

Mechanics



1.Units, dimensional analysis and trigonometry

1.1.Dimensional analysis

- Dimensional analysis is a way of making sure that an equation is correct, and that you have the right units in your answer.
- The dimensions in an equation are the units that we are working in (cm, s, Kg etc).
 - We will mostly work with *SI* units (kg, m, s), with some use being made of *cgs* (cm, gm, s) and US customary units.
- If you write an answer with no units, or incorrect units, you will drop a point.

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2-1Scalars



1.A **scalar quantity** is a quantity that has **magnitude only** and has **no direction** in space

Examples of Scalar Quantities:

- ▶ Length
- ▶ Area
- ▶ Volume
- ▶ Time
- ▶ Mass



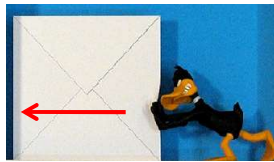
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2-2 Vectors

2- A **vector quantity** is a quantity that has both **magnitude** and a **direction** in space

Examples of Vector Quantities:

- ▶ Displacement
- ▶ Velocity
- ▶ Acceleration
- ▶ Force



3-Properties of Vectors

1. Equality of Two Vectors

- Two vectors are **equal** if they have the same magnitude (same units) and same direction

2. Parallel translation in a diagram

- Any vector can be moved parallel to itself without being affected

3. Negative vectors are directed in the opposite direction of positive vectors

4. Resultant Vector

- The **resultant** vector is the sum of a given set of vectors

$$\vec{R} = \vec{A} + \vec{B} + \dots$$



4- Unit Vector:



Is a vector whose magnitude is **equal to one only and dimensionless**, show the direction of the original vector \vec{A} , $|\vec{A}|$ is the magnitude of \vec{A} .

$$\vec{A} = \hat{a}A \quad \text{or} \quad \vec{A} = \hat{a}|\vec{A}|$$

So that, the unit vector is equal to: $\hat{a} = \frac{\vec{A}}{A}$ or $\hat{a} = \frac{\vec{A}}{|\vec{A}|}$

The symbols **i, j and k** represent unit vectors pointing in the directions **x, y and z** positives, respectively



4- Unit Vector:

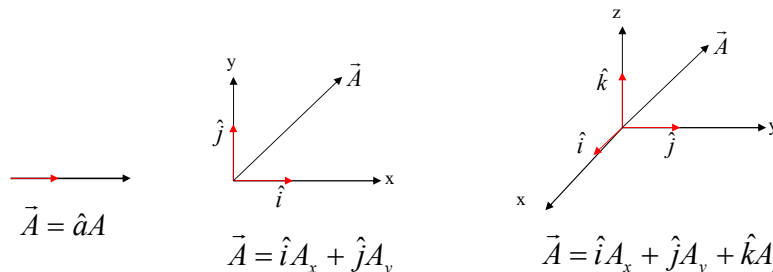


Now V can be written $V = V_x \mathbf{i} + V_y \mathbf{j}$.

If we need to add the vector $\mathbf{A} = A_x \mathbf{i} + A_y \mathbf{j}$ with the vector $\mathbf{B} = B_x \mathbf{i} + B_y \mathbf{j}$ we write

$$\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B} = A_x \mathbf{i} + A_y \mathbf{j} + B_x \mathbf{i} + B_y \mathbf{j} = (A_x + B_x)\mathbf{i} + (A_y + B_y)\mathbf{j}.$$

1. The components of \mathbf{R} are $\mathbf{R}_x = \mathbf{A}_x + \mathbf{B}_x$ and $\mathbf{R}_y = \mathbf{A}_y + \mathbf{B}_y$



5- Working out the components of a vector

- The projection of vectors along coordinate axes are called component of a vector.

