

Vectors

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- 2 Perform Arithmetic Operations with Vectors
- 3 Solve Vector Equations
- 4 Find Unit Vectors
- 5 Find Magnitude and Direction from Component Form and Vice Versa

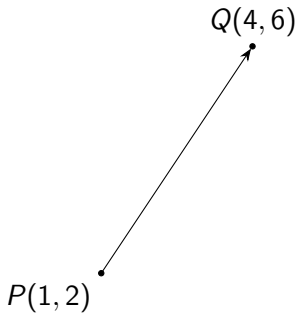
Intro

A **vector** is a mathematical object with both magnitude (length) and direction.

It is represented geometrically by a directed line segment.

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The following shows an example of a vector $\vec{v} = \overrightarrow{PQ}$.



P is the **initial point** and Q is the **terminal point**.

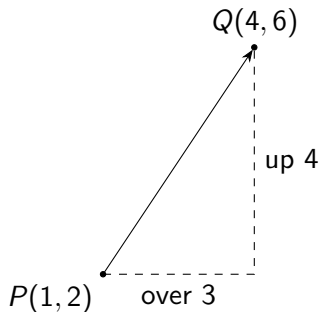
Magnitude

The **magnitude** of a vector (denoted $\|\vec{v}\|$ or $|\vec{v}|$) is the distance between P and Q .

Think Pythagorean Theorem.

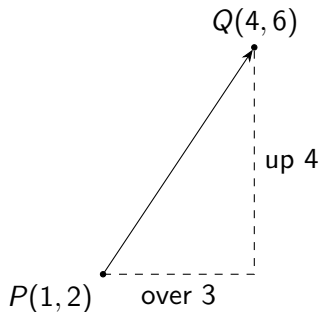
Component Form

If we connect the point P to point Q we get the following diagram:



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This can be represented by $\vec{v} = \langle 3, 4 \rangle$

Component Form

To find the component form for $P(x_0, y_0)$ and $Q(x_1, y_1)$, just take the difference in coordinates:

$$\vec{v} = \overrightarrow{PQ} = \langle x_1 - x_0, y_1 - y_0 \rangle$$

Example 1a

Find the component form and exact magnitude of \overrightarrow{AB} for each.

(a) $A(2, -1) \quad B(-5, 3)$

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$$\|\vec{AB}\| = \sqrt{3^2 + 1^2}$$

$$= \sqrt{10}$$

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Operation Properties of Vectors

The component form of vectors allows us to justify the following properties for $\vec{v} = \langle v_1, v_2 \rangle$ and $\vec{w} = \langle w_1, w_2 \rangle$:

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- $\vec{v} + \vec{w} = \vec{w} + \vec{v}$ (Commutative Prop.)

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- $(\vec{u} + \vec{v}) + \vec{w} = \vec{u} + (\vec{v} + \vec{w})$ (Associative Prop.)

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- $\vec{v} + \vec{0} = \vec{v}$ (Identity Property)
- $\vec{v} + (-\vec{v}) = \vec{0}$ (Inverse Prop.)

Example 2

Let $\vec{v} = \langle 3, 4 \rangle$ and suppose $\vec{w} = \overrightarrow{PQ}$ where $P(-3, 7)$ and $Q(-2, 5)$. Find $\vec{v} + \vec{w}$ and interpret the result geometrically.

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$$\begin{aligned}\vec{w} &= \langle -2 - (-3), 5 - 7 \rangle \\ &= \langle 1, -2 \rangle\end{aligned}$$

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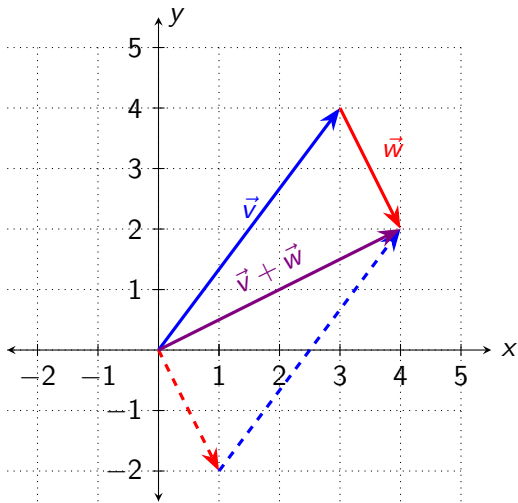
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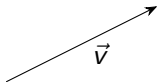
Example 2

Geometrically, $\vec{v} + \vec{w}$ is as follows:



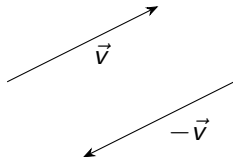
Scalar Multiplication

If we multiply our vector by a real number (a **scalar**), we get a new vector.



