

# Orthogonal Sets and Projection

**Geometric Algorithms**  
**Lecture 22**

# Introduction

# Recap Problem

**(Final Review)** Find a set of vectors which forms a basis for the hyperplane given by the equation

$$x_1 + 3x_2 - 4x_3 + 6x_4 = 0$$

**Answer**

$$\begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -6 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Objectives

1. Recap analytic geometry in  $R^n$ .
2. Try to understand why it is useful to work with orthogonal vectors.
3. Get a sense of how to compute orthogonal vectors.
4. Start to connect orthogonality to matrices and linear transformations.

# Keywords

orthogonal

orthogonal set

orthogonal basis

orthogonal projection

orthogonal component

orthonormal

orthonormal set

orthonormal basis

orthonormal matrix

orthogonal matrix

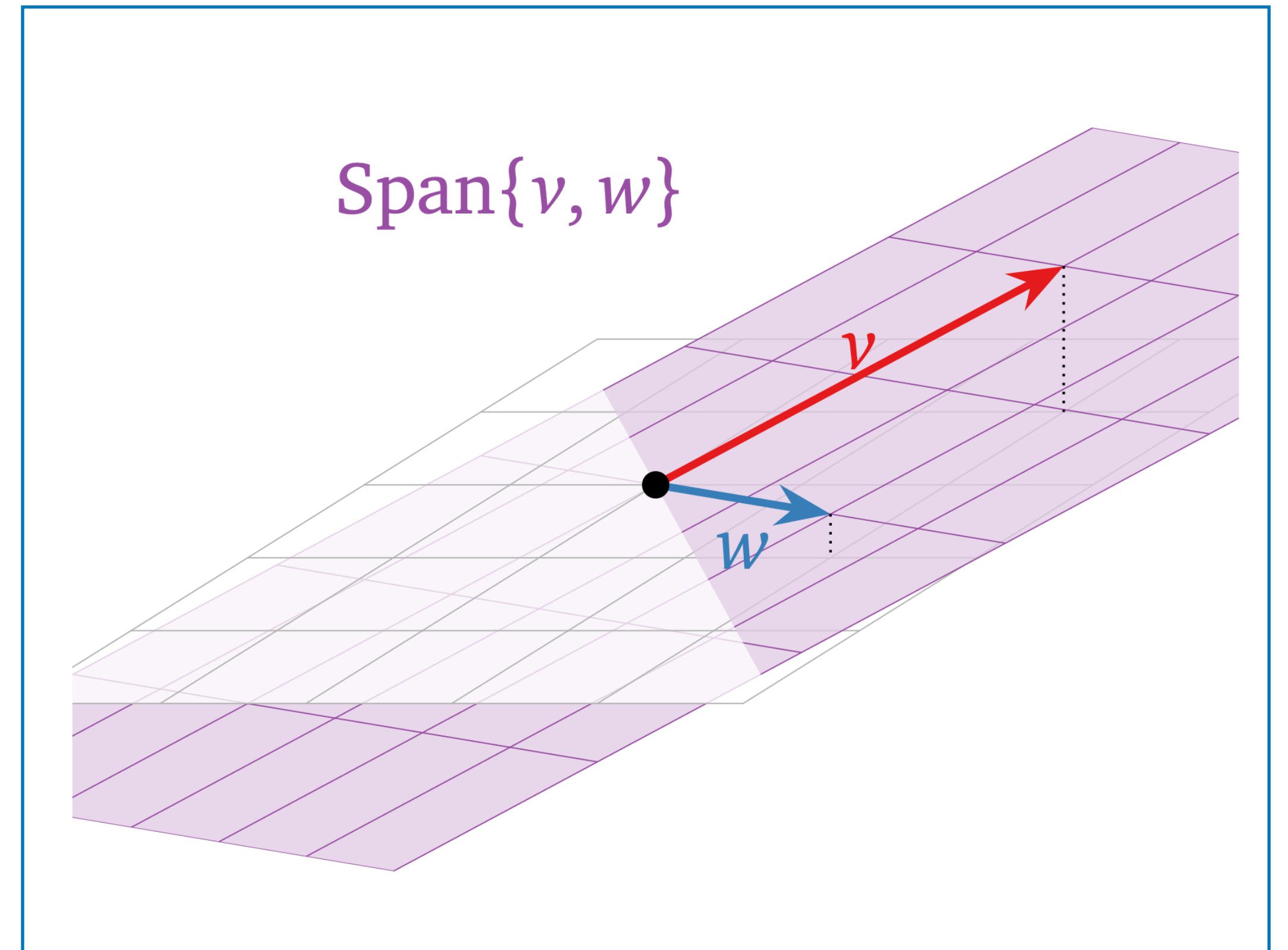
# Recap: Analytic Geometry

# Recall: The First Key Idea

Angles make sense in *any* dimension.

**Any pair of vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  span a (2D) plane.**

*(We could formalize this via change of bases)*





# Recall: The Second Key Idea

All of the basic concepts of analytic geometry can be defined *in terms of inner products*.

**Spaces with inner products (like  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ) are places where you can do analytic geometry.**

# Recall: Inner Products

$$[u_1 \quad u_2 \quad u_3 \quad u_4] \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ v_3 \\ v_4 \end{bmatrix} = u_1 v_1 + u_2 v_2 + u_3 v_3 + u_4 v_4$$

**Definition.** The **inner product** of two vectors  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is

$$\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle = \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{v}$$

# Recall: Inner Products

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**Definition.** The **inner product** of two vectors  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is **a.k.a. dot product**

$$\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle = \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{v}$$

# Recall: Norms and Inner Products

**Definition.** The  $\ell^2$  norm of a vector  $\mathbf{v}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is

$$\|\mathbf{v}\| = \sqrt{\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{v}}$$

*The norm of a vector is the square root of the inner product with itself.*

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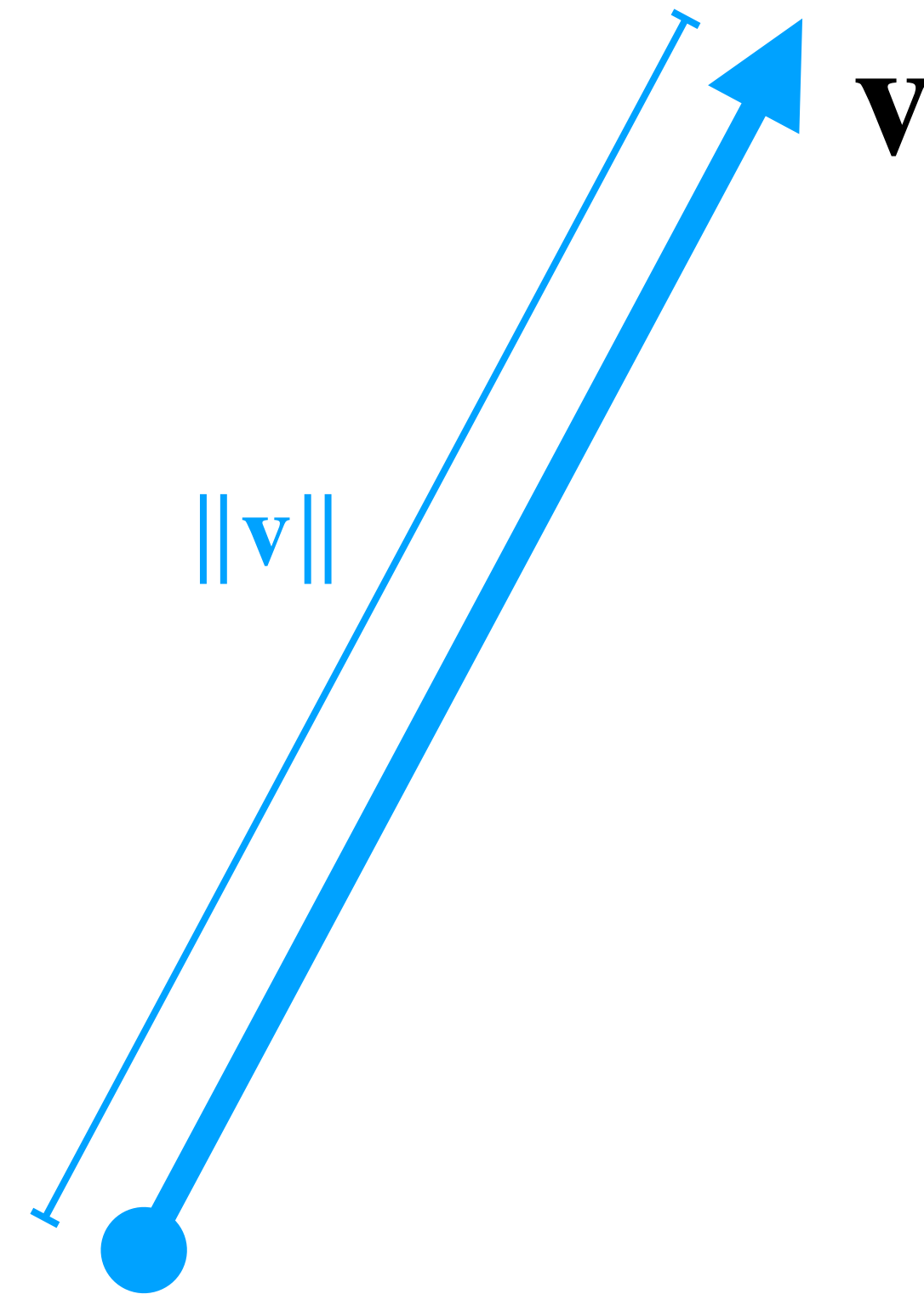
*The norm of a vector is the square root of the inner product with itself.*

**It's important that  $\mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{v}$  is nonnegative.**

# Recall: Norms and Length

Norms give us a notion of length.

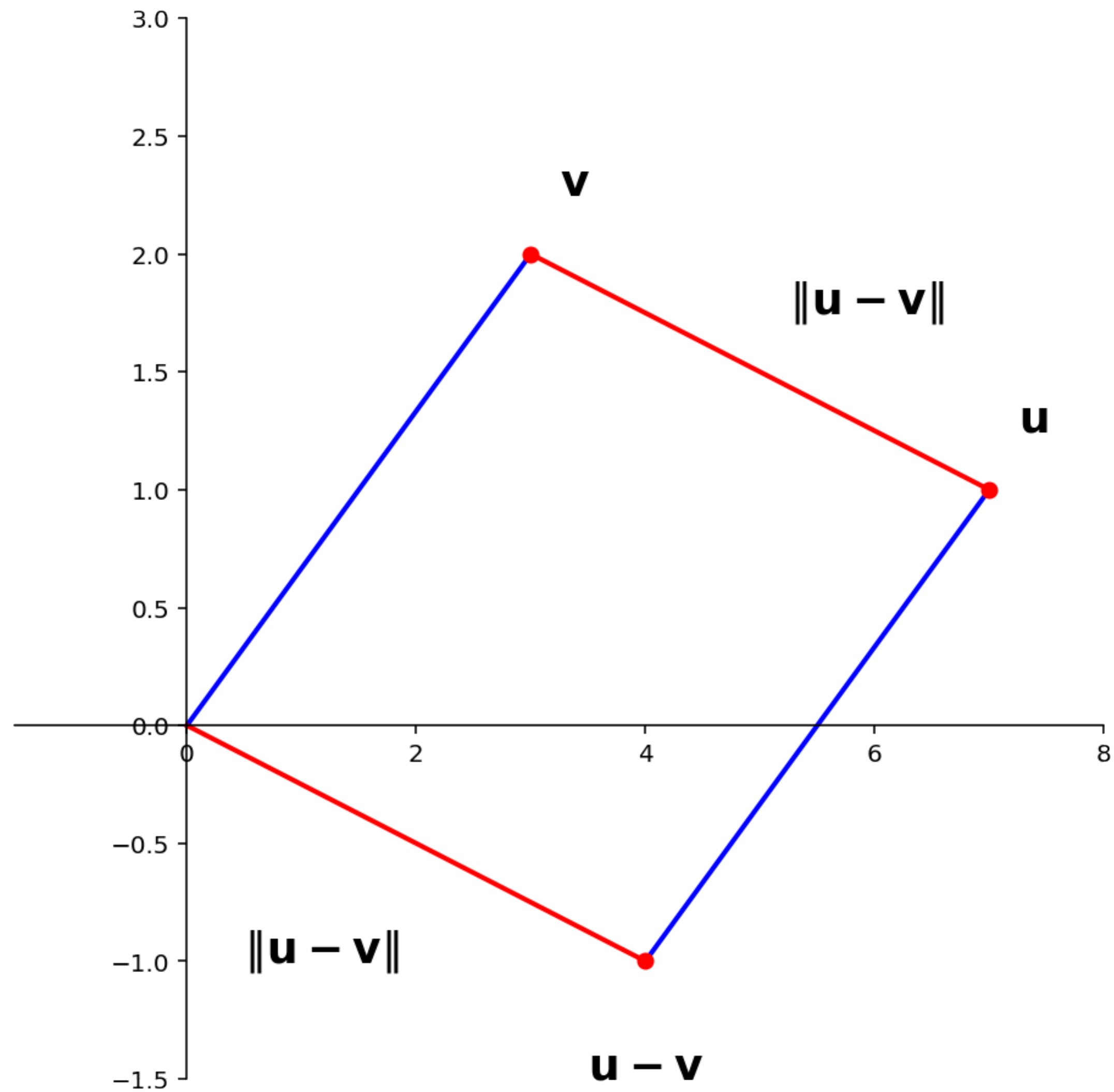
In  $\mathbb{R}^2$  and  $\mathbb{R}^3$  this is our existing notion of length.



# Recall: Distance

If we know how to calculate lengths of vectors, we know how to calculate distances.

# Recall: Distance (Pictorially)





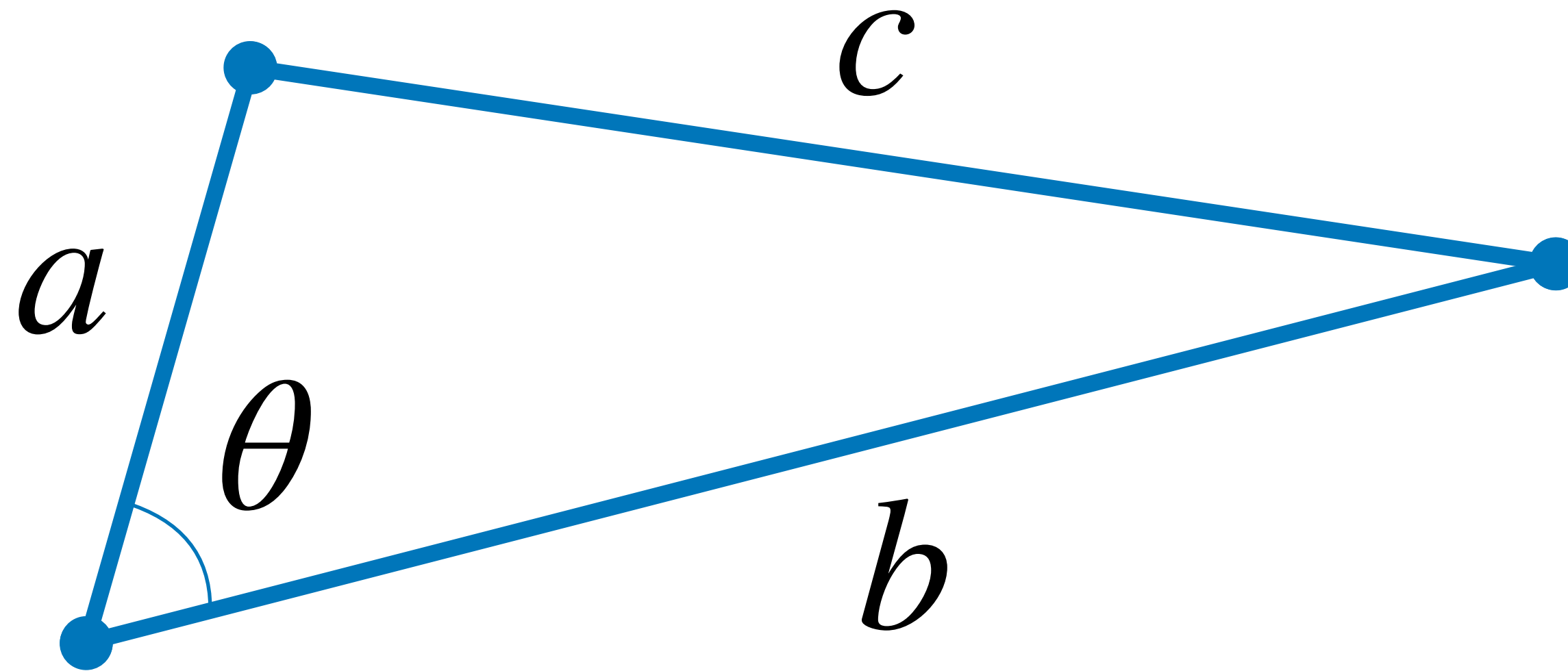
# Recall: Distance (Algebraically)

