

# Vectors

## CHAPTER 3



- 3.1 Coordinate Systems
- 3.2 Vector and Scalar Quantities
- 3.3 Some Properties of Vectors
- 3.4 Components of a Vector and Unit Vectors

In our study of physics, we often need to work with physical quantities that have both numerical and directional properties. As noted in Section 2.1, quantities of this nature are vector quantities. This chapter is primarily concerned with general properties of vector quantities. We discuss the addition and subtraction of vector quantities, together with some common applications to physical situations.

Vector quantities are used throughout this text. Therefore, it is imperative that you master the techniques discussed in this chapter.

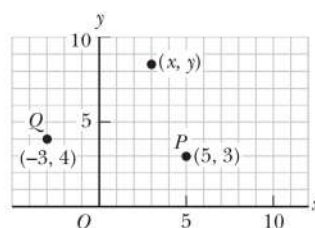
A signpost in Saint Petersburg, Florida, shows the distance and direction to several cities. Quantities that are defined by both a magnitude and a direction are called vector quantities.

(Raymond A. Serway)

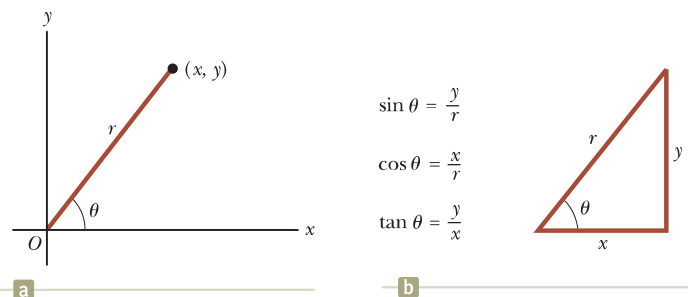
### 3.1 Coordinate Systems

Many aspects of physics involve a description of a location in space. In Chapter 2, for example, we saw that the mathematical description of an object's motion requires a method for describing the object's position at various times. In two dimensions, this description is accomplished with the use of the Cartesian coordinate system, in which perpendicular axes intersect at a point defined as the origin  $O$  (Fig. 3.1). Cartesian coordinates are also called *rectangular coordinates*.

Sometimes it is more convenient to represent a point in a plane by its *plane polar coordinates*  $(r, \theta)$  as shown in Figure 3.2a (page 60). In this *polar coordinate system*,  $r$  is the distance from the origin to the point having Cartesian coordinates  $(x, y)$  and  $\theta$  is the angle between a fixed axis and a line drawn from the origin to the point. The fixed axis is often the positive  $x$  axis, and  $\theta$  is usually measured counterclockwise



**Figure 3.1** Designation of points in a Cartesian coordinate system. Every point is labeled with coordinates  $(x, y)$ .



**Figure 3.2** (a) The plane polar coordinates of a point are represented by the distance  $r$  and the angle  $\theta$ , where  $\theta$  is measured counterclockwise from the positive  $x$  axis. (b) The right triangle used to relate  $(x, y)$  to  $(r, \theta)$ .

from it. From the right triangle in Figure 3.2b, we find that  $\sin \theta = y/r$  and that  $\cos \theta = x/r$ . (A review of trigonometric functions is given in Appendix B.4.) Therefore, starting with the plane polar coordinates of any point, we can obtain the Cartesian coordinates by using the equations

**Cartesian coordinates  
in terms of polar  
coordinates** ▶

$$x = r \cos \theta \quad (3.1)$$

$$y = r \sin \theta \quad (3.2)$$

Furthermore, if we know the Cartesian coordinates, the definitions of trigonometry tell us that

**Polar coordinates in terms  
of Cartesian coordinates** ▶

$$\tan \theta = \frac{y}{x} \quad (3.3)$$

$$r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} \quad (3.4)$$

Equation 3.4 is the familiar Pythagorean theorem.

These four expressions relating the coordinates  $(x, y)$  to the coordinates  $(r, \theta)$  apply only when  $\theta$  is defined as shown in Figure 3.2a—in other words, when positive  $\theta$  is an angle measured counterclockwise from the positive  $x$  axis. (Some scientific calculators perform conversions between Cartesian and polar coordinates based on these standard conventions.) If the reference axis for the polar angle  $\theta$  is chosen to be one other than the positive  $x$  axis or if the sense of increasing  $\theta$  is chosen differently, the expressions relating the two sets of coordinates will change.

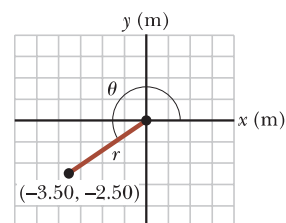
### Example 3.1 Polar Coordinates

The Cartesian coordinates of a point in the  $xy$  plane are  $(x, y) = (-3.50, -2.50)$  m as shown in Figure 3.3. Find the polar coordinates of this point.

#### SOLUTION

**Conceptualize** The drawing in Figure 3.3 helps us conceptualize the problem. We wish to find  $r$  and  $\theta$ . We expect  $r$  to be a few meters and  $\theta$  to be larger than  $180^\circ$ .

**Categorize** Based on the statement of the problem and the Conceptualize step, we recognize that we are simply converting from Cartesian coordinates to polar coordinates. We therefore categorize this example as a substitution problem. Substitution problems generally do not have an extensive Analyze step other than the substitution of numbers into a given equation. Similarly, the Finalize step



**Figure 3.3** (Example 3.1) Finding polar coordinates when Cartesian coordinates are given.

### 3.1 continued

consists primarily of checking the units and making sure that the answer is reasonable and consistent with our expectations. Therefore, for substitution problems, we will not label Analyze or Finalize steps.

Use Equation 3.4 to find  $r$ :

$$r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} = \sqrt{(-3.50 \text{ m})^2 + (-2.50 \text{ m})^2} = 4.30 \text{ m}$$

Use Equation 3.3 to find  $\theta$ :

$$\tan \theta = \frac{y}{x} = \frac{-2.50 \text{ m}}{-3.50 \text{ m}} = 0.714$$

$$\theta = 216^\circ$$

Notice that you must use the signs of  $x$  and  $y$  to find that the point lies in the third quadrant of the coordinate system. That is,  $\theta = 216^\circ$ , not  $35.5^\circ$ , whose tangent is also 0.714. Both answers agree with our expectations in the Conceptualize step.

## 3.2 Vector and Scalar Quantities

We now formally describe the difference between scalar quantities and vector quantities. When you want to know the temperature outside so that you will know how to dress, the only information you need is a number and the unit “degrees C” or “degrees F.” Temperature is therefore an example of a *scalar quantity*:

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

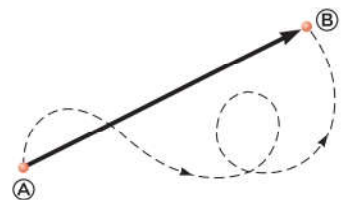
Other examples of scalar quantities are volume, mass, speed, time, and time intervals. Some scalars are always positive, such as mass and speed. Others, such as temperature, can have either positive or negative values. The rules of ordinary arithmetic are used to manipulate scalar quantities.

If you are preparing to pilot a small plane and need to know the wind velocity, you must know both the speed of the wind and its direction. Because direction is important for its complete specification, velocity is a *vector quantity*:

A **vector quantity** is completely specified by a number with an appropriate unit (the *magnitude* of the vector) plus a direction.

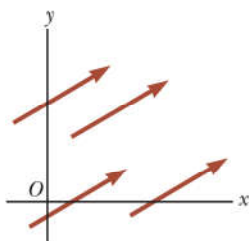
Another example of a vector quantity is displacement, as you know from Chapter 2. Suppose a particle moves from some point **A** to some point **B** along a straight path as shown in Figure 3.4. We represent this displacement by drawing an arrow from **A** to **B**, with the tip of the arrow pointing away from the starting point. The direction of the arrowhead represents the direction of the displacement, and the length of the arrow represents the magnitude of the displacement. If the particle travels along some other path from **A** to **B** such as shown by the broken line in Figure 3.4, its displacement is still the arrow drawn from **A** to **B**. Displacement depends only on the initial and final positions, so the displacement vector is independent of the path taken by the particle between these two points.

In this text, we use a boldface letter with an arrow over the letter, such as  $\vec{\mathbf{A}}$ , to represent a vector. Another common notation for vectors with which you should be familiar is a simple boldface character:  $\mathbf{A}$ . The magnitude of the vector  $\vec{\mathbf{A}}$  is written either  $A$  or  $|\mathbf{A}|$ . The magnitude of a vector has physical units, such as meters for displacement or meters per second for velocity. The magnitude of a vector is *always* a positive number.



**Figure 3.4** As a particle moves from **A** to **B** along an arbitrary path represented by the broken line, its displacement is a vector quantity shown by the arrow drawn from **A** to **B**.





**Figure 3.5** These four vectors are equal because they have equal lengths and point in the same direction.

**Quick Quiz 3.1** Which of the following are vector quantities and which are scalar quantities? (a) your age (b) acceleration (c) velocity (d) speed (e) mass

### 3.3 Some Properties of Vectors

In this section, we shall investigate general properties of vectors representing physical quantities. We also discuss how to add and subtract vectors using both algebraic and geometric methods.

#### Equality of Two Vectors

For many purposes, two vectors  $\vec{A}$  and  $\vec{B}$  may be defined to be equal if they have the same magnitude and if they point in the same direction. That is,  $\vec{A} = \vec{B}$  only if  $A = B$  and if  $\vec{A}$  and  $\vec{B}$  point in the same direction along parallel lines. For example, all the vectors in Figure 3.5 are equal even though they have different starting points. This property allows us to move a vector to a position parallel to itself in a diagram without affecting the vector.

#### Adding Vectors

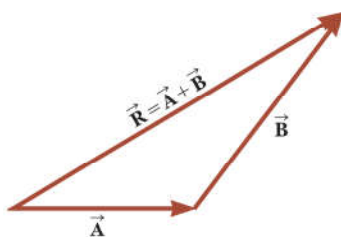
The rules for adding vectors are conveniently described by a graphical method. To add vector  $\vec{B}$  to vector  $\vec{A}$ , first draw vector  $\vec{A}$  on graph paper, with its magnitude represented by a convenient length scale, and then draw vector  $\vec{B}$  to the same scale, with its tail starting from the tip of  $\vec{A}$ , as shown in Figure 3.6. The **resultant vector**  $\vec{R} = \vec{A} + \vec{B}$  is the vector drawn from the tail of  $\vec{A}$  to the tip of  $\vec{B}$ .

A geometric construction can also be used to add more than two vectors as shown in Figure 3.7 for the case of four vectors. The resultant vector  $\vec{R} = \vec{A} + \vec{B} + \vec{C} + \vec{D}$  is the vector that completes the polygon. In other words,  $\vec{R}$  is the vector drawn from the tail of the first vector to the tip of the last vector. This technique for adding vectors is often called the “head to tail method.”