Projection of \vec{A} on x-axis is A_x

Projection of \vec{A} on y-axis is A_y

- All vectors can be split into horizontal (A_x) and vertical (A_y) components.
- So that This vector can be represented as the sum:

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

- Thus,

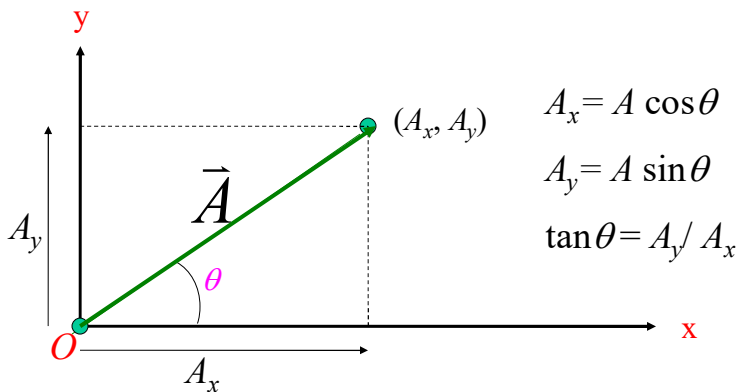
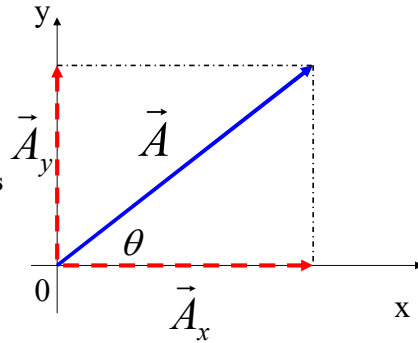
$$|\vec{A}| = \sqrt{|A_x|^2 + |A_y|^2}$$

Where

$$A_x = A \cos \theta$$

$$A_y = A \sin \theta$$

$$\tan \theta = \frac{A_y}{A_x}$$



$$A_x = A \cos \theta$$

$$A_y = A \sin \theta$$

$$\tan \theta = A_y / A_x$$

$$A = \sqrt{A_x^2 + A_y^2} = |\vec{A}|. \vec{A} \text{ is a unit vector, if } |\vec{A}| = 1.$$

$\vec{A} = A_x \hat{i} + A_y \hat{j}$, where \hat{i} and \hat{j} are unit vectors in the x – and y – directions, respectively.

6- Properties of Vectors

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

Addition

$$\vec{a} + \vec{b} = \vec{b} + \vec{a}$$

Commutative Property

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

Associative Property

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

Distributive Property

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

Distributive Property

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7- Resultant of Two Vectors

The resultant is the sum or the combined effect of two vector quantities

Vectors in the same direction ($\theta=0$):

$$\begin{array}{c} 6\text{ N} \rightarrow \quad 4\text{ N} \rightarrow \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} 10\text{ N} \rightarrow \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} 6\text{ m} \rightarrow \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} 10\text{ m} \rightarrow \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} 4\text{ m} \rightarrow \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Vectors in opposite directions ($\theta=180$): :

$$\begin{array}{c} 6\text{ m s}^{-1} \leftarrow \quad 10\text{ m s}^{-1} \leftarrow \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} 4\text{ m s}^{-1} \leftarrow \\ \hline \end{array}$$

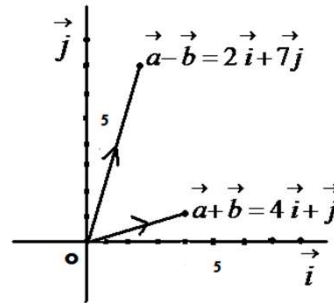
$$\begin{array}{c} 6\text{ N} \leftarrow \quad 10\text{ N} \leftarrow \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} 4\text{ N} \rightarrow \\ \hline \end{array}$$

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A. Operations with the \vec{i} and \vec{j} Vectors

(i) **Adding and Subtracting:** you add (or subtract) the \vec{i} parts and \vec{j} parts separately.

$$\vec{a} = 3\vec{i} + 4\vec{j} \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{b} = \vec{i} - 3\vec{j}$$



