

vectors and Scalars

A Scalar is a physical quantity with magnitude (and units). Examples: Temperature, Pressure, Distance, Speed

A Vector is a physical quantity with magnitude and direction:

- Displacement: Washington D.C. is 250 miles N of Norfolk
- Wind Velocity : 20mi/hr towards SW

Fundamental definitions:

Two vectors \vec{A} and \vec{B} are equal if they have the same *magnitude* and *direction* regardless of the initial points



•Having direction opposite to \vec{A} but having the same magnitude

Addition: $\vec{C} = \vec{A} + \vec{B}$





$\vec{D}_{net} = \vec{D}_1 + \vec{D}_2 + \vec{D}_3 + \vec{D}_4$





Note head-to-tail arrangement for addition



Adding Vectors Geometrically



Associative Law

Sum obeys associative law

$(\vec{a} + \vec{b}) + \vec{c} = \vec{a} + (\vec{b} + \vec{c})$



Laws of vector

1. $\vec{A} + \vec{B} = \vec{B} + \vec{A}$ 2. $\vec{A} + (\vec{B} + \vec{C}) = (\vec{A} + \vec{B}) + \vec{C}$ 3. $\lambda \vec{A} = \vec{A} \lambda$ 4. $\mu(\lambda \vec{A}) = (\mu \lambda) \vec{A}$ 5. $(\mu + \lambda)\vec{A} = \mu\vec{A} + \lambda\vec{A}$ 6. $\lambda(\vec{A} + \vec{B}) = \lambda \vec{A} + \lambda \vec{B}$

Components of a Vector

- A **component** is a part
- It is useful to use rectangular components
 - These are the projections of the vector along the x- and y-axes





 An angle is negative if the rotation is clockwise from the positive x-direction.

Vector Component Terminology

\$\vec{A}_x\$ and \$\vec{A}_y\$ are the component vectors of \$\vec{A}\$
 They are vectors and follow all the rules for vectors

$$\vec{\mathbf{A}}_x + \vec{\mathbf{A}}_y = \vec{\mathbf{A}}$$

- A_x and A_y are scalars, and will be referred to as the *components* of \vec{A}
- The combination of the component vectors is a valid substitution for the actual vector

• The x-component of a vector is the projection along the x-axis:

$$A_x = \left| \vec{\mathbf{A}} \right| \cos \theta$$

The y-component of a vector is the projection along the y-axis: $A_y = |\vec{\mathbf{A}}| \sin \theta$



 When using this form of the equations, θ must be measured ccw from the positive x-axis (mathematical standard definition)





- Must find θ with respect to the positive x-axis

- Use the signs of A_x and A_y and a sketch to track the correct value of θ

- The components can be positive or negative and will have the same units as the original vector
- The signs of the components will depend on the angle

y		
A_x negative	A_x positive	
A_y positive	A_y positive	V
A_x negative	A_x positive	$\boldsymbol{\lambda}$
A _y negative	A_y negative	



Vector Addition, Components

- When we add two vectors, the components add separately:
 - $$\begin{split} C_x &= A_x + B_x &= B_x + A_x \\ C_y &= A_y + B_y &= B_y + A_y \end{split}$$



Components of a Vector, final



 $\vec{A} + \vec{B} = \vec{C}$

 $C_x = A_x + B_x$ $C_y = A_y + B_y$ $\left|\vec{\mathbf{C}}\right| = C = \sqrt{C_x^2 + C_y^2}$

$$\theta = \tan^{-1} \frac{C_y}{C_x}$$

Components of a Vector, Example

Example: A car travels 3 km North, then 2 km Northeast, then 4 km West, and finally 3 km Southeast. What is the resultant displacement? Use the component method of vector addition.



X-components

 $A_x = 0 \text{ km}$ $B_x = (2 \text{ km}) \cos 45^\circ = 1.4 \text{ km}$ $C_x = -4 \text{ km}$ $D_x = (3km) \cos 45^\circ = 2.1 km$

Y-components

 $A_v = 3$ km $B_v = (2 \text{ km}) \sin 45^\circ = 1.4 \text{ km}$ $C_v = 0$ km $D_v = (3km) \sin 315^\circ = -2.1 km$ $R_x = A_x + B_x + C_x + D_x = 0 \text{ km} + 1.4 \text{ km} - 4.0 \text{ km} + 2.1 \text{ km} = -0.5 \text{ km}$

 $R_y = A_y + B_y + C_y + D_y = 3.0 \text{ km} + 1.4 \text{ km} + 0 \text{ km} - 2.1 \text{ km} = 2.3 \text{ km}$

Magnitude:





- A **unit vector** has a magnitude of 1 and points in a particular direction
- The unit vectors in the positive directions of the x, y, and z axes are labeled \hat{i}, \hat{j} and \hat{k} .



The arrangement of axes is a righthanded coordinate system. $\vec{A} = x\hat{i} + y\hat{j} + z\hat{k}$, (x, y, z) are different components of the vector \vec{A} .