**Definition.** The distance between two points  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is given by

$$\text{dist}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) = \|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}\|$$

e.g.,  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$

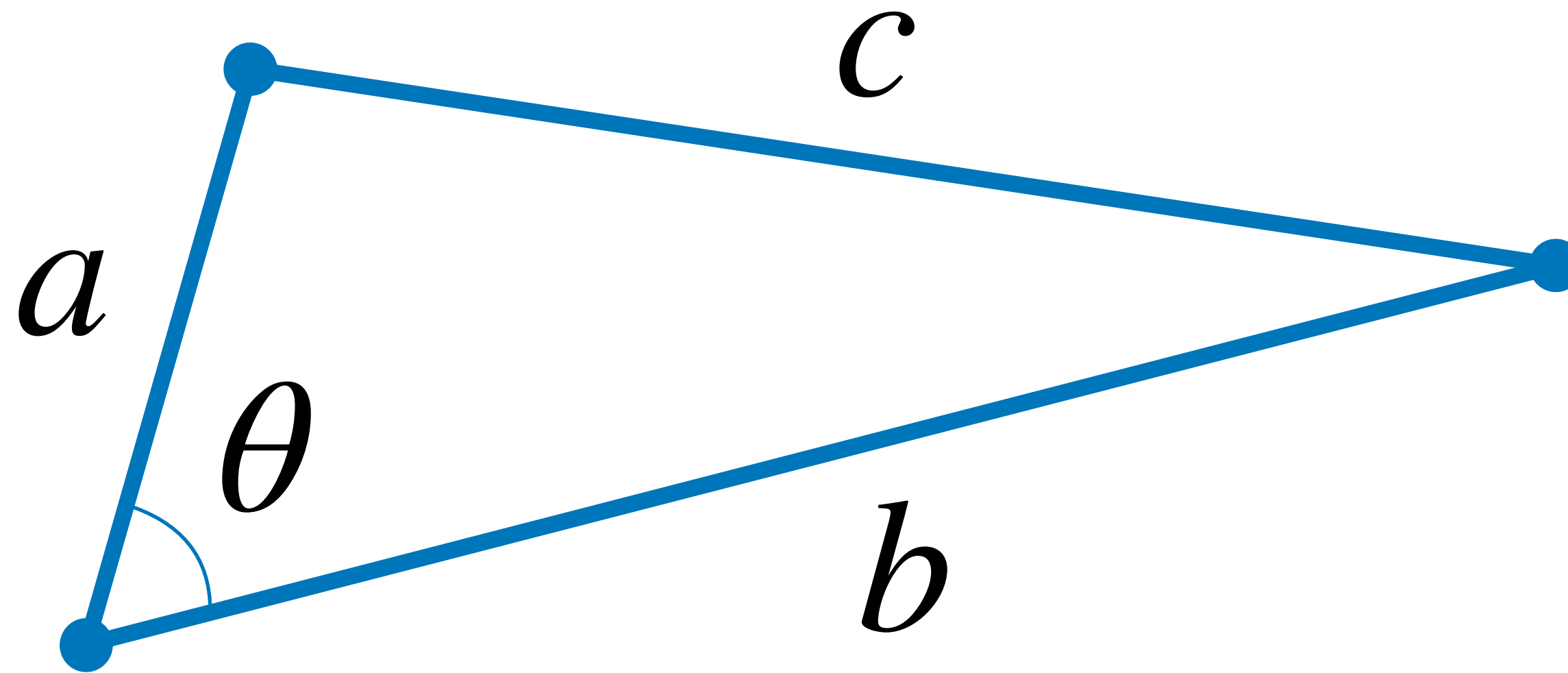
# Recall: Law of Cosines



**Theorem.**

$$c^2 = a^2 + b^2 - 2ab \cos \theta$$

# Recall: Law of Cosines

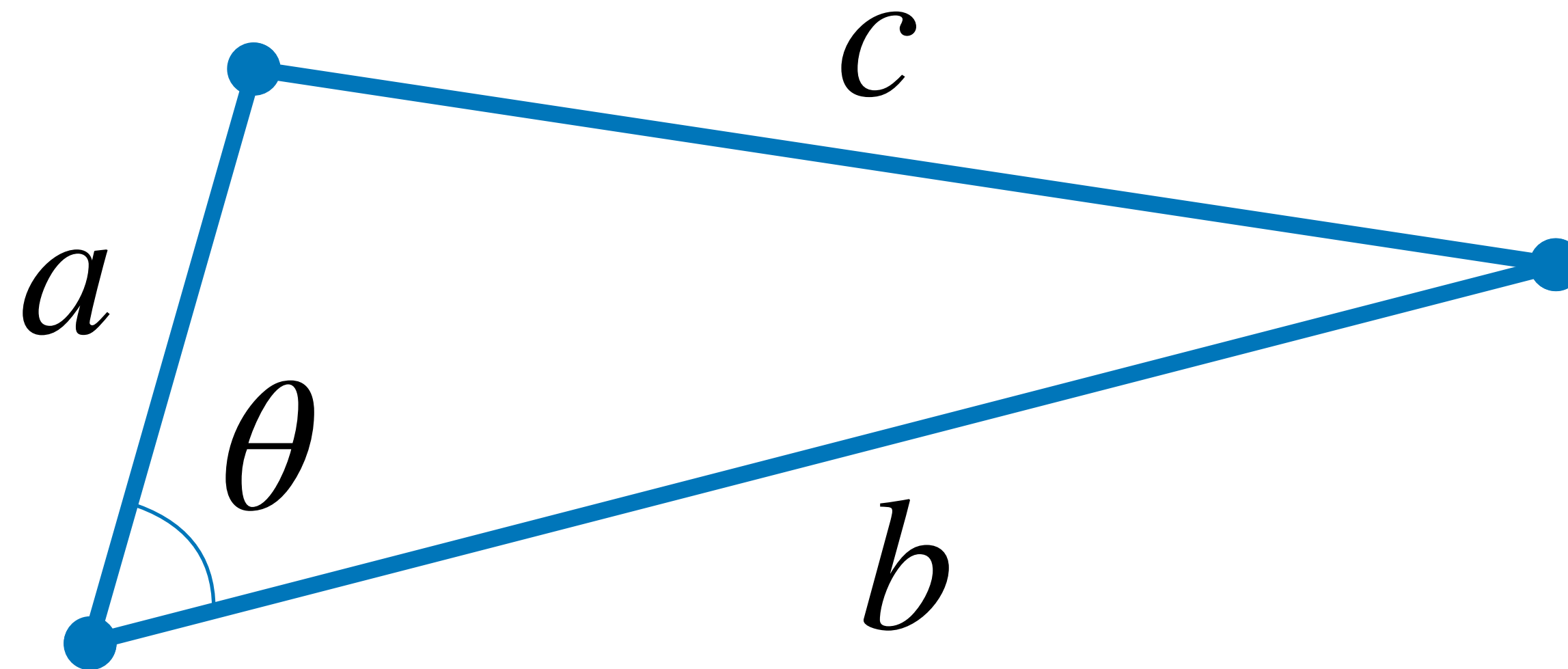


**Theorem.**

$$c^2 = a^2 + b^2 - 2ab \cos \theta$$

**Generalized the Pythagorean Theorem**

# Recall: Law of Cosines



**Theorem.**

$\theta$  exactly when  $\theta = 90^\circ$

$$c^2 = a^2 + b^2 - 2ab \cos \theta$$

**Generalized the Pythagorean Theorem**

# Recall: Cosines and Unit Vectors

**Theorem.** For vectors  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  with an angle  $\theta$  between them,

$$\cos \theta = \left\langle \frac{\mathbf{u}}{\|\mathbf{u}\|}, \frac{\mathbf{v}}{\|\mathbf{v}\|} \right\rangle$$

*The cosine of the angle between two vectors is the inner product of their  $\ell^2$  normalizations.*

# Recall: Orthogonality

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**Definition (Informal).** Two nonzero vectors  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  are **orthogonal** if the angle between them is  $90^\circ$ .

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**Orthogonal and perpendicular are the same thing.**



# Recall: Orthogonality

**Definition (Actual).** Vectors  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  are orthogonal if  $\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle = 0$ .

Verify:

Example:

# In All

With inner products:

- Given a vector we can determine its length
- Given two points (vectors) we can determine the distance between them
- Given two vectors we can determine the angle between them

# Orthogonal Sets

# Orthogonal Sets

**Definition.** A set  $\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_p\}$  of vectors from  $R^n$  is an **orthogonal set** if every pair of distinct vectors is orthogonal: if  $i \neq j$  then

$$\langle u_i, u_j \rangle = 0$$

*Each vector is pairwise/mutually perpendicular.*

# Example

$$u_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

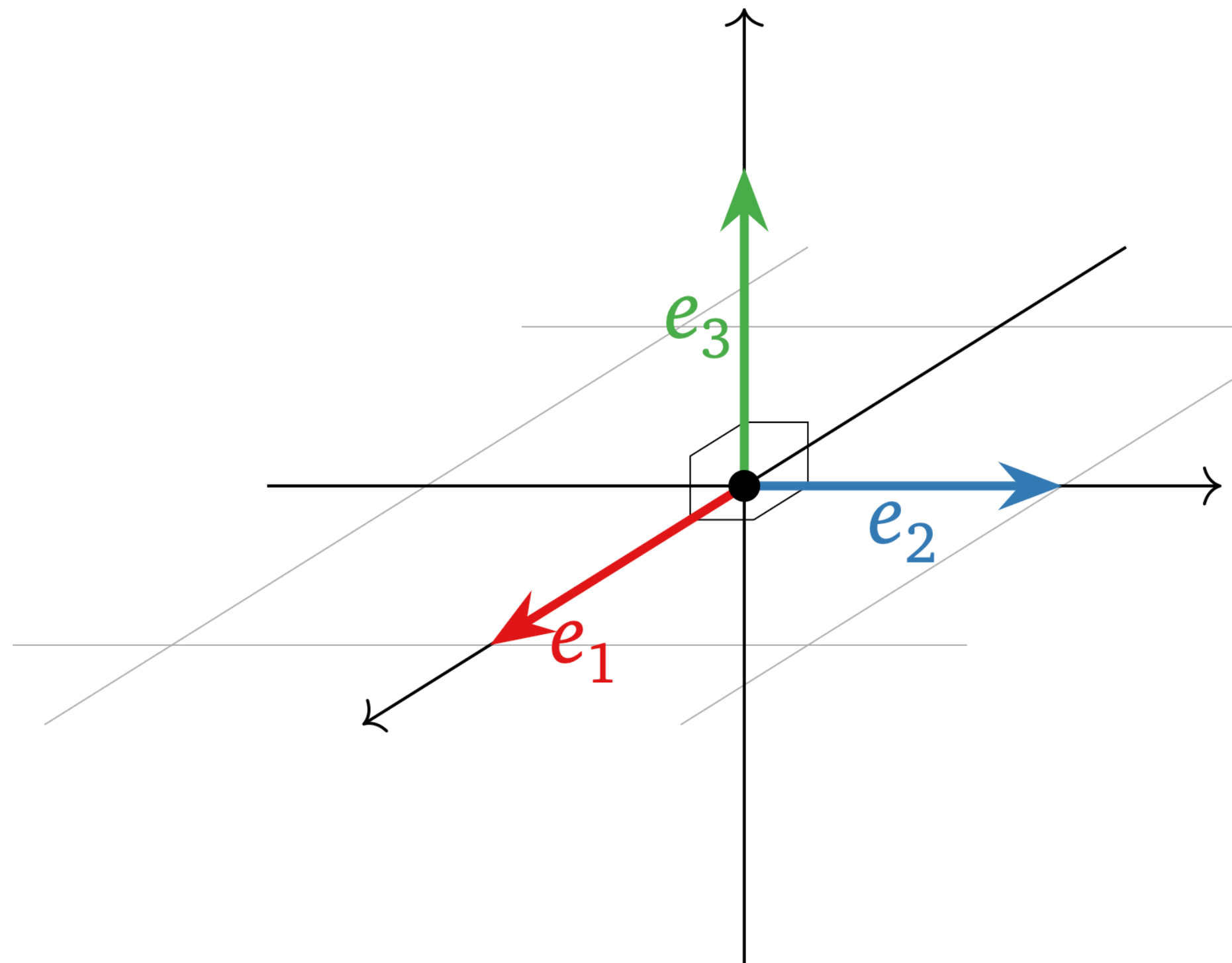
$$u_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$u_3 = \begin{bmatrix} -1/2 \\ -2 \\ 7/2 \end{bmatrix}$$

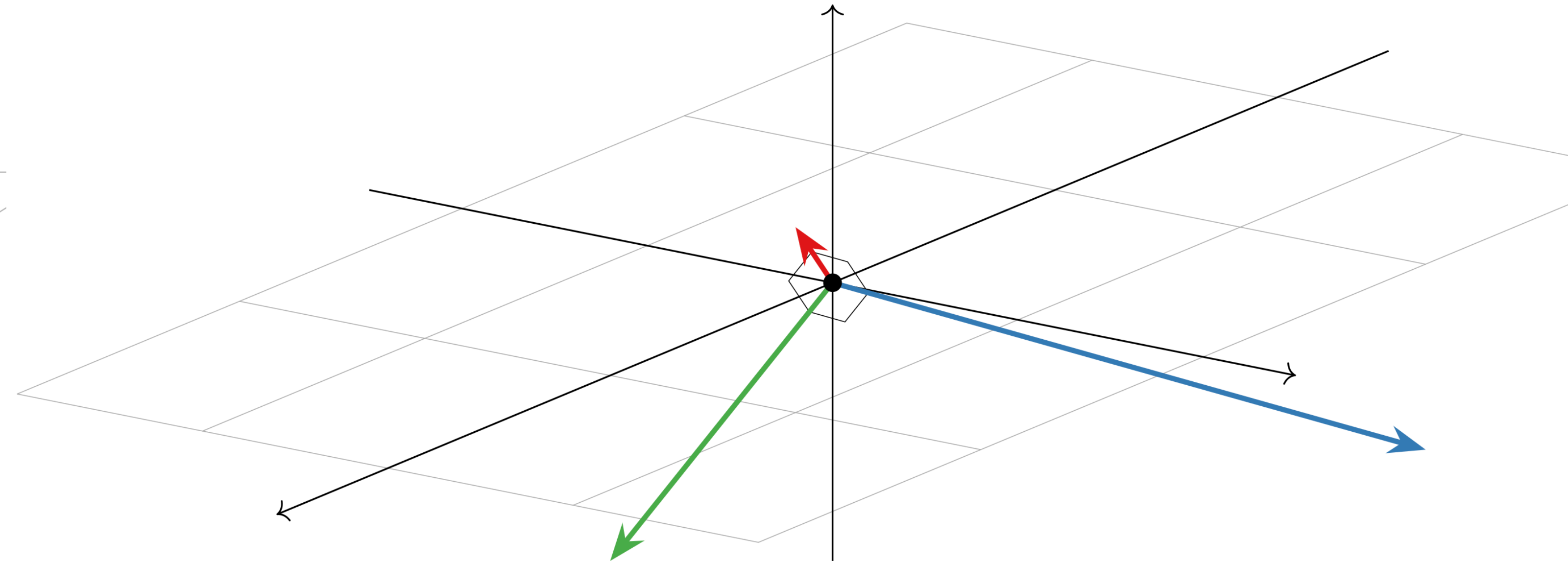
Verify:

What do orthogonal sets  
look like?

# The Picture



the standard basis forms a  
"centered" orthogonal set



an orthogonal set is like  
the standard basis *after*  
*some rotations and scalings*

# Orthogonal Sets and Independence

**Theorem.** If  $\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_k\}$  is an orthogonal set of *nonzero* vectors from  $R^n$ , then it is linearly independent.

Verify:



# The Takeaway

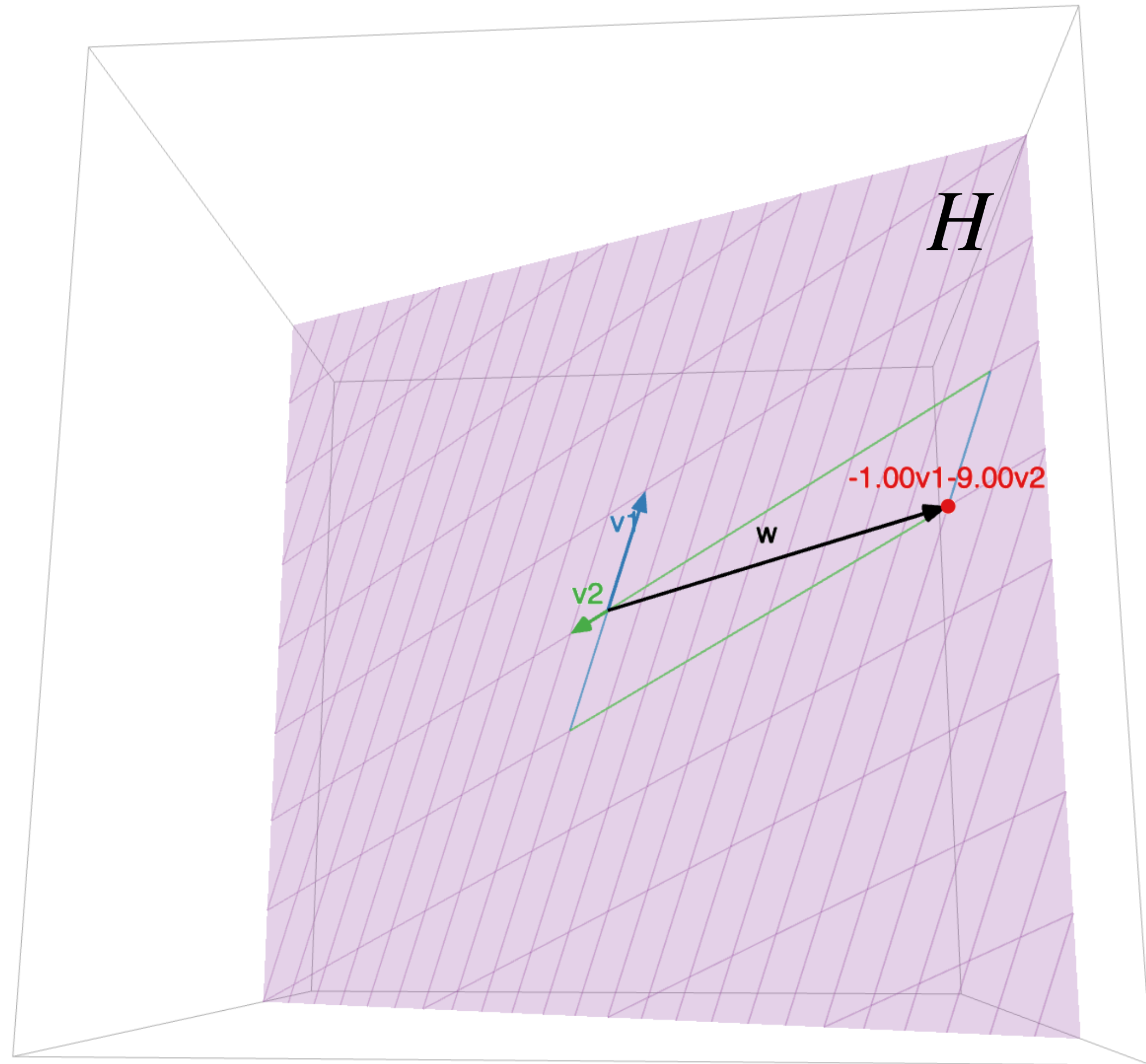
If  $\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_k\}$  is an orthogonal set,  
then it is a **basis** for  $\text{span}\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_k\}$ .

# Orthogonal Basis

**Definition.** An orthogonal basis for a subspace  $W$  of  $R^n$  is a basis for  $W$  which is also an orthogonal set.

