

Lectures 8-10

# Linear algebra: Dot products and Projections

DSC 40A, Fall 2024

# Announcements

- Homework 2 was released Friday. Remember that using the Overleaf template is required for Homework 2 (and only Homework 2).
- Groupwork 3 is due **tonight**.
- Check out [FAQs page](#) and the [tutor-created supplemental resources](#) on the course website.

# Agenda

- Recap: Simple linear regression and correlation.
- Connections to related models.
- Dot products.
- Spans and projections.

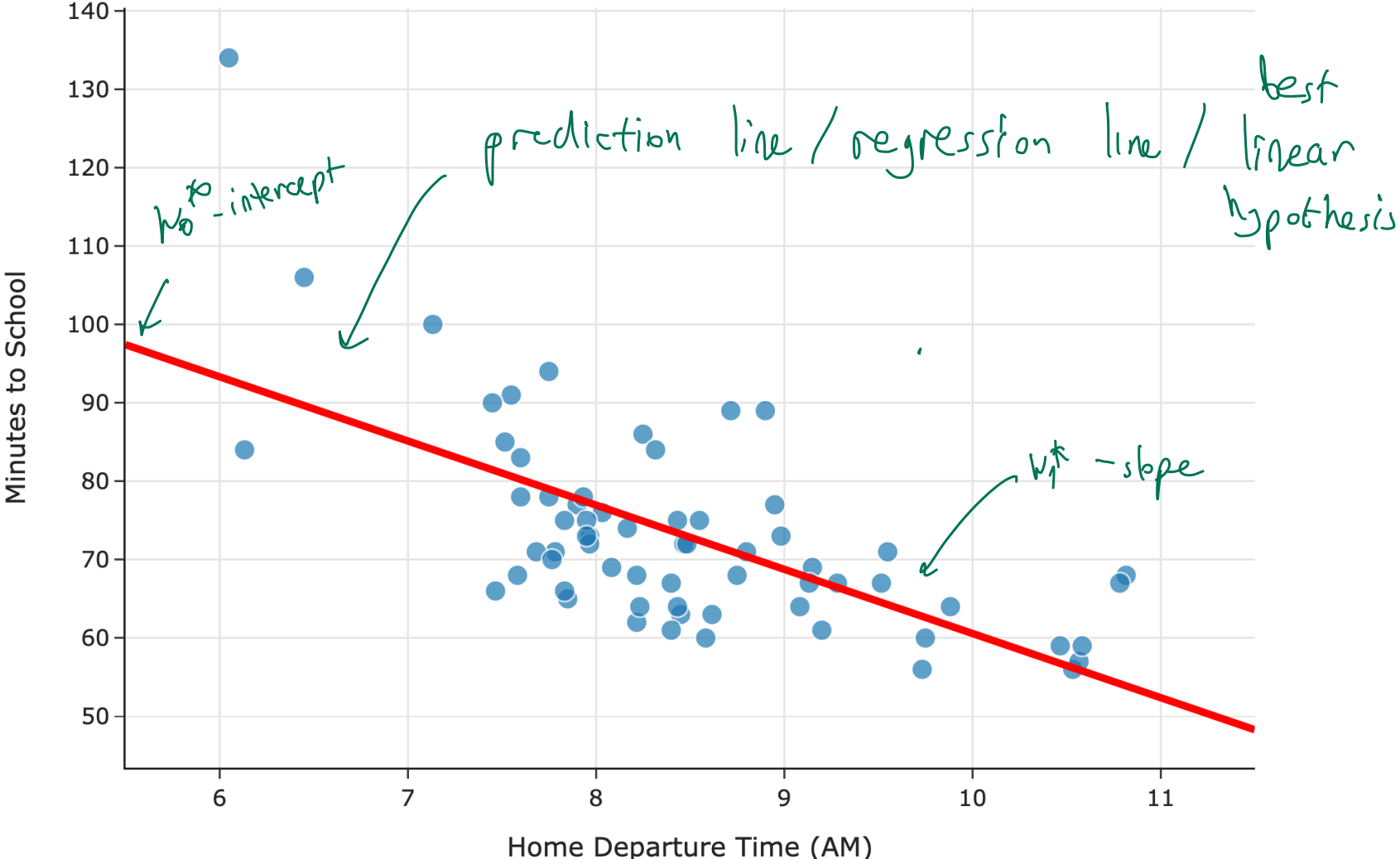
Question 🤔

Answer at [q.dsc40a.com](https://q.dsc40a.com)

**Remember, you can always ask questions at [q.dsc40a.com](https://q.dsc40a.com)!**

If the direct link doesn't work, click the "🤔 Lecture Questions"  
link in the top right corner of [dsc40a.com](https://dsc40a.com).