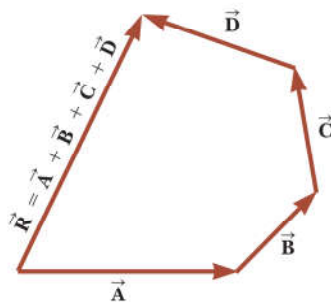
When two vectors are added, the sum is independent of the order of the addition. (This fact may seem trivial, but as you will see in Chapter 11, the order is important when vectors are multiplied. Procedures for multiplying vectors are discussed in Chapters 7 and 11.) This property, which can be seen from the geometric construction in Figure 3.8, is known as the **commutative law of addition**:

$$\vec{A} + \vec{B} = \vec{B} + \vec{A} \quad (3.5)$$

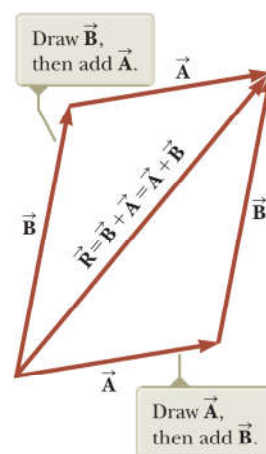
Commutative law of addition ►



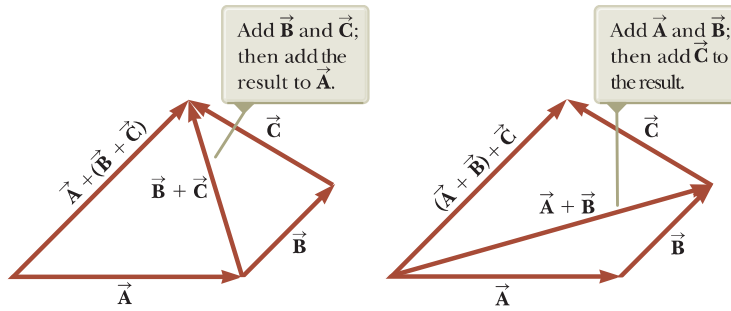
**Figure 3.6** When vector  $\vec{B}$  is added to vector  $\vec{A}$ , the resultant  $\vec{R}$  is the vector that runs from the tail of  $\vec{A}$  to the tip of  $\vec{B}$ .



**Figure 3.7** Geometric construction for summing four vectors. The resultant vector  $\vec{R}$  is by definition the one that completes the polygon.



**Figure 3.8** This construction shows that  $\vec{A} + \vec{B} = \vec{B} + \vec{A}$  or, in other words, that vector addition is commutative.



**Figure 3.9** Geometric constructions for verifying the associative law of addition.

When three or more vectors are added, their sum is independent of the way in which the individual vectors are grouped together. A geometric proof of this rule for three vectors is given in Figure 3.9. This property is called the **associative law of addition**:

$$\vec{A} + (\vec{B} + \vec{C}) = (\vec{A} + \vec{B}) + \vec{C} \quad (3.6)$$

◀ Associative law of addition

In summary, a **vector quantity has both magnitude and direction and also obeys the laws of vector addition** as described in Figures 3.6 to 3.9. When two or more vectors are added together, they must all have the same units and they must all be the same type of quantity. It would be meaningless to add a velocity vector (for example, 60 km/h to the east) to a displacement vector (for example, 200 km to the north) because these vectors represent different physical quantities. The same rule also applies to scalars. For example, it would be meaningless to add time intervals to temperatures.

### Negative of a Vector

The negative of the vector  $\vec{A}$  is defined as the vector that when added to  $\vec{A}$  gives zero for the vector sum. That is,  $\vec{A} + (-\vec{A}) = 0$ . The vectors  $\vec{A}$  and  $-\vec{A}$  have the same magnitude but point in opposite directions.

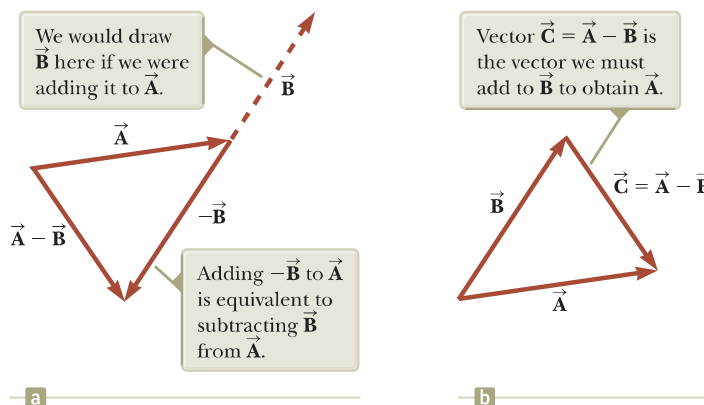
### Subtracting Vectors

The operation of vector subtraction makes use of the definition of the negative of a vector. We define the operation  $\vec{A} - \vec{B}$  as vector  $-\vec{B}$  added to vector  $\vec{A}$ :

$$\vec{A} - \vec{B} = \vec{A} + (-\vec{B}) \quad (3.7)$$

The geometric construction for subtracting two vectors in this way is illustrated in Figure 3.10a.

Another way of looking at vector subtraction is to notice that the difference  $\vec{A} - \vec{B}$  between two vectors  $\vec{A}$  and  $\vec{B}$  is what you have to add to the second vector



**Figure 3.10** (a) Subtracting vector  $\vec{B}$  from vector  $\vec{A}$ . The vector  $-\vec{B}$  is equal in magnitude to vector  $\vec{B}$  and points in the opposite direction. (b) A second way of looking at vector subtraction.

to obtain the first. In this case, as Figure 3.10b shows, the vector  $\vec{A} - \vec{B}$  points from the tip of the second vector to the tip of the first.

### Multiplying a Vector by a Scalar

If vector  $\vec{A}$  is multiplied by a positive scalar quantity  $m$ , the product  $m\vec{A}$  is a vector that has the same direction as  $\vec{A}$  and magnitude  $mA$ . If vector  $\vec{A}$  is multiplied by a negative scalar quantity  $-m$ , the product  $-m\vec{A}$  is directed opposite  $\vec{A}$ . For example, the vector  $5\vec{A}$  is five times as long as  $\vec{A}$  and points in the same direction as  $\vec{A}$ ; the vector  $-\frac{1}{3}\vec{A}$  is one-third the length of  $\vec{A}$  and points in the direction opposite  $\vec{A}$ .

**Quick Quiz 3.2** The magnitudes of two vectors  $\vec{A}$  and  $\vec{B}$  are  $A = 12$  units and  $B = 8$  units. Which pair of numbers represents the *largest* and *smallest* possible values for the magnitude of the resultant vector  $\vec{R} = \vec{A} + \vec{B}$ ? (a) 14.4 units, 4 units (b) 12 units, 8 units (c) 20 units, 4 units (d) none of these answers

**Quick Quiz 3.3** If vector  $\vec{B}$  is added to vector  $\vec{A}$ , which *two* of the following choices must be true for the resultant vector to be equal to zero? (a)  $\vec{A}$  and  $\vec{B}$  are parallel and in the same direction. (b)  $\vec{A}$  and  $\vec{B}$  are parallel and in opposite directions. (c)  $\vec{A}$  and  $\vec{B}$  have the same magnitude. (d)  $\vec{A}$  and  $\vec{B}$  are perpendicular.

### Example 3.2

#### A Vacation Trip

A car travels 20.0 km due north and then 35.0 km in a direction  $60.0^\circ$  west of north as shown in Figure 3.11a. Find the magnitude and direction of the car's resultant displacement.

#### SOLUTION

**Conceptualize** The vectors  $\vec{A}$  and  $\vec{B}$  drawn in Figure 3.11a help us conceptualize the problem. The resultant vector  $\vec{R}$  has also been drawn. We expect its magnitude to be a few tens of kilometers. The angle  $\beta$  that the resultant vector makes with the  $y$  axis is expected to be less than  $60^\circ$ , the angle that vector  $\vec{B}$  makes with the  $y$  axis.

**Categorize** We can categorize this example as a simple analysis problem in vector addition. The displacement  $\vec{R}$  is the resultant when the two individual displacements  $\vec{A}$  and  $\vec{B}$  are added. We can further categorize it as a problem about the analysis of triangles, so we appeal to our expertise in geometry and trigonometry.

**Analyze** In this example, we show two ways to analyze the problem of finding the resultant of two vectors. The first way is to solve the problem geometrically, using graph paper and a protractor to measure the magnitude of  $\vec{R}$  and its direction in Figure 3.11a. (In fact, even when you know you are going to be carrying out a calculation, you should sketch the vectors to check your results.) With an ordinary ruler and protractor, a large diagram typically gives answers to two-digit but not to three-digit precision. Try using these tools on  $\vec{R}$  in Figure 3.11a and compare to the trigonometric analysis below!

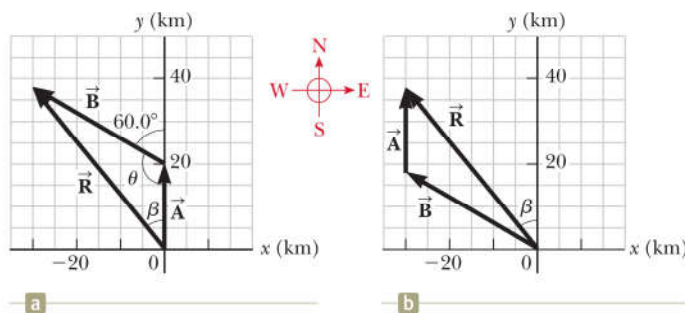
The second way to solve the problem is to analyze it using algebra and trigonometry. The magnitude of  $\vec{R}$  can be obtained from the law of cosines as applied to the triangle in Figure 3.11a (see Appendix B.4).

Use  $R^2 = A^2 + B^2 - 2AB \cos \theta$  from the law of cosines to find  $R$ :

$$R = \sqrt{A^2 + B^2 - 2AB \cos \theta}$$

Substitute numerical values, noting that  $\theta = 180^\circ - 60^\circ = 120^\circ$ :

$$\begin{aligned} R &= \sqrt{(20.0 \text{ km})^2 + (35.0 \text{ km})^2 - 2(20.0 \text{ km})(35.0 \text{ km}) \cos 120^\circ} \\ &= 48.2 \text{ km} \end{aligned}$$



**Figure 3.11** (Example 3.2) (a) Graphical method for finding the resultant displacement vector  $\vec{R} = \vec{A} + \vec{B}$ . (b) Adding the vectors in reverse order ( $\vec{B} + \vec{A}$ ) gives the same result for  $\vec{R}$ .



## 3.2 continued

Use the law of sines (Appendix B.4) to find the direction of  $\vec{R}$  measured from the northerly direction:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\sin \beta}{B} &= \frac{\sin \theta}{R} \\ \sin \beta &= \frac{B}{R} \sin \theta = \frac{35.0 \text{ km}}{48.2 \text{ km}} \sin 120^\circ = 0.629 \\ \beta &= 38.9^\circ\end{aligned}$$

The resultant displacement of the car is 48.2 km in a direction  $38.9^\circ$  west of north.