# Orthogonal Basis

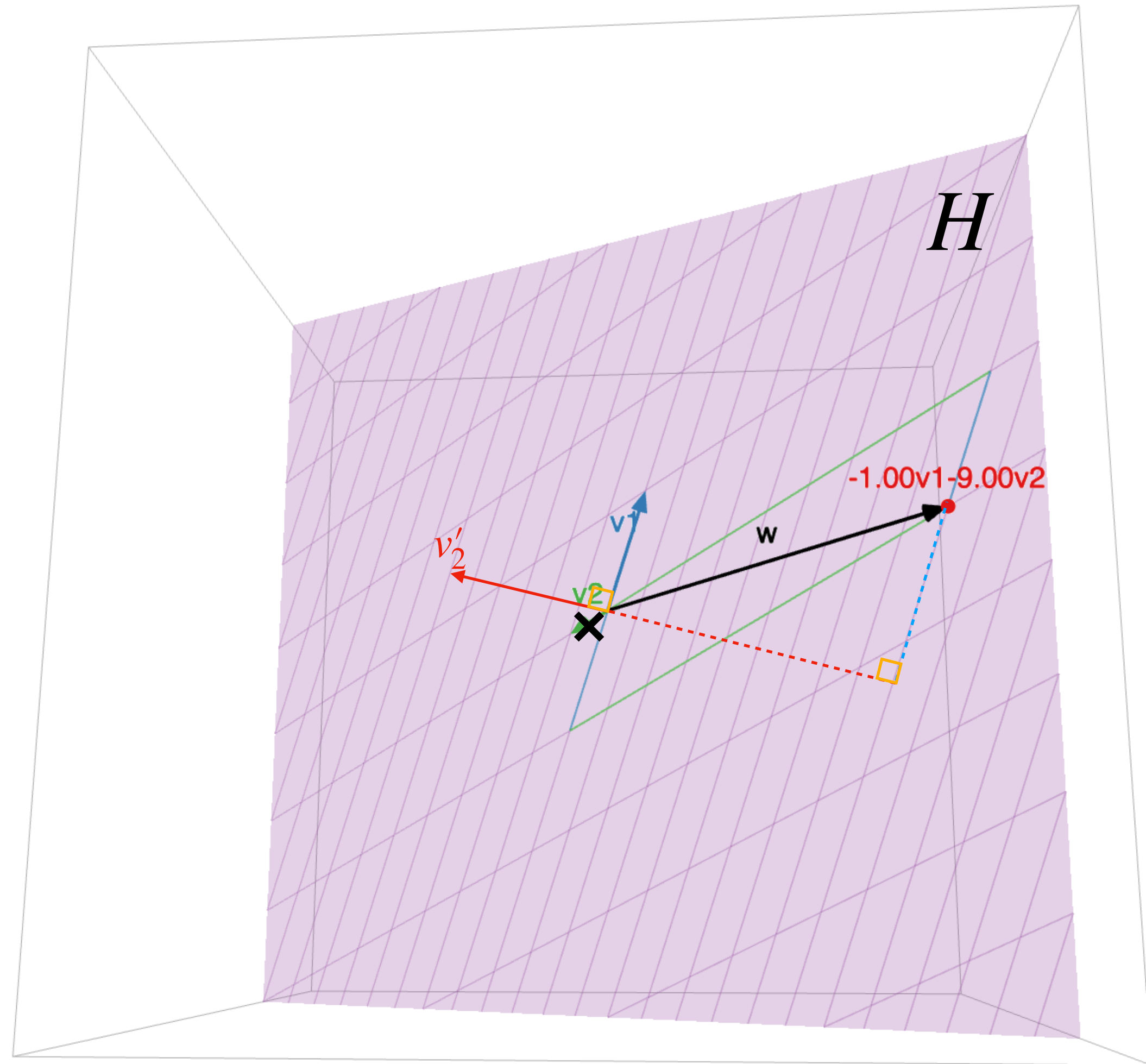
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$v_1$  and  $v_2$  form a basis of  $H$   
 $v_1$  and  $v'_2$  form an **orthogonal** basis of  $H$

What's nice about an  
orthogonal basis?

# Recall: How To: Bases

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**Question.** Given a basis  $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \dots, \mathbf{u}_p\}$  for a subspace  $W$  of  $R^n$  and a vector  $\mathbf{w}$  in  $W$ , weights  $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_p$  such that

$$\mathbf{w} = c_1\mathbf{u}_1 + c_2\mathbf{u}_2 + \dots c_p\mathbf{u}_p$$

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**Solution.** Solve the vector equation

$$x_1\mathbf{u}_1 + x_2\mathbf{u}_2 + \dots x_p\mathbf{u}_p = \mathbf{w}$$

by Gaussian elimination, matrix inversion, etc.



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by Gaussian elimination, matrix inversion, etc.

**This takes work**

# Orthogonal Bases and Linear Combinations

**Theorem.** For an orthogonal set  $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \dots, \mathbf{u}_p\}$ , if  $\mathbf{y} = c_1\mathbf{u}_1 + \dots + c_p\mathbf{u}_p$  then for  $j = 1, \dots, p$

$$c_j = \frac{\mathbf{y}^T \mathbf{u}_j}{\mathbf{u}_j^T \mathbf{u}_j}$$

Verify:

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**Solution.**  $c_j = \frac{\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{u}_j}{\mathbf{u}_j \cdot \mathbf{u}_j}$

**Much easier to compute.**

# Question

*Express  $[6 \ 1 \ (-8)]^T$  as a linear combination of vectors in  $\{u_1, u_2, u_3\}$  where*

$$u_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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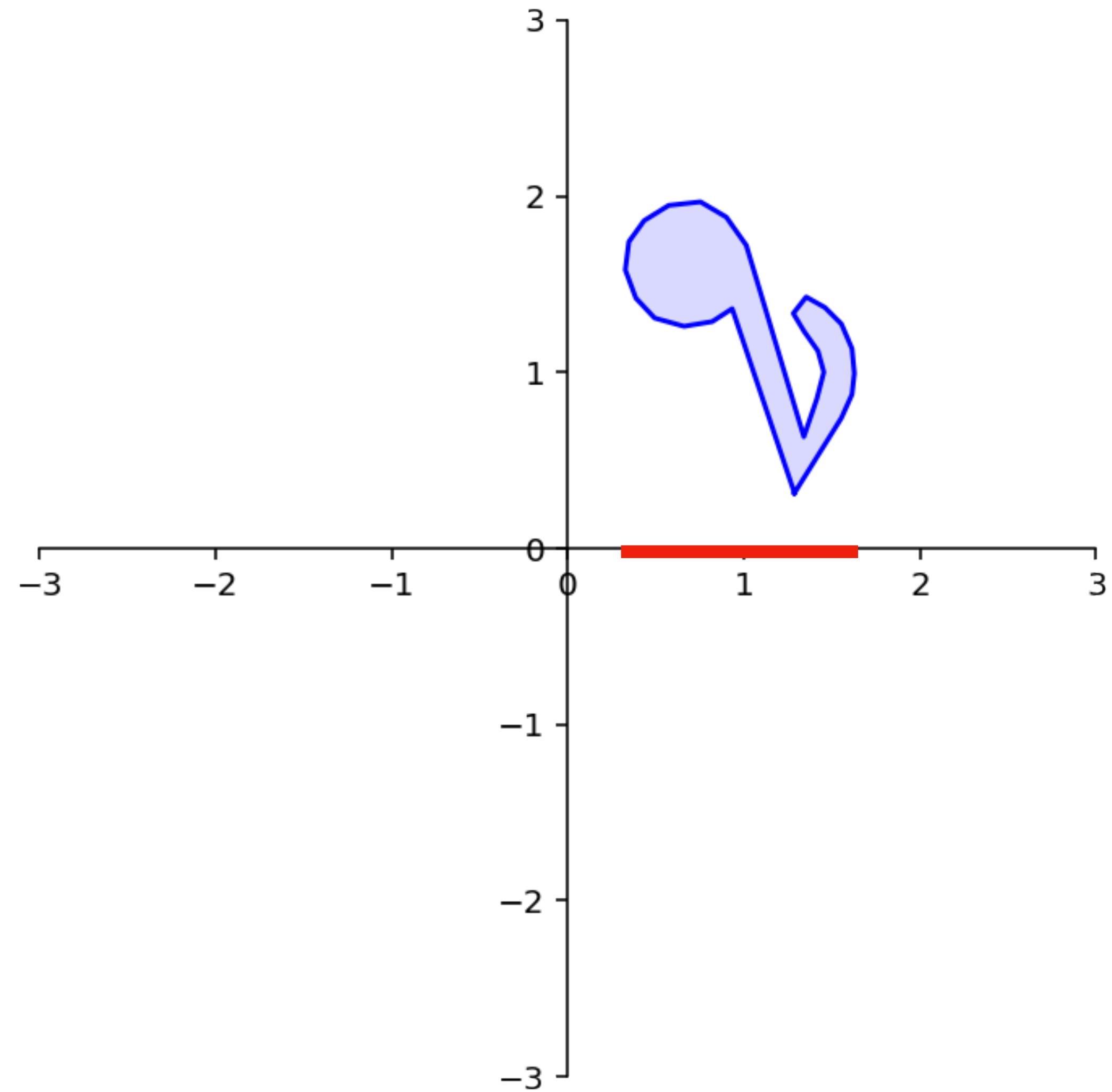
**Answer:**  $u_1 - 2u_2 - 2u_3$



# Orthogonal Projection

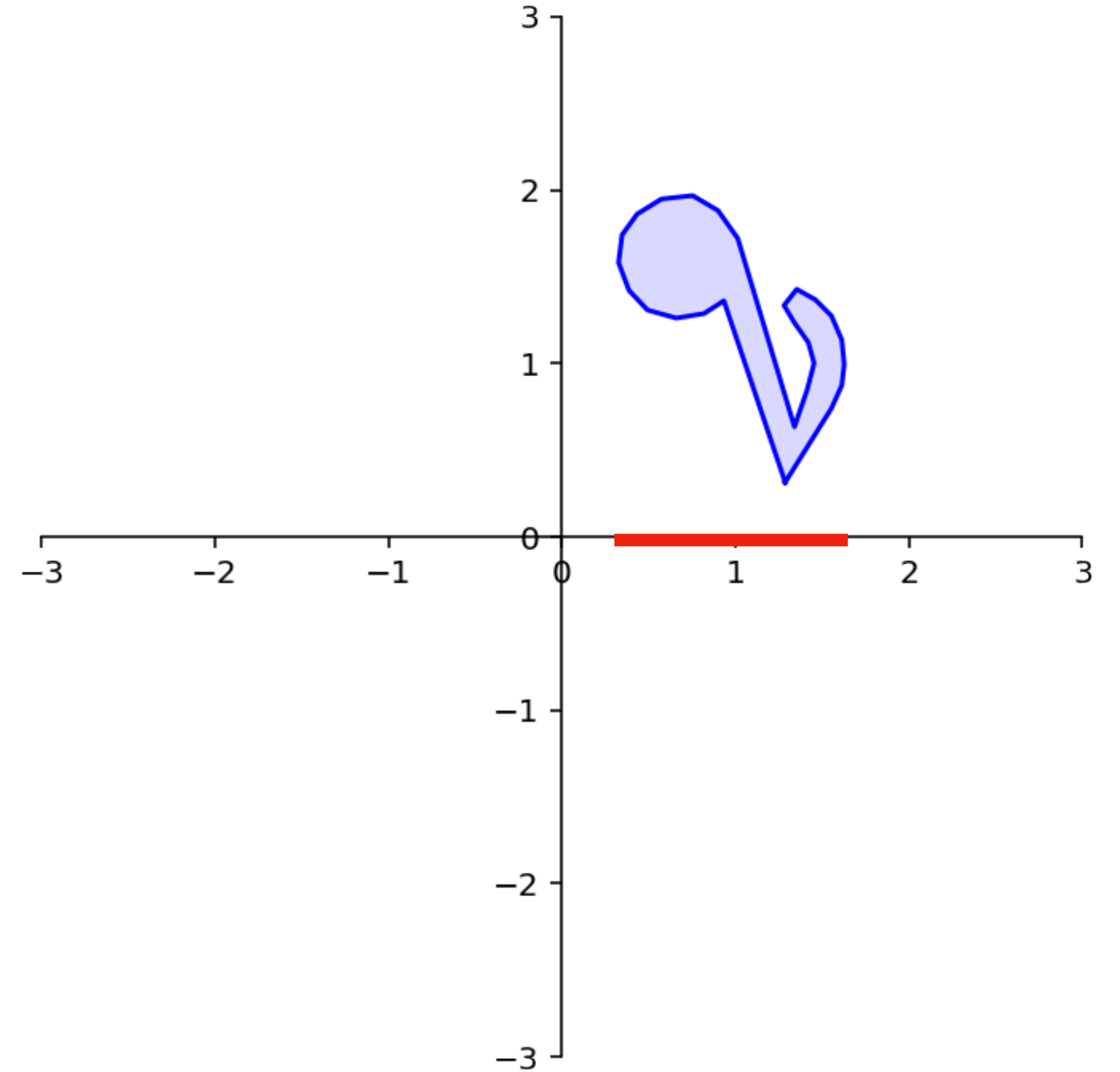
Why does that formula in  
the last example work?

# Recall: Projection onto the $x$ -axis



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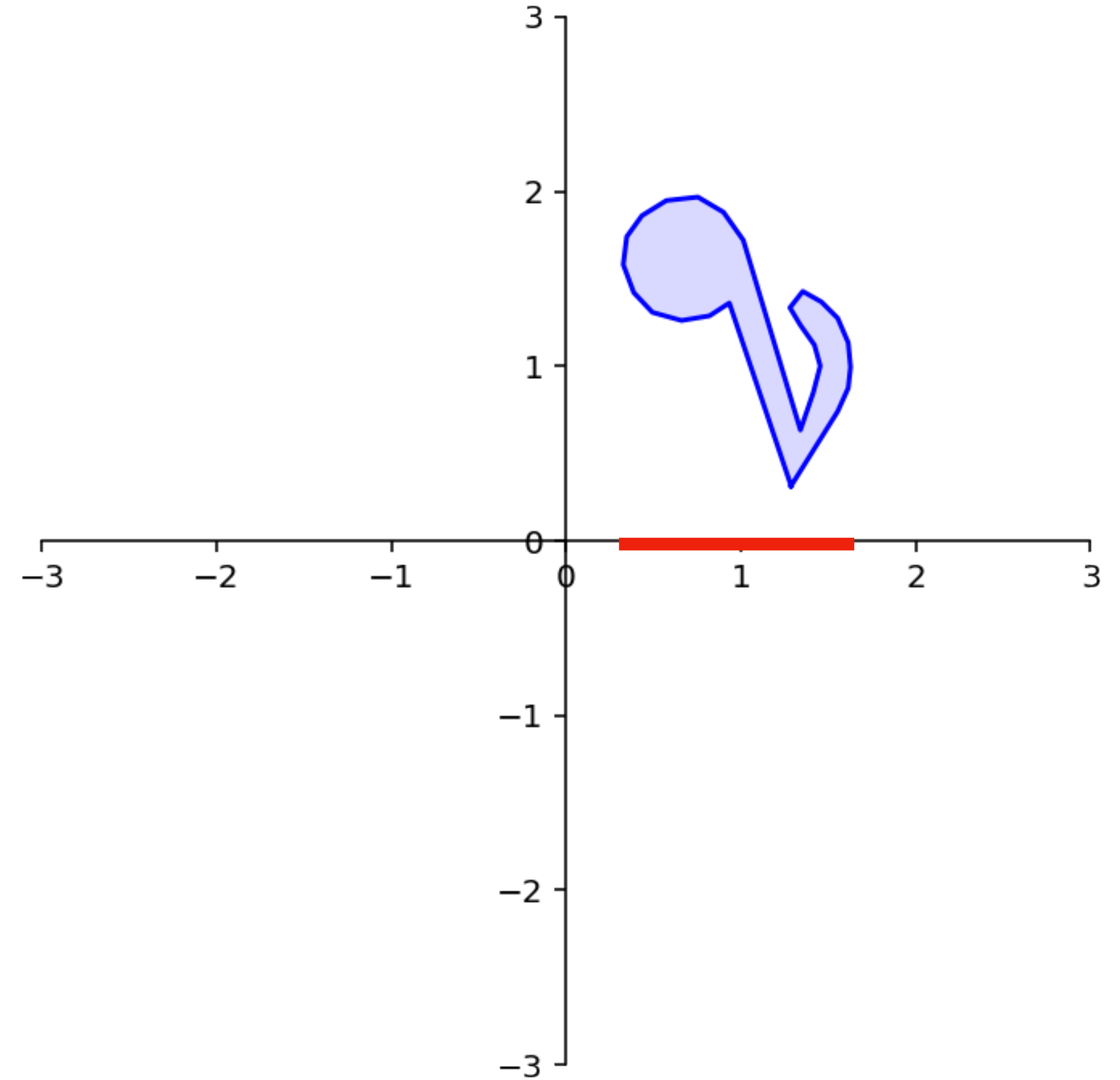
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# Recall: Projection onto the $x$ -axis

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We're going to generalize this idea.

