


Chapter 3




VECTORS

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1

Vectors



- Vector quantities
 - Physical quantities that have both numerical and directional properties.
- Mathematical operations of vectors in this chapter
 - Addition
 - Subtraction
 - Multiplication:
 - Multiplying with a scalar
 - Scalar product
 - Vector product

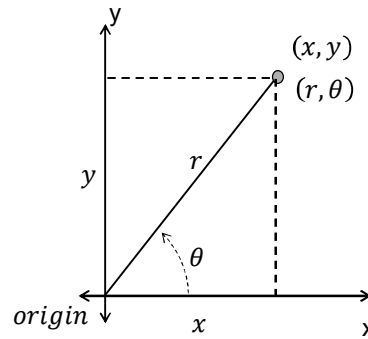
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2

Coordinate Systems

3

- Used to describe the position of a point in space
- Common coordinate systems are:
 - Cartesian
 - Polar



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Polar to Cartesian Coordinates

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- Based on forming a right triangle from r and θ

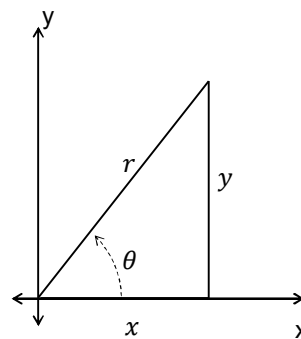
$$\cos\theta = \frac{x}{r} \Leftrightarrow x = r\cos\theta$$

$$\sin\theta = \frac{y}{r} \Leftrightarrow y = r\sin\theta$$

- If the Cartesian coordinates are known:

$$r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$$

$$\tan\theta = \frac{y}{x} \Leftrightarrow \theta = \tan^{-1} \frac{y}{x}$$



x: adjacent
y: opposite
r: hypotenuse

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4

Vectors and Scalars

5

A scalar quantity is completely specified by a magnitude with an appropriate unit and has no direction.

- Many are always positive
- Some may be positive or negative
- Rules for ordinary arithmetic are used to manipulate scalar quantities.

A vector quantity is completely described by a magnitude, an appropriate units and a direction.

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Vector and scalar Examples

6

SCALARS	VECTORS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distance • Speed • Time intervals • Mass 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displacement • Velocity • Acceleration • Force

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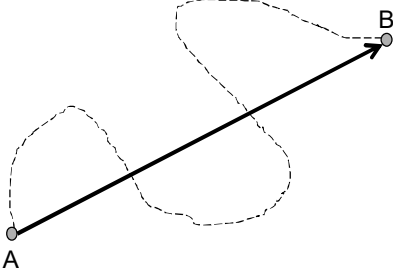
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6

Vector and scalar Example

7

- A particle travels from A to B along the path shown by the broken line.
 - This is the distance traveled and is a scalar.
- The displacement is the solid line from A to B
 - The displacement is independent of the path taken between the two points.
 - Displacement is a vector.



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Vector Notation

8

Bold font is used for printing: **A**

When dealing with just the magnitude of a vector in print, an italic letter will be used: *A* or $|\vec{A}|$

The magnitude of a vector is always a positive number.

When handwritten, use an arrow: \vec{A}

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Vectors representation

9

A horizontal vector is shown as a thick black arrow pointing to the right. The starting point on the left is a solid black dot. The ending point on the right is a solid black arrowhead. Labels are placed around the vector: 'Tail' and 'Initial point (i)' are below the starting dot; 'Length = magnitude' is above the arrow; 'direction' is above the arrowhead; and 'Head' and 'Final point (f)' are below the arrowhead.