**Finalize** Does the angle  $\beta$  that we calculated agree with an estimate made by looking at Figure 3.11a or with an actual angle measured from the diagram using the graphical method? Is it reasonable that the magnitude of  $\vec{R}$  is larger than that of both  $\vec{A}$  and  $\vec{B}$ ? Are the units of  $\vec{R}$  correct?

Although the head to tail method of adding vectors works well, it suffers from two disadvantages. First, some

people find using the laws of cosines and sines to be awkward. Second, a triangle only results if you are adding two vectors. If you are adding three or more vectors, the resulting geometric shape is usually not a triangle. In Section 3.4, we explore a new method of adding vectors that will address both of these disadvantages.

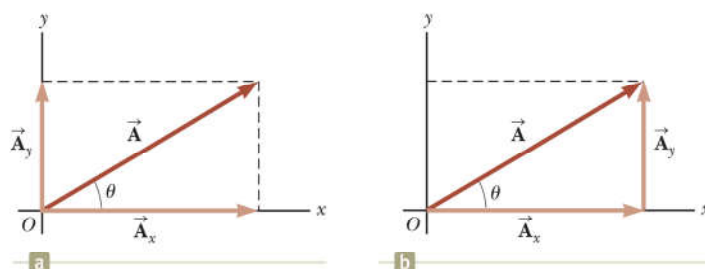
**WHAT IF?** Suppose the trip were taken with the two vectors in reverse order: 35.0 km at  $60.0^\circ$  west of north first and then 20.0 km due north. How would the magnitude and the direction of the resultant vector change?

**Answer** They would not change. The commutative law for vector addition tells us that the order of vectors in an addition is irrelevant. Graphically, Figure 3.11b shows that the vectors added in the reverse order give us the same resultant vector.

## 3.4 Components of a Vector and Unit Vectors

The graphical method of adding vectors is not recommended whenever high accuracy is required or in three-dimensional problems. In this section, we describe a method of adding vectors that makes use of the projections of vectors along coordinate axes. These projections are called the **components** of the vector or its **rectangular components**. Any vector can be completely described by its components.

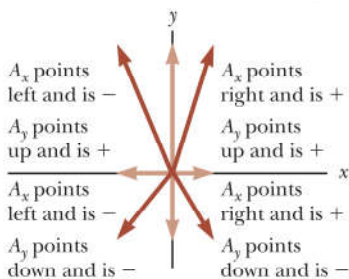
Consider a vector  $\vec{A}$  lying in the  $xy$  plane and making an arbitrary angle  $\theta$  with the positive  $x$  axis as shown in Figure 3.12a. This vector can be expressed as the sum of two other *component vectors*  $\vec{A}_x$ , which is parallel to the  $x$  axis, and  $\vec{A}_y$ , which is parallel to the  $y$  axis. From Figure 3.12b, we see that the three vectors form a right triangle and that  $\vec{A} = \vec{A}_x + \vec{A}_y$ . We shall often refer to the “components of a vector  $\vec{A}$ ,” written  $A_x$  and  $A_y$  (without the boldface notation). The component  $A_x$  represents the projection of  $\vec{A}$  along the  $x$  axis, and the component  $A_y$  represents the projection of  $\vec{A}$  along the  $y$  axis. These components can be positive or negative. The component  $A_x$  is positive if the component vector  $\vec{A}_x$  points in the positive  $x$  direction and is negative if  $\vec{A}_x$  points in the negative  $x$  direction. A similar statement is made for the component  $A_y$ .



**Figure 3.12** (a) A vector  $\vec{A}$  lying in the  $xy$  plane can be represented by its component vectors  $\vec{A}_x$  and  $\vec{A}_y$ . (b) The  $y$  component vector  $\vec{A}_y$  can be moved to the right so that it adds to  $\vec{A}_x$ . The vector sum of the component vectors is  $\vec{A}$ . These three vectors form a right triangle.

**Pitfall Prevention 3.2**

**x and y Components** Equations 3.8 and 3.9 associate the cosine of the angle with the  $x$  component and the sine of the angle with the  $y$  component. This association is true *only* because we measured the angle  $\theta$  with respect to the  $x$  axis, so do not memorize these equations. If  $\theta$  is measured with respect to the  $y$  axis (as in some problems), these equations will be incorrect. Think about which side of the triangle containing the components is adjacent to the angle and which side is opposite and then assign the cosine and sine accordingly.



**Figure 3.13** The signs of the components of a vector  $\vec{A}$  depend on the quadrant in which the vector is located.

From Figure 3.12 and the definition of sine and cosine, we see that  $\cos \theta = A_x/A$  and that  $\sin \theta = A_y/A$ . Hence, the components of  $\vec{A}$  are

$$A_x = A \cos \theta \quad (3.8)$$

$$A_y = A \sin \theta \quad (3.9)$$

The magnitudes of these components are the lengths of the two sides of a right triangle with a hypotenuse of length  $A$ . Therefore, the magnitude and direction of  $\vec{A}$  are related to its components through the expressions

$$A = \sqrt{A_x^2 + A_y^2} \quad (3.10)$$

$$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{A_y}{A_x}\right) \quad (3.11)$$

Notice that the signs of the components  $A_x$  and  $A_y$  depend on the angle  $\theta$ . For example, if  $\theta = 120^\circ$ ,  $A_x$  is negative and  $A_y$  is positive. If  $\theta = 225^\circ$ , both  $A_x$  and  $A_y$  are negative. Figure 3.13 summarizes the signs of the components when  $\vec{A}$  lies in the various quadrants.

When solving problems, you can specify a vector  $\vec{A}$  either with its components  $A_x$  and  $A_y$  or with its magnitude and direction  $A$  and  $\theta$ .

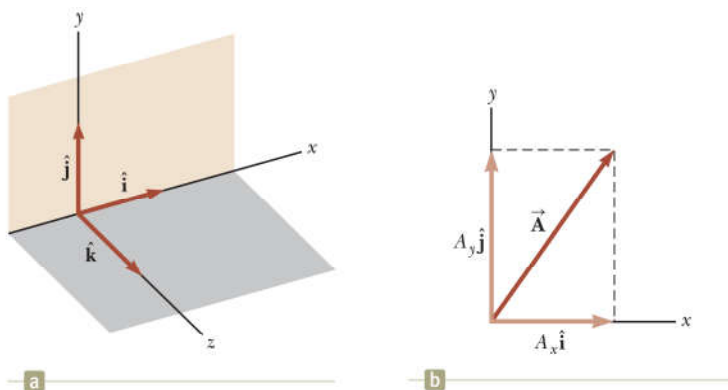
Suppose you are working a physics problem that requires resolving a vector into its components. In many applications, it is convenient to express the components in a coordinate system having axes that are not horizontal and vertical but that are still perpendicular to each other. For example, we will consider the motion of objects sliding down inclined planes. For these examples, it is often convenient to orient the  $x$  axis parallel to the plane and the  $y$  axis perpendicular to the plane.

**Quick Quiz 3.4** Choose the correct response to make the sentence true: A component of a vector is (a) always, (b) never, or (c) sometimes larger than the magnitude of the vector.

## Unit Vectors

Vector quantities often are expressed in terms of unit vectors. A **unit vector** is a dimensionless vector having a magnitude of exactly 1. Unit vectors are used to specify a given direction and have no other physical significance. They are used solely as a bookkeeping convenience in describing a direction in space. We shall use the symbols  $\hat{i}$ ,  $\hat{j}$ , and  $\hat{k}$  to represent unit vectors pointing in the positive  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  directions, respectively. (The “hats,” or circumflexes, on the symbols are a standard notation for unit vectors.) The unit vectors  $\hat{i}$ ,  $\hat{j}$ , and  $\hat{k}$  form a set of mutually perpendicular vectors in a right-handed coordinate system as shown in Figure 3.14a. The magnitude of each unit vector equals 1; that is,  $|\hat{i}| = |\hat{j}| = |\hat{k}| = 1$ .

Consider a vector  $\vec{A}$  lying in the  $xy$  plane as shown in Figure 3.14b. The product of the component  $A_x$  and the unit vector  $\hat{i}$  is the component vector  $\vec{A}_x = A_x \hat{i}$ ,



**Figure 3.14** (a) The unit vectors  $\hat{i}$ ,  $\hat{j}$ , and  $\hat{k}$  are directed along the  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  axes, respectively. (b) Vector  $\vec{A} = A_x \hat{i} + A_y \hat{j}$  lying in the  $xy$  plane has components  $A_x$  and  $A_y$ .



which lies on the  $x$  axis and has magnitude  $|A_x|$ . Likewise,  $\vec{A}_y = A_y \hat{j}$  is the component vector of magnitude  $|A_y|$  lying on the  $y$  axis. Therefore, the unit-vector notation for the vector  $\vec{A}$  is

$$\vec{A} = A_x \hat{i} + A_y \hat{j} \quad (3.12)$$

For example, consider a point lying in the  $xy$  plane and having Cartesian coordinates  $(x, y)$  as in Figure 3.15. The point can be specified by the **position vector**  $\vec{r}$ , which in unit-vector form is given by

$$\vec{r} = x\hat{i} + y\hat{j} \quad (3.13)$$

This notation tells us that the components of  $\vec{r}$  are the coordinates  $x$  and  $y$ .

Now let us see how to use components to add vectors when the graphical method is not sufficiently accurate. Suppose we wish to add vector  $\vec{B}$  to vector  $\vec{A}$  in Equation 3.12, where vector  $\vec{B}$  has components  $B_x$  and  $B_y$ . Because of the bookkeeping convenience of the unit vectors, all we do is add the  $x$  and  $y$  components separately. The resultant vector  $\vec{R} = \vec{A} + \vec{B}$  is

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

or

$$\vec{R} = (A_x + B_x) \hat{i} + (A_y + B_y) \hat{j} \quad (3.14)$$

Because  $\vec{R} = R_x \hat{i} + R_y \hat{j}$ , we see that the components of the resultant vector are

$$\begin{aligned} R_x &= A_x + B_x \\ R_y &= A_y + B_y \end{aligned} \quad (3.15)$$

Therefore, we see that in the component method of adding vectors, we add all the  $x$  components together to find the  $x$  component of the resultant vector and use the same process for the  $y$  components. We can check this addition by components with a geometric construction as shown in Figure 3.16.

