

Scalars: A quantity that has magnitude only is known as a scalar.

e.g. mass, length, time, temperature, density etc.

Vectors: A quantity that has magnitude as well as direction is called a vector.

e.g. force, velocity, acceleration, momentum, etc.

Remark: A directed line segment is called a vector.

A directed line segment with initial point A and the terminal point B is the vector \vec{AB} and its magnitude is denoted by $|\vec{AB}|$.

Unit vector: A vector \vec{a} is called a unit vector if $|\vec{a}| = 1$ and it is denoted by \hat{a} .

Equal vectors: Two vectors \vec{a} and \vec{b} are said to be equal if they have the same magnitude and the same direction regardless of the position or positions of their initial points.

Negative of a vector: A vector having the same magnitude as that of a given vector \vec{a} and the direction opposite to that of \vec{a} is called the negative of \vec{a} to be denoted by $-\vec{a}$.

Thus, if $\vec{AB} = \vec{a}$, then $\vec{BA} = -\vec{a}$.

Zero or Null vector: A vector whose initial and terminal points coincide is called a zero vector, denoted by $\vec{0}$.

Magnitude of a zero vector is 0 but it cannot be

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assigned a definite direction.

Thus, $\vec{AA} = \vec{0}$

Coinitial vectors: Two or more vectors having the same initial point are called coinitial vectors.

\vec{OA} and \vec{OB} are the two coinitial vectors having the same initial point O.

Collinear vectors: Vectors having the same or parallel supports are known as collinear vectors.

Here, \vec{AB} , \vec{BC} and \vec{AC} are collinear vectors.



Like vectors: Collinear vectors having the same direction are called like vectors.

Thus, \vec{PB} , \vec{BC} and \vec{AC} are like vectors.

Unlike vectors: Collinear vectors having opposite directions are known as unlike vectors. \vec{PA} and \vec{SR} are unlike vectors.

Free vectors: If the initial point of a vector is not specified then it is said to be free vector.

Localised vectors: A vector drawn parallel to a given vector through a specified point as the initial point is called a localised vector.

Coplanar vectors: Three or more nonzero vectors lying in the same plane or parallel to the same plane are said to be coplanar, otherwise they are called non coplanar.

Vector Addition:

Let \vec{a} and \vec{b} be any two vectors. Taking any point O and drawing segments \overrightarrow{OA} and \overrightarrow{AB} such that $\overrightarrow{OA} = \vec{a}$ and $\overrightarrow{AB} = \vec{b}$. Join OB . Then, \overrightarrow{OB} is called the sum or resultant of \vec{a} and \vec{b} .

$$\therefore \vec{a} + \vec{b} = \overrightarrow{OA} + \overrightarrow{AB} = \overrightarrow{OB}$$

Triangle law of addition of vectors:

In a $\triangle OAB$, if \overrightarrow{OA} and \overrightarrow{AB} represent \vec{a} and \vec{b} respectively, then \overrightarrow{OB} represents $(\vec{a} + \vec{b})$. This is known as triangle law of addition of vectors.

Parallelogram law of addition of vectors:

In a parallelogram $OABC$, if \overrightarrow{OA} and \overrightarrow{AB} represent \vec{a} and \vec{b} respectively, then \overrightarrow{OB} represents $(\vec{a} + \vec{b})$.

This is known as parallelogram law of addition of vectors.

Laws of addition of vectors:

(1) Commutative Law: Vector addition is commutative

$$\text{i.e., } \vec{a} + \vec{b} = \vec{b} + \vec{a}$$

Proof: Let \vec{a} and \vec{b} be the given vectors

represented by \overrightarrow{OA} and \overrightarrow{AB} respectively. Complete the parallelogram $OABC$.

$$\text{Then, } \overrightarrow{OC} = \overrightarrow{AB} = \vec{b} \text{ and } \overrightarrow{CB} = \overrightarrow{OA} = \vec{a}$$

$$\therefore \vec{a} + \vec{b} = \overrightarrow{OA} + \overrightarrow{AB} = \overrightarrow{OB} \text{ and } \vec{b} + \vec{a} = \overrightarrow{OC} + \overrightarrow{CB} = \overrightarrow{OB}$$

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

(2) Associative law: Vector addition is associative i.e., $(\vec{a} + \vec{b}) + \vec{c} = \vec{a} + (\vec{b} + \vec{c})$