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9

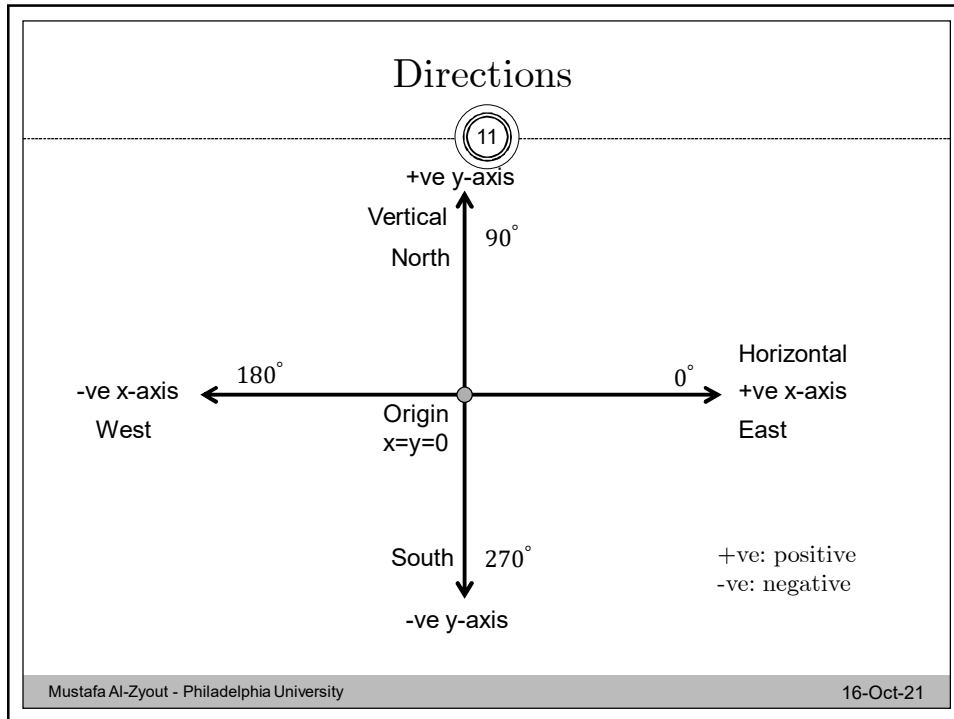
Vectors representation

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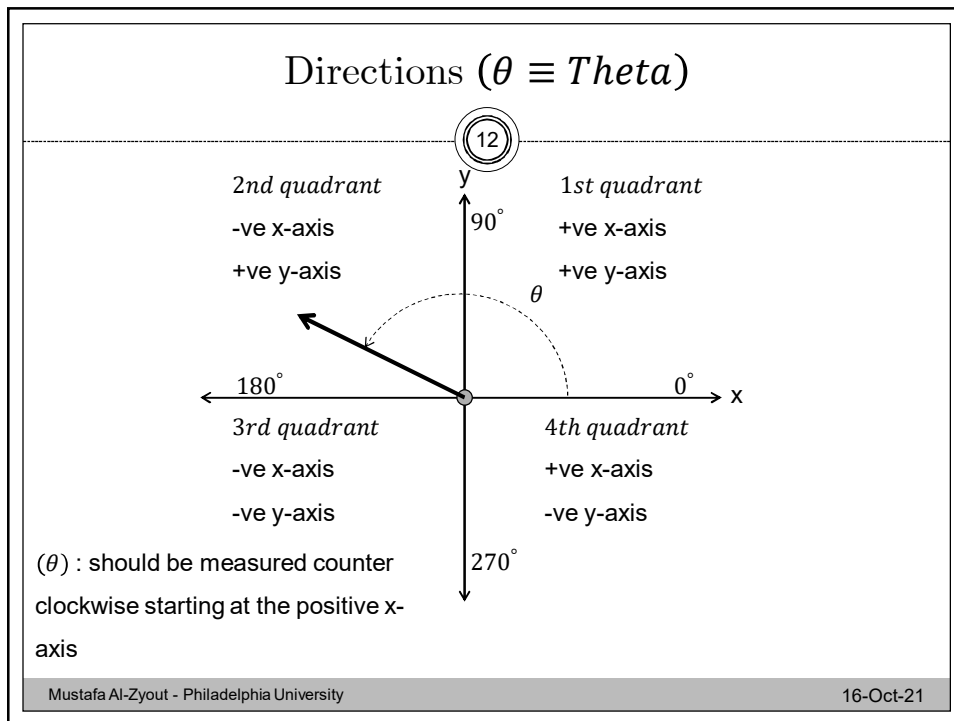
The equation $\vec{A} = |\vec{A}|, \theta$ is centered. Three dashed arrows point from the equation to labels: one to the left pointing to 'Vector A', one down pointing to 'Its magnitude', and one to the right pointing to 'Its direction'.

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10



11

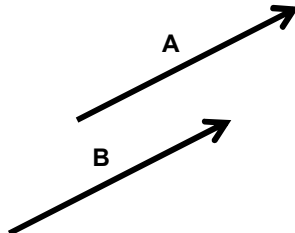


12

Equality of Two Vectors

13

- Two vectors are equal if:
 - they have the same magnitude and
 - points in the same direction.
- $\vec{A} = \vec{B}$ if:
 - $|\vec{A}| = |\vec{B}|$ and
 - In the same direction, or
 - Parallel, or
 - $\theta_{A,B} = 0^\circ$



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13

Adding Vectors

14

- Vector addition is very different from adding scalar quantities.
- When adding vectors, their directions must be taken into account.
- Units must be the same
- Graphical methods
 - Use scale drawings
- Algebraic methods
 - More convenient

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Adding Vectors Graphically

15

- Choose a scale.
- Draw the first vector, \vec{A} , with the appropriate length and in the direction specified, with respect to a coordinate system.
- Draw the next vector with the appropriate length and in the direction specified, with respect to a coordinate system whose origin is the end of vector \vec{A} and parallel to the coordinate system used for \vec{A} .
- Continue drawing the vectors “tip-to-tail” or “head-to-tail”.
- The resultant is drawn from the origin of the first vector to the end of the last vector.

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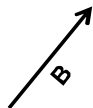
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Adding Vectors Graphically, cont.

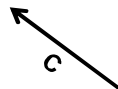
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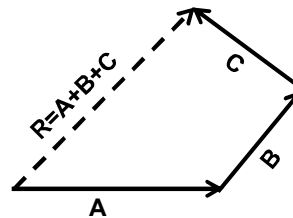
A



B



C



R: resultant

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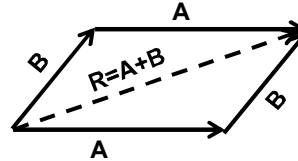
Adding Vectors, Rules

17

◦The Commutative Law of Addition:
when two vectors are added, the sum is independent of the order of the addition.

◦ This is

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



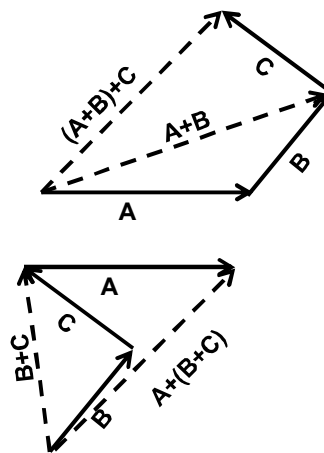
17

Adding Vectors, Rules cont.

18

•The Associative Property of Addition:
when adding three or more vectors, their sum is independent of the way in which the individual vectors are grouped.