The magnitude of  $\vec{R}$  and the angle it makes with the  $x$  axis are obtained from its components using the relationships

$$R = \sqrt{R_x^2 + R_y^2} = \sqrt{(A_x + B_x)^2 + (A_y + B_y)^2} \quad (3.16)$$

$$\tan \theta = \frac{R_y}{R_x} = \frac{A_y + B_y}{A_x + B_x} \quad (3.17)$$

At times, we need to consider situations involving motion in three component directions. The extension of our methods to three-dimensional vectors is straightforward. If  $\vec{A}$  and  $\vec{B}$  both have  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  components, they can be expressed in the form

$$\vec{A} = A_x \hat{i} + A_y \hat{j} + A_z \hat{k} \quad (3.18)$$

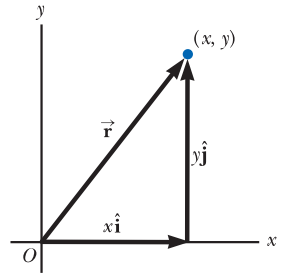
$$\vec{B} = B_x \hat{i} + B_y \hat{j} + B_z \hat{k} \quad (3.19)$$

The sum of  $\vec{A}$  and  $\vec{B}$  is

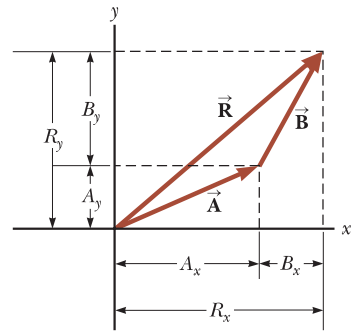
$$\vec{R} = (A_x + B_x) \hat{i} + (A_y + B_y) \hat{j} + (A_z + B_z) \hat{k} \quad (3.20)$$

Notice that Equation 3.20 differs from Equation 3.14: in Equation 3.20, the resultant vector also has a  $z$  component  $R_z = A_z + B_z$ . If a vector  $\vec{R}$  has  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  components, the magnitude of the vector is  $R = \sqrt{R_x^2 + R_y^2 + R_z^2}$ . The angle  $\theta_x$  that  $\vec{R}$  makes with the  $x$  axis is found from the expression  $\cos \theta_x = R_x/R$ , with similar expressions for the angles with respect to the  $y$  and  $z$  axes.

The extension of our method to adding more than two vectors is also straightforward. For example,  $\vec{A} + \vec{B} + \vec{C} = (A_x + B_x + C_x) \hat{i} + (A_y + B_y + C_y) \hat{j} + (A_z + B_z + C_z) \hat{k}$ . We have described adding displacement vectors in this section because these types of vectors are easy to visualize. We can also add other types of



**Figure 3.15** The point whose Cartesian coordinates are  $(x, y)$  can be represented by the position vector  $\vec{r} = x\hat{i} + y\hat{j}$ .



**Figure 3.16** This geometric construction for the sum of two vectors shows the relationship between the components of the resultant  $\vec{R}$  and the components of the individual vectors.

### Pitfall Prevention 3.3

**Tangents on Calculators** Equation 3.17 involves the calculation of an angle by means of a tangent function. Generally, the inverse tangent function on calculators provides an angle between  $-90^\circ$  and  $+90^\circ$ . As a consequence, if the vector you are studying lies in the second or third quadrant, the angle measured from the positive  $x$  axis will be the angle your calculator returns plus  $180^\circ$ .

vectors, such as velocity, force, and electric field vectors, which we will do in later chapters.

- Quick Quiz 3.5** For which of the following vectors is the magnitude of the vector equal to one of the components of the vector? (a)  $\vec{A} = 2\hat{i} + 5\hat{j}$   
 (b)  $\vec{B} = -3\hat{j}$  (c)  $\vec{C} = +5\hat{k}$

### Example 3.3 The Sum of Two Vectors

Find the sum of two displacement vectors  $\vec{A}$  and  $\vec{B}$  lying in the  $xy$  plane and given by

$$\vec{A} = (2.0\hat{i} + 2.0\hat{j}) \text{ m} \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{B} = (2.0\hat{i} - 4.0\hat{j}) \text{ m}$$

#### SOLUTION

**Conceptualize** You can conceptualize the situation by drawing the vectors on graph paper. Draw an approximation of the expected resultant vector.

**Categorize** We categorize this example as a simple substitution problem. Comparing this expression for  $\vec{A}$  with the general expression  $\vec{A} = A_x\hat{i} + A_y\hat{j} + A_z\hat{k}$ , we see that  $A_x = 2.0 \text{ m}$ ,  $A_y = 2.0 \text{ m}$ , and  $A_z = 0$ . Likewise,  $B_x = 2.0 \text{ m}$ ,  $B_y = -4.0 \text{ m}$ , and  $B_z = 0$ . We can use a two-dimensional approach because there are no  $z$  components.

Use Equation 3.14 to obtain the resultant vector  $\vec{R}$ : 
$$\vec{R} = \vec{A} + \vec{B} = (2.0 + 2.0)\hat{i} \text{ m} + (2.0 - 4.0)\hat{j} \text{ m}$$

Evaluate the components of  $\vec{R}$ :

$$R_x = 4.0 \text{ m} \quad R_y = -2.0 \text{ m}$$

Use Equation 3.16 to find the magnitude of  $\vec{R}$ :

$$R = \sqrt{R_x^2 + R_y^2} = \sqrt{(4.0 \text{ m})^2 + (-2.0 \text{ m})^2} = \sqrt{20} \text{ m} = 4.5 \text{ m}$$

Find the direction of  $\vec{R}$  from Equation 3.17:

$$\tan \theta = \frac{R_y}{R_x} = \frac{-2.0 \text{ m}}{4.0 \text{ m}} = -0.50$$

Your calculator likely gives the answer  $-27^\circ$  for  $\theta = \tan^{-1}(-0.50)$ . This answer is correct if we interpret it to mean  $27^\circ$  clockwise from the  $x$  axis. Our standard form has been to quote the angles measured counterclockwise from the  $+x$  axis, and that angle for this vector is  $\theta = 333^\circ$ .

### Example 3.4 The Resultant Displacement

A particle undergoes three consecutive displacements:  $\Delta\vec{r}_1 = (15\hat{i} + 30\hat{j} + 12\hat{k}) \text{ cm}$ ,  $\Delta\vec{r}_2 = (23\hat{i} - 14\hat{j} - 5.0\hat{k}) \text{ cm}$ , and  $\Delta\vec{r}_3 = (-13\hat{i} + 15\hat{j}) \text{ cm}$ . Find unit-vector notation for the resultant displacement and its magnitude.

#### SOLUTION

**Conceptualize** Although  $x$  is sufficient to locate a point in one dimension, we need a vector  $\vec{r}$  to locate a point in two or three dimensions. The notation  $\Delta\vec{r}$  is a generalization of the one-dimensional displacement  $\Delta x$  in Equation 2.1. Three-dimensional displacements are more difficult to conceptualize than those in two dimensions because they cannot be drawn on paper like the latter.

For this problem, let us imagine that you start with your pencil at the origin of a piece of graph paper on which you have drawn  $x$  and  $y$  axes. Move your pencil 15 cm to the right along the  $x$  axis, then 30 cm upward along the  $y$  axis, and then 12 cm *perpendicularly toward you away*

from the graph paper. This procedure provides the displacement described by  $\Delta\vec{r}_1$ . From this point, move your pencil 23 cm to the right parallel to the  $x$  axis, then 14 cm parallel to the graph paper in the  $-y$  direction, and then 5.0 cm perpendicularly away from you toward the graph paper. You are now at the displacement from the origin described by  $\Delta\vec{r}_1 + \Delta\vec{r}_2$ . From this point, move your pencil 13 cm to the left in the  $-x$  direction, and (finally!) 15 cm parallel to the graph paper along the  $y$  axis. Your final position is at a displacement  $\Delta\vec{r}_1 + \Delta\vec{r}_2 + \Delta\vec{r}_3$  from the origin.

## 3.4 continued

**Categorize** Despite the difficulty in conceptualizing in three dimensions, we can categorize this problem as a substitution problem because of the careful bookkeeping methods that we have developed for vectors. The mathematical manipulation keeps track of this motion along the three perpendicular axes in an organized, compact way, as we see below.

To find the resultant displacement, add the three vectors:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta\vec{r} &= \Delta\vec{r}_1 + \Delta\vec{r}_2 + \Delta\vec{r}_3 \\ &= (15 + 23 - 13)\hat{i} \text{ cm} + (30 - 14 + 15)\hat{j} \text{ cm} + (12 - 5.0 + 0)\hat{k} \text{ cm} \\ &= (25\hat{i} + 31\hat{j} + 7.0\hat{k}) \text{ cm}\end{aligned}$$

Find the magnitude of the resultant vector:

$$\begin{aligned}R &= \sqrt{R_x^2 + R_y^2 + R_z^2} \\ &= \sqrt{(25 \text{ cm})^2 + (31 \text{ cm})^2 + (7.0 \text{ cm})^2} = 40 \text{ cm}\end{aligned}$$

**Example 3.5** Taking a Hike

A hiker begins a trip by first walking 25.0 km southeast from her car. She stops and sets up her tent for the night. On the second day, she walks 40.0 km in a direction  $60.0^\circ$  north of east, at which point she discovers a forest ranger's tower.

**(A)** Determine the components of the hiker's displacement for each day.

**SOLUTION**

**Conceptualize** We conceptualize the problem by drawing a sketch as in Figure 3.17. If we denote the displacement vectors on the first and second days by  $\vec{A}$  and  $\vec{B}$ , respectively, and use the car as the origin of coordinates, we obtain the vectors shown in Figure 3.17. The sketch allows us to estimate the resultant vector as shown.

**Categorize** Having drawn the resultant  $\vec{R}$ , we can now categorize this problem as one we've solved before: an addition of two vectors. You should now have a hint of the power of categorization in that many new problems are very similar to problems we have already solved if we are careful to conceptualize them. Once we have drawn the displacement vectors and categorized the problem, this problem is no longer about a hiker, a walk, a car, a tent, or a tower. It is a problem about vector addition, one that we have already solved.

**Analyze** Displacement  $\vec{A}$  has a magnitude of 25.0 km and is directed  $45.0^\circ$  below the positive  $x$  axis.

Find the components of  $\vec{A}$  using Equations 3.8 and 3.9:

$$\begin{aligned}A_x &= A \cos(-45.0^\circ) = (25.0 \text{ km})(0.707) = 17.7 \text{ km} \\ A_y &= A \sin(-45.0^\circ) = (25.0 \text{ km})(-0.707) = -17.7 \text{ km}\end{aligned}$$

The negative value of  $A_y$  indicates that the hiker walks in the negative  $y$  direction on the first day. The signs of  $A_x$  and  $A_y$  also are evident from Figure 3.17.

Find the components of  $\vec{B}$  using Equations 3.8 and 3.9:

$$\begin{aligned}B_x &= B \cos 60.0^\circ = (40.0 \text{ km})(0.500) = 20.0 \text{ km} \\ B_y &= B \sin 60.0^\circ = (40.0 \text{ km})(0.866) = 34.6 \text{ km}\end{aligned}$$

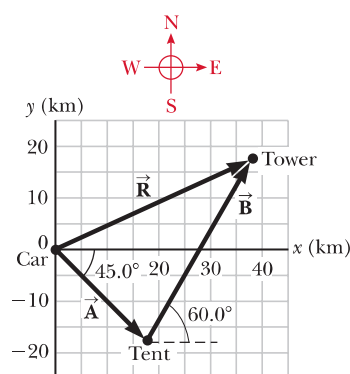
**(B)** Determine the components of the hiker's resultant displacement  $\vec{R}$  for the trip. Find an expression for  $\vec{R}$  in terms of unit vectors.

