Vectors

MATH 1511, BCIT

Technical Mathematics for Geomatics

November 13, 2017

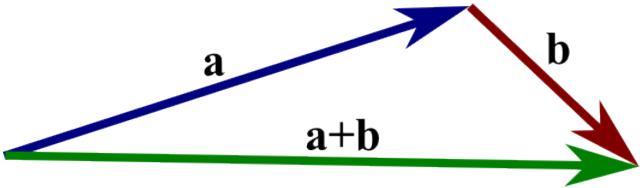
Vectors

A vector is a special type of matrix: it has only one row or only one column. Here are two examples of a vector,

$$a = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } b = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \\ 7 \end{pmatrix} \tag{1}$$

We add them as we would add matrices,

$$a + b = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \\ 7 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1.5 \\ 10 \end{pmatrix} \tag{2}$$



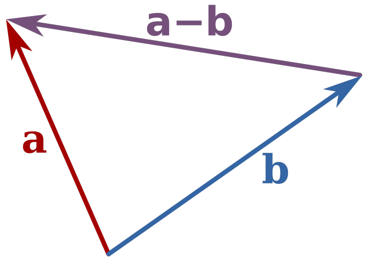
Vector Subtraction

We define the additive inverse $-a$ of a vector a to be the vector whose components are the additive inverses of a's components.

$$-a = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} \tag{3}$$

Vector subtraction is defined as follows: $a - b = a + (-b)$.

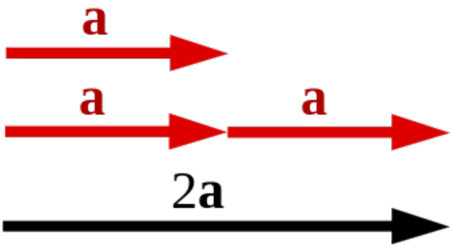
$$a - b = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{1}{2} \\ -7 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -2.5 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} \tag{4}$$



Scalar Multiplication

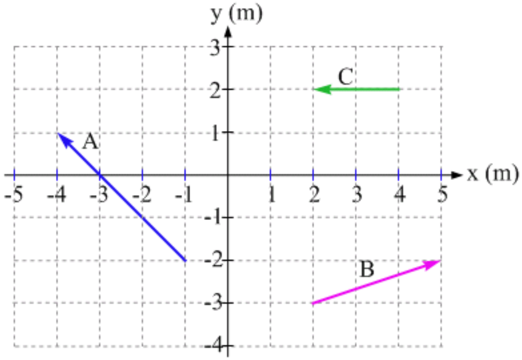
Scalar multiplication is defined for vectors as it was for matrices. A real number C and a vector a can be multiplied as follows,

$$C \cdot a = C \cdot \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} C \cdot a_1 \\ C \cdot a_2 \end{pmatrix} \tag{5}$$



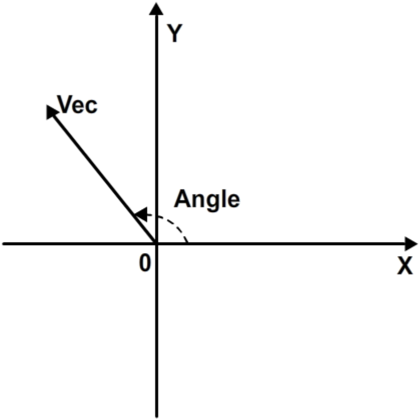
Vectors and Geometry

One way to interpret two-dimensional vectors is to have them describe movement in the plane. They have no home in the coordinate system, but only describe how to get from one point to another. By convention, unless we have reason to do otherwise, we let them start at the origin.



Vectors and Angles

Each vector (except the vector whose components are all zero) has an angle associated with it, which mathematicians conventionally measure counter-clockwise from the x-axis. You are welcome to represent the angle any way you like as long as it is clear what you mean.