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



18

Adding Vectors, Rules final

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- When adding vectors, all of the vectors must have the same units.
- All of the vectors must be of the same type of quantity.
 - For example, you cannot add a displacement to a velocity.

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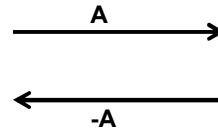
Negative of a Vector

20

• The negative of a vector is defined as the vector that, when added to the original vector, gives a resultant of zero.

- Represented as $-\vec{A}$
- $\vec{A} + (-\vec{A}) = 0$

• The negative of the vector will have the same magnitude, but points in the opposite direction.

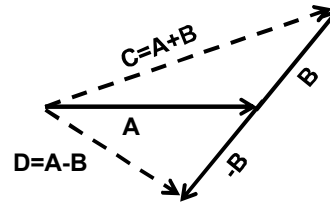


20

Subtracting Vectors

21

- Special case of vector addition.
- If $\vec{A} - \vec{B}$, then use $\vec{A} + (-\vec{B})$
- Continue with standard vector addition procedure.



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21

Subtracting Vectors, Method 2

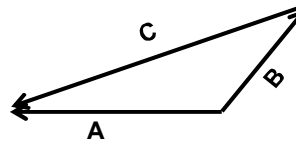
22

In the figure shown:

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

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

- The resultant vector \vec{C} of subtracting \vec{B} from \vec{A} points from the tip of the second to the tip of the first.



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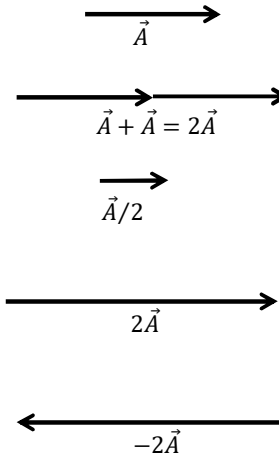
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Multiplying or Dividing a Vector by a Scalar

23

- The result of the multiplication or division of a vector by a scalar is a vector.
- The magnitude of the vector is multiplied or divided by the scalar.
- If the scalar is positive, the direction of the result is the same as of the original vector.
- If the scalar is negative, the direction of the result is opposite that of the original vector.



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Component Method of Adding Vectors

24

- Graphical addition is not recommended when:
 - High accuracy is required
 - If you have a three-dimensional problem
- Component method is an alternative method
 - It uses projections of vectors along coordinate axes

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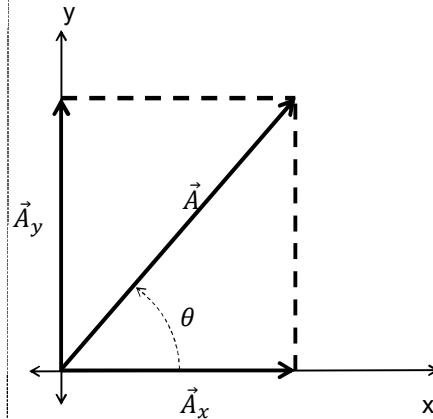
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Components of a Vector, Introduction

25

• A **component** is a projection of a vector along an axis.

- A_x : the component (projection) of the vector along the x-axis.
- A_y : the component (projection) of the vector along the y-axis.



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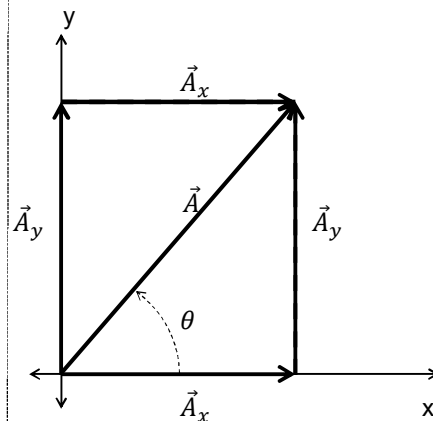
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Components of a Vector, Introduction

26

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

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



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Vector Component Terminology

27

- \vec{A}_x and \vec{A}_y are the component vectors of \vec{A} .
 - They are vectors and follow all the rules for vectors.
- $|\vec{A}_x|$ and $|\vec{A}_y|$ are scalars, and will be referred to as the components of \vec{A} .

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27

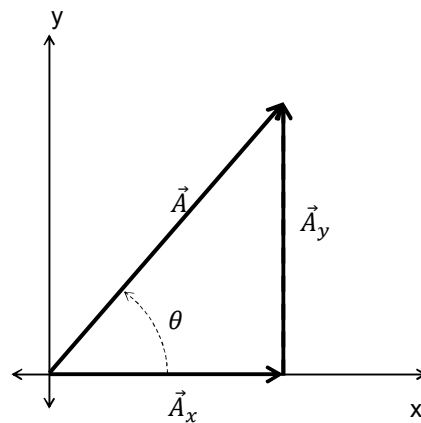
Components of a Vector

28

- Assume you are given a vector \vec{A}
- It can be expressed in terms of two other vectors, \vec{A}_x and \vec{A}_y

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

- These three vectors form a right triangle.



