



On the picture: OE shows East direction, A is a projection of a position of the first airplane and B is a projection of a position of the second airplane. $\angle AOE = 20^\circ$, $\angle BOE = 25^\circ$, $AO = 120$ and $BO = 110$.

Let we have 2 vectors – v_1 and v_2 . v_1 is the vector from the origin (airport) to the first airplane and v_2 is the vector from the origin (airport) to the second airplane. We will use them in Cartesian 3-dimensional coordinates x, y and z . Let OE is x -axis, SO is y -axis and z -axis is directed upwards. Then we have:

$$v_1 = (x_1, y_1, z_1) = (120 \cos 20^\circ, 120 \sin 20^\circ, 2.5) = (112.76, 41, 2.5)$$

$$v_2 = (x_2, y_2, z_2) = (110 \cos 25^\circ, 110 \sin 25^\circ, 3.5) = (99.69, 46.49, 3.5)$$

The vector u from the first airplane to the second is:

$$u = v_2 - v_1 = (-13.07, 5.49, 1)$$

In terms of altitude, horizontal distance and bearing we have:

Altitude: 1000m

$$\text{Horizontal distance: } d = \sqrt{(-13.07)^2 + 5.49^2} = 14.18\text{km}$$

Bearing: $\phi = \text{atan} \frac{y}{x} = \text{atan} \left(\frac{5.49}{-13.07} \right) = -22.78^\circ \approx -23^\circ$ which means 23° to the south of west.