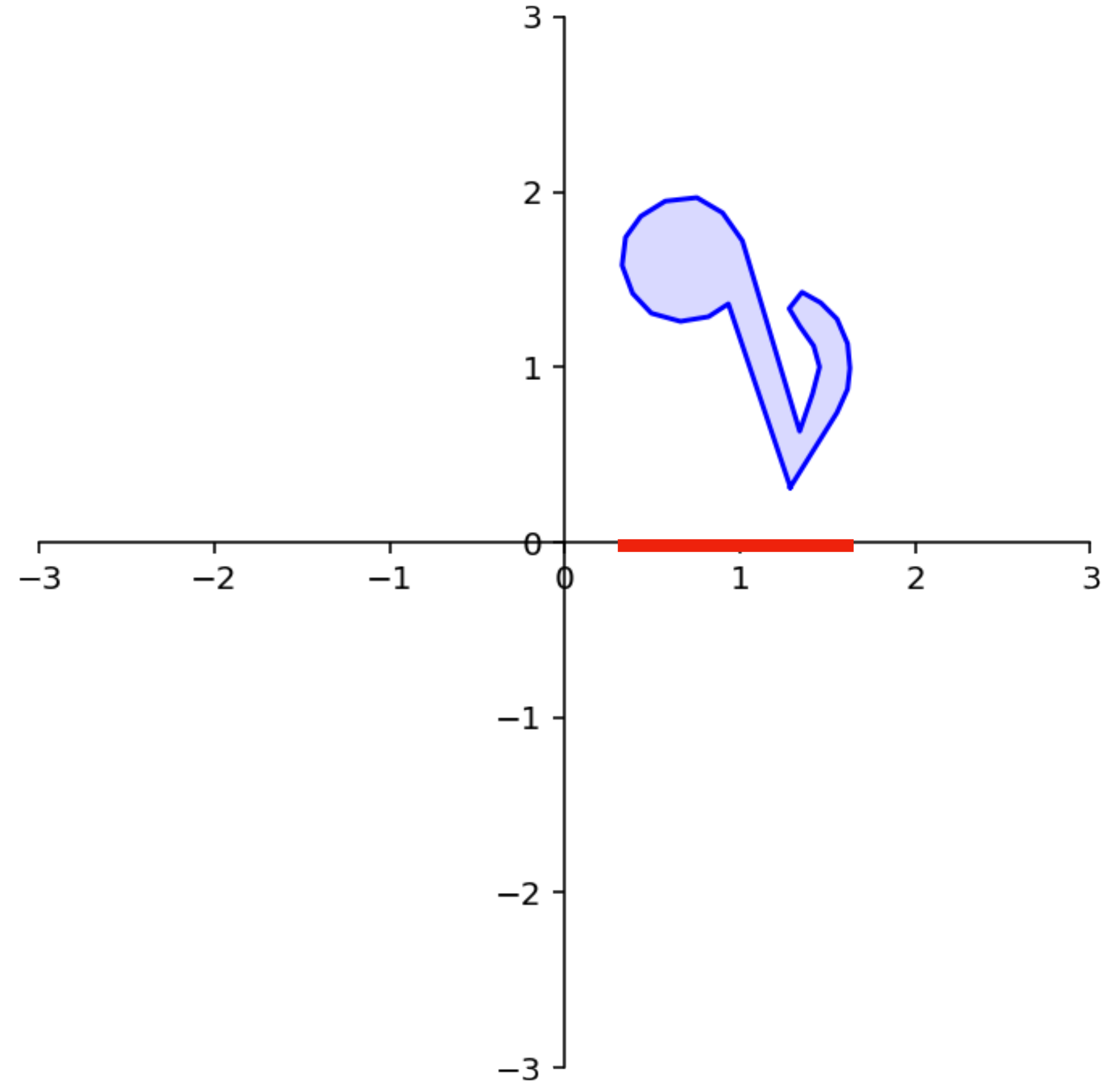


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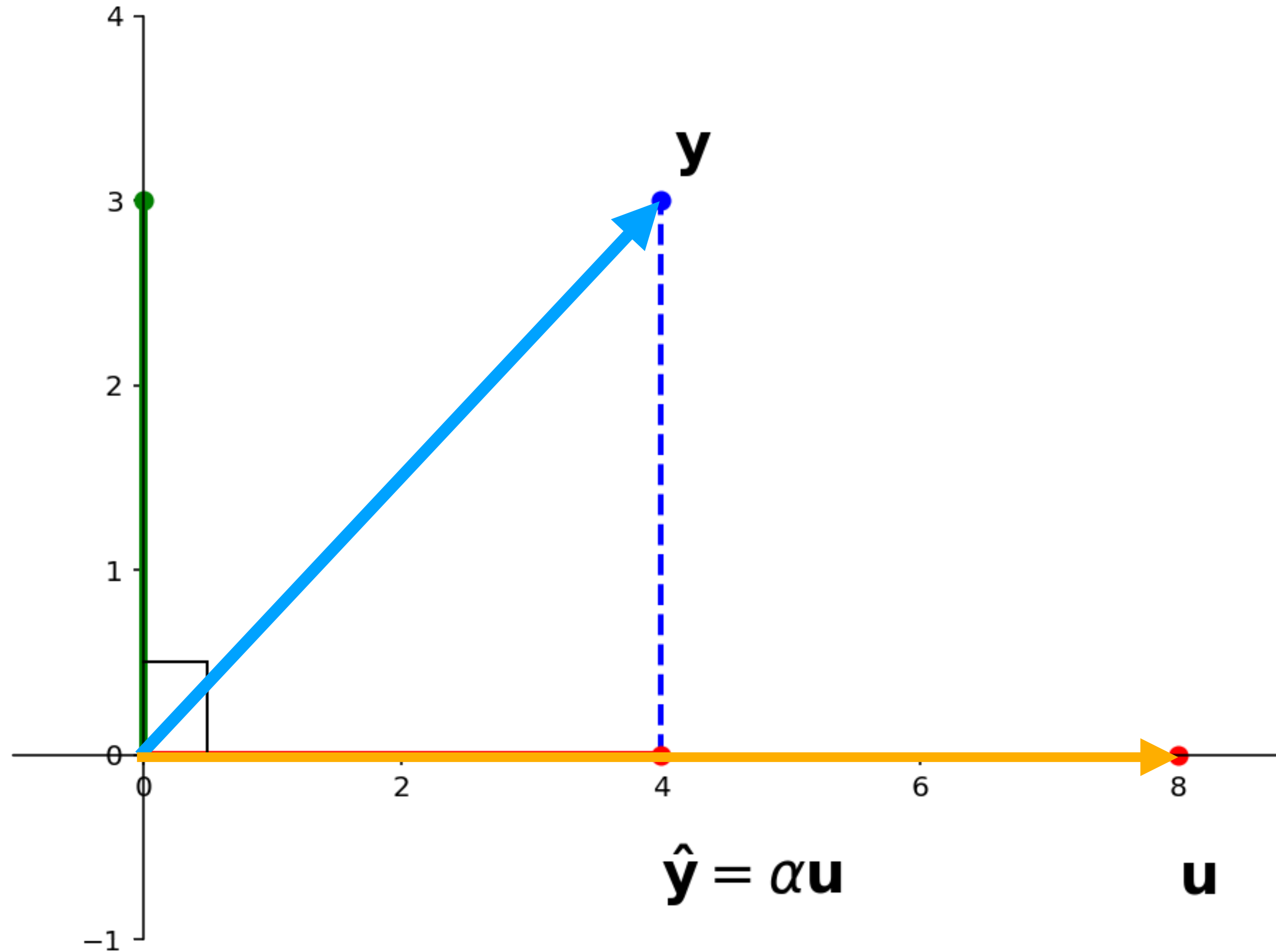
We've seen simple projections in  $R^2$ .

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**What we really did was a kind of projection onto the basis vectors.**

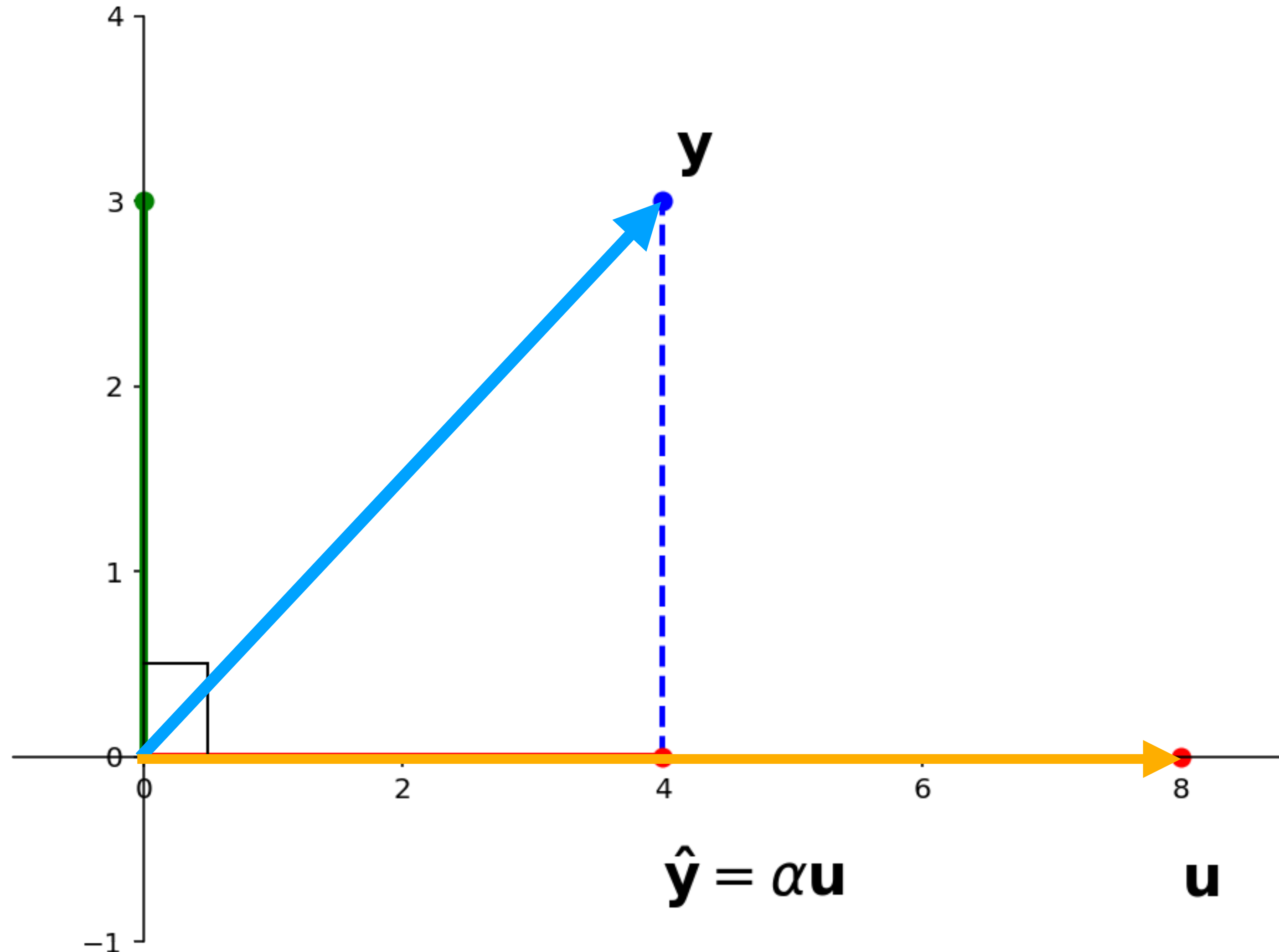


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**Question.** Given vectors  $\mathbf{y}$  and  $\mathbf{u}$  in  $R^n$ , find vectors  $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$  and  $\mathbf{z}$  such that

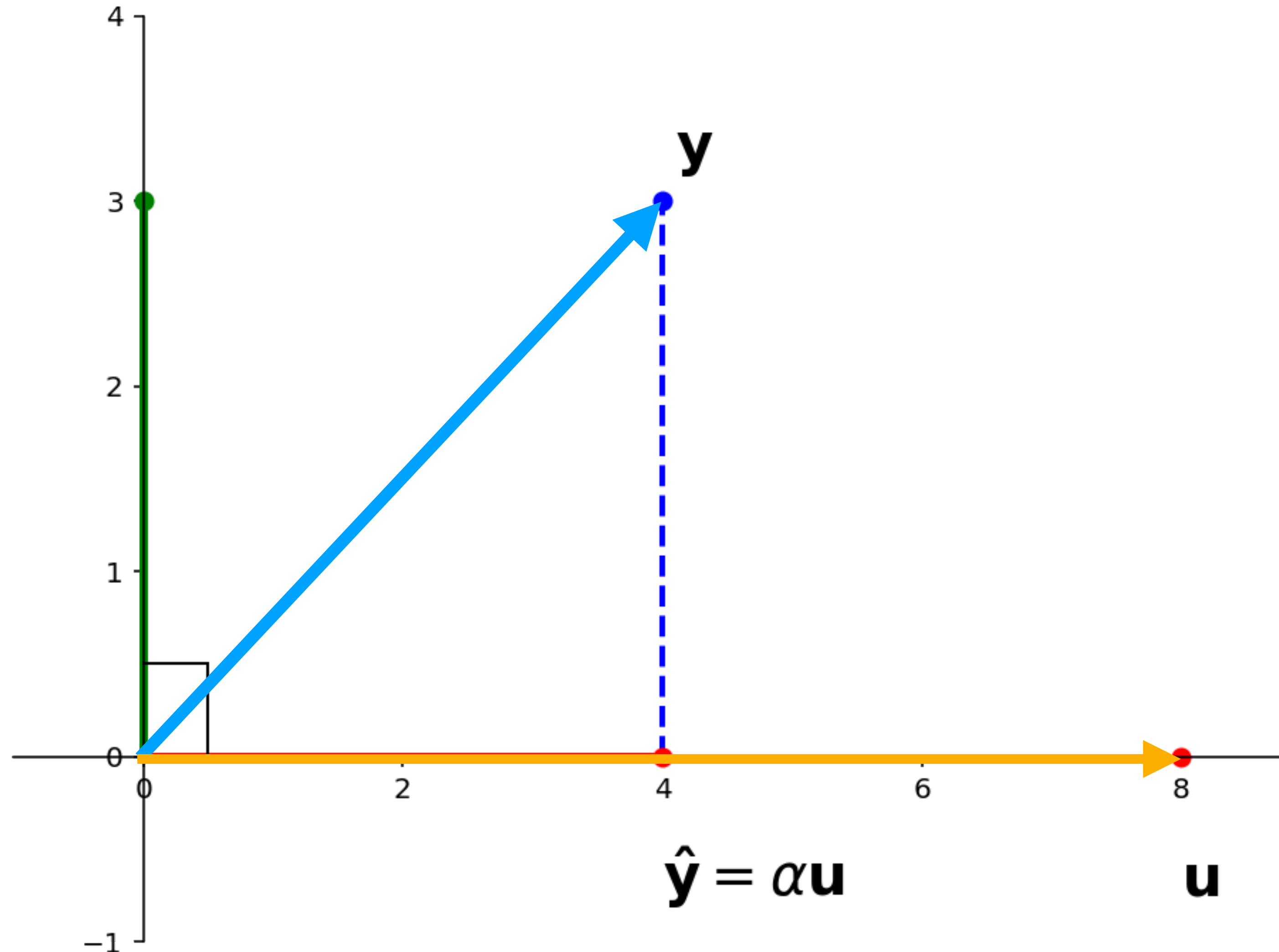




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»  $\mathbf{z}$  is orthogonal to  $\mathbf{u}$   
(i.e.,  $\mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$ )