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(ii) Multiplication by a Scalar

$$\vec{a} = 3\vec{i} - 2\vec{j} \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{b} = -2\vec{i} + \vec{j}$$

$$\text{Then } 3\vec{a} = 3(3\vec{i} - 2\vec{j}) = 9\vec{i} - 6\vec{j}$$

$$\text{and } -3\vec{b} = -3(-2\vec{i} + \vec{j}) = 6\vec{i} - 3\vec{j}$$

(iii) The Vector

$$\vec{a} + \vec{b} = \vec{b} - \vec{a}$$

$$\vec{a} = 3\vec{i} - 2\vec{j} \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{b} = -2\vec{i} + \vec{j}$$

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B. The Modulus of a vector in terms of \vec{i} and \vec{j}

The modulus of the vector $x\vec{i} + y\vec{j} = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$

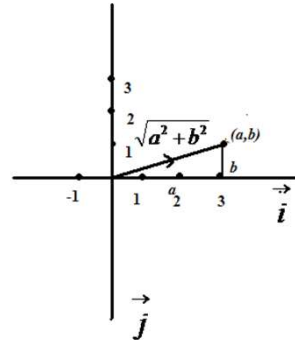
Also written as $|x\vec{i} + y\vec{j}| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$

If $\vec{a} = 6\vec{i} + 8\vec{j}$ and $\vec{b} = 2\vec{i} - 3\vec{j}$ find:

(i) $|\vec{a}|$

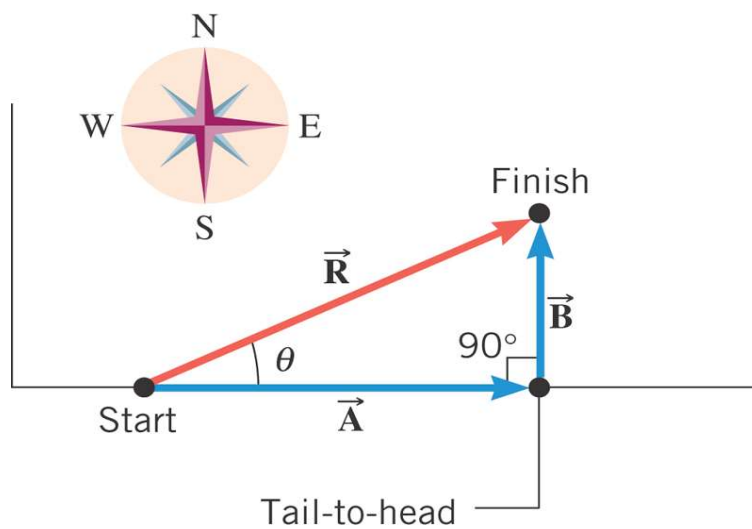
(ii) $|\vec{b}|$

(iii) $|\vec{a} + \vec{b}|$

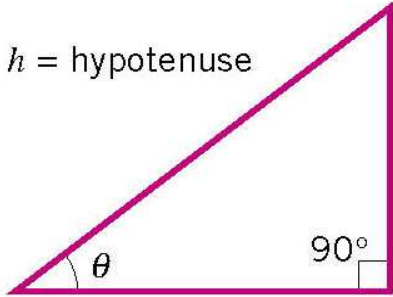


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2. When the Vectors are perpendicular to each other ($\theta=90^\circ$)



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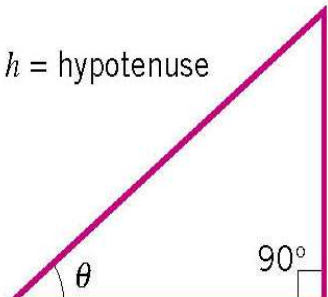
$h = \text{hypotenuse}$