Example

Let

$$a = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \tag{6}$$

Then

$$\tan \alpha' = \frac{3}{-2} \longrightarrow \alpha' = -56.31^\circ \tag{7}$$

This is not the correct angle, however. The correct angle is $\alpha = 180^\circ + \alpha' = 123.69^\circ$. You can also represent it as N33.69°W. The length of the vector is

$$|a| = \sqrt{(-2)^2 + 3^2} \approx 3.61 \tag{8}$$

Exercises

Calculate the length $|a_i|$ and the angle α_i for the following vectors,

$$a_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \tag{9}$$

$$a_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -6 \\ -11 \end{pmatrix} \tag{10}$$

$$a_3 = \begin{pmatrix} -\pi \\ 10.5 \end{pmatrix} \tag{11}$$

$$a_4 = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{7}{13} \\ -\frac{1}{5} \end{pmatrix} \tag{12}$$

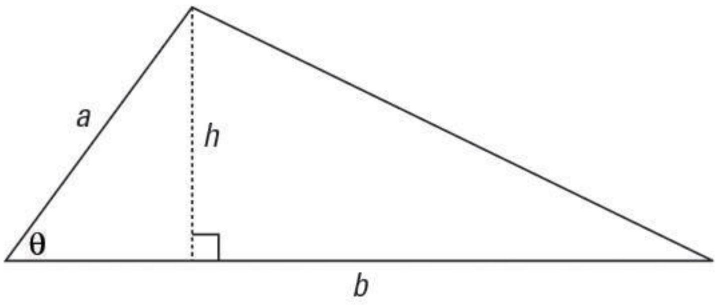
Word Problem I

Jim starts at $P = (-34, -48)$ (units are metres) and walks 60 metres on a bearing of N38°E. Which vector describes Jim's movement? What are the coordinates of Jim's destination?

Word Problem II

Mr. X walks 5km east and 2km north from A to B. Ms. Y walks 6km west and 6km north from A to C. What angles could they have chosen to minimize the distance to their destination? What would be that minimal distance? What angle does Ms. Y need to choose and how far does she need to walk if she wants to rejoin Mr. X, going from C to B?

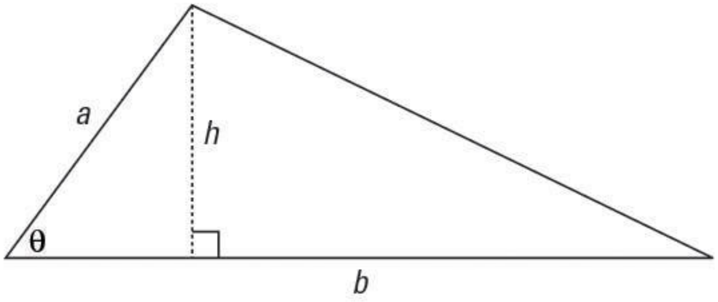
Consider the following triangle:



Start with the traditional formula for the area of this triangle,

$$A = \frac{1}{2} bh \tag{13}$$

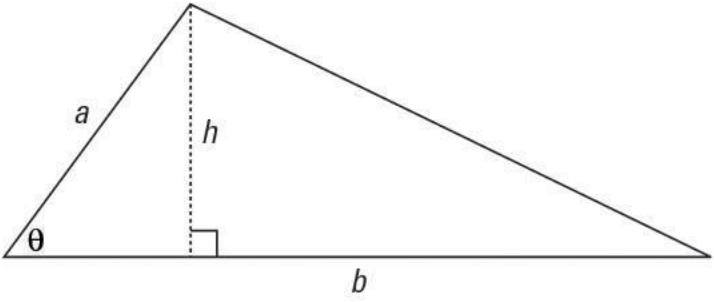
Area: Triangle



Then look at the smaller triangle to the left. Because the height is drawn perpendicular to the base, the sides and height form a right triangle. The acute angle θ has a sine equivalent to the following:

$$\sin\theta = \frac{\text{opposite}}{\text{hypotenuse}} = \frac{h}{a} \tag{14}$$