Proof: Let $\overrightarrow{OA} = \vec{a}$, $\overrightarrow{AB} = \vec{b}$ and $\overrightarrow{BC} = \vec{c}$

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Join OB , OC and AC .

$$\begin{aligned}(\vec{a} + \vec{b}) + \vec{c} &= (\overrightarrow{OA} + \overrightarrow{AB}) + \overrightarrow{BC} = \overrightarrow{OB} + \overrightarrow{BC} = \overrightarrow{OC} \\ \vec{a} + (\vec{b} + \vec{c}) &= \overrightarrow{OA} + (\overrightarrow{AB} + \overrightarrow{BC}) = \overrightarrow{OA} + \overrightarrow{AC} = \overrightarrow{OC} \\ \therefore (\vec{a} + \vec{b}) + \vec{c} &= \vec{a} + (\vec{b} + \vec{c})\end{aligned}$$

(3) Existence of additive identity:

For any vector \vec{a} , $\vec{a} + \vec{0} = \vec{0} + \vec{a} = \vec{a}$

Proof: Let $\overrightarrow{OA} = \vec{a}$. Then, $\vec{a} + \vec{0} = \overrightarrow{OA} + \overrightarrow{AA} = \overrightarrow{OA} = \vec{a}$ and
 $\vec{0} + \vec{a} = \overrightarrow{O} + \overrightarrow{OA} = \overrightarrow{OA} = \vec{a}$

$$\therefore \vec{a} + \vec{0} = \vec{0} + \vec{a} = \vec{a}$$

The vector $\vec{0}$ is called the additive identity for vectors.

(4) Existence of additive inverse:

For any vector \vec{a} , $\vec{a} + (-\vec{a}) = (-\vec{a}) + \vec{a} = \vec{0}$

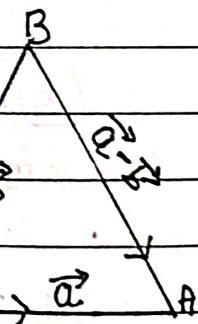
Proof: Let $\overrightarrow{OA} = \vec{a}$ then $\overrightarrow{AO} = -\vec{a}$

$$\therefore \vec{a} + (-\vec{a}) = \overrightarrow{OA} + \overrightarrow{AO} = \overrightarrow{OO} = \vec{0} \text{ and}$$

$$(-\vec{a}) + (\vec{a}) = \overrightarrow{AO} + \overrightarrow{OA} = \overrightarrow{AA} = \vec{0}$$

$$\text{Hence, } \vec{a} + (-\vec{a}) = (-\vec{a}) + \vec{a} = \vec{0}$$

The vector $-\vec{a}$ is called the additive inverse of \vec{a} .



Difference of two vectors:

For any two vectors a , we define $\vec{a} - \vec{b} = \vec{a} + (-\vec{b})$

Let $\overrightarrow{OA} = \vec{a}$ and $\overrightarrow{OB} = \vec{b}$. Then, $\overrightarrow{BO} = -\vec{b}$

$$\therefore \vec{a} - \vec{b} = \vec{a} + (-\vec{b}) = \overrightarrow{OA} + \overrightarrow{BO} = \overrightarrow{BO} + \overrightarrow{OA} = \overrightarrow{BA}$$

$$\therefore \overrightarrow{OA} - \overrightarrow{OB} = \overrightarrow{BA}$$

In a similar way, $\overrightarrow{OB} - \overrightarrow{OA} = \overrightarrow{AB}$

Remarks: (i) $\overrightarrow{AB} = (\text{position vector of } B) - (\text{position vector of } A)$

(ii) $\overrightarrow{BA} = (\text{position vector of } A) - (\text{position vector of } B)$

Scalar multiplication of a vector:

The scalar multiple of \vec{a} by a scalar k is the vector $k\vec{a}$ such that (i) $|k\vec{a}| = |k||\vec{a}|$

(ii) direction of $k\vec{a}$ is the same as that of \vec{a} , when $k > 0$
and opposite to that of \vec{a} when $k < 0$.

Components of a vector: Let O be the origin and let $P(x, y, z)$ be any point in space.