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28

Components of a Vector

29

The x-component is:

$$\cos\theta = \frac{\text{adjacent}}{\text{hypotenuse}} = \frac{A_x}{A}$$

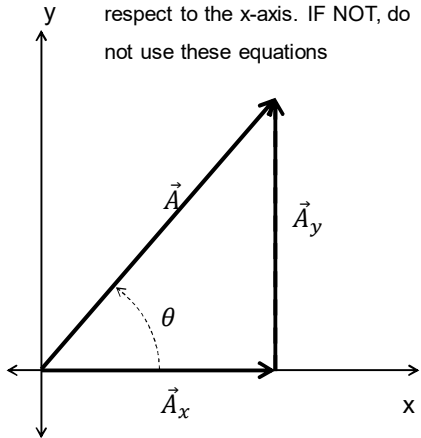
$$A_x = A \cos\theta$$

The y-component is:

$$\sin\theta = \frac{\text{opposite}}{\text{hypotenuse}} = \frac{A_y}{A}$$

$$A_y = A \sin\theta$$

The angle θ is measured with respect to the x-axis. IF NOT, do not use these equations



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29

Components of a Vector

30

The magnitude of the vector is:

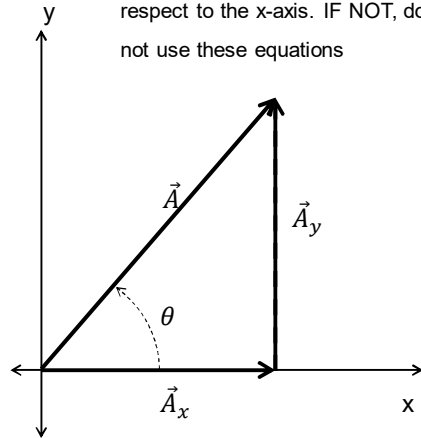
$$A = \sqrt{A_x^2 + A_y^2}$$

The direction of the vector is:

$$\tan\theta = \frac{\text{opposite}}{\text{adjacent}} = \frac{A_y}{A_x}$$

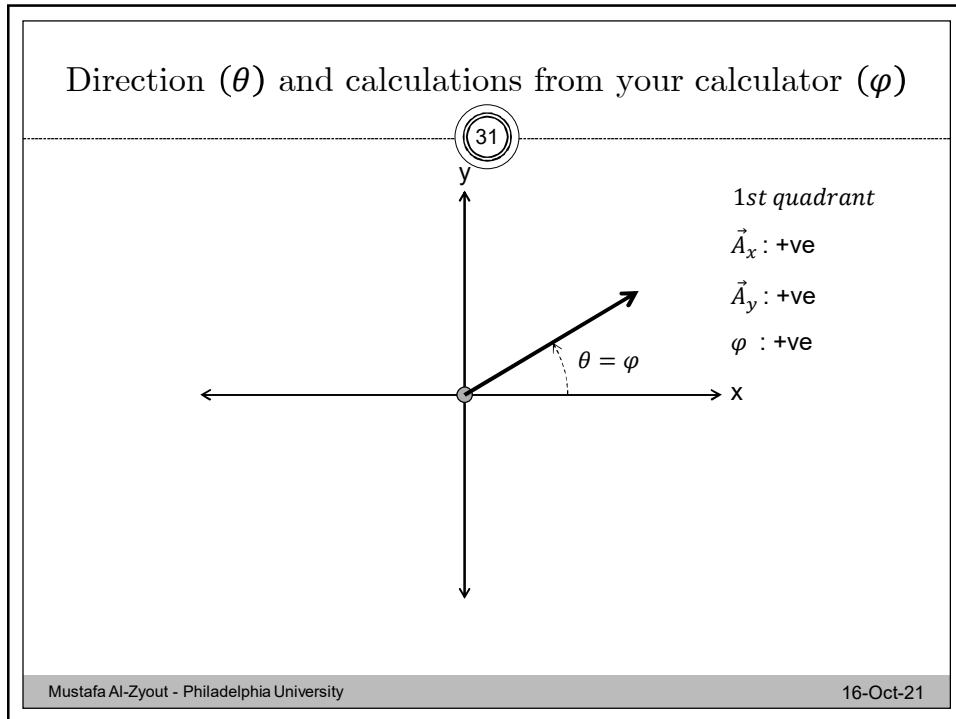
$$\theta = \tan^{-1} \frac{A_y}{A_x}$$

The angle θ is measured with respect to the x-axis. IF NOT, do not use these equations