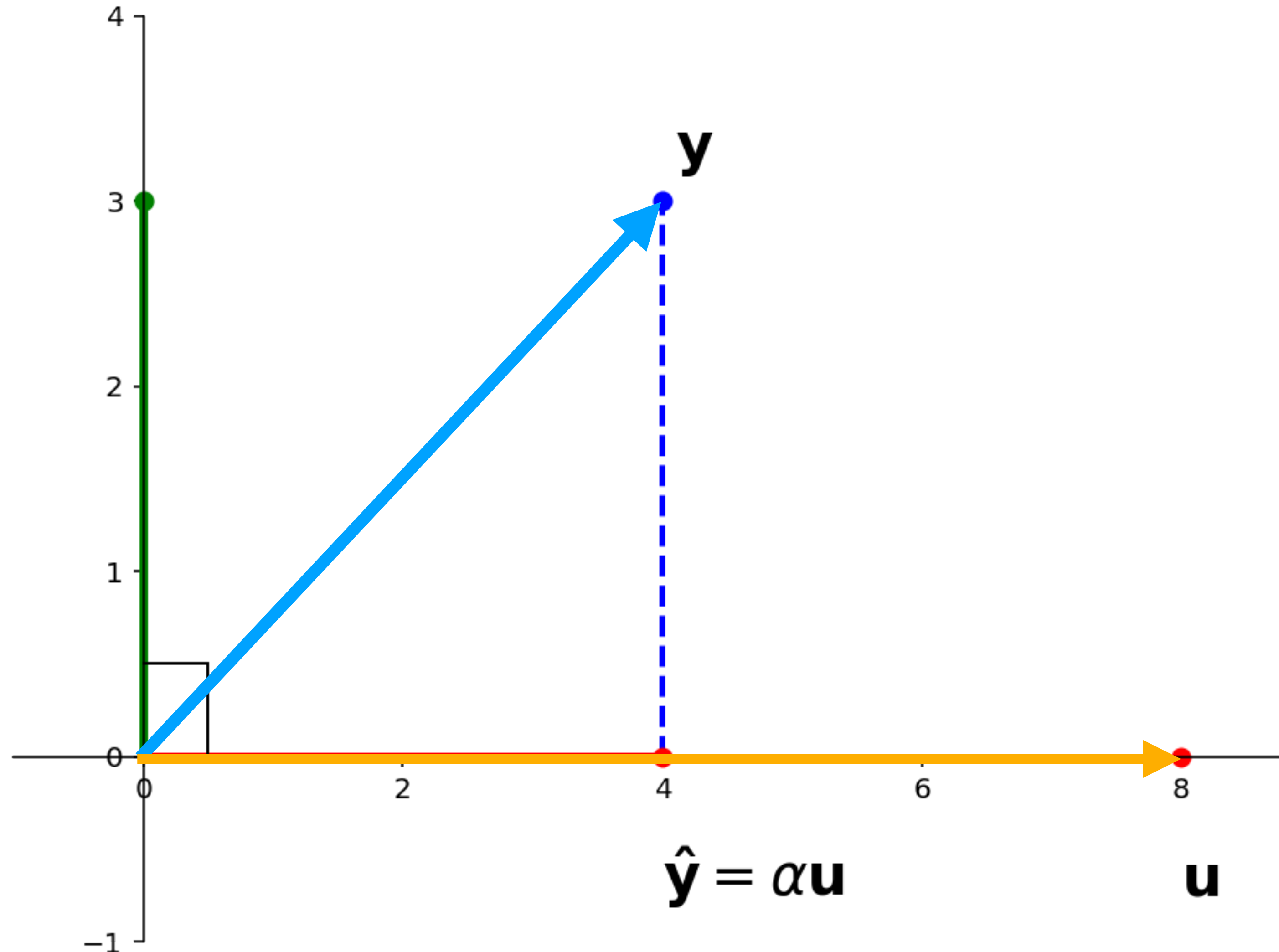


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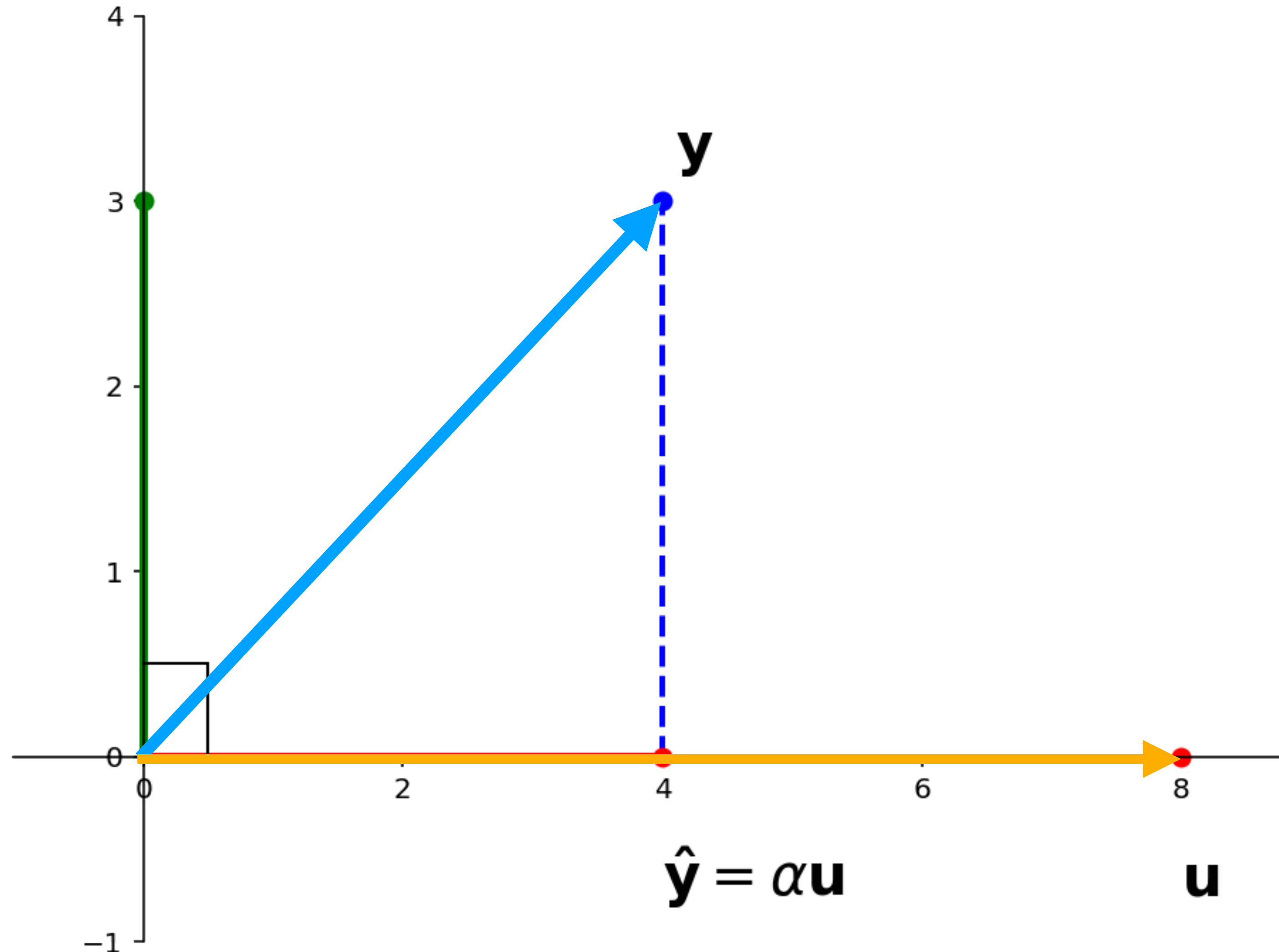
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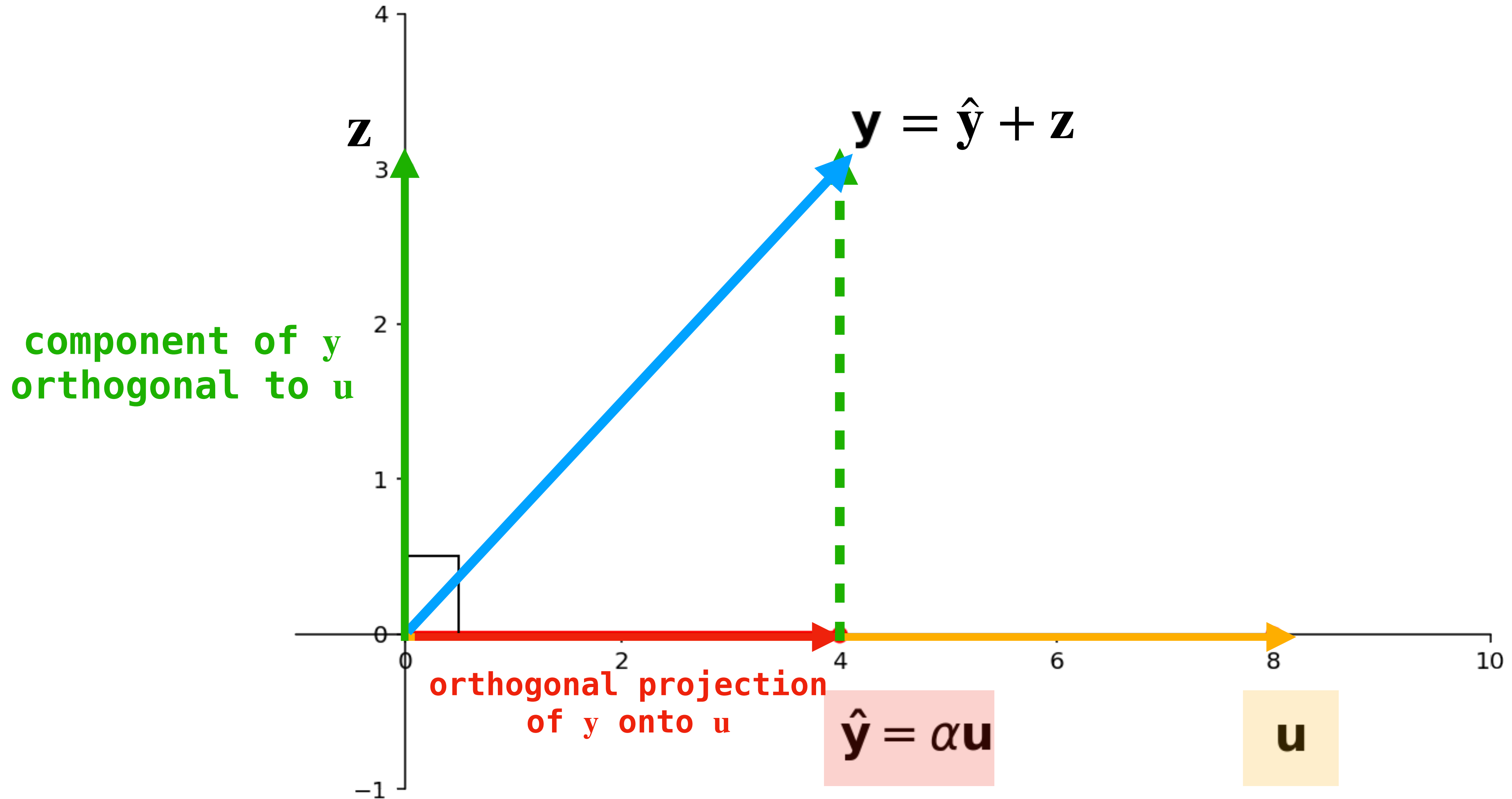
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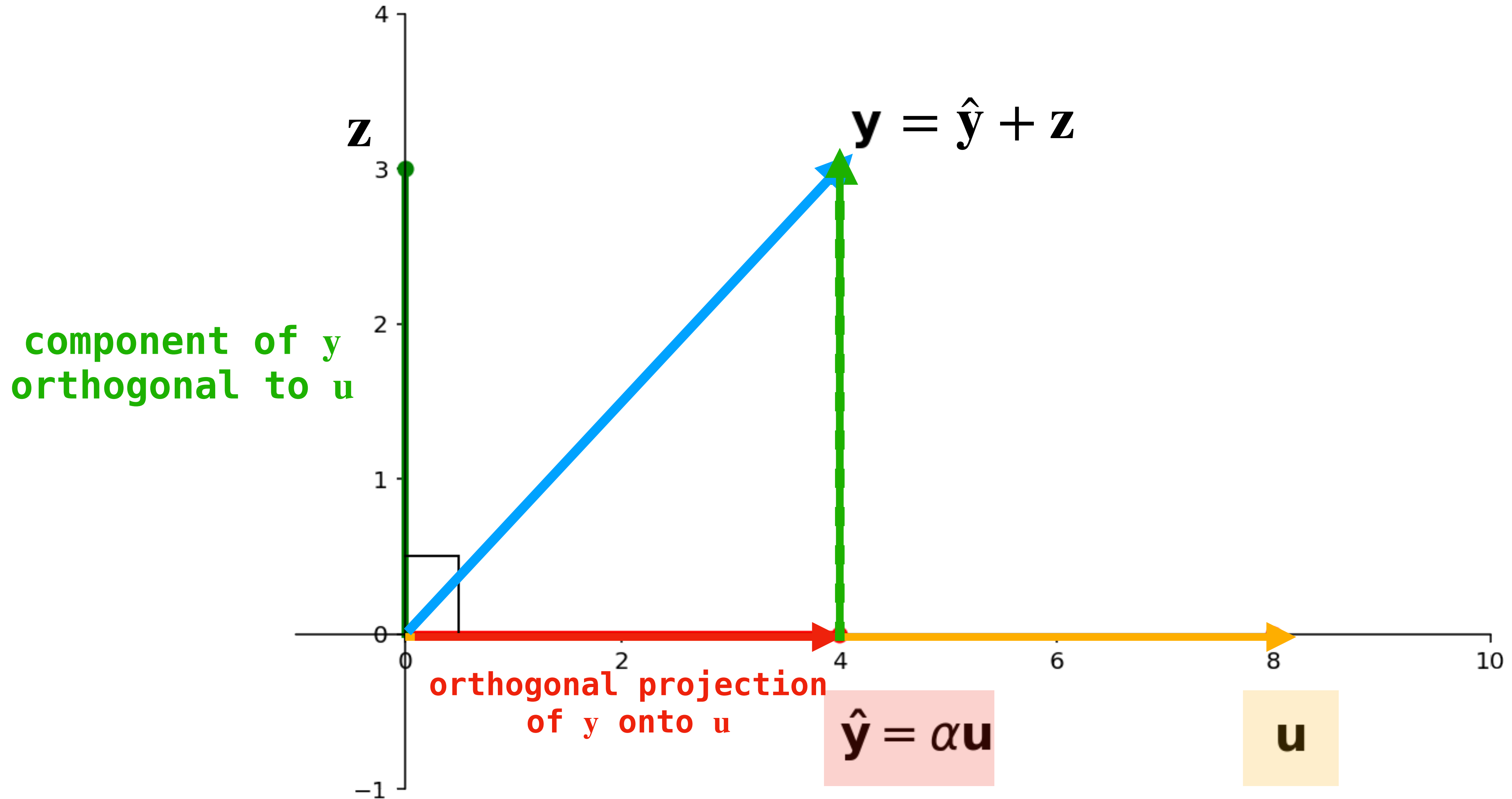
»  $\mathbf{y} = \hat{\mathbf{y}} + \mathbf{z}$



# Orthogonal Projection

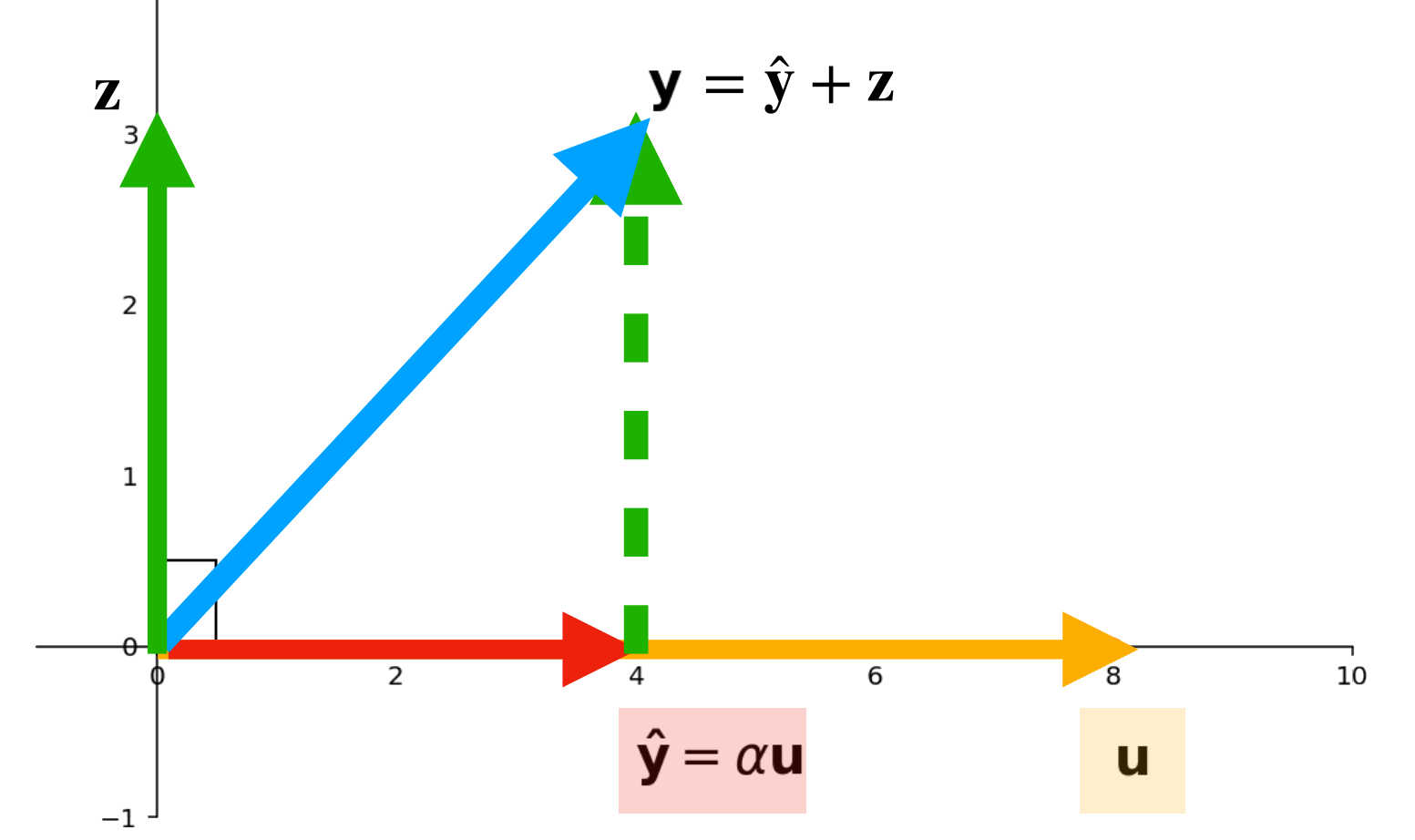


# Orthogonal Projection

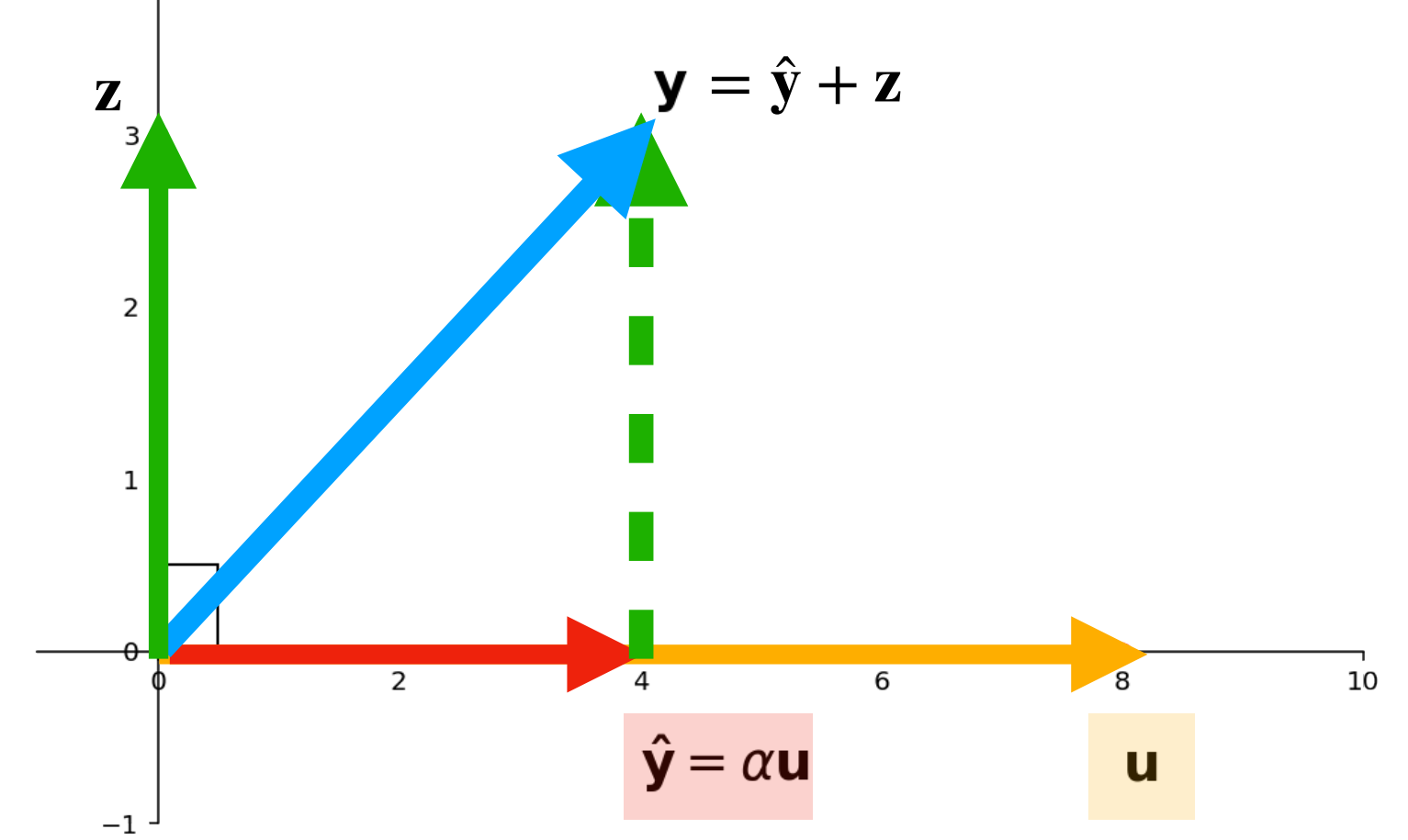


How do we find the orthogonal  
projection and orthogonal component?

# What we know



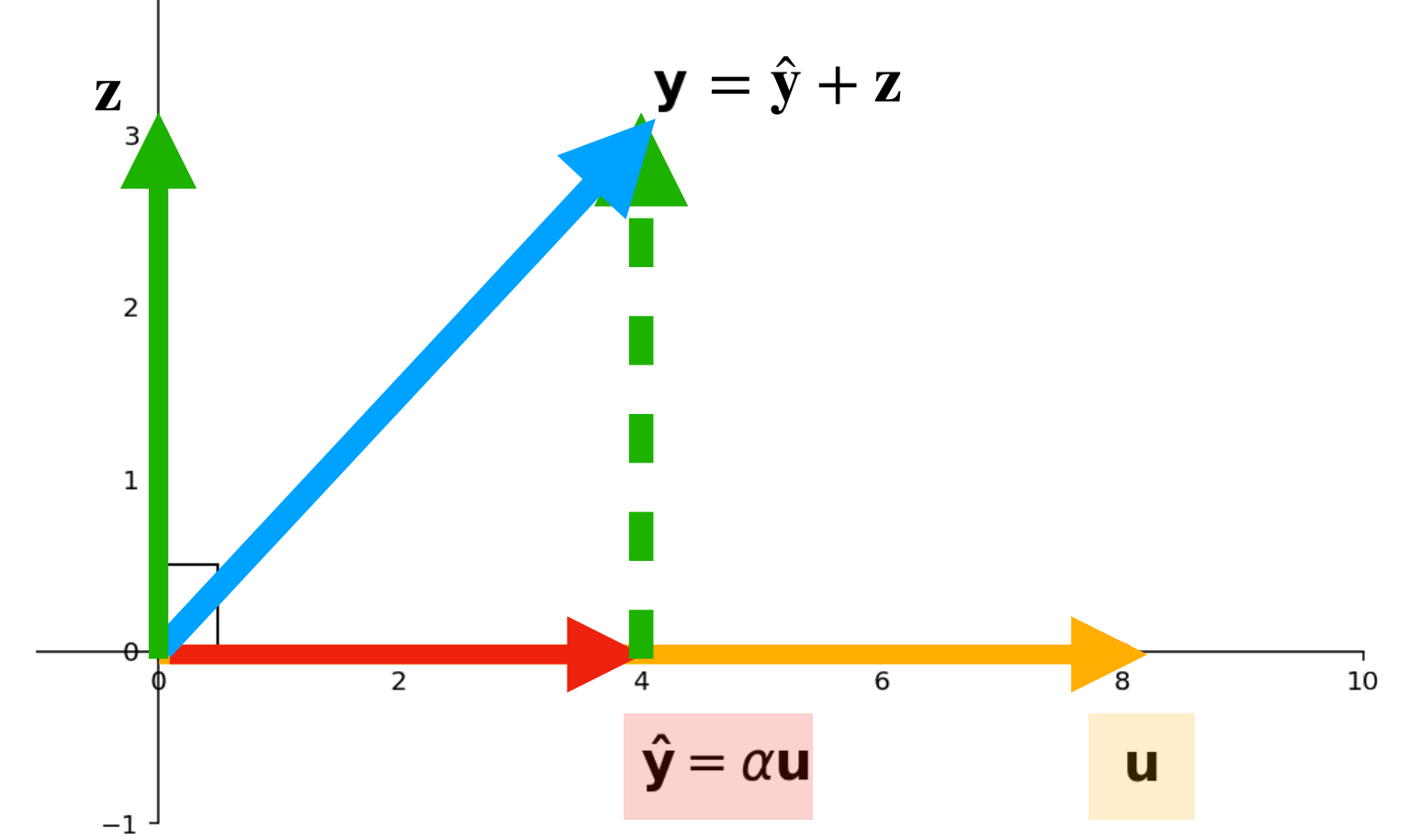
# What we know



- $\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \alpha \mathbf{u}$  for some scalar  $\alpha$  (since  $\hat{\mathbf{y}} \in \text{span}\{\mathbf{u}\}$ )