$h_o = \text{length of side opposite the angle } \theta$

$h_a = \text{length of side adjacent to the angle } \theta$

$\sin \theta = \frac{h_o}{h}$ $\cos \theta = \frac{h_a}{h}$ $\tan \theta = \frac{h_o}{h_a}$

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$h = \text{hypotenuse}$

$h_o = \text{length of side opposite the angle } \theta$

$h_a = \text{length of side adjacent to the angle } \theta$

$\theta = \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{h_o}{h}\right)$

$\theta = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{h_a}{h}\right)$

$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{h_o}{h_a}\right)$

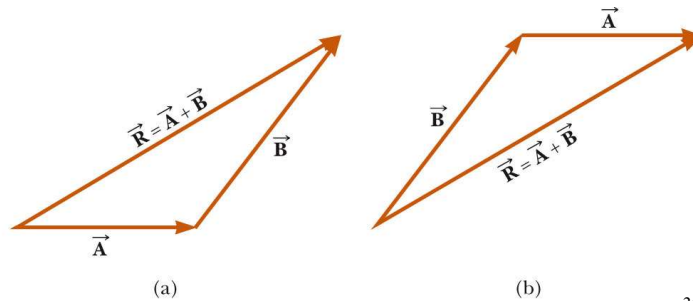
Pythagorean theorem: $h^2 = h_o^2 + h_a^2$

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Notes about Vector Addition

1. Commutative Law of Addition

- The order in which the vectors are added doesn't affect the result
- $\vec{A} + \vec{B} = \vec{B} + \vec{A}$



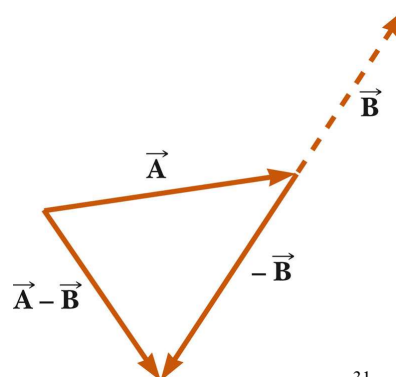
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2- Vector Subtraction

Special case of vector addition

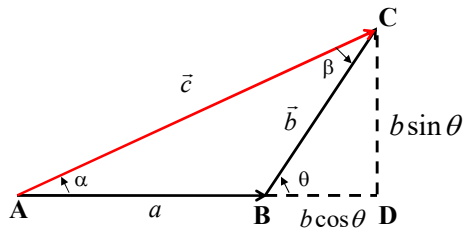
- Add the negative of the vector
- $\vec{A} - \vec{B} = \vec{A} + (-\vec{B})$



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Cosine Law



$$(\overline{AC})^2 = (\overline{AD})^2 + (\overline{DC})^2$$

but $(\overline{AD}) = (\overline{AB}) + (\overline{BD})$ and $(\overline{DC}) = b \sin \theta$

So that $c^2 = [a + b \cos \theta]^2 + [b \sin \theta]^2$

or

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

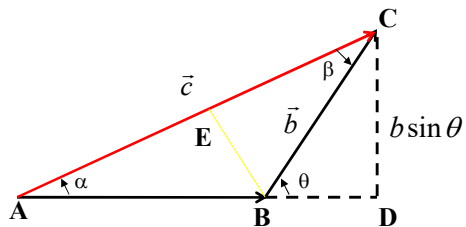
then

$$c = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + 2ab \cos \theta}$$

Cosine Law

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Sine Law



In $\triangle ACD$, $CD = AC \sin \alpha$ & $\triangle BDC$, $CD = BC \sin \theta$

$$\therefore c \sin \alpha = b \sin \theta \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{b}{\sin \alpha} = \frac{c}{\sin \theta}$$

Similarly, $BE = a \sin \alpha = b \sin \beta$ or $\frac{b}{\sin \alpha} = \frac{a}{\sin \beta}$

$$\therefore \frac{c}{\sin \theta} = \frac{b}{\sin \alpha} = \frac{a}{\sin \beta}$$

Sine Law

This called Sine law, To find the direction of or $\vec{a} + \vec{b}$

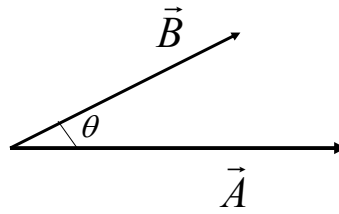
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3- Scalar Product (Dot Product)

- The dot product of vectors **A** and **B** written **A·B** and read “**A dot B**” is defined as the product of the magnitudes of A and B and the cosine of the angle between their tails.