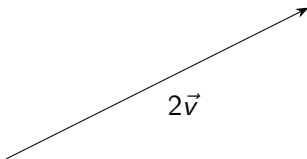
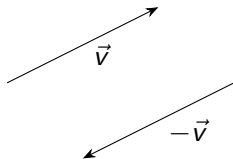
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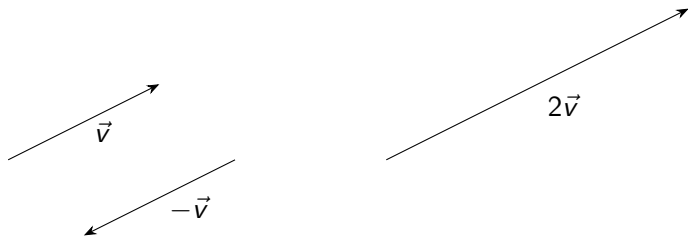
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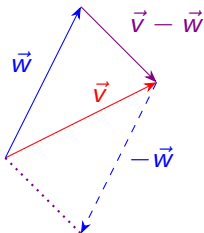
If we multiply our vector by a real number (a **scalar**), we get a new vector.



Thus, $k\vec{v} = k\langle v_1, v_2 \rangle = \langle kv_1, kv_2 \rangle$ for all real numbers k .

Vector Subtraction

Vector subtraction $\vec{v} - \vec{w}$ can be thought of as $\vec{v} + (-\vec{w})$ and is illustrated below:



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- $(kr)\vec{v} = k(r\vec{v})$ (Associative Prop.)

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- $k(\vec{v} + \vec{w}) = k\vec{v} + k\vec{w}$ (Distributive Prop. over Vector Addition)
- $k\vec{v} = 0$ if and only if $k = 0$ or $\vec{v} = 0$ (Zero Product Prop.)

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$$\langle 5x, 5y \rangle - 2\langle x + 1, y - 2 \rangle = \langle 0, 0 \rangle$$

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$$3x - 2 = 0 \quad 3y + 4 = 0$$

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$$3x - 2 = 0 \quad 3y + 4 = 0$$

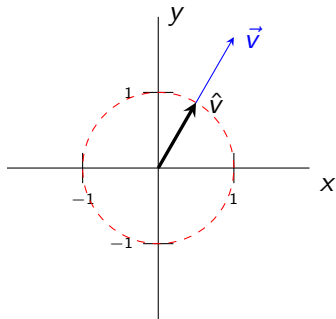
$$x = \frac{2}{3} \quad y = -\frac{4}{3} \longrightarrow \left\langle \frac{2}{3}, -\frac{4}{3} \right\rangle$$

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Unit Vectors

A **unit vector**, \hat{v} , is a vector that has a magnitude of 1.



Notice the unit vector \hat{v} is parallel to \vec{v} .

Unit Vectors

We get \hat{v} by dividing the magnitude of \vec{v} by itself:

$$\hat{v} = \frac{\vec{v}}{\|\vec{v}\|}$$

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Since we are dividing the vector (the hypotenuse) by the magnitude, we also divide the x and y components as well:

$$\hat{v} = \left\langle \frac{x}{\|\vec{v}\|}, \frac{y}{\|\vec{v}\|} \right\rangle$$

Example 4a

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Given $\vec{v} = \langle 3, 4 \rangle$ and $\vec{w} = \langle 1, -2 \rangle$, find each of the following.

(a) \hat{v}

$$\begin{aligned} |\vec{v}| &= \sqrt{3^2 + 4^2} \\ &= 5 \end{aligned}$$

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Given $\vec{v} = \langle 3, 4 \rangle$ and $\vec{w} = \langle 1, -2 \rangle$, find each of the following.

(a) \hat{v}

$$\begin{aligned} |\vec{v}| &= \sqrt{3^2 + 4^2} \\ &= 5 \end{aligned}$$

$$\hat{v} = \left\langle \frac{3}{5}, \frac{4}{5} \right\rangle$$

Example 4b

$$(b) \quad \|\vec{v}\| - 2\|\vec{w}\|$$

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$$\|\vec{w}\| = \sqrt{1^2 + 2^2} = \sqrt{5}$$

$$\|\vec{v}\| - 2\|\vec{w}\| = 5 - 2\sqrt{5}$$

Example 4c

$$(c) \quad \|\vec{v} - 2\vec{w}\|$$

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$$(c) \quad \|\vec{v} - 2\vec{w}\|$$

$$\|\vec{v} - 2\vec{w}\| = \|\langle 3, 4 \rangle - 2\langle 1, -2 \rangle\|$$

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$$\|\vec{v} - 2\vec{w}\| = \|\langle 3, 4 \rangle - 2\langle 1, -2 \rangle\|$$

$$= \|\langle 3, 4 \rangle - \langle 2, -4 \rangle\|$$

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$$\|\vec{v} - 2\vec{w}\| = \|\langle 3, 4 \rangle - 2\langle 1, -2 \rangle\|$$

$$= \|\langle 3, 4 \rangle - \langle 2, -4 \rangle\|$$

$$= \|\langle 1, 8 \rangle\|$$

Example 4c

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$$\|\vec{v} - 2\vec{w}\| = \|\langle 3, 4 \rangle - 2\langle 1, -2 \rangle\|$$

$$= \|\langle 3, 4 \rangle - \langle 2, -4 \rangle\|$$

$$= \|\langle 1, 8 \rangle\|$$

$$= \sqrt{1^2 + 8^2} = \sqrt{65}$$

Example 4d

(d) $\|\hat{w}\|$

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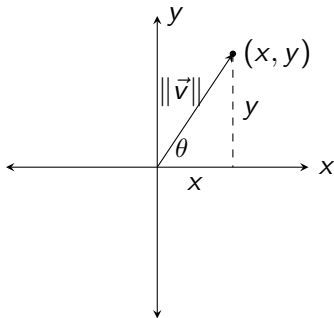
$$\|\hat{w}\| = 1 \quad (\text{magnitude of any unit vector is } 1)$$