•Magnitude of \vec{A} :

$$A = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$$



Example: Find the magnitude and the unit vector of a vector $\vec{A} = -\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} - \hat{k}$ Write: $\vec{A} = A\hat{a}$, where

Magnitude:
$$A = \sqrt{(-1)^2 + 2^2 + (-1)^2} = \sqrt{6}$$

Unit vector: $\hat{a} = \frac{\hat{A}}{A} = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}\hat{i} + \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}}\hat{j} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}\hat{k}$

Adding Vectors by Components

Figure shows the following three vectors:

and

$$\vec{a} = (4.2 \text{ m})\hat{i} - (1.5 \text{ m})\hat{j},$$

 $\vec{b} = (-1.6 \text{ m})\hat{i} + (2.9 \text{ m})\hat{j},$
 $\vec{c} = (-3.7 \text{ m})\hat{j}.$

• What is their vector sum \vec{r} , which is also shown?



Solution

 $r_{x} = a_{x} + b_{x} + c_{x}$ = 4.2 m - 1.6 m + 0 = 2.6 m $r_{v} = a_{v} + b_{v} + c_{v}$ =-1.5 m + 2.9 m - 3.7 m = -2.3 m $\vec{r} = (2.6 \text{ m}) \hat{i} - (2.3 \text{ m}) \hat{j},$ The magnitude is $r = \sqrt{(2.6 \text{ m})^2 + (-2.3 \text{ m})^2} \approx 3.5 \text{ m}$ The angle from the positive x-direction is $\theta = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{-2.3 \text{ m}}{2.6 \text{ m}} \right) = -41^{\circ}$

Multiplying Vectors

The scalar product (also known as the dot product)

$\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = a b \cos \phi$



Laws of dot product:

$$\hat{i}.\hat{i} = \hat{j}.\hat{j} = \hat{k}.\hat{k} = 1$$

 $\hat{i}.\hat{j} = \hat{i}.\hat{k} = \hat{j}.\hat{k} = 0$

 $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = (A_x \,\hat{i} + A_y \,\hat{j} + A_z \,\hat{k}) \cdot (B_x \,\hat{i} + B_y \,\hat{j} + B_z \,\hat{k}),$ $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = A_x \, B_x + A_y \, B_y + A_z \, B_z,$

 $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = \vec{B} \cdot \vec{A}$ $\vec{A} \cdot (\vec{B} + \vec{C}) = \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} + \vec{A} \cdot \vec{C}$



 $A.B = (2i + 3j) \cdot (-i + 2j)$

 $= -2i \cdot i + 2i \cdot j - 3j \cdot i + 3j \cdot 2j = -2 + 6 = 4$

 $\vec{A} = -\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} - \hat{k} \qquad \vec{B} = 2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} - \hat{k}$ $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = -2 + 6 + 1 = 5$

The vector product



 $\vec{a} \times \vec{b} = a b \sin \phi$ The right-handed rule

Laws of cross product:

1. $\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = -\vec{B} \times \vec{A}$ **2.** $\vec{A} \times (\vec{B} + \vec{C}) = \vec{A} \times \vec{B} + \vec{A} \times \vec{C}$ **3.** $\hat{i} \times \hat{i} = \hat{j} \times \hat{j} = \hat{k} \times \hat{k} = 0;$ $\hat{i} \times \hat{j} = \hat{k}, \hat{j} \times \hat{k} = \hat{i}, = \hat{k} \times \hat{i} = \hat{j} \uparrow_{\hat{k}}$

$$\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = (A_x \,\hat{i} + A_y \,\hat{j} + A_z \,\hat{k}) \times (B_x \,\hat{i} + B_y \,\hat{j} + B_z \,\hat{k}),$$
$$\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = (A_y B_z - B_y A_z) \,\hat{i} - (A_x B_z - A_z B_x) \,\hat{j} + (A_x B_y - B_x A_y) \,\hat{k}.$$

Example: Evaluate the cross product of vectors

$$\vec{A} = -\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} - \hat{k}$$
 $\vec{B} = 2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} - \hat{k}$

$$\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = \hat{i} - 3\hat{j} - 7\hat{k}$$



The vector \vec{c} is perpendicular to both \vec{a} and \vec{b} . We can show that $\vec{c} \cdot \vec{a} = 0$ and $\vec{c} \cdot \vec{b} = 0$

Which figure shows $\vec{A}_1 + \vec{A}_2 + \vec{A}_3$?



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Which figure shows $2\vec{A} - \vec{B}$?





What are the *x*- and *y*-components C_x and C_y of vector C?



1) $C_x = -3 \text{ cm}, C_y = 1 \text{ cm}$ 2) $C_x = -4 \text{ cm}, C_y = 2 \text{ cm}$ 3) $C_x = -2 \text{ cm}, C_y = 1 \text{ cm}$ 4) $C_x = -3 \text{ cm}, C_y = -1 \text{ cm}$ 5) $C_x = 1 \text{ cm}, C_y = -1 \text{ cm}$

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