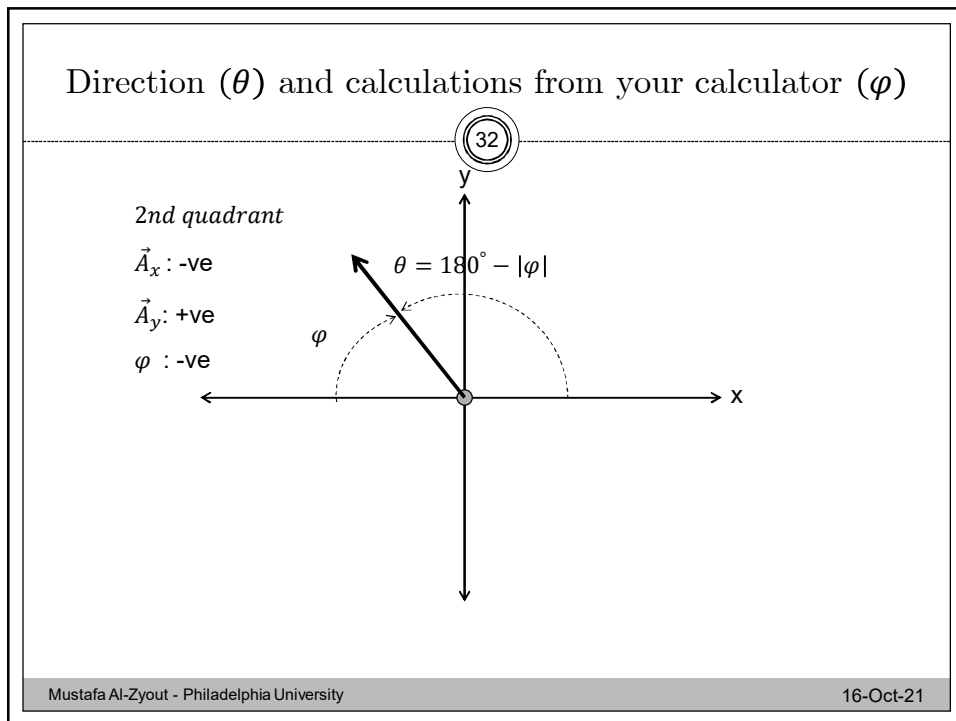


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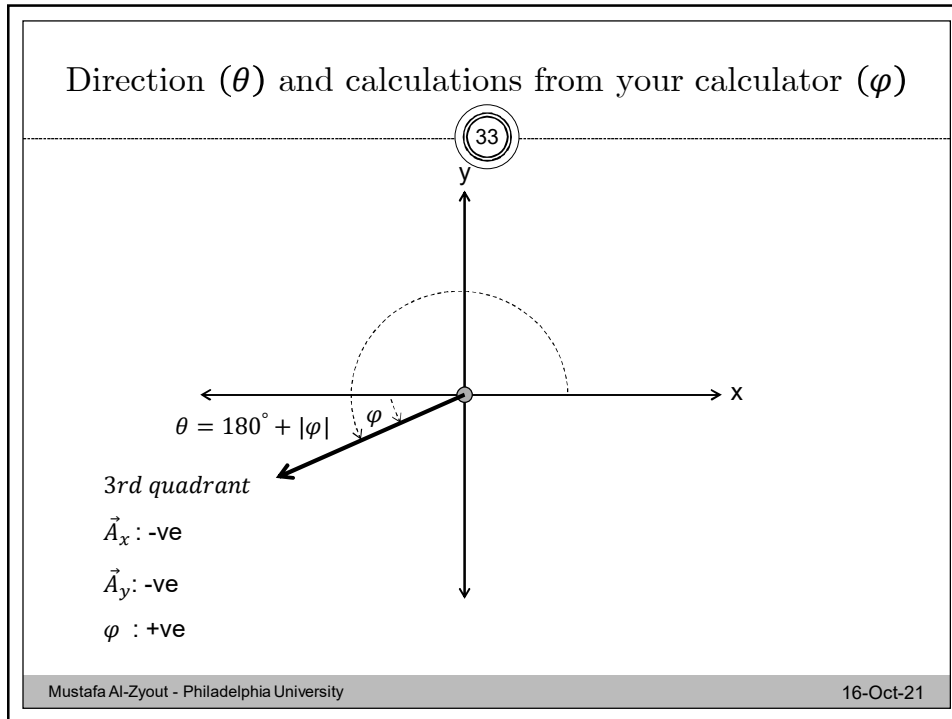
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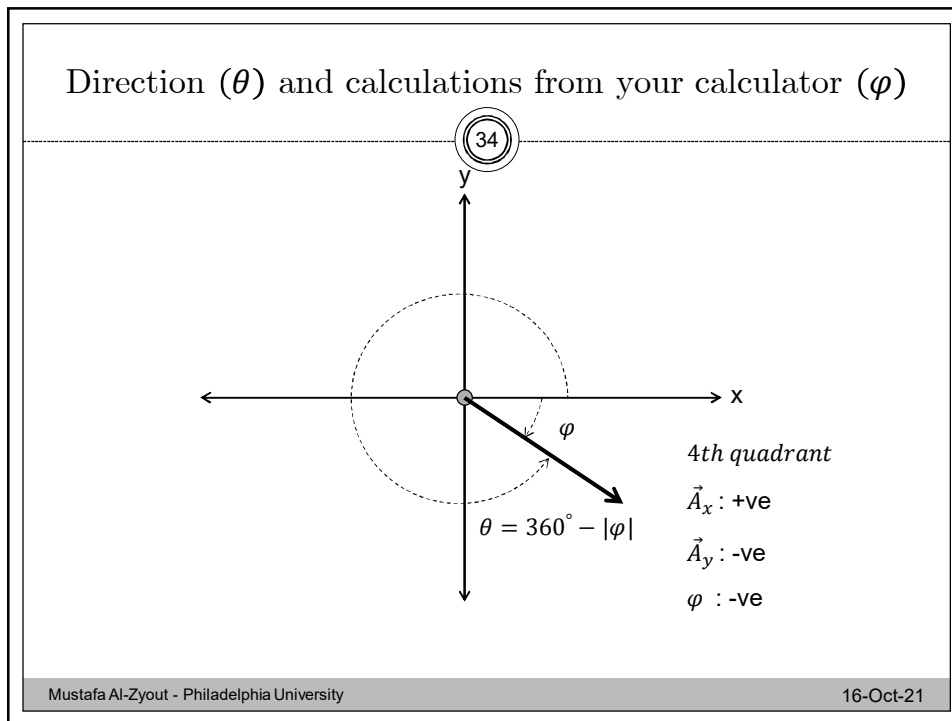
31



32



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34

Unit Vectors

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- A unit vector is a dimensionless vector with a magnitude of exactly 1.
- Unit vectors are used to specify a direction and have no other physical significance.

35

Unit Vectors, cont.

36

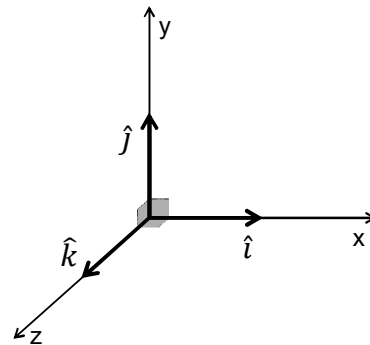
- The symbols \hat{i} , \hat{j} and \hat{k} represent unit vectors.
- The magnitude of each unit vector is 1.