**Predicted Commute Time** =  $142.25 - 8.19 * \text{Departure Hour}$



## Simple linear regression

- Model:  $H(x) = w_0 + w_1x$ .
- Loss function: squared loss, i.e.  $L_{\text{sq}}(y_i, H(x_i)) = (y_i - H(x_i))^2$ .
- Average loss, i.e. empirical risk:

$$R_{\text{sq}}(w_0, w_1) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - (w_0 + w_1x_i))^2$$

- Optimal model parameters, found by minimizing empirical risk:

$$w_1^* = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})}{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2} = r \frac{\sigma_y}{\sigma_x} = w_0^* = \bar{y} - w_1^* \bar{x}$$

*slope* *intercept*

$$= \frac{\sum_i (y_i - \bar{y}) x_i}{\sum_i (x_i - \bar{x}) x_i}$$

## The correlation coefficient

- The correlation coefficient,  $r$ , is defined as the average of the product of  $x$  and  $y$ , when both are in standard units.
- Let  $\sigma_x$  be the standard deviation of the  $x_i$ s, and  $\bar{x}$  be the mean of the  $x_i$ s.
- $x_i$  in standard units is  $\frac{x_i - \bar{x}}{\sigma_x}$ .
- The correlation coefficient, then, is:

$$r = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{x_i - \bar{x}}{\sigma_x} \right) \left( \frac{y_i - \bar{y}}{\sigma_y} \right)$$

## Correlation and mean squared error

- **Claim:** Suppose that  $w_0^*$  and  $w_1^*$  are the optimal intercept and slope for the regression line. Then,

$$R_{\text{sq}}(w_0^*, w_1^*) = \sigma_y^2(1 - r^2)$$

- That is, the **mean squared error of the regression line's predictions** and the correlation coefficient,  $r$ , always satisfy the relationship above.
- Even if it's true, why do we care?
  - In machine learning, we often use both the **mean squared error** and  $r^2$  to compare the performances of different models.
  - If we can prove the above statement, we can show that **finding models that minimize mean squared error** is equivalent to **finding models that maximize  $r^2$** .



Proof that  $R_{sq}(w_0^*, w_1^*) = \sigma_y^2(1 - r^2)$

$$R_{sq}(w_0^*, w_1^*) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i (y_i - (w_0^* + w_1^* x_i))^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i (y_i - (\bar{y} - \overbrace{w_0^*} + w_1^* x_i))^2$$

$$= \frac{1}{n} \sum_i ((y_i - \bar{y}) - \overbrace{r \frac{\sigma_y}{\sigma_x}}^{w_1^*} (x_i - \bar{x}))^2$$

$$= \frac{1}{n} \sum_i (y_i - \bar{y})^2 + \frac{1}{n} \sum_i r^2 \frac{\sigma_y^2}{\sigma_x^2} (x_i - \bar{x})^2 - 2 \frac{1}{n} \sum_i (y_i - \bar{y})(x_i - \bar{x}) r \frac{\sigma_y}{\sigma_x}$$

$$= \sigma_y^2 + r^2 \frac{\sigma_y^2}{\sigma_x^2} \cancel{\sigma_x^2} - 2r \frac{\sigma_y}{\sigma_x} \underbrace{\frac{1}{n} \sum_i (y_i - \bar{y})(x_i - \bar{x})}$$

$$= \sigma_y^2 + r^2 \sigma_y^2 - 2r^2 \cancel{\sigma_x \sigma_y} \sigma_y^2 = \sigma_y^2 (1 + r^2 - 2r^2) = \sigma_y^2 (1 - r^2)$$

# Connections to related models

## Exercise

(no slope)

Suppose we choose the model  $H(x) = w_0$  and squared loss.

What is the optimal model parameter,  $w_0^*$ ?

Constant model

loss: squared loss

$$\text{week 1} \quad ? \quad w_0^* = \text{mean} \{ y_1, \dots, y_n \}$$

(this was  $n$  is week 1)

## Exercise (no intercept)

Suppose we choose the model  $H(x) = w_1x$  and squared loss.

What is the optimal model parameter,  $w_1^*$ ?

Groupwork 3!