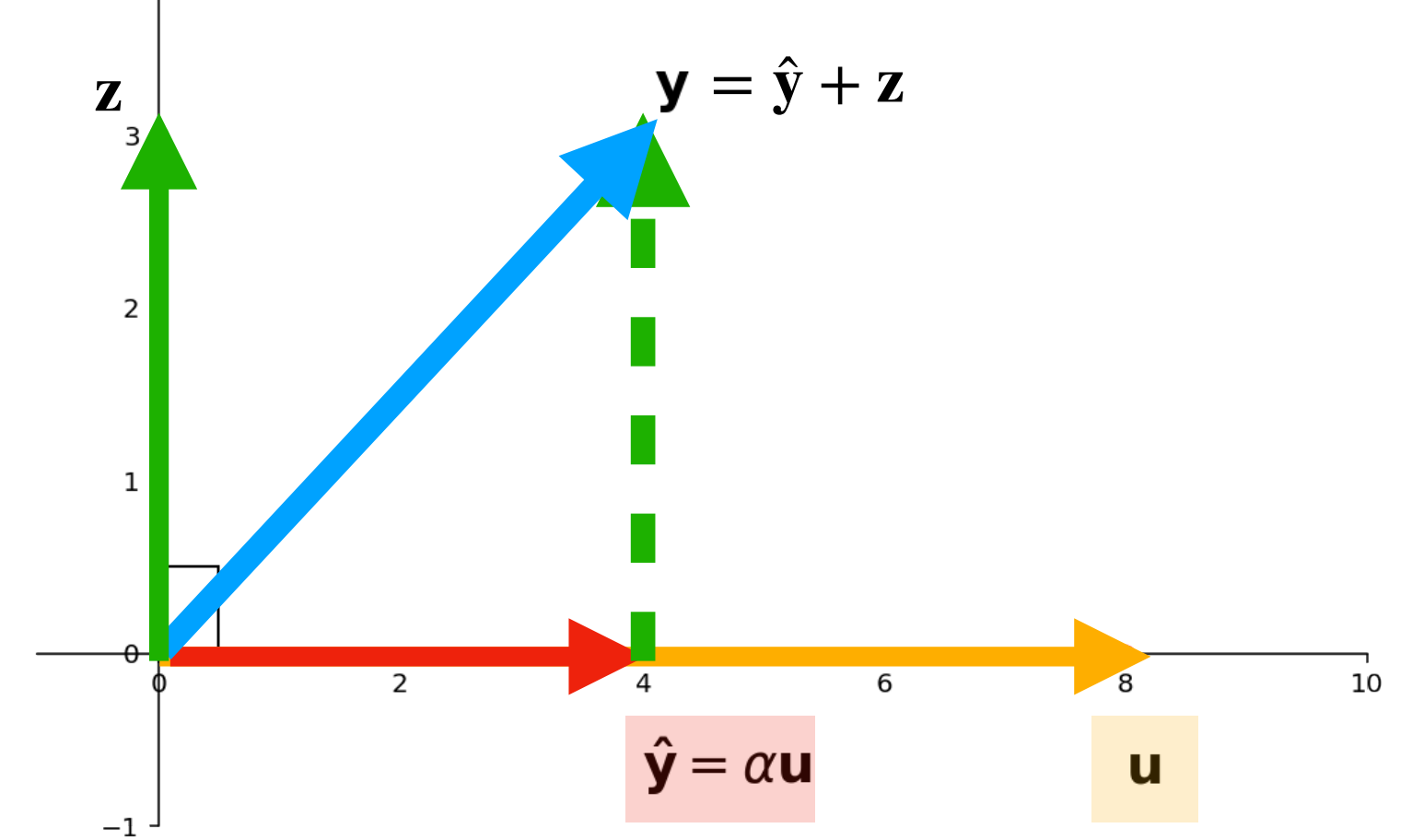


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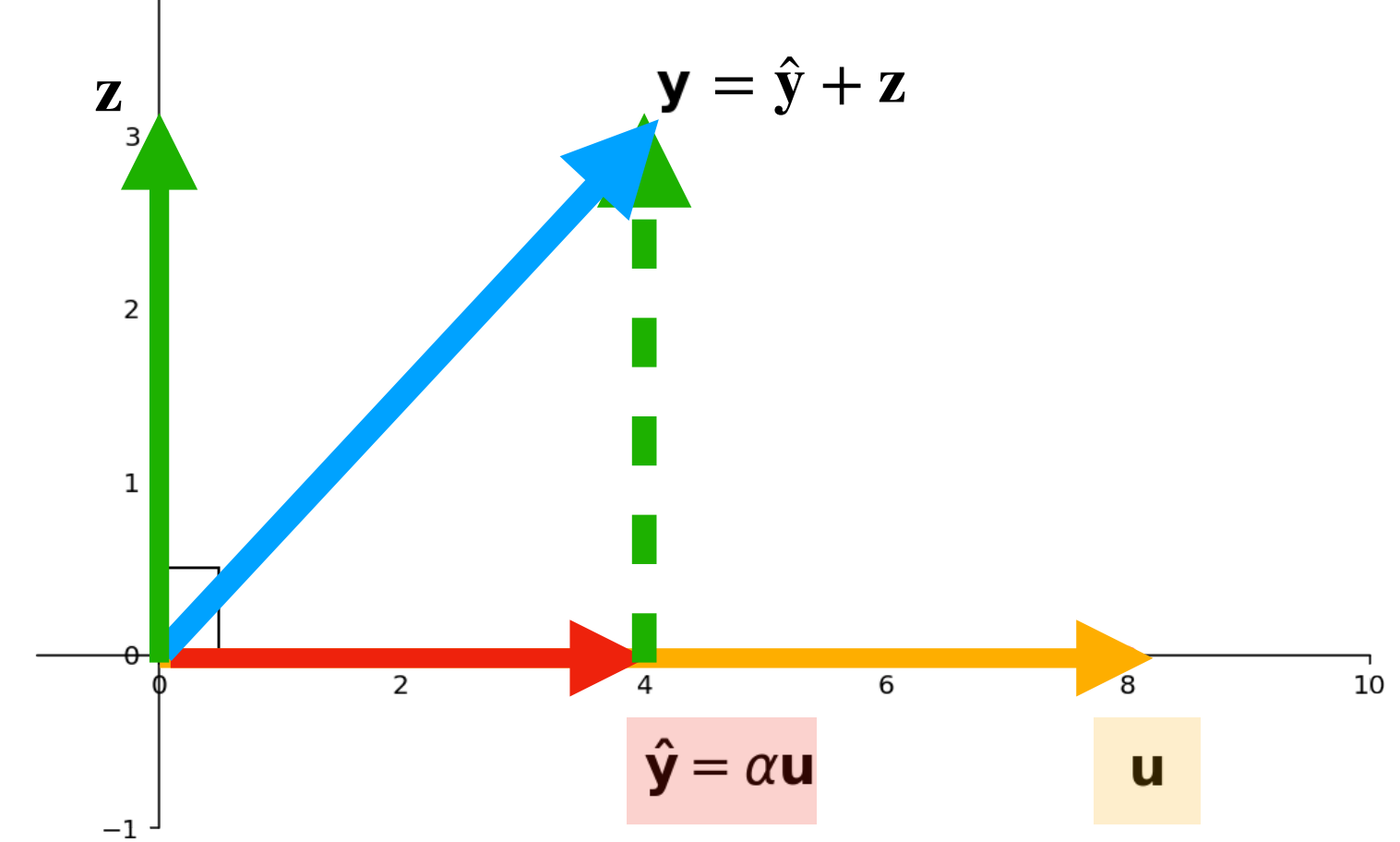
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# What we know

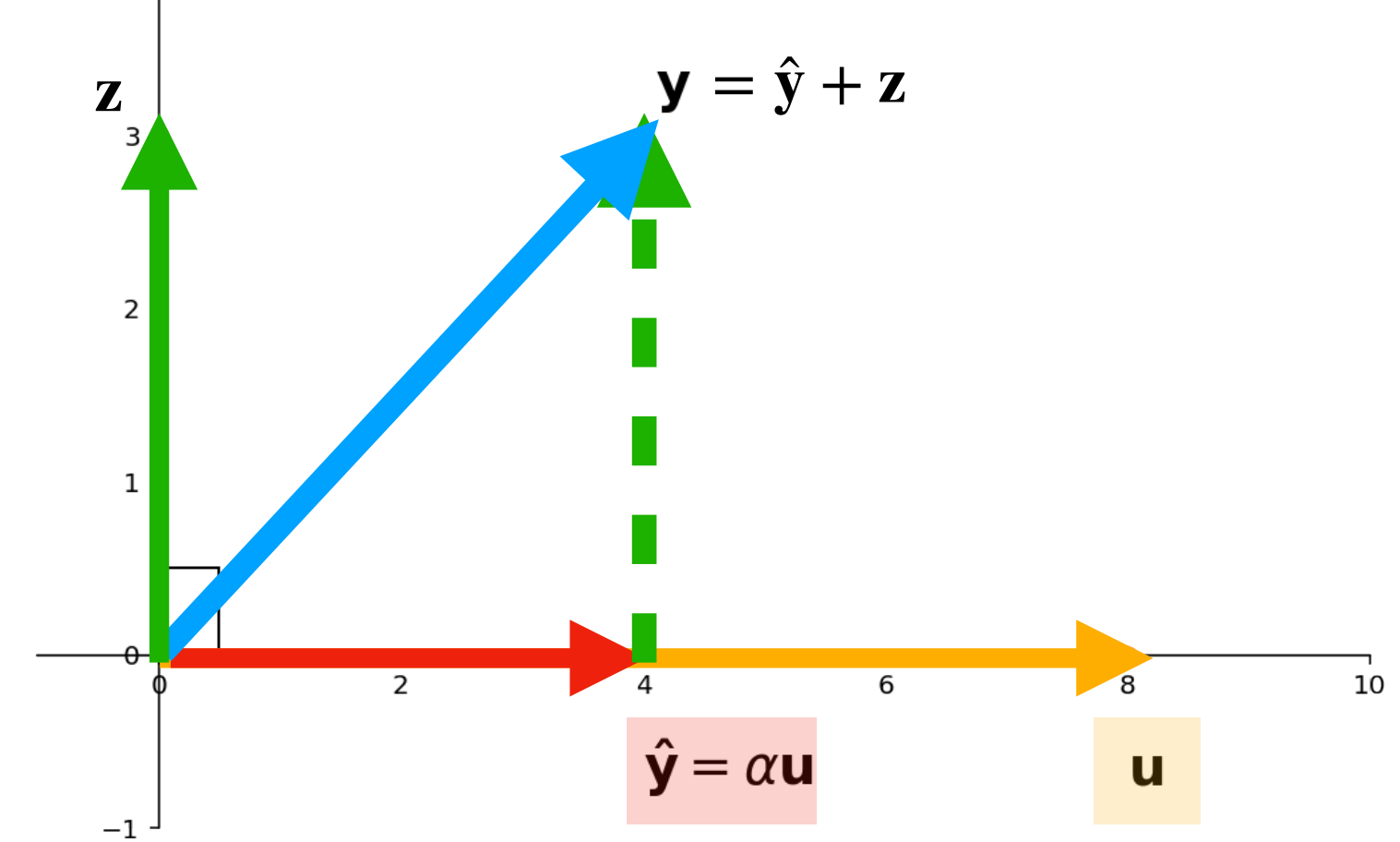


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Therefore:

$$\langle \mathbf{y} - \alpha \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u} \rangle = 0$$

# What we know



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Therefore:

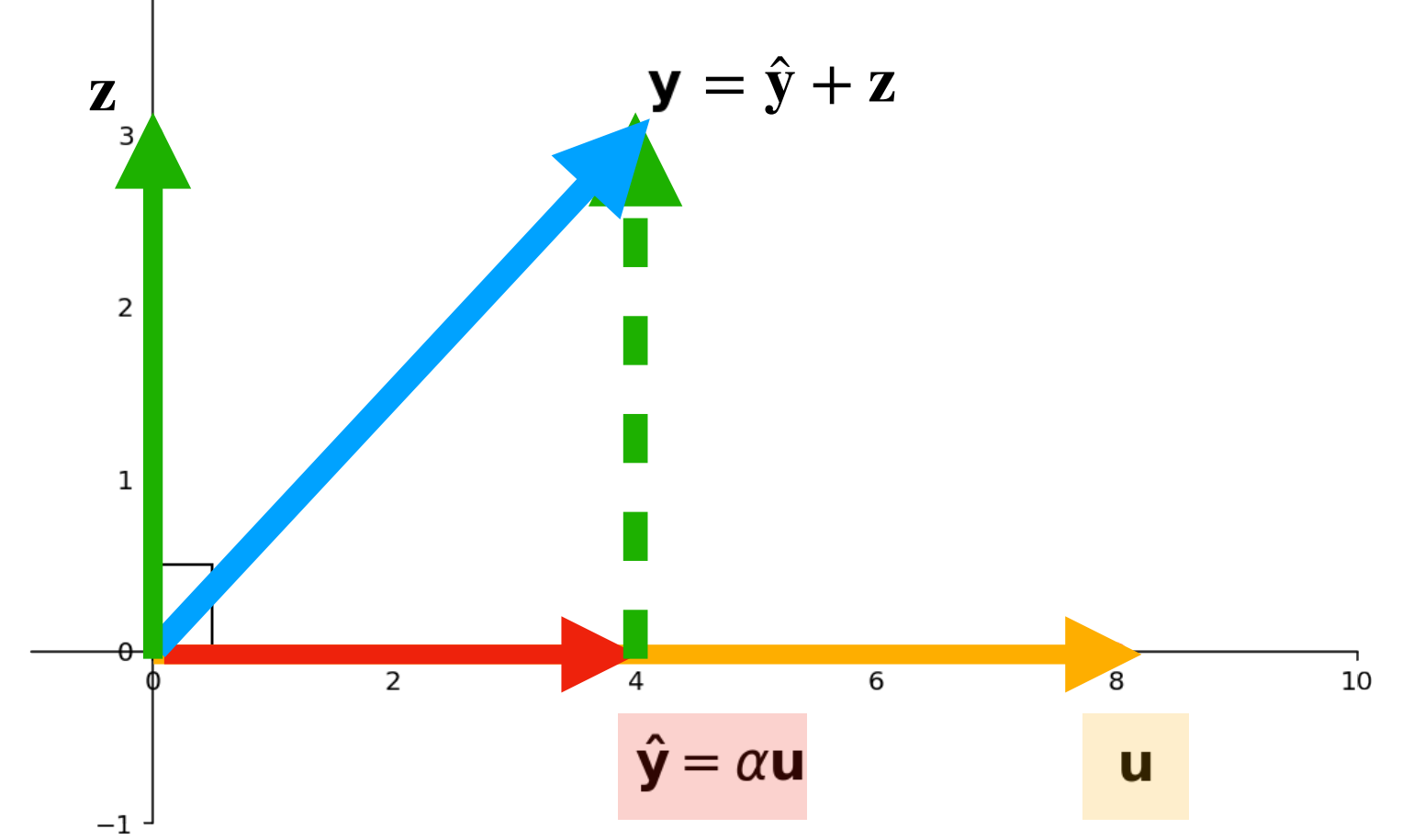
$$\langle \mathbf{y} - \alpha \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u} \rangle = 0$$

Once we have  $\alpha$ , we can compute both  $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$  and  $\mathbf{z}$

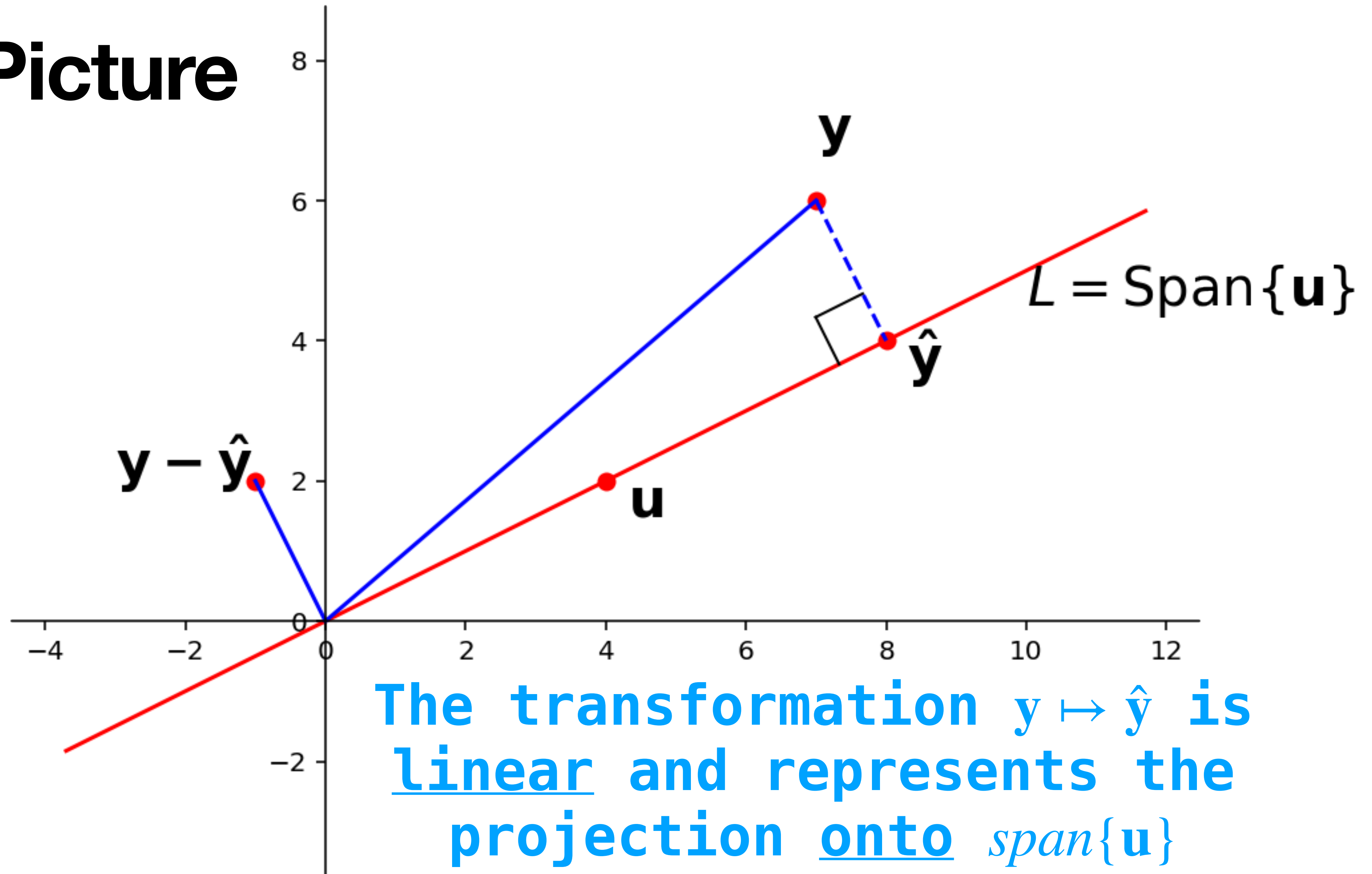
# Step 1: Finding $\alpha$

$$\langle \mathbf{y} - \alpha \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u} \rangle = 0$$

