

Vectors — 10.4

Definitions

Scalar quantities are quantities (such as length, area, volume, time or temperature) that only have a magnitude, not a direction.

Vectors are quantities (such as velocity or force) that have both a magnitude and a direction. Vectors can be thought of as directed line segments.

The vector \overline{PQ} has an initial point P and a terminal point Q .

The magnitude of \overline{PQ} , denoted by $\| \overline{PQ} \|$ is the length of the line segment.

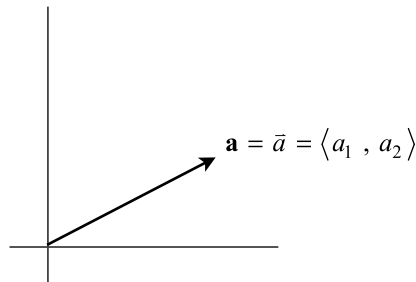
Vectors may also be written in bold letters, such as \mathbf{u} or \mathbf{v} , or handwritten as \vec{u} or \vec{v} .

Note: Vectors with the same magnitude and the same direction are equivalent.

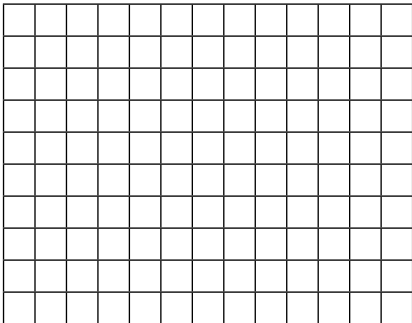
Vectors in the XY-Plane

The position vector \mathbf{a} in the xy-plane with an initial point at the origin $(0, 0)$ and a terminal point at (a_1, a_2) is denoted by

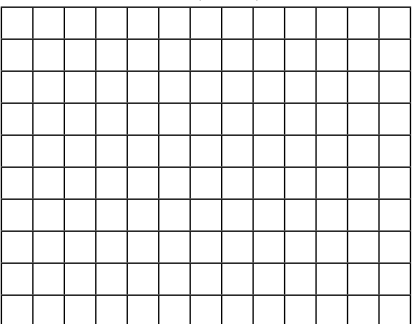
$\mathbf{a} = \vec{a} = \langle a_1, a_2 \rangle$. See illustration below.



1. Sketch the vector $\langle 3, -5 \rangle$.



- Sketch the vector $\langle 0, 3 \rangle$.



2. What is the magnitude of the vector $\langle 0, 3 \rangle$?

The Magnitude of a Vector

The magnitude of a vector $\mathbf{a} = \vec{a} = \langle a_1, a_2 \rangle$, denoted by $\|\vec{a}\|$ is given by $\|\vec{a}\| = \|\langle a_1, a_2 \rangle\| = \sqrt{a_1^2 + a_2^2}$.

3. What is the magnitude of the vector $\langle 3, -5 \rangle$?

4. Find the magnitude of $\langle \frac{1}{2}, \frac{5}{4} \rangle$.

Addition of Vectors

$$\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b} = \langle a_1, a_2 \rangle + \langle b_1, b_2 \rangle = \langle a_1 + b_1, a_2 + b_2 \rangle$$

Find the following.

5. $\langle 3, 2 \rangle + \langle 1, 5 \rangle$

6. $\langle 0, 7 \rangle + \langle -3, 4 \rangle$

Scalar Multiplication

$$m \langle a_1, a_2 \rangle = \langle m a_1, m a_2 \rangle$$

7. If $\mathbf{a} = \langle 1, 3 \rangle$, find $5\mathbf{a}$ and $-2\mathbf{a}$.

Definitions

$$\mathbf{0} = \langle 0, 0 \rangle$$

$$-\mathbf{a} = -\langle a_1, a_2 \rangle = \langle -a_1, -a_2 \rangle$$

Vector Subtraction

$$\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b} = \langle a_1, a_2 \rangle - \langle b_1, b_2 \rangle = \langle a_1 - b_1, a_2 - b_2 \rangle$$

8. If $\mathbf{a} = \langle 8, -1 \rangle$ and $\mathbf{b} = \langle -2, 5 \rangle$, find $\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b}$.

Unit Vectors: \mathbf{i} and \mathbf{j}

$$\mathbf{i} = \langle 1, 0 \rangle$$

$$\mathbf{j} = \langle 0, 1 \rangle$$

Both \mathbf{i} and \mathbf{j} are unit vectors; in other words their magnitudes are 1.

Alternate way of writing vectors:

If $\mathbf{a} = \langle a_1, a_2 \rangle$ then

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{a} &= \langle a_1, 0 \rangle + \langle 0, a_2 \rangle \\ &= a_1 \langle 1, 0 \rangle + a_2 \langle 0, 1 \rangle \\ &= a_1 \mathbf{i} + a_2 \mathbf{j}\end{aligned}$$

So, the \mathbf{i} \mathbf{j} form for vectors is: $\mathbf{a} = \langle a_1, a_2 \rangle = a_1 \mathbf{i} + a_2 \mathbf{j}$

or handwritten $\bar{\mathbf{a}} = \langle a_1, a_2 \rangle = a_1 \bar{\mathbf{i}} + a_2 \bar{\mathbf{j}}$

Write each of the following in \mathbf{i} \mathbf{j} form.

9. $\langle 5, 3 \rangle$

10. $\langle 4, -1 \rangle$

11. $\langle 0, 3 \rangle$

12. If $\mathbf{a} = 5\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j}$ and $\mathbf{b} = 4\mathbf{i} - 7\mathbf{j}$, express $3\mathbf{a} - 2\mathbf{b}$ as a linear combination of \mathbf{i} and \mathbf{j} .

Formulas for Horizontal and Vertical Components of Vectors

If the vector $\mathbf{a} = \langle a_1, a_2 \rangle$ and the angle θ is in standard position (measured from the positive x-axis) as shown, then

$$a_1 = \|a\| \cos \theta, \quad \text{and} \quad a_2 = \|a\| \sin \theta.$$

Find the magnitude of the vector \mathbf{a} and the smallest positive angle θ from the positive x-axis to the vector \overrightarrow{OP} that corresponds to \mathbf{a} .

13. $\mathbf{a} = \langle -2, -2\sqrt{3} \rangle$

14. $\mathbf{a} = 10\mathbf{i} - 10\mathbf{j}$