

Dot product in \mathbb{R}^n

The dot product of two vectors $\mathbf{u}=(u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n)$ and $\mathbf{v}=(v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n)$ in \mathbb{R}^n is defined to be

$$\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = u_1 v_1 + u_2 v_2 + \dots + u_n v_n.$$

Properties

1. $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{u}$
2. $\mathbf{u} \cdot (\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{w}$
3. $(c\mathbf{u}) \cdot \mathbf{v} = c(\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v})$
4. $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{u} \geq 0$; $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$ if and only if $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}$

Definition The length of the vector $\mathbf{u}=(u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n)$ in \mathbb{R}^n is defined by $|\mathbf{u}| = (u_1^2 + u_2^2 + \dots + u_n^2)^{1/2}$. The distance between two points (vectors) \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} in \mathbb{R}^n is given by $d(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) = |\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}|$.

Let \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} be two vectors in \mathbb{R}^n , then the following inequalities are satisfied

Cauchy-Schwarz Inequality $|\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v}| \leq |\mathbf{u}| |\mathbf{v}|$

Triangle Inequality $|\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}| \leq |\mathbf{u}| + |\mathbf{v}|$

Definition Suppose that \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} are two nonzero vectors in \mathbb{R}^n . Then the angle between \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} is a unique number θ , $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$, such that $\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = |\mathbf{u}| |\mathbf{v}| \cos \theta$.