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

- They form a set of mutually perpendicular vectors in a right-handed coordinate system.

$$\hat{i} \perp \hat{j} \perp \hat{k}$$

- Dimensionless vectors.



36

Unit Vectors in Vector Notation

37

• \vec{A}_x is the same as $A_x \hat{i}$, \vec{A}_y is the same as $A_y \hat{j}$ and \vec{A}_z is the same as $A_z \hat{k}$.

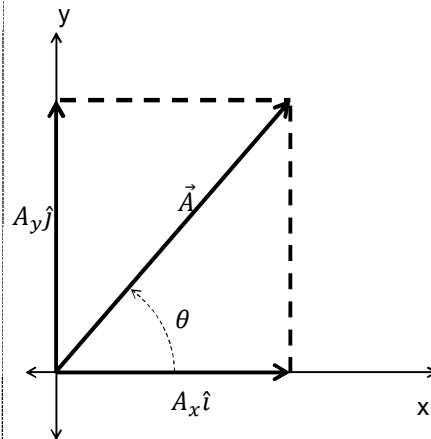
• The complete vector can be expressed as:

$$\vec{A} = |\vec{A}|, \theta$$

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

$$\vec{A} = A_x \hat{i} + A_y \hat{j}$$

$$\vec{A} = A \cos \theta \hat{i} + A \sin \theta \hat{j}$$



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37

Position Vector, Example

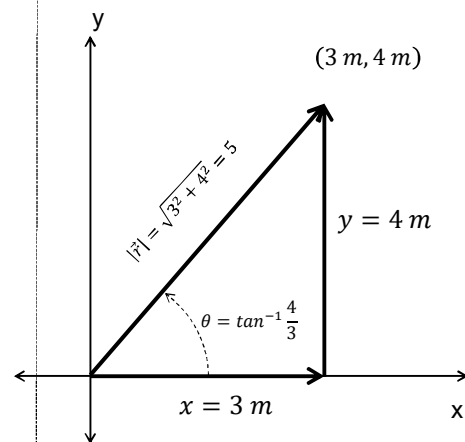
38

• If $x = 3m$ and $y = 4m$:

$$\vec{r} = 3 + 4 = 7 \quad \times$$

$$\vec{r} = \vec{3}_x + \vec{4}_y \quad ?$$

$$\vec{r} = 3\hat{i} + 4\hat{j} \quad \checkmark$$



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38

Adding Vectors Using Unit Vectors

39

- Given:

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{A} &= A_x\hat{i} + A_y\hat{j} \\ &\quad \downarrow \quad \downarrow \\ \vec{B} &= B_x\hat{i} + B_y\hat{j}\end{aligned}$$

- Find: $\vec{R} = \vec{A} + \vec{B}$

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{R} &= (A_x + B_x)\hat{i} + (A_y + B_y)\hat{j} \\ \vec{R} &= R_x\hat{i} + R_y\hat{j}\end{aligned}$$

39

Adding Vectors Using Unit Vectors

40

So, the x-component of the resultant is:

$$R_x = A_x + B_x$$

The y-component of the resultant is:

$$R_y = A_y + B_y$$

The magnitude of the resultant is:

$$R = \sqrt{R_x^2 + R_y^2}$$

The direction of the resultant is:

$$\theta = \tan^{-1} \frac{R_y}{R_x}$$

40

Three-Dimensional Extension

41

- Given:

$$\vec{A} = A_x \hat{i} + A_y \hat{j} + A_z \hat{k}$$

$$\vec{B} = B_x \hat{i} + B_y \hat{j} + B_z \hat{k}$$

- Find: $\vec{R} = \vec{A} + \vec{B}$

$$\vec{R} = (A_x + B_x)\hat{i} + (A_y + B_y)\hat{j} + (A_z + B_z)\hat{k}$$

$$\vec{R} = R_x \hat{i} + R_y \hat{j} + R_z \hat{k}$$

41

Three-Dimensional Extension

42

So, the x-component of the resultant is:

$$R_x = A_x + B_x$$

The y-component of the resultant is:

$$R_y = A_y + B_y$$

The z-component of the resultant is:

$$R_z = A_z + B_z$$

The magnitude of the resultant is:

$$R = \sqrt{R_x^2 + R_y^2 + R_z^2}$$

The direction of the resultant is:

LATER

42

Adding Three or More Vectors

43

- The same method can be extended to adding three or more vectors.
- Assume

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{A} &= A_x\hat{i} + A_y\hat{j} + A_z\hat{k} \\ \vec{B} &= B_x\hat{i} + B_y\hat{j} + B_z\hat{k} \\ \vec{C} &= C_x\hat{i} + C_y\hat{j} + C_z\hat{k}\end{aligned}$$

- And

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

$$\vec{R} = (A_x + B_x + C_x)\hat{i} + (A_y + B_y + C_y)\hat{j} + (A_z + B_z + C_z)\hat{k}$$

43

Scalar Product of Two Vectors

44

The scalar product of two vectors is defined as.

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

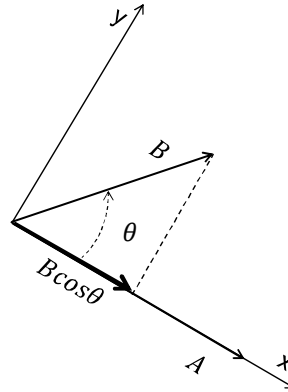
- It is also called the dot product.