## Comparing mean squared errors

- With both:
  - the constant model,  $H(x) = h$ , and
  - the simple linear regression model,  $H(x) = w_0 + w_1x$ ,

when we chose squared loss, we minimized mean squared error to find optimal parameters:

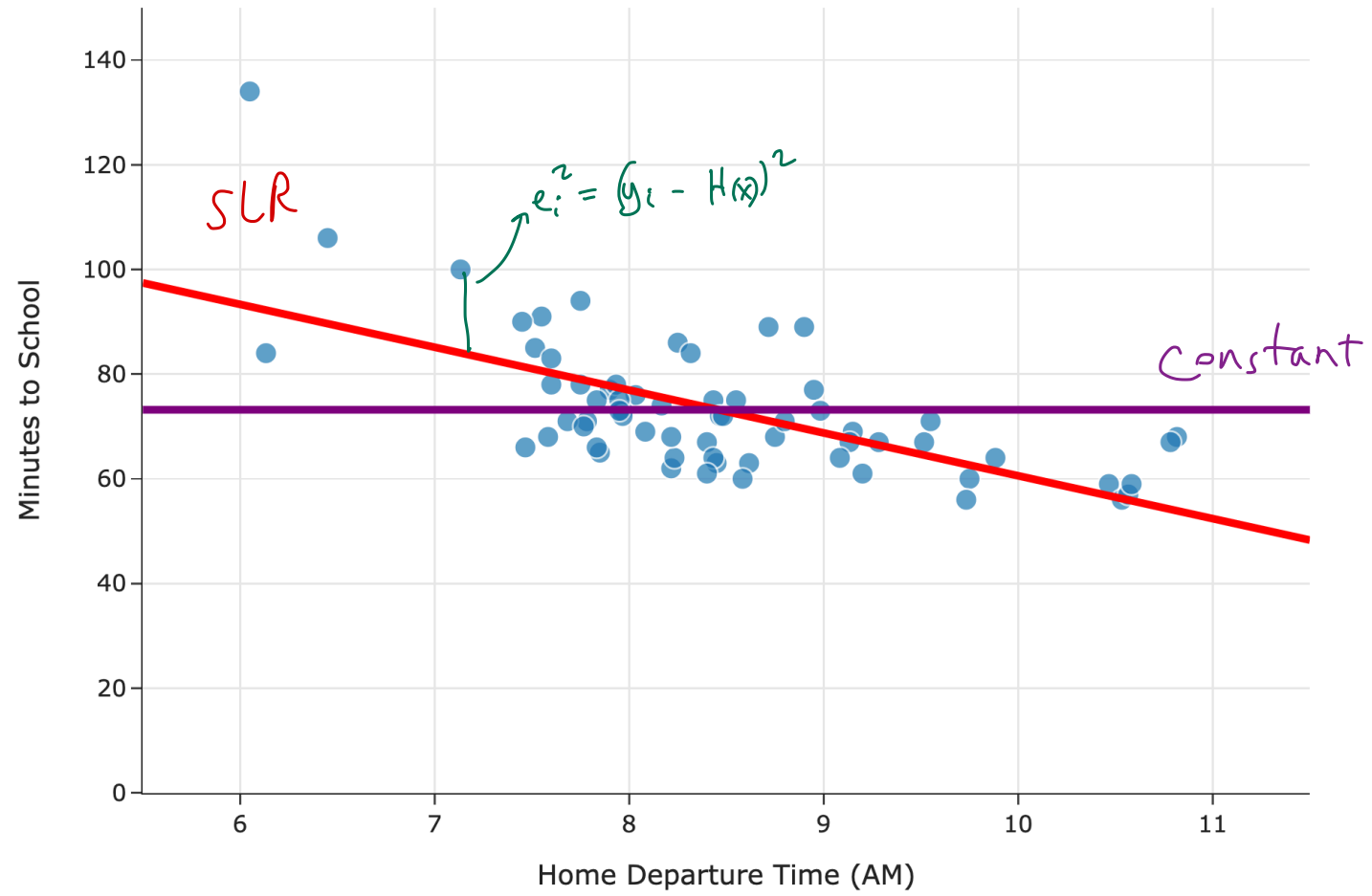
$$R_{\text{sq}}(H) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - H(x_i))^2$$

- Which model minimizes mean squared error more?

$$MSE(SLR) \leq MSE(\text{constant})$$

# Comparing mean squared errors

Predicted Commute Time = 142.25 - 8.19 \* Departure Hour  
 Predicted Commute Time = 73.18



$$MSE = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - H(x_i))^2$$

- The MSE of the best simple linear regression model is  $\approx 97$
- The MSE of the best constant model is  $\approx 167$
- The simple linear regression model is a more flexible version of the constant model.

# Linear algebra

## Wait... why do we need linear algebra?

- Soon, we'll want to make predictions using more than one feature.
  - Example: Predicting commute times using departure hour and temperature.
- Thinking about linear regression in terms of matrices and vectors will allow us to find hypothesis functions that:
  - Use multiple features (input variables).
  - Are nonlinear in the features, e.g.  $H(x) = w_0 + w_1x + w_2x^2$ .



