

Vectors and vector algebra

- An n -dimensional vector $\vec{v} = (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n)$ is both a point in n -space, and also as an arrow from the origin to that point.
- The numbers v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n are called the **components** of \vec{v} .
- The **zero vector** $\vec{0}$ is the vector $(0, 0, \dots, 0)$.
- A **scalar multiple** of a vector $\vec{v} = (v_1, \dots, v_n)$ is $c\vec{v} = c(v_1, \dots, v_n) = (cv_1, \dots, cv_n)$.
- The **sum** of two vectors is $\vec{v} + \vec{w} = (v_1, \dots, v_n) + (w_1, \dots, w_n) = (v_1 + w_1, \dots, v_n + w_n)$.
- The **length** or **magnitude** of $\vec{v} = (v_1, \dots, v_n)$ is $\|\vec{v}\| = \sqrt{v_1^2 + \dots + v_n^2}$.
- A **unit vector** is a vector with length 1. The **standard unit vectors** are $\vec{i} = (1, 0)$ and $\vec{j} = (0, 1)$ in two dimensions, $\vec{i} = (1, 0, 0)$, $\vec{j} = (0, 1, 0)$, and $\vec{k} = (0, 0, 1)$ in three dimensions, and $\vec{e}_1 = (1, 0, \dots, 0)$, $\vec{e}_2 = (0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$, \dots , $\vec{e}_n = (0, 0, \dots, 0, 1)$ in n dimensions.

- The **dot product** of $\vec{v} = (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n)$ and $\vec{w} = (w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n)$ is $\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w} = v_1 w_1 + v_2 w_2 + \dots + v_n w_n$.
- If a set of vectors $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n$ are all orthogonal to each other then they're called an orthogonal set of vectors. If they're also all unit vectors, then they're called an **orthonormal set**.
- The vector \vec{w} is a **linear combination** of the vectors \vec{v}_1 through \vec{v}_k if there exist scalars c_1, \dots, c_k such that $\vec{w} = c_1 \vec{v}_1 + \dots + c_k \vec{v}_k$.

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Questions

- 1 Is $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$ a linear combination of $\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$?
- 2 What is the set of all linear combinations of the vector $\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$?
- 3 What about the vectors $\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$?
- 4 What about the vectors $\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$?