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = AB \cos \theta$$

where $0^\circ \leq \theta \leq 180^\circ$.



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8. Laws of Operation

- There are three (3) Laws of Operations:

1. **Commutative law:**

$$A \cdot B = B \cdot A$$

2. **Multiplication by a scalar law:**

$$a(A \cdot B) = (aA) \cdot B = A \cdot (aB) = (A \cdot B)a$$

3. **Distributive law:**

$$A \cdot (B + D) = (A \cdot B) + (A \cdot D)$$

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9. Cartesian Vector Formulation

- We can now find the dot product for each of the Cartesian unit vectors, i.e.:

$$\mathbf{i} \cdot \mathbf{i} = (1)(1)\cos 0^\circ = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{i} \cdot \mathbf{j} = (1)(1)\cos 90^\circ = 0.$$

In similar way, we can see that:

$$\mathbf{j} \cdot \mathbf{j} = 1 \quad \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{k} = 1$$

$$\mathbf{i} \cdot \mathbf{j} = 0 \quad \mathbf{j} \cdot \mathbf{k} = 0 \quad \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{i} = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} &= (A_x \mathbf{i} + A_y \mathbf{j} + A_z \mathbf{k})(B_x \mathbf{i} + B_y \mathbf{j} + B_z \mathbf{k}) \\ &= A_x B_x (\mathbf{i} \cdot \mathbf{i}) + A_x B_y (\mathbf{i} \cdot \mathbf{j}) + A_x B_z (\mathbf{i} \cdot \mathbf{k}) \\ &\quad + A_y B_x (\mathbf{j} \cdot \mathbf{i}) + A_y B_y (\mathbf{j} \cdot \mathbf{j}) + A_y B_z (\mathbf{j} \cdot \mathbf{k}) \\ &\quad + A_z B_x (\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{i}) + A_z B_y (\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{j}) + A_z B_z (\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{k}) \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} = A_x B_x + A_y B_y + A_z B_z$$

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9. Cartesian Vector Formulation (Scalar Product)

$$\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = a_x b_x + a_y b_y + a_z b_z$$

$$(4\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} + 2\hat{k}) \cdot (3\hat{i} - 2\hat{j} + 2\hat{k})$$

$$\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = 12 + (-6) + 4 = 10$$

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Some Applications

- To test whether two vectors are perpendicular.

If the dot product of two non zero vectors is zero, the vectors are perpendicular.

$$\begin{aligned}(3\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} - 1\hat{k}) \cdot (\hat{i} - 2\hat{j} - 1\hat{k}) \\ = 3 - 4 + 1 = 0\end{aligned}$$

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Some Applications

- Finding the angle between two vectors.

$$\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = ab \cos \theta$$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}{ab}$$

$$\theta = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}{ab} \right)$$

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What is the angle between \vec{a} and \vec{b} ?

$$\vec{a} = 2\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} - \hat{k} \quad \vec{b} = 6\hat{i} - 3\hat{j} + 2\hat{k}$$

$$a = \sqrt{2^2 + 2^2 + 1^2} = \sqrt{9} = 3$$

$$b = \sqrt{6^2 + 3^2 + 2^2} = \sqrt{49} = 7$$

$$\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = 12 - 6 - 2 = 4$$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{4}{21} \Rightarrow \theta = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{4}{21}\right) = 79^\circ$$