**SOLUTION**

Use Equation 3.15 to find the components of the resultant displacement  $\vec{R} = \vec{A} + \vec{B}$ :

$$\begin{aligned}R_x &= A_x + B_x = 17.7 \text{ km} + 20.0 \text{ km} = 37.7 \text{ km} \\ R_y &= A_y + B_y = -17.7 \text{ km} + 34.6 \text{ km} = 17.0 \text{ km}\end{aligned}$$

*continued*



**Figure 3.17** (Example 3.5) The total displacement of the hiker is the vector  $\vec{R} = \vec{A} + \vec{B}$ .



## 3.5 continued

Write the total displacement in unit-vector form:

$$\vec{\mathbf{R}} = (37.7\hat{\mathbf{i}} + 17.0\hat{\mathbf{j}}) \text{ km}$$

**Finalize** Looking at the graphical representation in Figure 3.17, we estimate the position of the tower to be about (38 km, 17 km), which is consistent with the components of  $\vec{\mathbf{R}}$  in our result for the final position of the hiker. Also, both components of  $\vec{\mathbf{R}}$  are positive, putting the final position in the first quadrant of the coordinate system, which is also consistent with Figure 3.17.

**WHAT IF?** After reaching the tower, the hiker wishes to return to her car along a single straight line. What are the components of the vector representing this hike? What should the direction of the hike be?

**Answer** The desired vector  $\vec{\mathbf{R}}_{\text{car}}$  is the negative of vector  $\vec{\mathbf{R}}$ :

$$\vec{\mathbf{R}}_{\text{car}} = -\vec{\mathbf{R}} = (-37.7\hat{\mathbf{i}} - 17.0\hat{\mathbf{j}}) \text{ km}$$

The direction is found by calculating the angle that the vector makes with the  $x$  axis:

$$\tan \theta = \frac{R_{\text{car},y}}{R_{\text{car},x}} = \frac{-17.0 \text{ km}}{-37.7 \text{ km}} = 0.450$$

which gives an angle of  $\theta = 204.2^\circ$ , or  $24.2^\circ$  south of west.

## Summary

### Definitions

**Scalar quantities** are those that have only a numerical value and no associated direction.

**Vector quantities** have both magnitude and direction and obey the laws of vector addition. The magnitude of a vector is *always* a positive number.

### Concepts and Principles

When two or more vectors are added together, they must all have the same units and they all must be the same type of quantity. We can add two vectors  $\vec{\mathbf{A}}$  and  $\vec{\mathbf{B}}$  graphically. In this method (Fig. 3.6), the resultant vector  $\vec{\mathbf{R}} = \vec{\mathbf{A}} + \vec{\mathbf{B}}$  runs from the tail of  $\vec{\mathbf{A}}$  to the tip of  $\vec{\mathbf{B}}$ .

If a vector  $\vec{\mathbf{A}}$  has an  $x$  component  $A_x$  and a  $y$  component  $A_y$ , the vector can be expressed in unit-vector form as  $\vec{\mathbf{A}} = A_x\hat{\mathbf{i}} + A_y\hat{\mathbf{j}}$ . In this notation,  $\hat{\mathbf{i}}$  is a unit vector pointing in the positive  $x$  direction and  $\hat{\mathbf{j}}$  is a unit vector pointing in the positive  $y$  direction. Because  $\hat{\mathbf{i}}$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{j}}$  are unit vectors,  $|\hat{\mathbf{i}}| = |\hat{\mathbf{j}}| = 1$ .

A second method of adding vectors involves **components** of the vectors. The  $x$  component  $A_x$  of the vector  $\vec{\mathbf{A}}$  is equal to the projection of  $\vec{\mathbf{A}}$  along the  $x$  axis of a coordinate system, where  $A_x = A \cos \theta$ . The  $y$  component  $A_y$  of  $\vec{\mathbf{A}}$  is the projection of  $\vec{\mathbf{A}}$  along the  $y$  axis, where  $A_y = A \sin \theta$ .

We can find the resultant of two or more vectors by resolving all vectors into their  $x$  and  $y$  components, adding their resultant  $x$  and  $y$  components, and then using the Pythagorean theorem to find the magnitude of the resultant vector. We can find the angle that the resultant vector makes with respect to the  $x$  axis by using a suitable trigonometric function.

## Objective Questions

 1. denotes answer available in *Student Solutions Manual/Study Guide*

- What is the magnitude of the vector  $(10\hat{i} - 10\hat{k})$  m/s?  
(a) 0 (b) 10 m/s (c) -10 m/s (d) 10 (e) 14.1 m/s
- A vector lying in the  $xy$  plane has components of opposite sign. The vector must lie in which quadrant? (a) the first quadrant (b) the second quadrant (c) the third quadrant (d) the fourth quadrant (e) either the second or the fourth quadrant
- Figure OQ3.3 shows two vectors  $\vec{D}_1$  and  $\vec{D}_2$ . Which of the possibilities (a) through (d) is the vector  $\vec{D}_2 - 2\vec{D}_1$ , or (e) is it none of them?

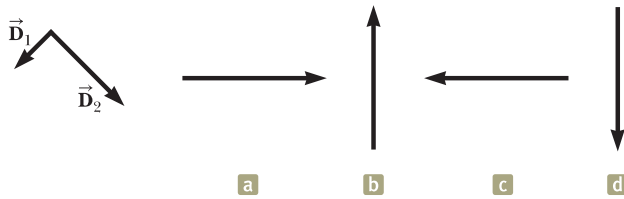


Figure OQ3.3

- The cutting tool on a lathe is given two displacements, one of magnitude 4 cm and one of magnitude 3 cm, in each one of five situations (a) through (e) diagrammed in Figure OQ3.4. Rank these situations according to the magnitude of the total displacement of the tool, putting the situation with the greatest resultant magnitude first. If the total displacement is the same size in two situations, give those letters equal ranks.

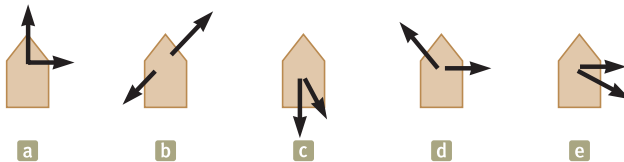


Figure OQ3.4

- The magnitude of vector  $\vec{A}$  is 8 km, and the magnitude of  $\vec{B}$  is 6 km. Which of the following are possible values for the magnitude of  $\vec{A} + \vec{B}$ ? Choose all possible answers. (a) 10 km (b) 8 km (c) 2 km (d) 0 (e) -2 km
- Let vector  $\vec{A}$  point from the origin into the second quadrant of the  $xy$  plane and vector  $\vec{B}$  point from the origin into the fourth quadrant. The vector  $\vec{B} - \vec{A}$

must be in which quadrant, (a) the first, (b) the second, (c) the third, or (d) the fourth, or (e) is more than one answer possible?

- Yes or no: Is each of the following quantities a vector? (a) force (b) temperature (c) the volume of water in a can (d) the ratings of a TV show (e) the height of a building (f) the velocity of a sports car (g) the age of the Universe
- What is the  $y$  component of the vector  $(3\hat{i} - 8\hat{k})$  m/s? (a) 3 m/s (b) -8 m/s (c) 0 (d) 8 m/s (e) none of those answers
- What is the  $x$  component of the vector shown in Figure OQ3.9? (a) 3 cm (b) 6 cm (c) -4 cm (d) -6 cm (e) none of those answers

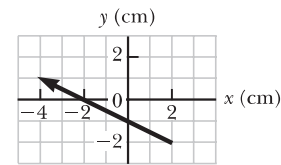


Figure OQ3.9 Objective Questions 9 and 10.

- What is the  $y$  component of the vector shown in Figure OQ3.9? (a) 3 cm (b) 6 cm (c) -4 cm (d) -6 cm (e) none of those answers
- Vector  $\vec{A}$  lies in the  $xy$  plane. Both of its components will be negative if it points from the origin into which quadrant? (a) the first quadrant (b) the second quadrant (c) the third quadrant (d) the fourth quadrant (e) the second or fourth quadrants
- A submarine dives from the water surface at an angle of  $30^\circ$  below the horizontal, following a straight path 50 m long. How far is the submarine then below the water surface? (a) 50 m (b)  $(50 \text{ m})/\sin 30^\circ$  (c)  $(50 \text{ m}) \sin 30^\circ$  (d)  $(50 \text{ m}) \cos 30^\circ$  (e) none of those answers
- A vector points from the origin into the second quadrant of the  $xy$  plane. What can you conclude about its components? (a) Both components are positive. (b) The  $x$  component is positive, and the  $y$  component is negative. (c) The  $x$  component is negative, and the  $y$  component is positive. (d) Both components are negative. (e) More than one answer is possible.

## Conceptual Questions

 1. denotes answer available in *Student Solutions Manual/Study Guide*

- Is it possible to add a vector quantity to a scalar quantity? Explain.
- Can the magnitude of a vector have a negative value? Explain.
- A book is moved once around the perimeter of a tabletop with the dimensions 1.0 m by 2.0 m. The book ends up at its initial position. (a) What is its displacement? (b) What is the distance traveled?

- If the component of vector  $\vec{A}$  along the direction of vector  $\vec{B}$  is zero, what can you conclude about the two vectors?
- On a certain calculator, the inverse tangent function returns a value between  $-90^\circ$  and  $+90^\circ$ . In what cases will this value correctly state the direction of a vector in the  $xy$  plane, by giving its angle measured counter-clockwise from the positive  $x$  axis? In what cases will it be incorrect?

## Problems



The problems found in this chapter may be assigned online in Enhanced WebAssign

1. straightforward; 2. intermediate; 3. challenging

1. full solution available in the *Student Solutions Manual/Study Guide*

**AMT** Analysis Model tutorial available in Enhanced WebAssign

**GP** Guided Problem

**M** Master It tutorial available in Enhanced WebAssign

**W** Watch It video solution available in Enhanced WebAssign

## Section 3.1 Coordinate Systems

1. The polar coordinates of a point are  $r = 5.50$  m and  $\theta = 240^\circ$ . What are the Cartesian coordinates of this point?

2. The rectangular coordinates of a point are given by  $(2, y)$ , and its polar coordinates are  $(r, 30^\circ)$ . Determine (a) the value of  $y$  and (b) the value of  $r$ .

3. Two points in the  $xy$  plane have Cartesian coordinates  $(2.00, -4.00)$  m and  $(-3.00, 3.00)$  m. Determine (a) the distance between these points and (b) their polar coordinates.