## Warning

- We're **not** going to cover every single detail from your linear algebra course.
- There will be facts that you're expected to remember that we won't explicitly say.
  - For example, if  $A$  and  $B$  are two matrices, then  $AB \neq BA$ .
  - This is the kind of fact that we will only mention explicitly if it's directly relevant to what we're studying.
  - But you still need to know it, and it may come up in homework questions.
- We **will** review the topics that you really need to know well.

# Dot Products

# Vectors

$\mathbb{R}^n$   
(latex)

- A vector in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is an ordered collection of  $n$  numbers.
- We use lower-case letters with an arrow on top to represent vectors, and we usually write vectors as **columns**.

$$\vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ 3 \\ -2 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

size  
 $\rightarrow n \times 1$

- Another way of writing the above vector is  $\vec{v} = [8, 3, -2, 5]^T$ . → transpose
- Since  $\vec{v}$  has four **components**, we say  $\vec{v} \in \mathbb{R}^4$ .

element

$\mathbb{R}^4$   
(latex)

# The geometric interpretation of a vector

- A vector  $\vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{bmatrix}$  is an arrow to the point  $(v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n)$  from the origin.

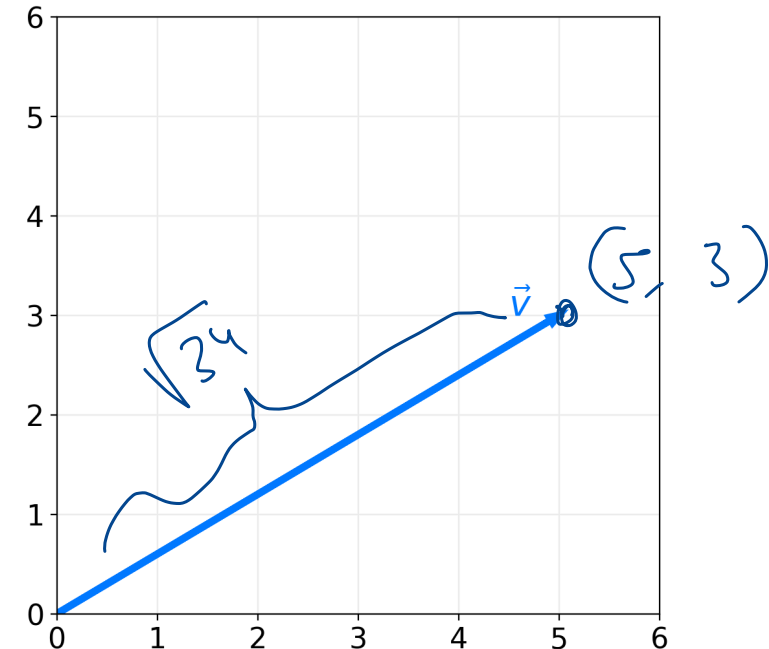
- The length, or  $L_2$  norm, of  $\vec{v}$  is:

$$\|\vec{v}\| = \sqrt{v_1^2 + v_2^2 + \dots + v_n^2} = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n v_i^2} = \sqrt{\vec{v} \cdot \vec{v}} = \sqrt{\vec{v}^T \vec{v}}$$

- A vector is sometimes described as an object with a **magnitude/length** and **direction**.

$$\vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\|\vec{v}\| = \sqrt{5^2 + 3^2} = \sqrt{34}$$



$$\sqrt{\vec{v} \cdot \vec{v}} = \sqrt{\vec{v}^T \vec{v}}$$

$\neq \sqrt{\vec{v}^2} = \sqrt{[\ ] \cdot [\ ]}$   
 cannot perform this operation  
 $n \times 1$   $n \times 1$

# Dot product: coordinate definition

- The dot product of two vectors  $\vec{u}$  and  $\vec{v}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is written as:

$$\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = \vec{u}^T \vec{v}$$

*↖ cdot (latex)*

- The computational definition of the dot product:

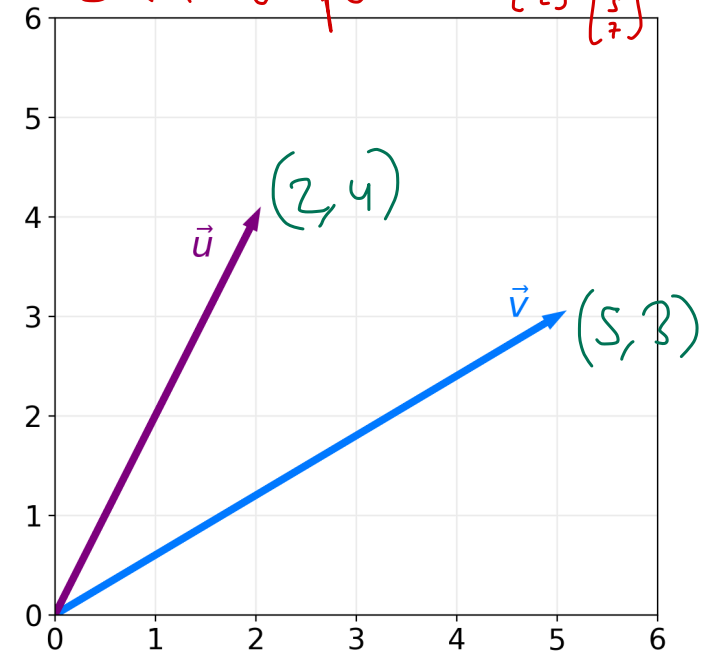
$$\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = \sum_{i=1}^n u_i v_i = u_1 v_1 + u_2 v_2 + \dots + u_n v_n$$

- The result is a **scalar**, i.e. a single number.

$$\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = 2 \cdot 5 + 4 \cdot 3 = 10 + 12 = 22 \in \mathbb{R} \leftarrow \text{scalar}$$

$$\vec{u}^T \vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = 10 + 12 = 22$$

both vectors need to have same number of elements  
cannot perform  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$



$$f(\vec{u}, \vec{v}) \in \mathbb{R}$$

$\mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$

# Dot product: geometric definition

- The computational definition of the dot product:

$$\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = \sum_{i=1}^n u_i v_i = u_1 v_1 + u_2 v_2 + \dots + u_n v_n$$

- The geometric definition of the dot product:

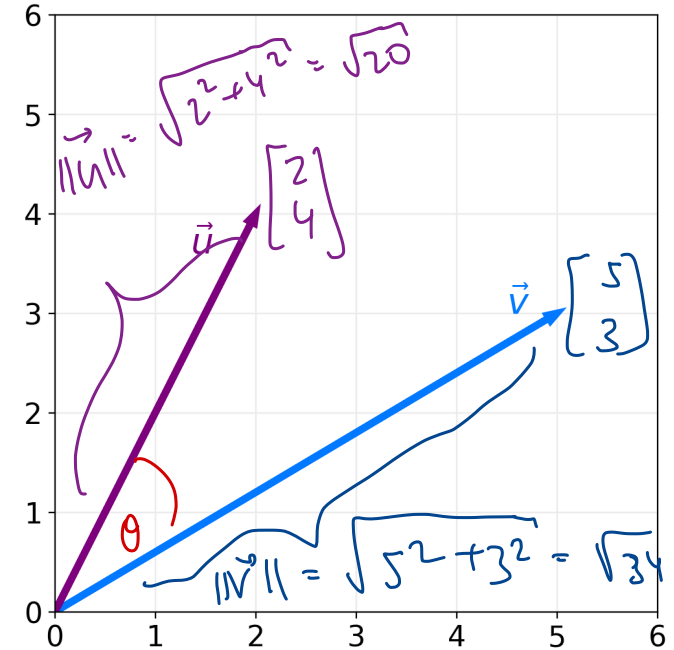
$$\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = \|\vec{u}\| \|\vec{v}\| \cos \theta$$

where  $\theta$  is the angle between  $\vec{u}$  and  $\vec{v}$ .

- The two definitions are equivalent! This equivalence allows us to find the angle  $\theta$  between two vectors.

$$\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = 22 \quad (\text{from previous slide})$$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v}}{\|\vec{u}\| \|\vec{v}\|} = \frac{22}{\sqrt{20} \sqrt{34}} = \frac{11}{\sqrt{5} \cdot \sqrt{34}} = \frac{11}{\sqrt{170}}$$



## Question 4: $\cos \theta$

What is  $\cos \theta$ ?

- A.  $\frac{6}{\sqrt{85}}$
- B.  $\frac{-6}{\sqrt{85}}$
- C.  $\frac{-3}{85}$
- D.  $\frac{-2}{3}$

$$\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = \|\vec{u}\| \cdot \|\vec{v}\| \cdot \cos \theta$$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v}}{\|\vec{u}\| \|\vec{v}\|}$$

$$\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = \vec{u}^T \vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ -4 \end{bmatrix} = -8 - 4 = -12$$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{-12}{\sqrt{20} \sqrt{17}} = \frac{-6}{\sqrt{5} \sqrt{17}} = \frac{-6}{\sqrt{85}}$$