Let's solve for  $\alpha$ ,  $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$  and  $\mathbf{z}$ :



# The Picture

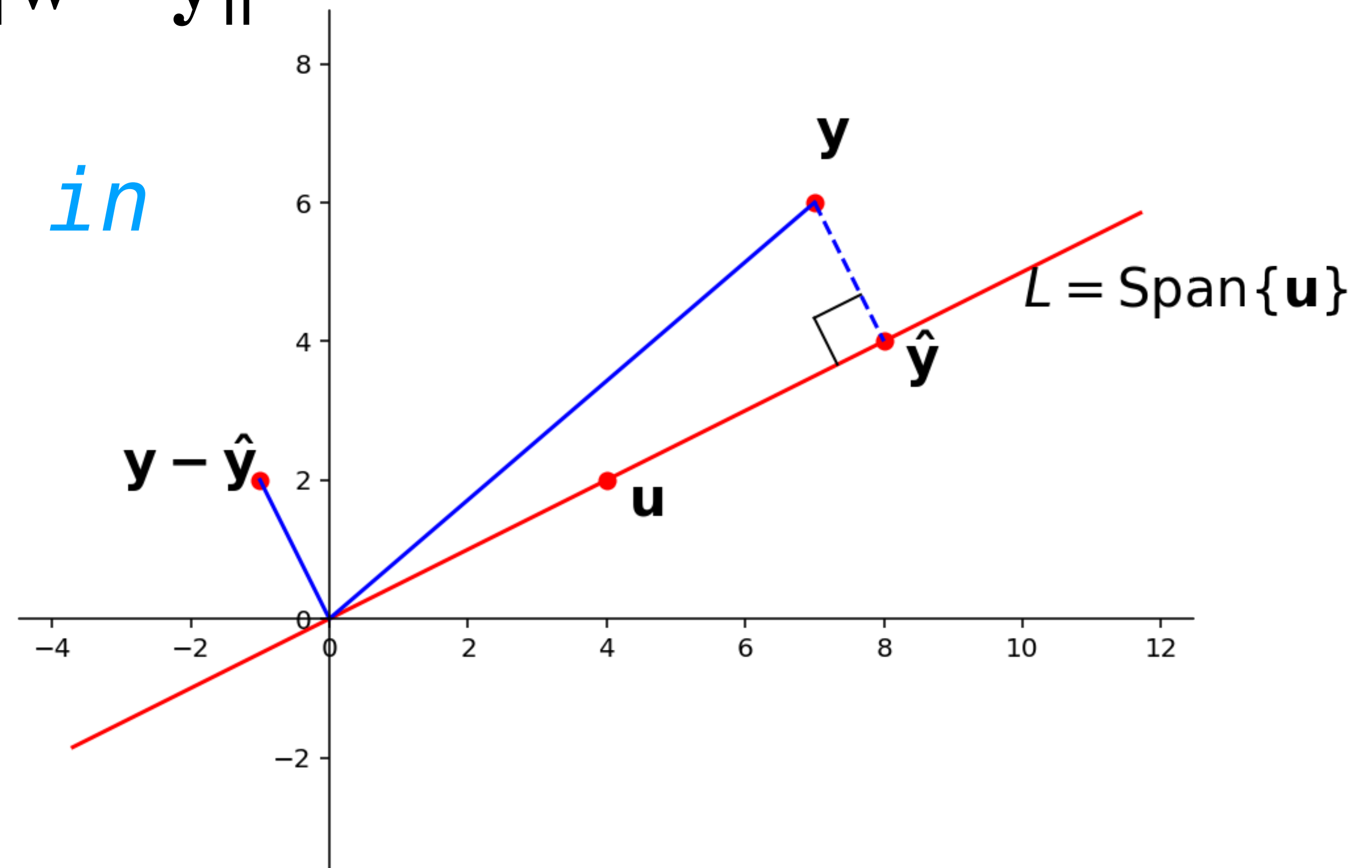


# $\hat{y}$ and Distance

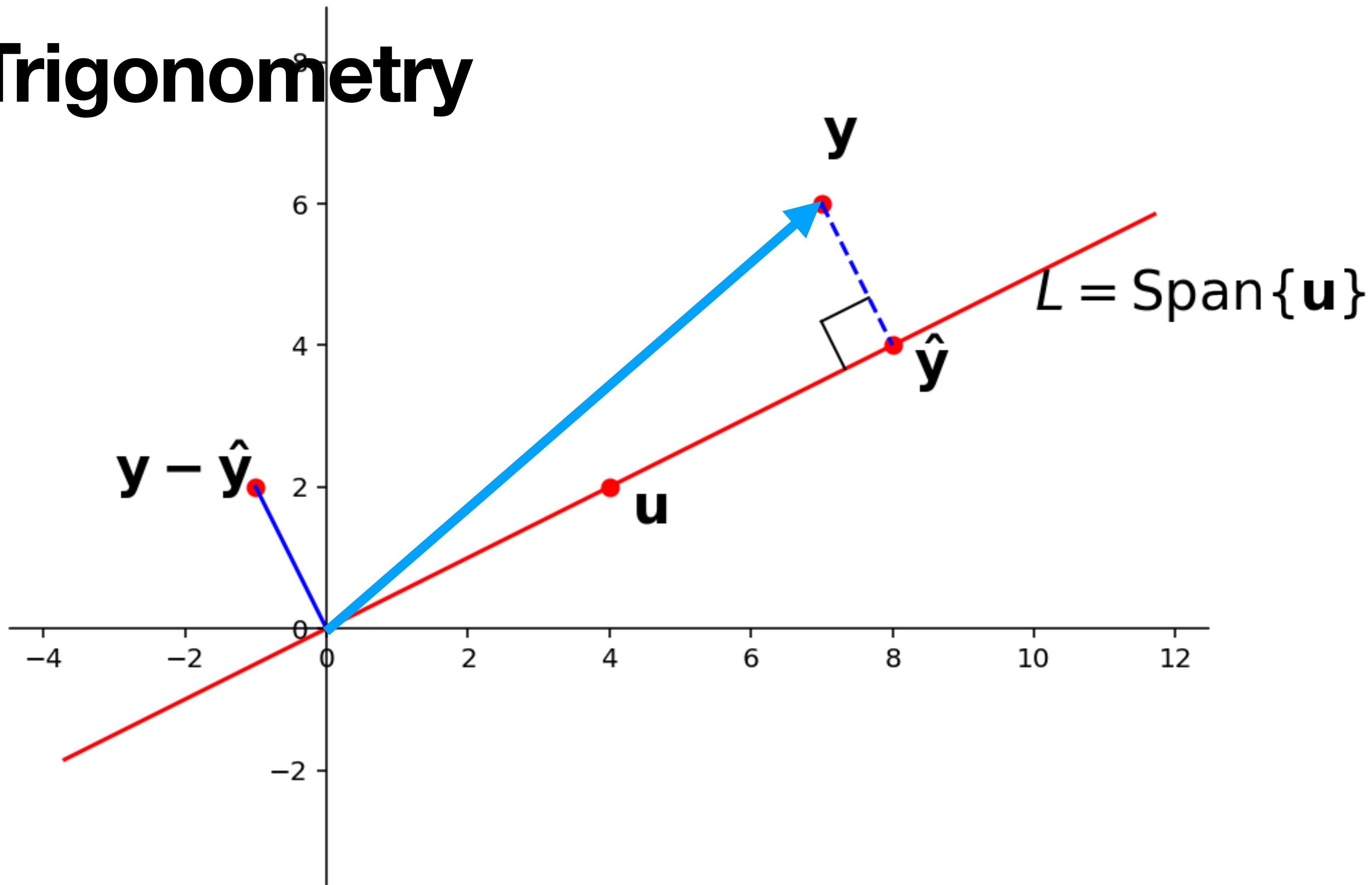
**Theorem.**  $\|\hat{y} - y\| = \min_{w \in \text{span}\{\mathbf{u}\}} \|\mathbf{w} - y\|$

$\hat{y}$  is the closest vector in  $\text{span}\{\mathbf{u}\}$  to  $y$ .

"Proof" by inspection:

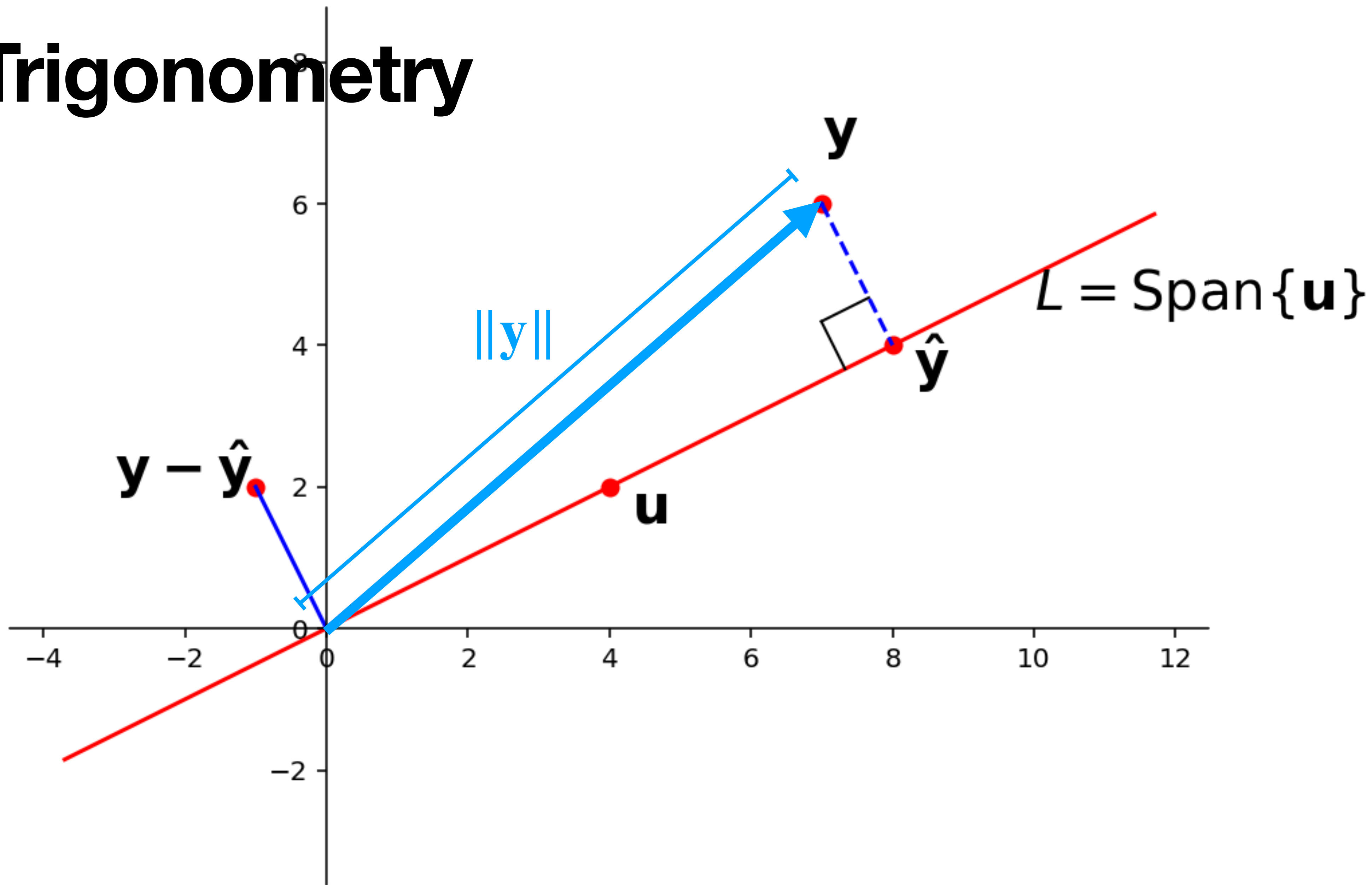


# The Trigonometry



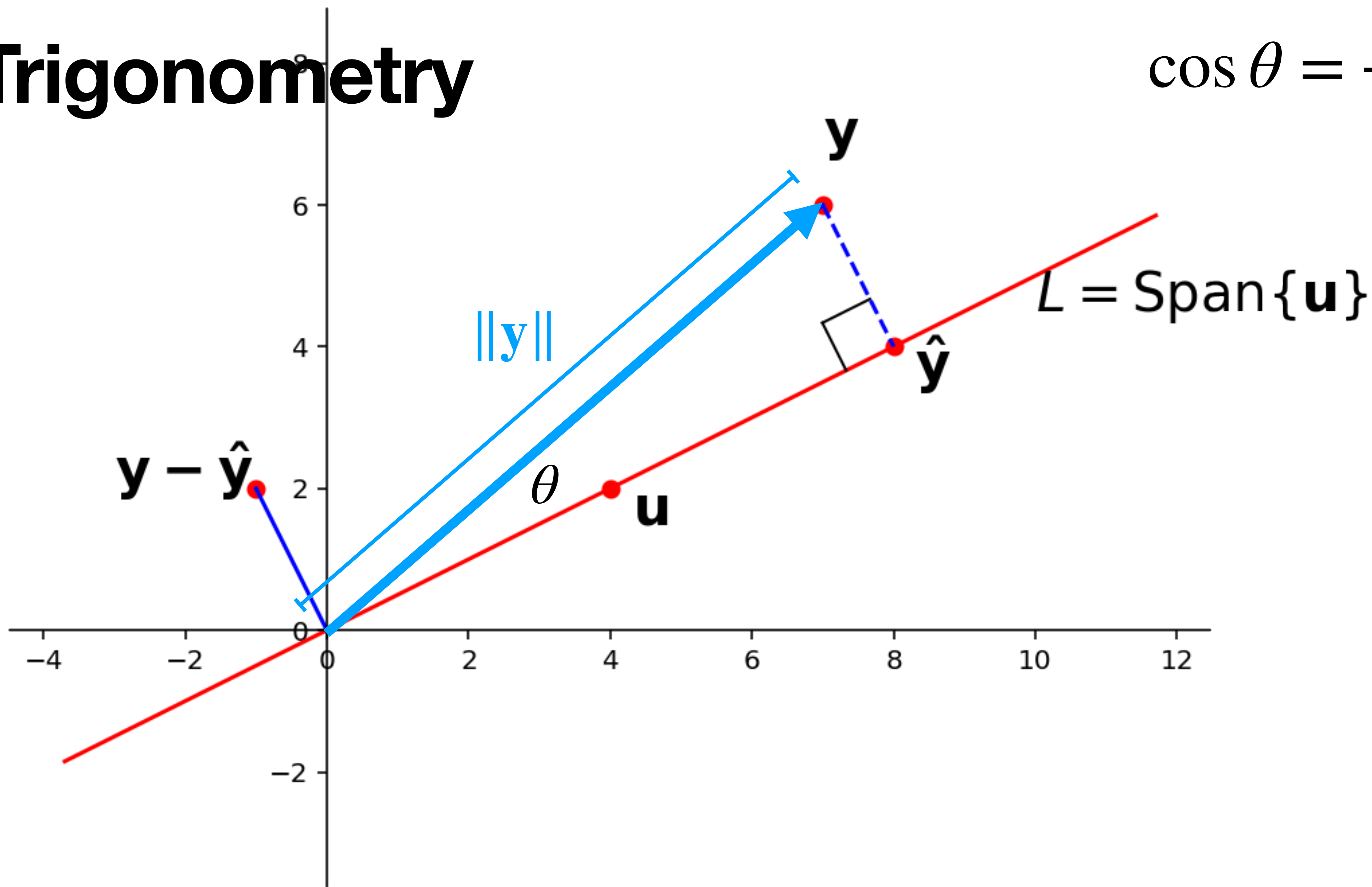


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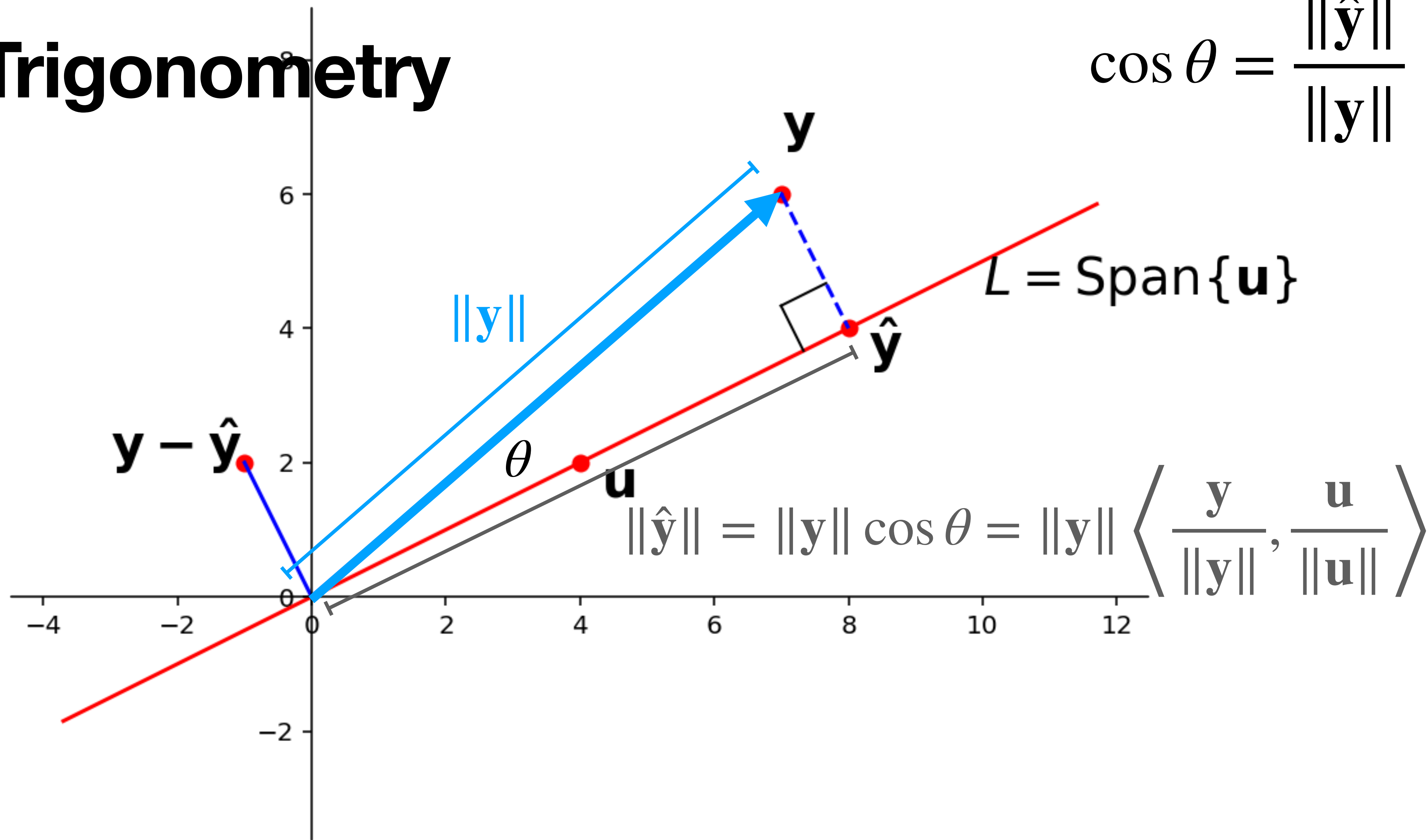
# The Trigonometry