4. Two points in a plane have polar coordinates  $(2.50$  m,  $30.0^\circ)$  and  $(3.80$  m,  $120.0^\circ)$ . Determine (a) the Cartesian coordinates of these points and (b) the distance between them.

5. The polar coordinates of a certain point are  $(r = 4.30$  cm,  $\theta = 214^\circ)$ . (a) Find its Cartesian coordinates  $x$  and  $y$ . Find the polar coordinates of the points with Cartesian coordinates (b)  $(-x, y)$ , (c)  $(-2x, -2y)$ , and (d)  $(3x, -3y)$ .

6. Let the polar coordinates of the point  $(x, y)$  be  $(r, \theta)$ . Determine the polar coordinates for the points (a)  $(-x, y)$ , (b)  $(-2x, -2y)$ , and (c)  $(3x, -3y)$ .

## Section 3.2 Vector and Scalar Quantities

## Section 3.3 Some Properties of Vectors

7. A surveyor measures the distance across a straight river by the following method (Fig. P3.7). Starting directly across from a tree on the opposite bank, she walks  $d = 100$  m along the riverbank to establish a baseline. Then she sights across to the tree. The angle from her baseline to the tree is  $\theta = 35.0^\circ$ . How wide is the river?

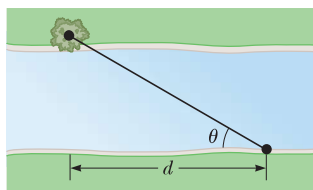


Figure P3.7

8. Vector  $\vec{A}$  has a magnitude of 29 units and points in the positive  $y$  direction. When vector  $\vec{B}$  is added to  $\vec{A}$ ,

the resultant vector  $\vec{A} + \vec{B}$  points in the negative  $y$  direction with a magnitude of 14 units. Find the magnitude and direction of  $\vec{B}$ .

9. Why is the following situation impossible? A skater glides along a circular path. She defines a certain point on the circle as her origin. Later on, she passes through a point at which the distance she has traveled along the path from the origin is smaller than the magnitude of her displacement vector from the origin.

10. A force  $\vec{F}_1$  of magnitude 6.00 units acts on an object at the origin in a direction  $\theta = 30.0^\circ$  above the positive  $x$  axis (Fig. P3.10). A second force  $\vec{F}_2$  of magnitude 5.00 units acts on the object in the direction of the positive  $y$  axis. Find graphically the magnitude and direction of the resultant force  $\vec{F}_1 + \vec{F}_2$ .

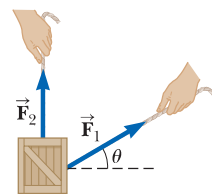


Figure P3.10

11. The displacement vectors  $\vec{A}$  and  $\vec{B}$  shown in Figure P3.11 both have magnitudes of 3.00 m. The direction of vector  $\vec{A}$  is  $\theta = 30.0^\circ$ . Find graphically (a)  $\vec{A} + \vec{B}$ , (b)  $\vec{A} - \vec{B}$ , (c)  $\vec{B} - \vec{A}$ , and (d)  $\vec{A} - 2\vec{B}$ . (Report all angles counterclockwise from the positive  $x$  axis.)

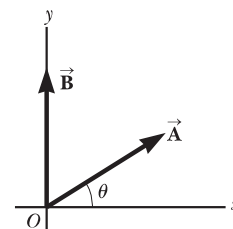


Figure P3.11

Problems 11 and 22.

12. Three displacements are  $\vec{A} = 200$  m due south,  $\vec{B} = 250$  m due west, and  $\vec{C} = 150$  m at  $30.0^\circ$  east of north. (a) Construct a separate diagram for each of the following possible ways of adding these vectors;  $\vec{R}_1 = \vec{A} + \vec{B} + \vec{C}$ ;  $\vec{R}_2 = \vec{B} + \vec{C} + \vec{A}$ ;  $\vec{R}_3 = \vec{C} + \vec{B} + \vec{A}$ . (b) Explain what you can conclude from comparing the diagrams.

13. A roller-coaster car moves 200 ft horizontally and then rises 135 ft at an angle of  $30.0^\circ$  above the horizontal. It next travels 135 ft at an angle of  $40.0^\circ$  downward. What is its displacement from its starting point? Use graphical techniques.

14. A plane flies from base camp to Lake A, 280 km away in the direction  $20.0^\circ$  north of east. After dropping off supplies, it flies to Lake B, which is 190 km at  $30.0^\circ$  west of north from Lake A. Graphically determine the distance and direction from Lake B to the base camp.



### Section 3.4 Components of a Vector and Unit Vectors

15. A vector has an  $x$  component of  $-25.0$  units and a  $y$  component of  $40.0$  units. Find the magnitude and direction of this vector.
16. Vector  $\vec{A}$  has a magnitude of  $35.0$  units and points in the direction  $325^\circ$  counterclockwise from the positive  $x$  axis. Calculate the  $x$  and  $y$  components of this vector.
17. A minivan travels straight north in the right lane of a divided highway at  $28.0$  m/s. A camper passes the minivan and then changes from the left lane into the right lane. As it does so, the camper's path on the road is a straight displacement at  $8.50^\circ$  east of north. To avoid cutting off the minivan, the north-south distance between the camper's back bumper and the minivan's front bumper should not decrease. (a) Can the camper be driven to satisfy this requirement? (b) Explain your answer.
18. A person walks  $25.0^\circ$  north of east for  $3.10$  km. How far would she have to walk due north and due east to arrive at the same location?
19. Obtain expressions in component form for the position vectors having the polar coordinates (a)  $12.8$  m,  $150^\circ$ ; (b)  $3.30$  cm,  $60.0^\circ$ ; and (c)  $22.0$  in.,  $215^\circ$ .
20. A girl delivering newspapers covers her route by traveling  $3.00$  blocks west,  $4.00$  blocks north, and then  $6.00$  blocks east. (a) What is her resultant displacement? (b) What is the total distance she travels?
21. While exploring a cave, a spelunker starts at the entrance and moves the following distances in a horizontal plane. She goes  $75.0$  m north,  $250$  m east,  $125$  m at an angle  $\theta = 30.0^\circ$  north of east, and  $150$  m south. Find her resultant displacement from the cave entrance. Figure P3.21 suggests the situation but is not drawn to scale.

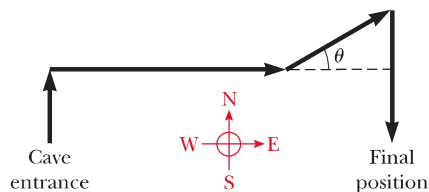


Figure P3.21

22. Use the component method to add the vectors  $\vec{A}$  and  $\vec{B}$  shown in Figure P3.11. Both vectors have magnitudes of  $3.00$  m and vector  $\vec{A}$  makes an angle of  $\theta = 30.0^\circ$  with the  $x$  axis. Express the resultant  $\vec{A} + \vec{B}$  in unit-vector notation.
23. Consider the two vectors  $\vec{A} = 3\hat{i} - 2\hat{j}$  and  $\vec{B} = -\hat{i} - 4\hat{j}$ . Calculate (a)  $\vec{A} + \vec{B}$ , (b)  $\vec{A} - \vec{B}$ , (c)  $|\vec{A} + \vec{B}|$ , (d)  $|\vec{A} - \vec{B}|$ , and (e) the directions of  $\vec{A} + \vec{B}$  and  $\vec{A} - \vec{B}$ .
24. A map suggests that Atlanta is  $730$  miles in a direction of  $5.00^\circ$  north of east from Dallas. The same map shows that Chicago is  $560$  miles in a direction of  $21.0^\circ$  west of north from Atlanta. Figure P3.24 shows the locations of these three cities. Modeling the Earth as flat, use

this information to find the displacement from Dallas to Chicago.



Figure P3.24

25. Your dog is running around the grass in your back yard. He undergoes successive displacements  $3.50$  m south,  $8.20$  m northeast, and  $15.0$  m west. What is the resultant displacement?
26. Given the vectors  $\vec{A} = 2.00\hat{i} + 6.00\hat{j}$  and  $\vec{B} = 3.00\hat{i} - 2.00\hat{j}$ , (a) draw the vector sum  $\vec{C} = \vec{A} + \vec{B}$  and the vector difference  $\vec{D} = \vec{A} - \vec{B}$ . (b) Calculate  $\vec{C}$  and  $\vec{D}$ , in terms of unit vectors. (c) Calculate  $\vec{C}$  and  $\vec{D}$  in terms of polar coordinates, with angles measured with respect to the positive  $x$  axis.
27. A novice golfer on the green takes three strokes to sink the ball. The successive displacements of the ball are  $4.00$  m to the north,  $2.00$  m northeast, and  $1.00$  m at  $30.0^\circ$  west of south (Fig. P3.27). Starting at the same initial point, an expert golfer could make the hole in what single displacement?

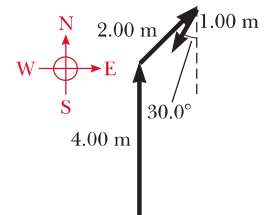


Figure P3.27

28. A snow-covered ski slope makes an angle of  $35.0^\circ$  with the horizontal. When a ski jumper plummets onto the hill, a parcel of splashed snow is thrown up to a maximum displacement of  $1.50$  m at  $16.0^\circ$  from the vertical in the uphill direction as shown in Figure P3.28. Find the components of its maximum displacement (a) parallel to the surface and (b) perpendicular to the surface.

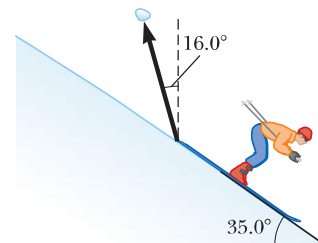


Figure P3.28

29. The helicopter view in Fig. P3.29 (page 74) shows two people pulling on a stubborn mule. The person on the right pulls with a force  $\vec{F}_1$  of magnitude  $120$  N

and direction of  $\theta_1 = 60.0^\circ$ . The person on the left pulls with a force  $\vec{F}_2$  of magnitude 80.0 N and direction of  $\theta_2 = 75.0^\circ$ . Find (a) the single force that is equivalent to the two forces shown and (b) the force that a third person would have to exert on the mule to make the resultant force equal to zero. The forces are measured in units of newtons (symbolized N).

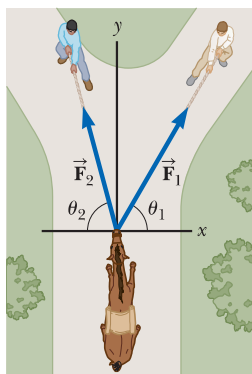


Figure P3.29

30. In a game of American football, a quarterback takes the ball from the line of scrimmage, runs backward a distance of 10.0 yards, and then runs sideways parallel to the line of scrimmage for 15.0 yards. At this point, he throws a forward pass downfield 50.0 yards perpendicular to the line of scrimmage. What is the magnitude of the football's resultant displacement?