Let $\hat{i}, \hat{j}, \hat{k}$ be unit vectors along the x -axis, y -axis and z -axis respectively. Let the position vector of P be \vec{r} . Then, $\vec{r} = x\hat{i} + y\hat{j} + z\hat{k}$

This form of a vector is called its component form.

x, y, z are called the scalar components of \vec{r} and $x\hat{i}, y\hat{j}, z\hat{k}$ are called its vector components.

$$\text{Also, } |\vec{r}| = |x\hat{i} + y\hat{j} + z\hat{k}| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$$

Direction cosines and direction ratios of a vector

Let $\vec{r} = a\hat{i} + b\hat{j} + c\hat{k}$ be a vector. Then, the numbers a, b, c are called the direction ratios of \vec{r} .

Direction cosines of \vec{r} are given as

$$\frac{a}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + c^2}}, \frac{b}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + c^2}}, \frac{c}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + c^2}}$$

Note: (1) If l, m, n are direction cosines of a vector then $l^2 + m^2 + n^2 = 1$

(2) If $A(x_1, y_1, z_1)$ and $B(x_2, y_2, z_2)$ be any two points in space then direction ratios of \vec{AB} are $(x_2 - x_1)$, $(y_2 - y_1)$ and $(z_2 - z_1)$ and direction cosines of \vec{AB} are $\frac{x_2 - x_1}{\gamma}, \frac{y_2 - y_1}{\gamma}, \frac{z_2 - z_1}{\gamma}$ where $\gamma = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2 + (z_2 - z_1)^2}$

Remarks: If $\vec{a} = a_1\hat{i} + a_2\hat{j} + a_3\hat{k}$ and $\vec{b} = b_1\hat{i} + b_2\hat{j} + b_3\hat{k}$ then

$$(i) \vec{a} + \vec{b} = (a_1 + b_1)\hat{i} + (a_2 + b_2)\hat{j} + (a_3 + b_3)\hat{k}$$

$$(ii) \vec{a} - \vec{b} = (a_1 - b_1)\hat{i} + (a_2 - b_2)\hat{j} + (a_3 - b_3)\hat{k}$$

$$(iii) \vec{a} = \vec{b} \text{ iff } a_1 = b_1, a_2 = b_2, a_3 = b_3$$

$$(iv) \lambda \vec{a} = (\lambda a_1)\hat{i} + (\lambda a_2)\hat{j} + (\lambda a_3)\hat{k}$$

Remarks: Let \vec{a} and \vec{b} be any two vectors and let k and m be any two scalars. Then,

- (i) $k\vec{a} + m\vec{a} = (k+m)\vec{a}$
- (ii) $k(m\vec{a}) = (km)\vec{a}$
- (iii) $k(\vec{a} + \vec{b}) = k\vec{a} + k\vec{b}$

Remarks: (i) Whatever be the value of k , the vector $k\vec{a}$ is always collinear to the vector \vec{a} .

- (ii) Two vectors \vec{a} and \vec{b} are collinear iff \exists a non zero scalar k such that $\vec{b} = k\vec{a}$.
- (iii) If $\vec{a} = a_1\hat{i} + a_2\hat{j} + a_3\hat{k}$ and $\vec{b} = b_1\hat{i} + b_2\hat{j} + b_3\hat{k}$ are two vectors, are collinear iff $b_1\hat{i} + b_2\hat{j} + b_3\hat{k} = \lambda(a_1\hat{i} + a_2\hat{j} + a_3\hat{k})$
 $\Leftrightarrow b_1\hat{i} + b_2\hat{j} + b_3\hat{k} = (\lambda a_1)\hat{i} + (\lambda a_2)\hat{j} + (\lambda a_3)\hat{k}$
 $\Leftrightarrow b_1 = \lambda a_1, b_2 = \lambda a_2, b_3 = \lambda a_3 \Leftrightarrow \frac{b_1}{a_1} = \frac{b_2}{a_2} = \frac{b_3}{a_3} = \lambda$

Vector joining two points:

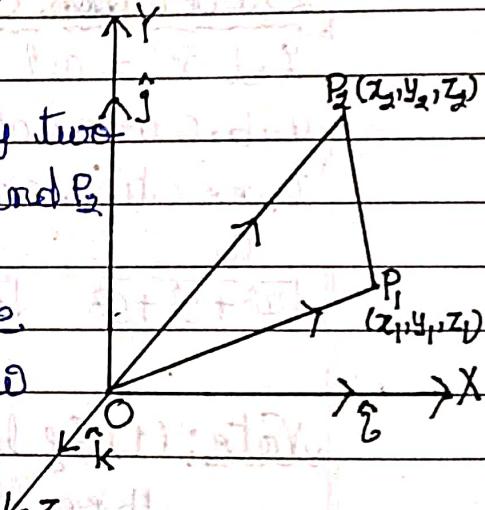
If $P_1(x_1, y_1, z_1)$ and $P_2(x_2, y_2, z_2)$ are any two points, then the vector joining P_1 and P_2 is the vector $\overrightarrow{P_1 P_2}$.

