

Development of the formula for the cosine of the angle between two vectors and definition of the dot product

$$\|\overline{AB}\|^2 = \|\overline{a}\|^2 + \|\overline{b}\|^2 - 2\|\overline{a}\|\|\overline{b}\|\cos\theta$$

$$\left((b_1 - a_1)^2 + (b_2 - a_2)^2 + (b_3 - a_3)^2\right) = (a_1^2 + a_2^2 + a_3^2) + (b_1^2 + b_2^2 + b_3^2) - 2\sqrt{a_1^2 + a_2^2 + a_3^2} \cdot \sqrt{b_1^2 + b_2^2 + b_3^2} \cos\theta$$

$$b_1^2 - 2a_1b_1 + a_1^2 + b_2^2 - 2a_2b_2 + a_2^2 + b_3^2 - 2a_3b_3 + a_3^2 = (a_1^2 + a_2^2 + a_3^2) + (b_1^2 + b_2^2 + b_3^2) - 2\sqrt{a_1^2 + a_2^2 + a_3^2} \cdot \sqrt{b_1^2 + b_2^2 + b_3^2} \cos\theta$$

$$-2a_1b_1 - 2a_2b_2 - 2a_3b_3 = -2\sqrt{a_1^2 + a_2^2 + a_3^2} \cdot \sqrt{b_1^2 + b_2^2 + b_3^2} \cos\theta$$

$$a_1b_1 + a_2b_2 + a_3b_3 = \sqrt{a_1^2 + a_2^2 + a_3^2} \cdot \sqrt{b_1^2 + b_2^2 + b_3^2} \cos\theta$$

$$\frac{a_1b_1 + a_2b_2 + a_3b_3}{\sqrt{a_1^2 + a_2^2 + a_3^2} \cdot \sqrt{b_1^2 + b_2^2 + b_3^2}} = \cos\theta$$

$$\frac{\overline{a} \cdot \overline{b}}{\|\overline{a}\|\|\overline{b}\|} = \cos\theta$$

This result suggests the equality of the two parts of the definition of the dot product as well:

$$a_1b_1 + a_2b_2 + a_3b_3 = \overline{a} \cdot \overline{b} = \|\overline{a}\|\|\overline{b}\|\cos\theta$$