors and points

- points and vectors
- Geometric vs. coordinate-based (algebraic) approach
- operations on vectors and points

Lines

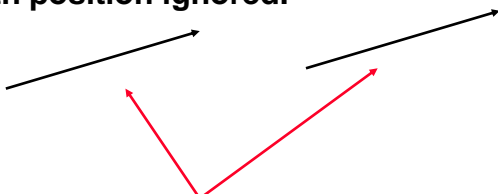
- implicit and parametric equations
- intersections, parallel lines

Planes

- implicit and parametric equations
- intersections with lines

Geometry vs. coordinates

Geometric view: a vector is a directed line segment, with position ignored.



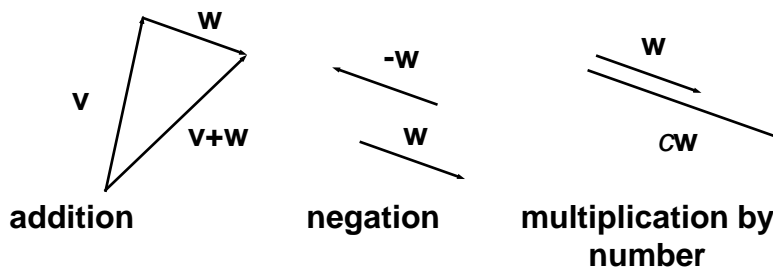
different line segments (but with the same length and direction) define the same vector

A vector can be thought of as a translation.

Algebraic view: a vector is a pair of numbers

Vectors and points

Vector = directed segment with position ignored



Operations on points and vectors:

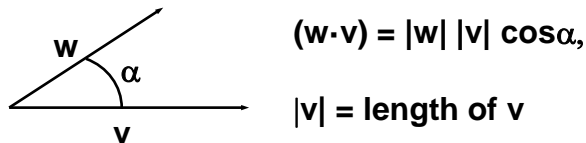
point - point = vector

point + vector = point

Dot product

Dot product: used to compute projections, angles and lengths.

Notation: $(w \cdot v)$ = dot product of vectors w and v .



Properties:

if w and v are perpendicular, $(w \cdot v) = 0$

$(w \cdot w) = |w|^2$

angle between w and v : $\cos \alpha = (w \cdot v) / (|w| |v|)$

length of projection of w on v : $(w \cdot v) / |v|$

Coordinate systems

For computations, vectors can be described as pairs (2D), triples (3D), ... of numbers.

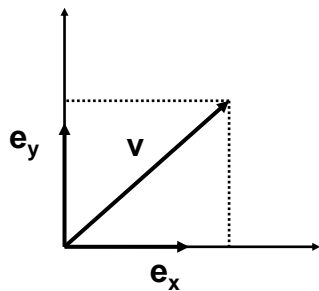
Coordinate system (2D) =
point (origin) + 2 basis vectors.

Orthogonal coordinate system:
basis vectors perpendicular.

Orthonormal coordinate system:
basis vectors perpendicular and of unit length.

Representation of a vector in a coordinate system:
2 numbers equal to the lengths (signed) of
projections on basis vectors.

Operations in coordinates



$$\mathbf{v} = \underbrace{(\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{e}_x)}_{v_x} \mathbf{e}_x + \underbrace{(\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{e}_y)}_{v_y} \mathbf{e}_y$$

works only for orthonormal coordinates!

$$\mathbf{v} = v_x \mathbf{e}_x + v_y \mathbf{e}_y = [v_x, v_y]$$

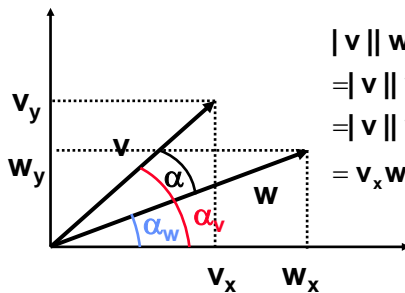
Operations in coordinate form:

$$\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w} = [v_x, v_y] + [w_x, w_y] = [v_x + w_x, v_y + w_y]$$

$$-\mathbf{w} = [-w_x, -w_y]$$

$$\alpha \mathbf{w} = [\alpha w_x, \alpha w_y]$$

Dot product in coordinates



$$\begin{aligned} |\mathbf{v}| |\mathbf{w}| \cos \alpha &= |\mathbf{v}| |\mathbf{w}| \cos(\alpha_v - \alpha_w) \\ &= |\mathbf{v}| |\mathbf{w}| (\cos \alpha_v \cos \alpha_w + \sin \alpha_v \sin \alpha_w) \\ &= |\mathbf{v}| |\mathbf{w}| (v_x w_x / (|\mathbf{v}| |\mathbf{w}|) + v_y w_y / (|\mathbf{v}| |\mathbf{w}|)) \\ &= v_x w_x + v_y w_y \end{aligned}$$