Joining the points P_1 and P_2 with the origin O , and applying triangle law of vector addition in $\Delta OP_1 P_2$,

$$\overrightarrow{OP_1} + \overrightarrow{P_1 P_2} = \overrightarrow{OP_2} \Rightarrow \overrightarrow{P_1 P_2} = \overrightarrow{OP_2} - \overrightarrow{OP_1}$$

$$\text{I.e., } \overrightarrow{P_1 P_2} = (x_2\hat{i} + y_2\hat{j} + z_2\hat{k}) - (x_1\hat{i} + y_1\hat{j} + z_1\hat{k}) \\ = (x_2 - x_1)\hat{i} + (y_2 - y_1)\hat{j} + (z_2 - z_1)\hat{k} \text{ and}$$

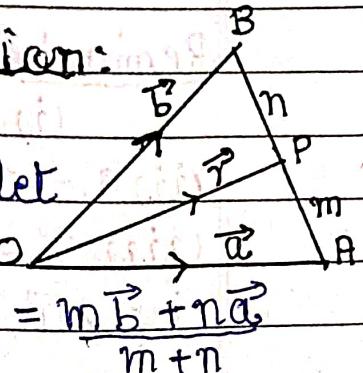
$$|\overrightarrow{P_1 P_2}| = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2 + (z_2 - z_1)^2}$$



Section formulae

(1) Section formula for internal division:

Let A and B be two points with position vectors \vec{a} and \vec{b} respectively and let P be a point dividing AB internally in the ratio $m:n$. Let $\overrightarrow{OP} = \vec{r}$. Then, $\vec{r} = \frac{m\vec{b} + n\vec{a}}{m+n}$



Proof: Let O be the origin. Then, $\vec{OA} = \vec{a}$ and $\vec{OB} = \vec{b}$

Let P be a point on AB such that $\frac{\vec{AP}}{\vec{PB}} = \frac{m}{n}$

Then, $\frac{\vec{AP}}{\vec{PB}} = \frac{m}{n} \Rightarrow n \cdot AP = m \cdot PB \Rightarrow n(\vec{AP}) = m \cdot (\vec{PB})$

$$\Rightarrow n(\vec{OP} - \vec{OA}) = m(\vec{OB} - \vec{OP}) \Rightarrow (m+n)\vec{OP} = m\vec{OB} + n\vec{OA}$$

$$\Rightarrow (m+n)\vec{OP} = m\vec{b} + n\vec{a} \Rightarrow \vec{OP} = \frac{m\vec{b} + n\vec{a}}{m+n}$$

Corollary: The position vector of the mid-point of the join of two points with vectors \vec{a} and \vec{b} is $\frac{1}{2}(\vec{a} + \vec{b})$

Proof: Let A and B be two points with position vectors \vec{a} and \vec{b} respectively.

Section formula for external division:

Let A and B be two points with position vectors \vec{a} and \vec{b} respectively and let P be a point dividing AB externally in the ratio $m:n$.

Let $\vec{OP} = \vec{r}$. Then, $\vec{r} = \frac{m\vec{b} - n\vec{a}}{m-n}$

Proof: Let O be the origin. Let $\vec{OA} = \vec{a}$ and

$\vec{OB} = \vec{b}$. Let AB be produced to P such

that $AP:BP = m:n$.

Now, $\frac{\vec{AP}}{\vec{BP}} = \frac{m}{n} \Rightarrow n \cdot AP = m \cdot BP \Rightarrow n \cdot \vec{AP} = m \cdot \vec{BP}$

$$\Rightarrow n(\vec{OP} - \vec{OA}) = m(\vec{OB} - \vec{OP}) \Rightarrow (m-n)\vec{OP} = (m\vec{b} - n\vec{a})$$

$$\Rightarrow (m-n)\vec{OP} = m\vec{b} - n\vec{a} \Rightarrow \vec{OP} = \frac{m\vec{b} - n\vec{a}}{m-n} \Rightarrow \vec{r} = \frac{m\vec{b} - n\vec{a}}{m-n}$$