Area: Triangle

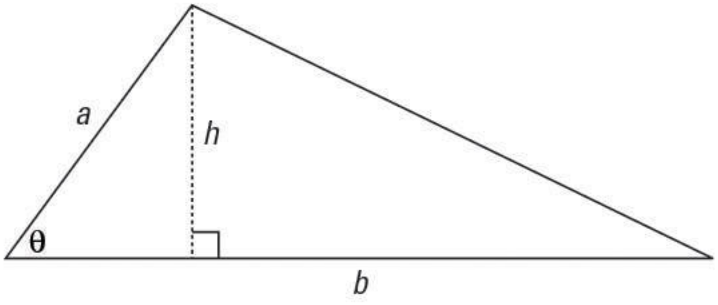


If you solve that equation for h by multiplying each side by a, you get

$$\sin\theta = \frac{h}{a} \tag{15}$$

$$a\sin\theta = h \tag{16}$$

Area: Triangle

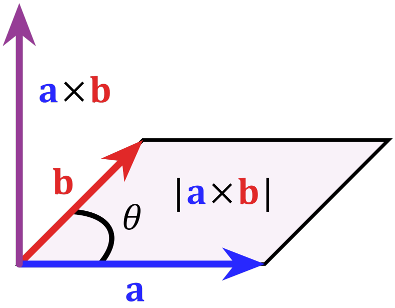


Replace the h in the traditional formula with its equivalent from the preceding equation, and you get

$$A = \frac{1}{2}bh = \frac{1}{2}b(a\sin\theta) = \frac{1}{2}ab\sin\theta \tag{17}$$

Area: Triangle

Two linearly independent vectors correspond to a triangle. Two vectors a and b are linearly dependent if and only if $a = C \cdot b$ for a real number C. The cross product $a \times b$ is the vector which is perpendicular to both a and b, follows the right-hand rule, and whose length is the area of the parallelogram generated by a and b. Knowing a and b, how would you calculate $|a \times b|$?

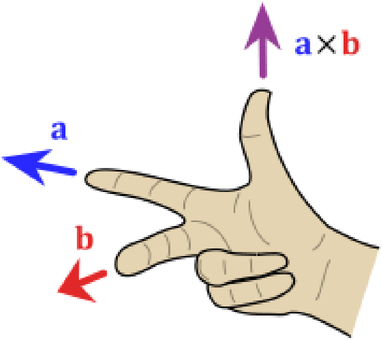


Area: Triangle

The length of the cross product is

$$|a \times b| = |a| \cdot |b| \cdot \sin\theta \tag{18}$$

where θ is the angle between a and b.



Area: Triangle Exercises

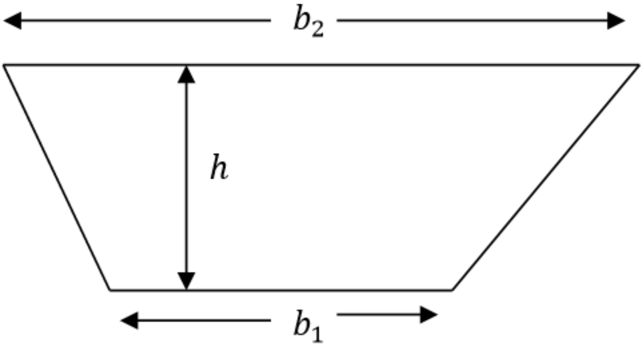
Find the area for the triangle generated by

$$a = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } b = \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{19}$$

Find the area for the parallelogram generated by

$$a = \begin{pmatrix} -301 \\ 754 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } b = \begin{pmatrix} 590 \\ -538 \end{pmatrix} \tag{20}$$

Find the formula for the area of a trapezoid.



Area: Units

Two common units of area are the hectare (ha) and the acre.

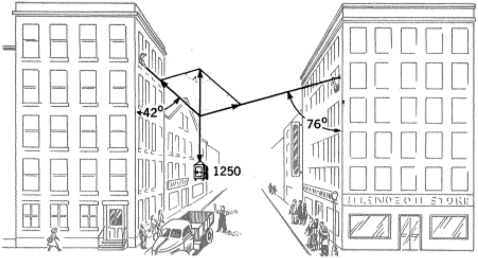
$$1\text{ha} = 100\text{m} \cdot 100\text{m} \tag{21}$$