44

Scalar Product of Two Vectors

45

- θ is the angle between \vec{A} and \vec{B} when they are drawn starting at the same point.
- The scalar product of any two vectors is a scalar quantity.



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45

Scalar Product, cont

46

The scalar product is commutative.

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = \vec{B} \cdot \vec{A}$$

The scalar product obeys the distributive law of multiplication.

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

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46

Dot Products of Unit Vectors

47

$$\hat{i} \cdot \hat{i} = (1)(1)\cos 0^\circ = 1$$

$$\hat{i} \cdot \hat{j} = (1)(1)\cos 90^\circ = 0$$

• In general:

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

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

• Using component form with vectors:

$$\vec{A} = A_x \hat{i} + A_y \hat{j} + A_z \hat{k}$$

$$\vec{B} = B_x \hat{i} + B_y \hat{j} + B_z \hat{k}$$

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

47

Dot Products of Unit Vectors

48

Special cases:

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = \begin{cases} AB; & \text{If they are parallel; } \theta = 0^\circ \\ -AB; & \text{If they are anti-parallel; } \theta = 180^\circ \\ 0; & \text{If they are perpendicular; } \theta = 90^\circ \end{cases}$$

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{A} = A_x^2 + A_y^2 + A_z^2 = A^2$$

48

The Vector Product

49

- There are instances where the product of two vectors is another vector.
- Earlier we saw where the product of two vectors was a scalar.
- The vector product of two vectors is called the cross product.

49

The Vector Product Defined

50

The vector (cross) product of \vec{A} and \vec{B} is defined as a third vector:

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

The magnitude of \vec{C} :

$$|\vec{C}| = |\vec{A}||\vec{B}|\sin\theta$$

θ is the angle between \vec{A} and \vec{B} when they are drawn starting at the same point.

50

More About the Vector Product

51

The direction of \vec{C} is perpendicular to the plane formed by \vec{A} and \vec{B} .

The best way to determine this direction is to use the right-hand rule (R.H.R).

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

$-\vec{C} = \vec{B} \times \vec{A}$

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51

Properties of the Vector Product

52

The vector product is not commutative. The order in which the vectors are multiplied is important.

If \vec{A} is parallel to \vec{B} ($\theta = 0^\circ$ or 180°), then

$$\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = 0$$

If \vec{A} is perpendicular to \vec{B} , then

$$\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = |\vec{A}||\vec{B}|$$

To account for order, remember:

$$\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = -\vec{B} \times \vec{A}$$

Therefore

$$\vec{A} \times \vec{A} = 0$$

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52

Properties of the Vector Product

53

The vector product obeys the distributive law:

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

where it is important to preserve the multiplicative order of the vectors.

The derivative of the cross product with respect to some variable such as t is:

$$\frac{d}{dt} (\vec{A} \times \vec{B}) = \left(\frac{d\vec{A}}{dt} \times \vec{B} \right) + \left(\vec{A} \times \frac{d\vec{B}}{dt} \right)$$

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53

Vector Products of Unit Vectors

54

$\hat{i} \times \hat{i} = (1)(1)\sin 0^\circ = 0$
 $\hat{i} \times \hat{i} = \hat{j} \times \hat{j} = \hat{k} \times \hat{k} = 0$

$\hat{i} \times \hat{j} = \hat{k}$

$\hat{j} \times \hat{k} = \hat{i}$

$\hat{k} \times \hat{i} = \hat{j}$

$\hat{j} \times \hat{i} = -\hat{k}$

$\hat{k} \times \hat{j} = -\hat{i}$

$\hat{i} \times \hat{k} = -\hat{j}$

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54

Signs in Cross Products

55

- Signs are interchangeable in cross products

$$\vec{A} \times (-\vec{B}) = -\vec{A} \times \vec{B}$$

55

Using Determinants

56

- The cross product can be expressed as

$$\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ A_x & A_y & A_z \\ B_x & B_y & B_z \end{vmatrix}$$

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

56

EXAMPLE (1)

57

The magnitudes of the vectors \vec{A} and \vec{B} are (3) and (4), respectively, and $\vec{C} = \vec{A} + \vec{B}$

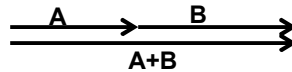
- (A) What is the maximum possible magnitude for \vec{C} ?
- (B) What is the minimum possible magnitude for \vec{C} ?

Solution

(A) has a maximum possible magnitude when both vectors are in same direction:

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

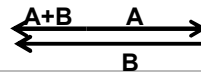
$$|\vec{C}| = |\vec{A}| + |\vec{B}| = 3 + 4 = 7$$



(B) has a minimum possible magnitude when both vectors are in opposite directions:

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

$$|\vec{C}| = |\vec{B}| - |\vec{A}| = 4 - 3 = 1$$



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57

EXAMPLE (2)

58

A car travels (20 km) due north and then (35 km) in a direction (60°) west of north as shown.

- a) Write the two displacements in magnitude – direction notation.
- b) Determine the x – and y – components of the two displacements.
- c) Write the two displacements in unit vector notation.
- d) Find the resultant displacement in unit vector notation.
- e) Determine the x – and y – components of the resultant displacement.
- f) Find the magnitude of the resultant displacement.
- g) Find the direction of the resultant displacement.
- h) Write the resultant displacement in magnitude – direction notation.