31. Consider the three displacement vectors  $\vec{A} = (3\hat{i} - 3\hat{j})$  m,  $\vec{B} = (\hat{i} - 4\hat{j})$  m, and  $\vec{C} = (-2\hat{i} + 5\hat{j})$  m. Use the component method to determine (a) the magnitude and direction of  $\vec{D} = \vec{A} + \vec{B} + \vec{C}$  and (b) the magnitude and direction of  $\vec{E} = -\vec{A} - \vec{B} + \vec{C}$ .

32. Vector  $\vec{A}$  has  $x$  and  $y$  components of  $-8.70$  cm and  $15.0$  cm, respectively; vector  $\vec{B}$  has  $x$  and  $y$  components of  $13.2$  cm and  $-6.60$  cm, respectively. If  $\vec{A} - \vec{B} + 3\vec{C} = 0$ , what are the components of  $\vec{C}$ ?

33. The vector  $\vec{A}$  has  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  components of  $8.00$ ,  $12.0$ , and  $-4.00$  units, respectively. (a) Write a vector expression for  $\vec{A}$  in unit-vector notation. (b) Obtain a unit-vector expression for a vector  $\vec{B}$  one-fourth the length of  $\vec{A}$  pointing in the same direction as  $\vec{A}$ . (c) Obtain a unit-vector expression for a vector  $\vec{C}$  three times the length of  $\vec{A}$  pointing in the direction opposite the direction of  $\vec{A}$ .

34. Vector  $\vec{B}$  has  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  components of  $4.00$ ,  $6.00$ , and  $3.00$  units, respectively. Calculate (a) the magnitude of  $\vec{B}$  and (b) the angle that  $\vec{B}$  makes with each coordinate axis.

35. Vector  $\vec{A}$  has a negative  $x$  component  $3.00$  units in length and a positive  $y$  component  $2.00$  units in length. (a) Determine an expression for  $\vec{A}$  in unit-vector notation. (b) Determine the magnitude and direction of  $\vec{A}$ . (c) What vector  $\vec{B}$  when added to  $\vec{A}$  gives a resultant vector with no  $x$  component and a negative  $y$  component  $4.00$  units in length?

36. Given the displacement vectors  $\vec{A} = (3\hat{i} - 4\hat{j} + 4\hat{k})$  m and  $\vec{B} = (2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} - 7\hat{k})$  m, find the magnitudes of the following vectors and express each in terms of its rectangular components. (a)  $\vec{C} = \vec{A} + \vec{B}$  (b)  $\vec{D} = 2\vec{A} - \vec{B}$

37. (a) Taking  $\vec{A} = (6.00\hat{i} - 8.00\hat{j})$  units,  $\vec{B} = (-8.00\hat{i} + 3.00\hat{j})$  units, and  $\vec{C} = (26.0\hat{i} + 19.0\hat{j})$  units, determine  $a$  and  $b$  such that  $a\vec{A} + b\vec{B} + \vec{C} = 0$ . (b) A

student has learned that a single equation cannot be solved to determine values for more than one unknown in it. How would you explain to him that both  $a$  and  $b$  can be determined from the single equation used in part (a)?

38. Three displacement vectors of a croquet ball are shown in Figure P3.38, where  $|\vec{A}| = 20.0$  units,  $|\vec{B}| = 40.0$  units, and  $|\vec{C}| = 30.0$  units. Find (a) the resultant in unit-vector notation and (b) the magnitude and direction of the resultant displacement.

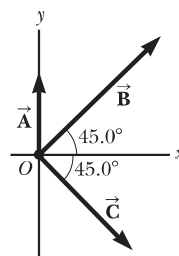


Figure P3.38

39. A man pushing a mop across a floor causes it to undergo two displacements. The first has a magnitude of  $150$  cm and makes an angle of  $120^\circ$  with the positive  $x$  axis. The resultant displacement has a magnitude of  $140$  cm and is directed at an angle of  $35.0^\circ$  to the positive  $x$  axis. Find the magnitude and direction of the second displacement.

40. Figure P3.40 illustrates typical proportions of male (m) and female (f) anatomies. The displacements  $\vec{d}_{1m}$  and  $\vec{d}_{1f}$  from the soles of the feet to the navel have magnitudes of  $104$  cm and  $84.0$  cm, respectively. The displacements  $\vec{d}_{2m}$  and  $\vec{d}_{2f}$  from the navel to outstretched fingertips have magnitudes of  $100$  cm and  $86.0$  cm, respectively. Find the vector sum of these displacements  $\vec{d}_3 = \vec{d}_1 + \vec{d}_2$  for both people.

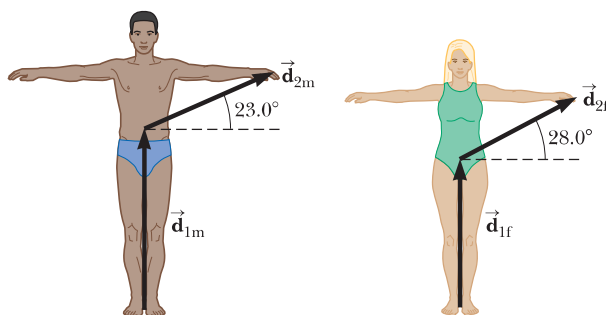


Figure P3.40

41. Express in unit-vector notation the following vectors, each of which has magnitude  $17.0$  cm. (a) Vector  $\vec{E}$  is directed  $27.0^\circ$  counterclockwise from the positive  $x$  axis. (b) Vector  $\vec{F}$  is directed  $27.0^\circ$  counterclockwise from the positive  $y$  axis. (c) Vector  $\vec{G}$  is directed  $27.0^\circ$  clockwise from the negative  $y$  axis.

42. A radar station locates a sinking ship at range  $17.3$  km and bearing  $136^\circ$  clockwise from north. From the same station, a rescue plane is at horizontal range  $19.6$  km,  $153^\circ$  clockwise from north, with elevation  $2.20$  km. (a) Write the position vector for the ship relative to the plane, letting  $\hat{i}$  represent east,  $\hat{j}$  north, and  $\hat{k}$  up. (b) How far apart are the plane and ship?

43. Review. As it passes over Grand Bahama Island, the eye of a hurricane is moving in a direction  $60.0^\circ$  north of west with a speed of  $41.0$  km/h. (a) What is the unit-vector expression for the velocity of the hurricane?

It maintains this velocity for 3.00 h, at which time the course of the hurricane suddenly shifts due north, and its speed slows to a constant 25.0 km/h. This new velocity is maintained for 1.50 h. (b) What is the unit-vector expression for the new velocity of the hurricane? (c) What is the unit-vector expression for the displacement of the hurricane during the first 3.00 h? (d) What is the unit-vector expression for the displacement of the hurricane during the latter 1.50 h? (e) How far from Grand Bahama is the eye 4.50 h after it passes over the island?

44. Why is the following situation impossible? A shopper pushing a cart through a market follows directions to the canned goods and moves through a displacement  $8.00\hat{i}$  m down one aisle. He then makes a  $90.0^\circ$  turn and moves 3.00 m along the  $y$  axis. He then makes another  $90.0^\circ$  turn and moves 4.00 m along the  $x$  axis. Every shopper who follows these directions correctly ends up 5.00 m from the starting point.

45. **Review.** You are standing on the ground at the origin of a coordinate system. An airplane flies over you with constant velocity parallel to the  $x$  axis and at a fixed height of  $7.60 \times 10^3$  m. At time  $t = 0$ , the airplane is directly above you so that the vector leading from you to it is  $\vec{P}_0 = 7.60 \times 10^3\hat{j}$  m. At  $t = 30.0$  s, the position vector leading from you to the airplane is  $\vec{P}_{30} = (8.04 \times 10^3\hat{i} + 7.60 \times 10^3\hat{j})$  m as suggested in Figure P3.45. Determine the magnitude and orientation of the airplane's position vector at  $t = 45.0$  s.

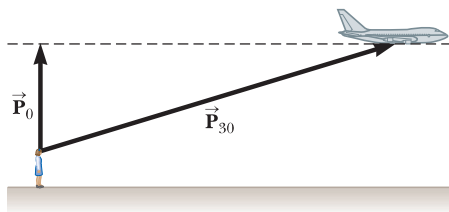


Figure P3.45

46. In Figure P3.46, the line segment represents a path from the point with position vector  $(5\hat{i} + 3\hat{j})$  m to the point with location  $(16\hat{i} + 12\hat{j})$  m. Point A is along this path, a fraction  $f$  of the way to the destination. (a) Find the position vector of point A in terms of  $f$ . (b) Evaluate the expression from part (a) for  $f = 0$ . (c) Explain whether the result in part (b) is reasonable. (d) Evaluate the expression for  $f = 1$ . (e) Explain whether the result in part (d) is reasonable.

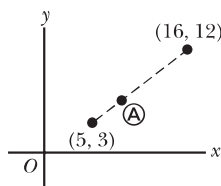


Figure P3.46 Point A is a fraction  $f$  of the distance from the initial point  $(5, 3)$  to the final point  $(16, 12)$ .

47. In an assembly operation illustrated in Figure P3.47, a robot moves an object first straight upward and then also to the east, around an arc forming one-quarter of a circle of radius 4.80 cm that lies in an east–west vertical plane. The robot then moves the object upward and to the north, through one-quarter of a

circle of radius 3.70 cm that lies in a north–south vertical plane. Find (a) the magnitude of the total displacement of the object and (b) the angle the total displacement makes with the vertical.

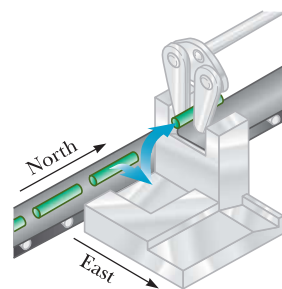


Figure P3.47

### Additional Problems

48. A fly lands on one wall of a room. The lower-left corner of the wall is selected as the origin of a two-dimensional Cartesian coordinate system. If the fly is located at the point having coordinates  $(2.00, 1.00)$  m, (a) how far is it from the origin? (b) What is its location in polar coordinates?

49. As she picks up her riders, a bus driver traverses four successive displacements represented by the expression
- $$(-6.30\text{ b})\hat{i} - (4.00\text{ b}\cos 40^\circ)\hat{i} - (4.00\text{ b}\sin 40^\circ)\hat{j}$$

$$+ (3.00\text{ b}\cos 50^\circ)\hat{i} - (3.00\text{ b}\sin 50^\circ)\hat{j} - (5.00\text{ b})\hat{j}$$

Here  $b$  represents one city block, a convenient unit of distance of uniform size;  $\hat{i}$  is east; and  $\hat{j}$  is north. The displacements at  $40^\circ$  and  $50^\circ$  represent travel on roadways in the city that are at these angles to the main east–west and north–south streets. (a) Draw a map of the successive displacements. (b) What total distance did she travel? (c) Compute the magnitude and direction of her total displacement. The logical structure of this problem and of several problems in later chapters was suggested by Alan Van Heuvelen and David Maloney, *American Journal of Physics* **67**(3) 252–256, March 1999.