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\|\hat{y}\|}{\|y\|}$$



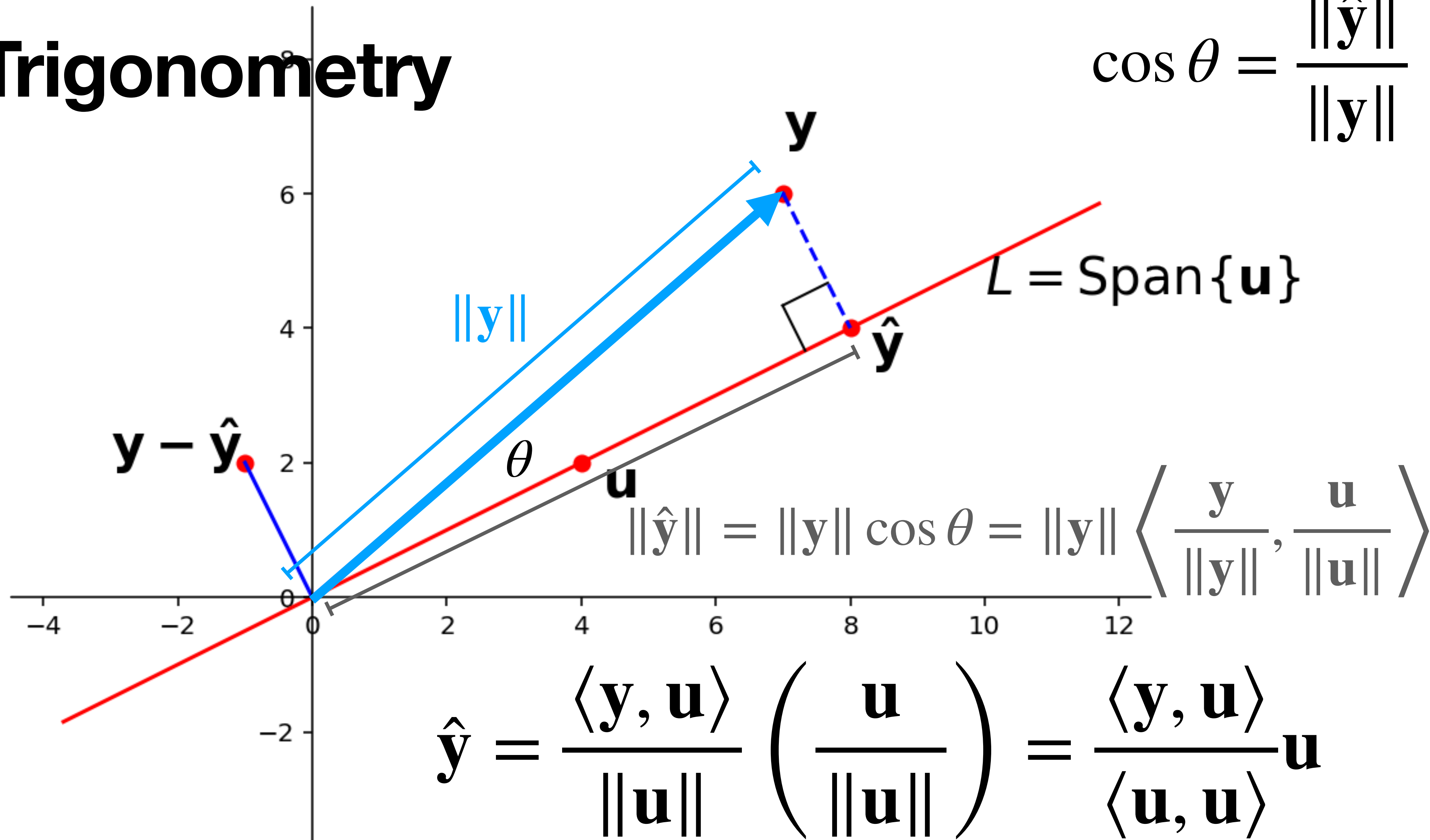
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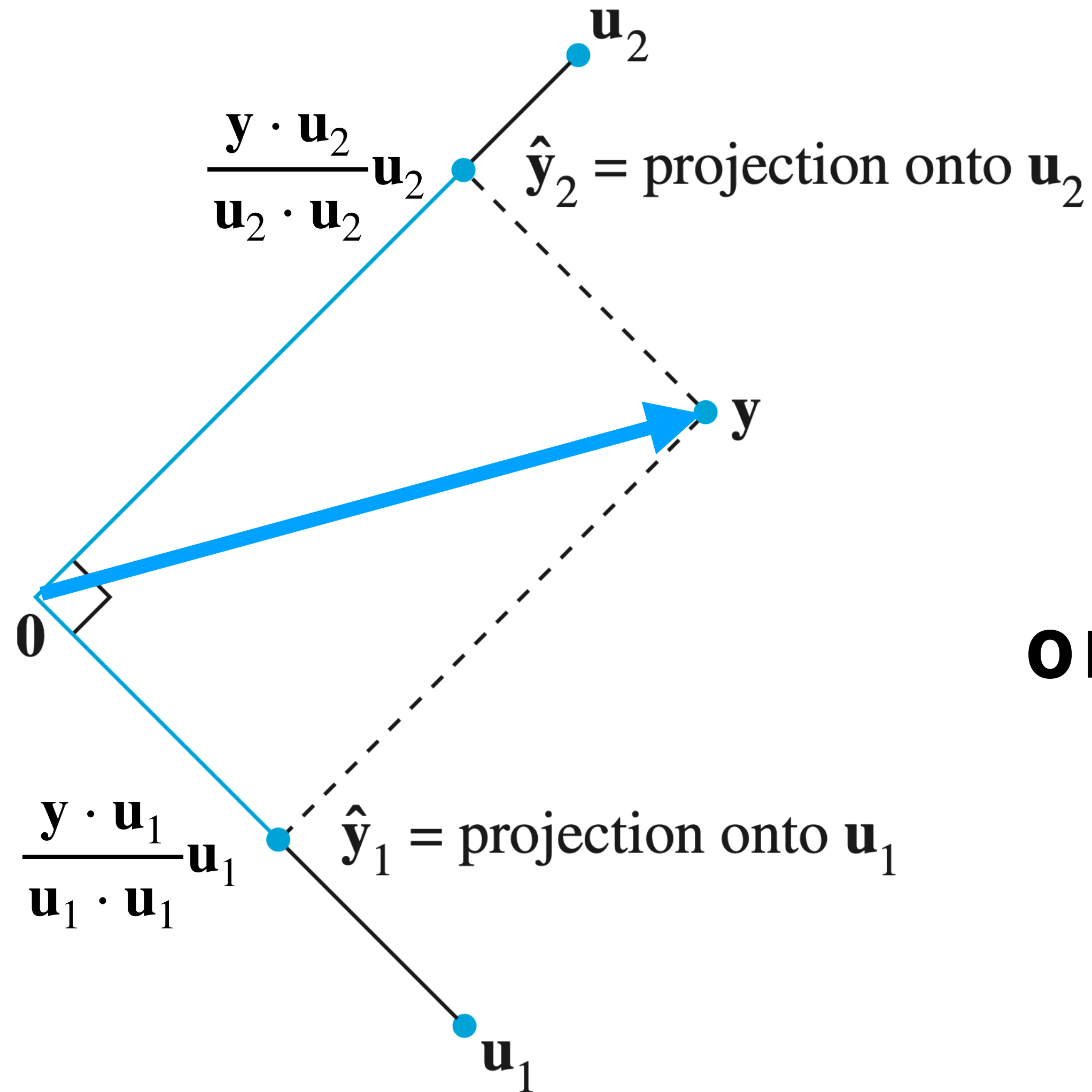


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# Orthogonal Projections and Orthogonal Bases



Each component of  $y$  written in terms of an *orthogonal* basis is an **orthogonal projection onto to a basis vector**

# How To:

**Question.** Find the projection of  $y$  onto the span of  $u$ .

**Solution.** Calculate  $\alpha = \frac{y \cdot u}{u \cdot u}$ , then the solution is  $\alpha u$ .

# Question

*Find the matrix which implements orthogonal projection onto the span of  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ .*

**Answer**

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 2 \\ -1 & 1 & -2 \\ 2 & -2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$



# Orthonormal Sets

Orthogonal sets would be easier to  
work with if every vector was a  
unit vector

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**This is incredibly confusing, but we'll try to be consistent and clear.**

# Orthonormal Matrices and Transposition

**Theorem.** For an  $m \times n$  orthonormal matrix  $U$

$$U^T U = I_m$$

Verify:

# Inverses of Orthogonal Matrices

**Theorem.** If an  $n \times n$  matrix  $U$  is orthogonal (square orthonormal) then it is invertible and

$$U^{-1} = U^T$$

Verify:

# Orthonormal Matrices and Inner Products

**Theorem.** For a  $m \times n$  orthonormal matrix  $U$ , and any vectors  $x$  and  $y$  in  $R^n$

$$\langle Ux, Uy \rangle = \langle x, y \rangle$$

*Orthonormal matrices preserve inner products.*

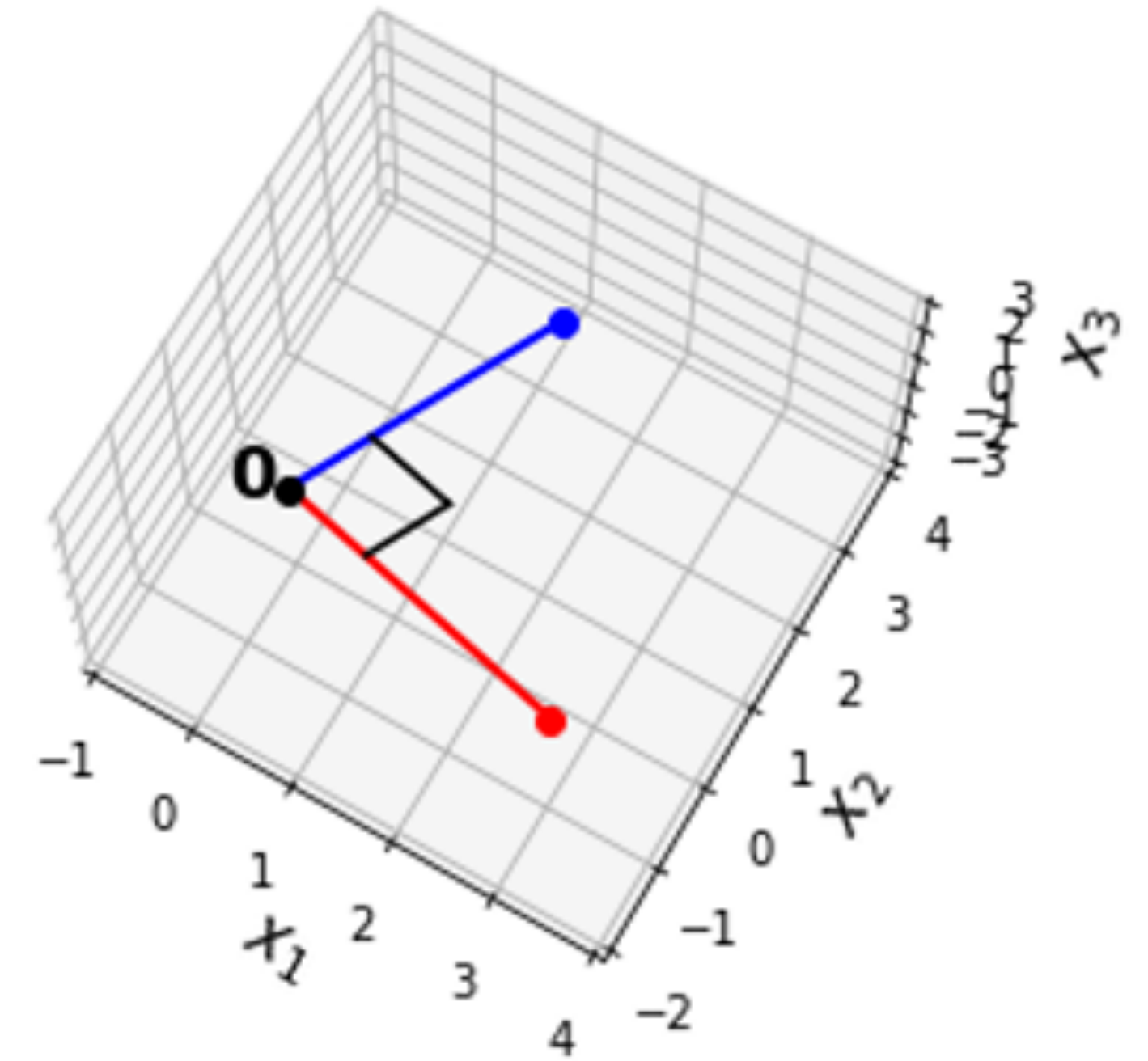
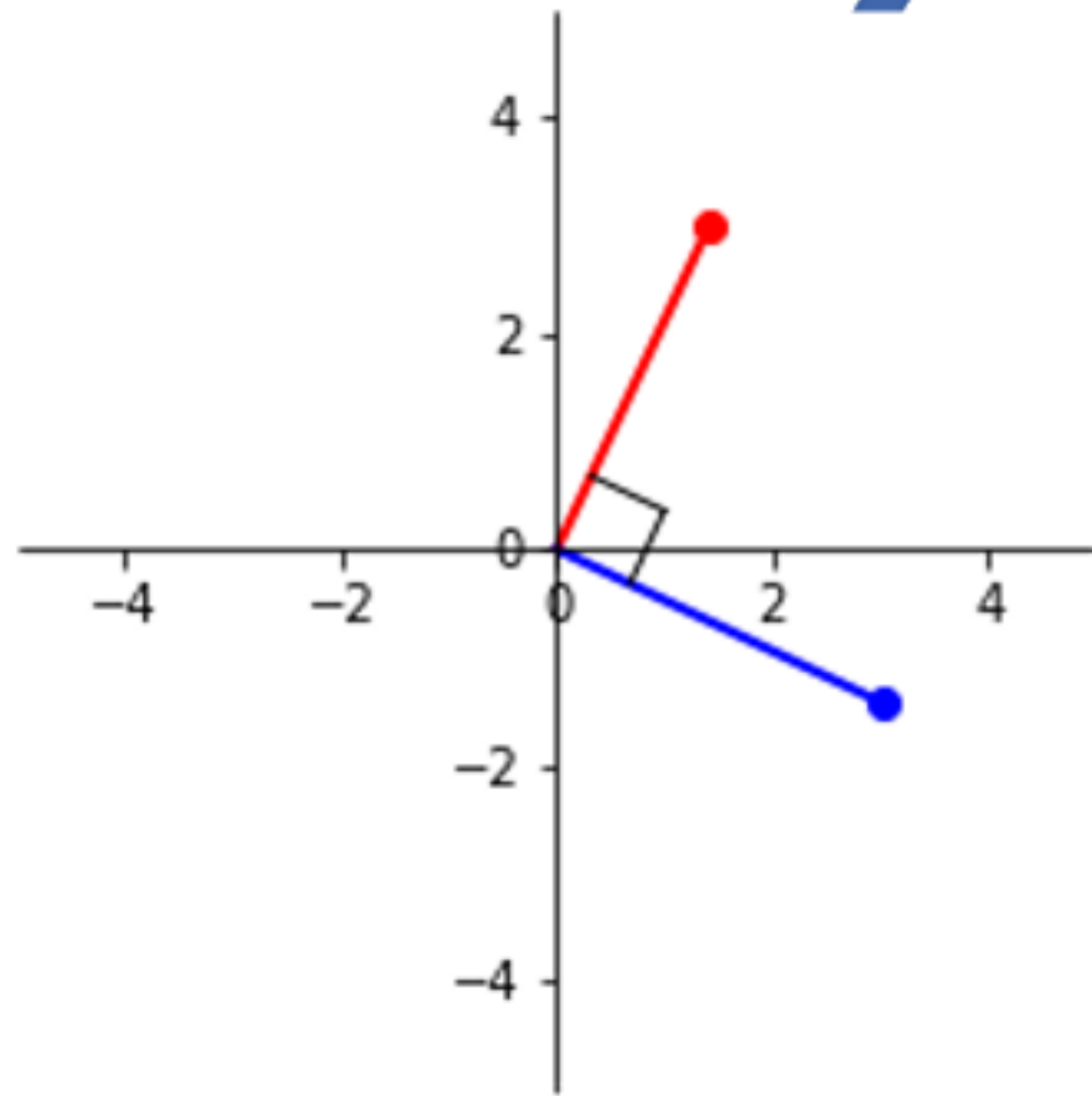
Verify:

# Length, Angle, Orthogonality Preservation

Since lengths and angles are defined in terms of inner products, they are also preserved by orthonormal matrices:

# The Picture

Orthonormal U



# Example

$$U = \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} & 2/3 \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & -2/3 \\ 0 & 1/3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{2} \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$



# Question (Conceptual)

*Suppose  $A$  is an  $m \times n$  matrix with orthogonal but **not** orthonormal columns. What is  $A^T A$ ?*

# Answer

If  $A = [\mathbf{a}_1 \ \mathbf{a}_2 \ \dots \ \mathbf{a}_n]$  then  $A^T A$  is a diagonal matrix  $D$  where

$$D_{ii} = \|\mathbf{a}_i\|^2$$

# Summary

Orthogonal sets allow for simpler calculations of coordinates.

Finding these coordinates is a really about find the orthogonal projections onto each vector in the orthogonal set.

We can apply these ideas to matrices and describe a class of very well behaved transformations via orthonormal matrices.