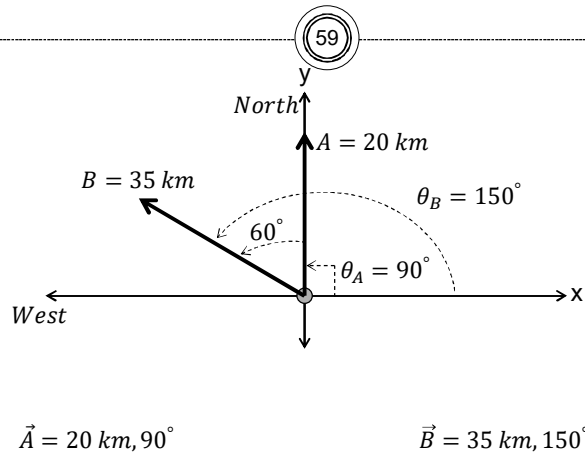
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58

Solution

a)



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59

Solution

60

- b) $A_x = 20 \cos 90^\circ = 0 \text{ km}$
 $A_y = 20 \sin 90^\circ = 20 \text{ km}$
 $B_x = 35 \cos 150^\circ = -30.3 \text{ km}$
 $B_y = 35 \sin 150^\circ = 17.5 \text{ km}$
- c) $\vec{A} = (0 \hat{i} + 20 \hat{j}) \text{ km}$
 $\vec{B} = (-30.3 \hat{i} + 17.5 \hat{j}) \text{ km}$
- d) $\vec{C} = \vec{A} + \vec{B} = [(0 + -30.3)\hat{i} + (20 + 17.5)\hat{j}] \text{ km}$
 $\Rightarrow \vec{C} = (-30.3\hat{i} + 37.5 \hat{j}) \text{ km}$
- e) $C_x = -30.3 \text{ km}$
 $C_y = 37.5 \text{ km}$

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60

Solution

61

$$f) \quad C = \sqrt{C_x^2 + C_y^2} = \sqrt{(-30.3)^2 + (37.5)^2} = 48.2 \text{ km}$$

g) From your calculator:

$$\varphi = \tan^{-1} \frac{C_y}{C_x} = \tan^{-1} \frac{37.5}{-30.3} \cong -51^\circ$$

Since C_x is $-ve$ and C_y is $+ve$, then the resultant displacement lies in the 2nd quadrant, and its direction is:

$$\theta = 180^\circ - |\varphi| = 180^\circ - 51^\circ = 129^\circ$$

$$h) \quad \vec{C} = 48.2 \text{ km}, 129^\circ$$

61

Example (3)

62

Find the sum of three displacement vectors lying in the xy plane and given by: $\vec{A} = (4.2\hat{i} - 1.5\hat{j}) \text{ m}$, $\vec{B} = (-1.6\hat{i} + 2.9\hat{j}) \text{ m}$ and $\vec{C} = (-3.7\hat{j}) \text{ m}$.

62

Example (4)

63

- A particle undergoes three consecutive displacements: $\vec{A} = (15\hat{i} + 30\hat{j} + 12\hat{k})\text{ m}$, $\vec{B} = (23\hat{i} - 14\hat{j} - 5\hat{k})\text{ m}$ and $\vec{C} = (-13\hat{i} + 15\hat{j})\text{ m}$. Find unit-vector notation for the resultant displacement and its magnitude.

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63

Example (5)

64

- The figure shows two vectors lying in the xy plane, if $(A = 6)$, $(B = 5)$, and $(\alpha = 40^\circ)$. Determine the scalar product of them.



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64

Example (6)

65

- Vectors **A** and **B** have magnitudes of 3 units and 4 units, respectively.
- a) What is the angle between the directions of **A** and **B** if $\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$.
- b) What is the angle between the directions of **A** and **B** if $\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} = 12$.
- c) What is the angle between the directions of **A** and **B** if $\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} = -12$.

65

Example (7)

66

- The vectors **A** and **B** are given by: $\vec{A} = (3\hat{i} - 4\hat{j})$ and $\vec{B} = (-2\hat{i} + 3\hat{k})$.
- a) Find the magnitude of the two vectors.
- b) Determine the scalar product of the two vectors.
- c) Find the angle between the directions of the two vectors.

66

Example (8)

67

- Find the angle between $\vec{A} = (3\hat{i} - \hat{j} + 5\hat{k})$ and the positive x-axis.

67

Vector Product Example

68

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

- Find $\vec{A} \times \vec{B}$

- Result

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{A} \times \vec{B} &= (2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j}) \times (-\hat{i} + 2\hat{j}) \\ &= 2\hat{i} \times (-\hat{i}) + 2\hat{i} \times 2\hat{j} + 3\hat{j} \times (-\hat{i}) + 3\hat{j} \times 2\hat{j} \\ &= 0 + 4\hat{k} + 3\hat{k} + 0 = 7\hat{k}\end{aligned}$$

68

Torque Vector Example

69

- Given the force and location

$$\vec{F} = (2.00\hat{i} + 3.00\hat{j}) \text{ N}$$

$$\vec{r} = (4.00\hat{i} + 5.00\hat{j}) \text{ m}$$

- Find the torque produced

$$\vec{\tau} = \vec{r} \times \vec{F} = [(4.00\hat{i} + 5.00\hat{j})\text{N}] \times [(2.00\hat{i} + 3.00\hat{j})\text{m}]$$

$$= [(4.00)(2.00)\hat{i} \times \hat{i} + (4.00)(3.00)\hat{i} \times \hat{j}$$

$$+ (5.00)(2.00)\hat{j} \times \hat{i} + (5.00)(3.00)\hat{j} \times \hat{j}]$$

$$= 2.0\hat{k} \text{ N}\cdot\text{m}$$