50. A jet airliner, moving initially at 300 mi/h to the east, suddenly enters a region where the wind is blowing at 100 mi/h toward the direction  $30.0^\circ$  north of east. What are the new speed and direction of the aircraft relative to the ground?

51. A person going for a walk follows the path shown in Figure P3.51. The total trip consists of four straight-line paths. At the end of the walk, what is the person's resultant displacement measured from the starting point?

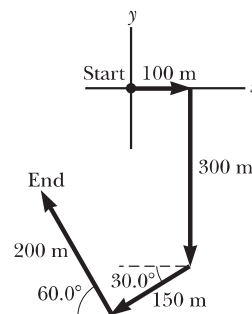


Figure P3.51

52. Find the horizontal and vertical components of the 100-m displacement of a superhero who flies from the



top of a tall building following the path shown in Figure P3.52.

- 53. Review.** The biggest stuffed animal in the world is a snake 420 m long, constructed by Norwegian children. Suppose the snake is laid out in a park as shown in Figure P3.53, forming two straight sides of a  $105^\circ$  angle, with one side 240 m long. Olaf and Inge run a race they invent. Inge runs directly from the tail of the snake to its head, and Olaf starts from the same place at the same moment but runs along the snake. (a) If both children run steadily at 12.0 km/h, Inge reaches the head of the snake how much earlier than Olaf? (b) If Inge runs the race again at a constant speed of 12.0 km/h, at what constant speed must Olaf run to reach the end of the snake at the same time as Inge?

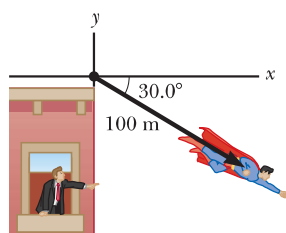


Figure P3.52

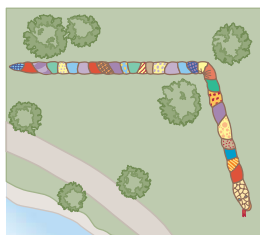


Figure P3.53

- 54.** An air-traffic controller observes two aircraft on his radar screen. The first is at altitude 800 m, horizontal distance 19.2 km, and  $25.0^\circ$  south of west. The second aircraft is at altitude 1100 m, horizontal distance 17.6 km, and  $20.0^\circ$  south of west. What is the distance between the two aircraft? (Place the  $x$  axis west, the  $y$  axis south, and the  $z$  axis vertical.)
- 55.** In Figure P3.55, a spider is resting after starting to spin its web. The gravitational force on the spider makes it exert a downward force of 0.150 N on the junction of the three strands of silk. The junction is supported by different tension forces in the two strands above it so that the resultant force on the junction is zero. The two sloping strands are perpendicular, and we have chosen the  $x$  and  $y$  directions to be along them. The tension  $T_x$  is 0.127 N. Find (a) the tension  $T_y$ , (b) the angle the  $x$  axis makes with the horizontal, and (c) the angle the  $y$  axis makes with the horizontal.

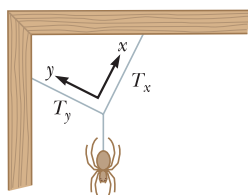


Figure P3.55

- 56.** The rectangle shown in Figure P3.56 has sides parallel to the  $x$  and  $y$  axes. The position vectors of two corners are  $\vec{A} = 10.0$  m at  $50.0^\circ$  and  $\vec{B} = 12.0$  m at  $30.0^\circ$ . (a) Find the perimeter of the rectangle. (b) Find the magnitude and direction of the vector from the origin to the upper-right corner of the rectangle.

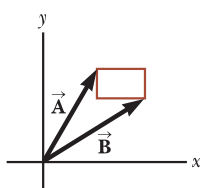


Figure P3.56

- 57.** A vector is given by  $\vec{R} = 2\hat{i} + \hat{j} + 3\hat{k}$ . Find (a) the magnitudes of the  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  components; (b) the magnitude of  $\vec{R}$ ; and (c) the angles between  $\vec{R}$  and the  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  axes.
- 58.** A ferry transports tourists between three islands. It sails from the first island to the second island, 4.76 km away, in a direction  $37.0^\circ$  north of east. It then sails from the second island to the third island in a direction  $69.0^\circ$  west of north. Finally it returns to the first island, sailing in a direction  $28.0^\circ$  east of south. Calculate the distance between (a) the second and third islands and (b) the first and third islands.
- 59.** Two vectors  $\vec{A}$  and  $\vec{B}$  have precisely equal magnitudes. For the magnitude of  $\vec{A} + \vec{B}$  to be 100 times larger than the magnitude of  $\vec{A} - \vec{B}$ , what must be the angle between them?
- 60.** Two vectors  $\vec{A}$  and  $\vec{B}$  have precisely equal magnitudes. For the magnitude of  $\vec{A} + \vec{B}$  to be larger than the magnitude of  $\vec{A} - \vec{B}$  by the factor  $n$ , what must be the angle between them?
- 61.** Let  $\vec{A} = 60.0$  cm at  $270^\circ$  measured from the horizontal. Let  $\vec{B} = 80.0$  cm at some angle  $\theta$ . (a) Find the magnitude of  $\vec{A} + \vec{B}$  as a function of  $\theta$ . (b) From the answer to part (a), for what value of  $\theta$  does  $|\vec{A} + \vec{B}|$  take on its maximum value? What is this maximum value? (c) From the answer to part (a), for what value of  $\theta$  does  $|\vec{A} + \vec{B}|$  take on its minimum value? What is this minimum value? (d) Without reference to the answer to part (a), argue that the answers to each of parts (b) and (c) do or do not make sense.
- 62.** After a ball rolls off the edge of a horizontal table at time  $t = 0$ , its velocity as a function of time is given by

$$\vec{v} = 1.2\hat{i} - 9.8t\hat{j}$$

where  $\vec{v}$  is in meters per second and  $t$  is in seconds. The ball's displacement away from the edge of the table, during the time interval of 0.380 s for which the ball is in flight, is given by

$$\Delta\vec{r} = \int_0^{0.380\text{ s}} \vec{v} dt$$

To perform the integral, you can use the calculus theorem

$$\int [A + Bf(x)]dx = \int A dx + B \int f(x) dx$$

You can think of the units and unit vectors as constants, represented by  $A$  and  $B$ . Perform the integration to calculate the displacement of the ball from the edge of the table at 0.380 s.

- 63. Review.** The instantaneous position of an object is specified by its position vector leading from a fixed origin to the location of the object, modeled as a particle. Suppose for a certain object the position vector is a function of time given by  $\vec{r} = 4\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} - 2t\hat{k}$ , where  $\vec{r}$  is in meters and  $t$  is in seconds. (a) Evaluate  $d\vec{r}/dt$ . (b) What physical quantity does  $d\vec{r}/dt$  represent about the object?

64. Ecotourists use their global positioning system indicator to determine their location inside a botanical garden as latitude  $0.002\,43$  degree south of the equator, longitude  $75.642\,38$  degrees west. They wish to visit a tree at latitude  $0.001\,62$  degree north, longitude  $75.644\,26$  degrees west. (a) Determine the straight-line distance and the direction in which they can walk to reach the tree as follows. First model the Earth as a sphere of radius  $6.37 \times 10^6$  m to determine the westward and northward displacement components required, in meters. Then model the Earth as a flat surface to complete the calculation. (b) Explain why it is possible to use these two geometrical models together to solve the problem.
65. A rectangular parallelepiped has dimensions  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  as shown in Figure P3.65. (a) Obtain a vector expression for the face diagonal vector  $\vec{R}_1$ . (b) What is the magnitude of this vector? (c) Notice that  $\vec{R}_1$ ,  $c\hat{k}$ , and  $\vec{R}_2$  make a right triangle. Obtain a vector expression for the body diagonal vector  $\vec{R}_2$ .

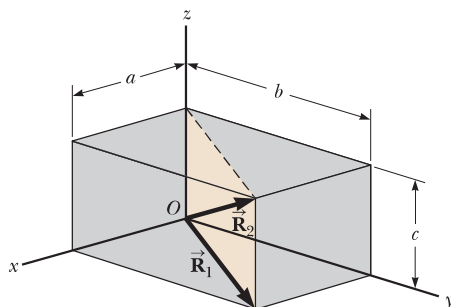


Figure P3.65

66. Vectors  $\vec{A}$  and  $\vec{B}$  have equal magnitudes of  $5.00$ . The sum of  $\vec{A}$  and  $\vec{B}$  is the vector  $6.00\hat{j}$ . Determine the angle between  $\vec{A}$  and  $\vec{B}$ .

### Challenge Problem

67. A pirate has buried his treasure on an island with five trees located at the points  $(30.0\text{ m}, -20.0\text{ m})$ ,  $(60.0\text{ m}, 80.0\text{ m})$ ,  $(-10.0\text{ m}, -10.0\text{ m})$ ,  $(40.0\text{ m}, -30.0\text{ m})$ , and  $(-70.0\text{ m}, 60.0\text{ m})$ , all measured relative to some origin, as shown in Figure P3.67. His ship's log instructs you to start at tree  $A$  and move toward tree  $B$ , but to cover only one-half the distance between  $A$  and  $B$ . Then move toward tree  $C$ , covering one-third the distance between your current location and  $C$ . Next move toward tree  $D$ , covering one-fourth the distance between where you are and  $D$ . Finally move toward tree  $E$ , covering one-fifth the distance between you and  $E$ , stop, and dig. (a) Assume you have correctly determined the order in which the pirate labeled the trees as  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$ ,  $D$ , and  $E$  as shown in the figure. What are the coordinates of the point where his treasure is buried? (b) **What If?** What if you do not really know the way the pirate labeled the trees? What would happen to the answer if you rearranged the order of the trees, for instance, to  $B$  ( $30\text{ m}, -20\text{ m}$ ),  $A$  ( $60\text{ m}, 80\text{ m}$ ),  $E$  ( $-10\text{ m}, -10\text{ m}$ ),  $C$  ( $40\text{ m}, -30\text{ m}$ ), and  $D$  ( $-70\text{ m}, 60\text{ m}$ )? State reasoning to show that the answer does not depend on the order in which the trees are labeled.

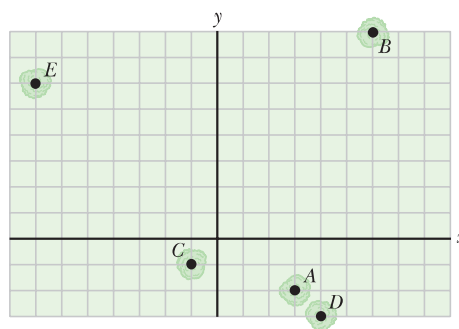


Figure P3.67