$$1\text{acre} = 43560\text{ft}^2 \tag{22}$$

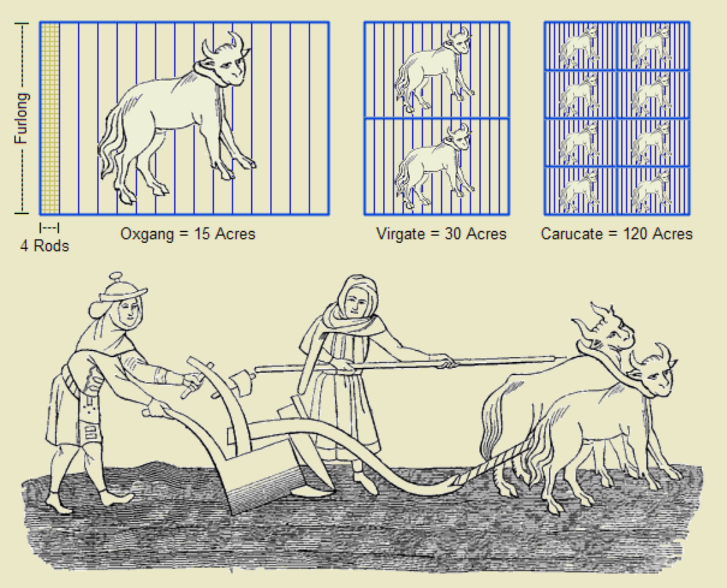
Note that 1ft$= 0.3048$m. Historically, an acre was the amount of land one man with one ox could plow in one day.

Vector Resultant

An office safe was lowered from an office building by two cables attached to buildings on opposite sides of the street. At one time the cables formed angles of 42° and 76° with the buildings. Find the pull on each of the cables if the safe weighed 1250 pounds.



Area: Acre


Furlong
4 Rods
Oxgang = 15 Acres
Virgate = 30 Acres
Carucate = 120 Acres

Area: Units Exercises

1. A plot has an area of 68 acres. Determine the area in hectares.
2. A quarter section of land is one quarter of a mile by mile plot. Determine the area of a quarter section.
   a. Expressed in acres (recall that 1 mile= 1760 yards and 1 yard= 3 feet).
   b. Expressed in hectares.

Volume: Pyramids, Cones, and Spheres

There is material in a separate `pdf` file, `volume-of-cone-and-sphere-sans-calculus.pdf`, as well as two links provided in D2L.
Note the following formulas:

$$V_{\text{sphere}} = \frac{4}{3} r^3 \pi \tag{23}$$

$$V_{\text{cone}} = \frac{1}{3} r^2 \pi h \tag{24}$$

$$V_{\text{pyramid}} = \frac{1}{3} abh \tag{25}$$

Note also the surface of the sphere:

$$A_{\text{sphere surface}} = 4r^2 \pi \tag{26}$$

Volume: Word Problems I

31. The Great Pyramid of Egypt has a square base approximately 230 m on a side. The height of the pyramid is about 150 m. What is its volume? See Fig. 2.114.

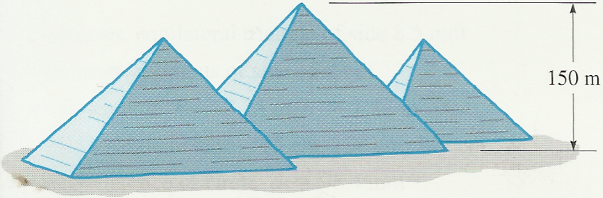


Fig. 2.114

32. A paper cup is in the shape of a cone, as shown in Fig. 2.115. What is the surface area of the cup?

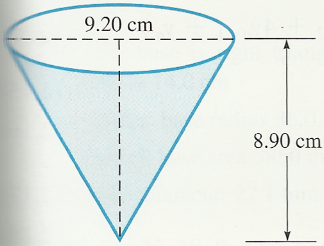


Fig. 2.115

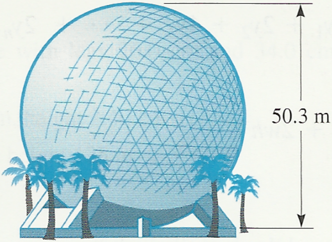


Fig. 2.116

33. *Spaceship Earth* (shown in Fig. 2.116) at Epcot Center in Florida is a sphere 50.3 m in diameter. What is the volume of *Spaceship Earth*?

Volume: Word Problems III

34. A propane tank is constructed in the shape of a cylinder with a hemisphere at each end, as shown in Fig. 2.117. Find the volume of the tank.

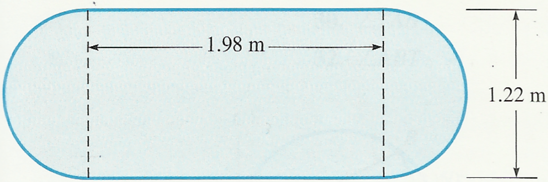


Fig. 2.117

End of Lesson

Next Lesson: Normal Distribution.