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Magnitude and Direction

If we place a vector $\langle x, y \rangle$ in the coordinate plane, we can put the initial point at the origin and the terminal point at (x, y) .



Magnitude and Direction

From Trig Functions of Any Angle (or Polar Coordinates),

$$x = \|\vec{v}\| \cos \theta \text{ and } y = \|\vec{v}\| \sin \theta$$

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. Thus,

$$\langle x, y \rangle = \langle \|\vec{v}\| \cos \theta, \|\vec{v}\| \sin \theta \rangle = \|\vec{v}\| \langle \cos \theta, \sin \theta \rangle$$

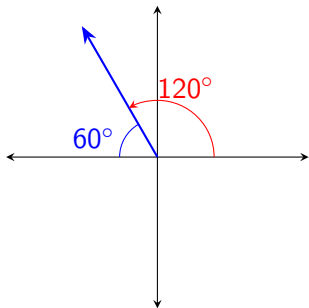
Example 5

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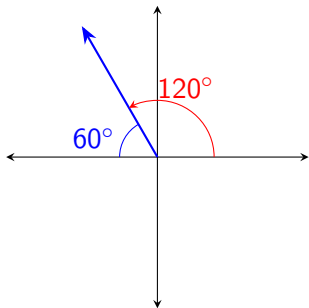
If the angle makes a 60° with the negative x -axis in quadrant II, then the total amount rotated must be $180^\circ - 60^\circ = 120^\circ$.



Example 5

Find the component form of the vector with $\|\vec{v}\| = 5$, with \vec{v} in Quadrant II and makes a 60° angle with the negative x -axis.

If the angle makes a 60° with the negative x -axis in quadrant II, then the total amount rotated must be $180^\circ - 60^\circ = 120^\circ$.

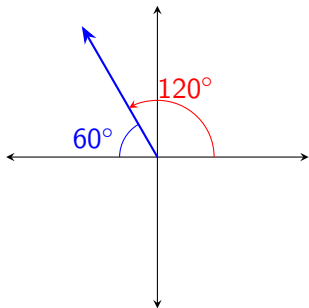


$$\vec{v} = 5\langle \cos 120^\circ, \sin 120^\circ \rangle$$

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Find the component form of the vector with $\|\vec{v}\| = 5$, with \vec{v} in Quadrant II and makes a 60° angle with the negative x -axis.

If the angle makes a 60° with the negative x -axis in quadrant II, then the total amount rotated must be $180^\circ - 60^\circ = 120^\circ$.



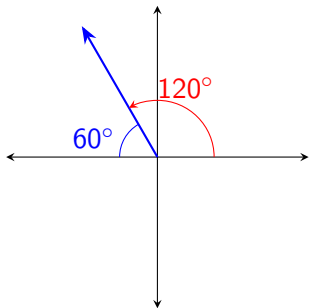
$$\vec{v} = 5\langle \cos 120^\circ, \sin 120^\circ \rangle$$

$$= 5\left\langle -\frac{1}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \right\rangle$$

Example 5

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$$= \left\langle -\frac{5}{2}, \frac{5\sqrt{3}}{2} \right\rangle$$

Example 6

For $\vec{v} = \langle 3, -3\sqrt{3} \rangle$, find $\|\vec{v}\|$ and θ ($0 \leq \theta < 2\pi$) and write in $\|\vec{v}\|\langle \cos \theta, \sin \theta \rangle$ form.

Example 6

For $\vec{v} = \langle 3, -3\sqrt{3} \rangle$, find $\|\vec{v}\|$ and θ ($0 \leq \theta < 2\pi$) and write in $\|\vec{v}\|\langle \cos \theta, \sin \theta \rangle$ form.

$$\|\vec{v}\| = \sqrt{3^2 + (3\sqrt{3})^2}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}\|\vec{v}\| &= \sqrt{3^2 + (3\sqrt{3})^2} \\ &= \sqrt{36} = 6\end{aligned}$$

Example 6

For $\vec{v} = \langle 3, -3\sqrt{3} \rangle$, find $\|\vec{v}\|$ and θ ($0 \leq \theta < 2\pi$) and write in $\|\vec{v}\|\langle \cos \theta, \sin \theta \rangle$ form.

$$\theta' = \tan^{-1} \left| \frac{-3\sqrt{3}}{3} \right|$$

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$$6 \left\langle \cos \left(\frac{5\pi}{3} \right), \sin \left(\frac{5\pi}{3} \right) \right\rangle$$