

Vectors

A vector is a set of coordinates. Notation:  $\mathbf{v}$  or  $\vec{v}$ .

$$\vec{v} = \langle 1, 2, 3 \rangle$$

$$\vec{w} = \langle 1, 2 \rangle$$

Here,  $\vec{v}$  is a vector in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , and  $\vec{w}$  is a vector in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ . The magnitude, or norm of a vector, represented by  $\|\vec{v}\|$ , is defined as  $\sqrt{v_x^2 + v_y^2}$  in 2-space or  $\sqrt{v_x^2 + v_y^2 + v_z^2}$  in 3-space.

Vector addition and subtraction

We can add vectors component-wise:

$$\vec{v} = \langle 1, 2, 3 \rangle$$

$$\vec{w} = \langle 4, 5, 6 \rangle$$

$$\vec{v} + \vec{w} = \langle 5, 7, 9 \rangle$$

We can also subtract vectors component-wise:

$$\vec{v} = \langle 4, 5, 6 \rangle$$

$$\vec{w} = \langle 1, 2, 3 \rangle$$

$$\vec{v} - \vec{w} = \langle 4 - 1, 5 - 2, 6 - 3 \rangle = \langle 3, 3, 3 \rangle$$

Geometrically, vector addition works by putting vectors “tip to tail.”

Unit vectors

Vectors are often defined in terms of *unit vectors*:  
In  $\mathbb{R}^2$ :

$$\hat{i} = \langle 1, 0 \rangle$$

$$\hat{j} = \langle 0, 1 \rangle$$

In  $\mathbb{R}^3$ :

$$\hat{i} = \langle 1, 0, 0 \rangle$$

$$\hat{j} = \langle 0, 1, 0 \rangle$$

$$\hat{k} = \langle 0, 0, 1 \rangle$$

For example:

$$\langle 1, 2, 3 \rangle = \hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}$$

Scalar multiplication

Vectors can be multiplied by scalars component-wise:

$$\lambda \langle a, b, c \rangle = \langle \lambda a, \lambda b, \lambda c \rangle$$

Dot products

Taking the dot product is a method of multiplying vectors to produce a scalar. The formula for a dot product is

$$\langle a, b \rangle \cdot \langle x, y \rangle = ax + by$$

$$\langle a, b, c \rangle \cdot \langle x, y, z \rangle = ax + by + cz$$

Another way to write this is:

$$\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = \|\vec{a}\| \|\vec{b}\| \cos(\theta)$$

Where  $\theta$  is the angle between the vectors.

The dot product geometrically represents the scalar projection of one vector onto another.

Cross products

Taking the cross product is a method of multiplying vectors to produce a vector. The formula for a cross product is:

$$\langle a, b, c \rangle \times \langle x, y, z \rangle = \langle -cy + bz, cx - az, -bx + ay \rangle$$

**Cross products are non-commutative.** Order does matter.  $\vec{a} \times \vec{b} \neq \vec{b} \times \vec{a}$  (except in some very specific circumstances).

Cross products geometrically:

- From a right hand system (i.e.  $\vec{a}$ ,  $\vec{b}$ , and  $\vec{a} \times \vec{b}$  form a right hand system)
- Are orthogonal to the crossed vectors
- Have magnitude equal to the parallelogram spanned by the crossed vectors

Lines

Lines are defined in terms of a point and a direction.

Planes

Planes are defined in terms of three non-colinear points, or a normal vector and a plane.

To get a normal vector from 3 points,  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$ , compute  $\vec{AB} \times \vec{AC}$

With normal vector  $\vec{n}$  and point  $P$ :

$$\vec{n}_x(x - P_x) + \vec{n}_y(y - P_y) + \vec{n}_z(z - P_z) = 0$$

Polar Coordinates

Polar coordinates are used to represent points in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ . They are represented as  $(r, \theta)$ , where  $r \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$ .

To convert between Cartesian coordinates and polar coordinates:

$$r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} \quad x = r \cos \theta$$

$$\theta = \arctan\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) \quad y = r \sin \theta$$

Mathematica snippet: `AngleVector[{x, y}]` will convert polar to rectangular.