Linear properties become obvious:

$$(\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w}) \cdot \mathbf{u} = (\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{u}) + (\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{u})$$

$$(a\mathbf{v}) \cdot \mathbf{w} = a(\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w})$$

3D vectors

Same as 2D (directed line segments with position ignored), but we have different properties.

In 2D, the vector perpendicular to a given vector is unique (up to a scale).

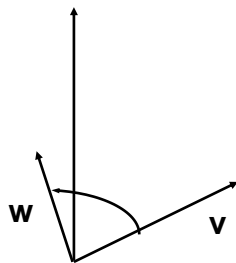
In 3D, it is not.

Two 3D vectors in 3D can be multiplied to get a vector (vector or cross product).

Dot product works the same way, but the coordinate expression is

$$(\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w}) = v_x w_x + v_y w_y + v_z w_z$$

Vector (cross) product



$\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{w}$ has length $|\mathbf{v}||\mathbf{w}|\sin\alpha$

= area of the parallelogram with two sides given by \mathbf{v} and \mathbf{w} , and is perpendicular to the plane of \mathbf{v} and \mathbf{w} .

$(\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w}) \times \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{w} \times \mathbf{u}$ Direction (up or down) is determined by the right-hand rule.

$$(c\mathbf{v}) \times \mathbf{w} = c(\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{w})$$

$$\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{w} = -\mathbf{w} \times \mathbf{v}$$

unlike a product of numbers or dot product, vector product is not commutative!

Vector product

Coordinate expressions

$\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{w}$ is perpendicular to \mathbf{v} , and \mathbf{w} :

$$(\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}) = 0 \quad (\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{w}) = 0$$

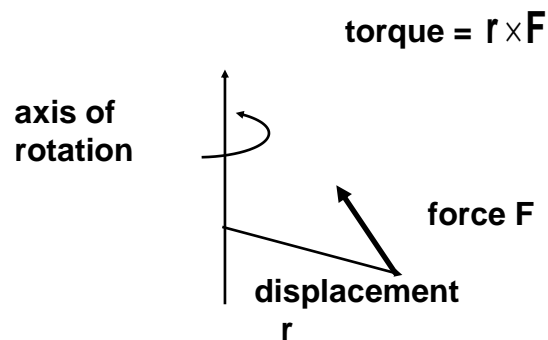
the length of \mathbf{u} is $|\mathbf{v}| |\mathbf{w}| \sin \alpha$:

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{u}) &= |\mathbf{v}|^2 |\mathbf{w}|^2 \sin^2 \alpha = |\mathbf{v}|^2 |\mathbf{w}|^2 (1 - \cos^2 \alpha) \\ &= |\mathbf{v}| |\mathbf{w}| (|\mathbf{v}| |\mathbf{w}| - (\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w})) \end{aligned}$$

Solve three equations for u_x, u_y, u_z

Vector product

Physical interpretation: torque



Vector product

Coordinate expression:

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{e}_x & \mathbf{e}_y & \mathbf{e}_z \\ v_x & v_y & v_z \\ w_x & w_y & w_z \end{bmatrix} = \left[\det \begin{bmatrix} v_y & v_z \\ w_y & w_z \end{bmatrix}, -\det \begin{bmatrix} v_x & v_z \\ w_x & w_z \end{bmatrix}, \det \begin{bmatrix} v_x & v_y \\ w_x & w_y \end{bmatrix} \right]$$

Notice that if $v_z=w_z=0$, that is, vectors are 2D, the cross product has only one nonzero component (z) and its length is the determinant

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} v_x & v_y \\ w_x & w_y \end{bmatrix}$$

Vector product

More properties

$$(\mathbf{a} \cdot (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c})) = \mathbf{b}(\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c}) - \mathbf{c}(\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b})$$

$$((\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}) \cdot (\mathbf{c} \times \mathbf{d})) = (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c})(\mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{d}) - (\mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{c})(\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{d})$$