### Spherical Coordinates

Spherical coordinates are one of two generalizations to  $\mathbb{R}^3$  of polar coordinates. They are represented as  $(\rho, \theta, \phi)$ , where  $\rho \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$ , and  $\phi \in [0, \pi]$ .  $\rho$  represents the distance to the origin,  $\theta$  represents the counterclockwise angle towards positive  $y$  in the  $xz$ -plane, and  $\phi$  represents the angle towards positive  $x$  in the  $xy$ -plane.

$$\begin{aligned}\rho &= \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2} & x &= \rho \sin \phi \cos \theta \\ \theta &= \arctan\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) & y &= \rho \sin \phi \sin \theta \\ \rho &= \arccos\left(\frac{z}{\rho}\right) & z &= \rho \cos \phi\end{aligned}$$

### Cylindrical Coordinates

Cylindrical coordinates are one of two generalizations to  $\mathbb{R}^3$  of polar coordinates. They are represented as  $(r, \theta, z)$ , where  $r \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$ , and  $z \in \mathbb{R}$ .  $r$  represents the distance to the origin,  $\theta$  represents the counterclockwise angle towards positive  $y$  in the  $xz$ -plane, and  $z$  represents the distance from the  $xy$ -plane in the positive  $z$  direction.

$$\begin{aligned}r &= \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2} & x &= r \cos \theta \\ \theta &= \arctan\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) & y &= r \sin \theta \\ z &= z & z &= z\end{aligned}$$

### Surfaces to remember

#### Cylindrical Coordinates

equation	description
$r = R$	cylinder of radius $R$
$\theta = \theta_0$	vertical half-plane
$z = c$	horizontal plane

#### Spherical Coordinates

equation	description
$\rho = R$	sphere of radius $R$
$\theta = \theta_0$	vertical half-plane
$\phi = \phi_0$	right circular cone

### Rectangular Coordinates

equation	description
$x^2 + y^2 = z^2$	right circular cone
$x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = R$	sphere (radius $R$ )
$x^2 + y^2 = R$	cylinder (radius $R$ )

### Calculus of Vector-Valued Functions

Calculus can be done on vector-valued functions component-wise. This includes limits, differentiation, and integration. There are some additional differentiation rules

- Sum rule:  $(\vec{r}_1(t) + \vec{r}_2(t))' = \vec{r}_1'(t) + \vec{r}_2'(t)$
  - Chain rule:  $\vec{r}(g(t)) = g'(t)\vec{r}'(g(t))$
  - Product rules
    - Scalar product rule:  $(\lambda\vec{r}(t))' = \lambda\vec{r}'(t)$
    - Dot product rule:  $(\vec{r}_1 \cdot \vec{r}_2)' = \vec{r}_1' \cdot \vec{r}_2 + \vec{r}_1 \cdot \vec{r}_2'$
    - Cross product rule:  $(\vec{r}_1 \times \vec{r}_2)' = \vec{r}_1' \times \vec{r}_2 + \vec{r}_1 \times \vec{r}_2'$
- Remember! Cross products are non-commutative.

The derivative of a vector is also called the *tangent vector*, or *velocity vector*. This is because if  $\vec{r}'(t_0)$  is non-zero, it points in the direction tangent to the curve at  $r(t_0)$ . The tangent line has parametrization:

$$\vec{L}(t) = \vec{r}(t_0) + t\vec{r}'(t_0)$$

### Arc length

If  $\vec{r}(t) = \langle x(t), y(t), z(t) \rangle$  directly traverses curve  $\ell$ , for  $a \leq t \leq b$ , the arc length,  $s$  of  $\ell$  is:

$$\int_a^b \|\vec{r}'(t)\| dt = \int_a^b \sqrt{x'(t)^2 + y'(t)^2 + z'(t)^2} dt$$

### Speed

The velocity vector,  $\vec{v}$ , points in the direction of travel. It's magnitude is the speed:

$$v(t) = \frac{ds}{dt} = \|\vec{r}'(t)\|$$