

## Lecture 2: Vectors

### Pikachu's Goals for the Day

- Review how to draw and understand vectors
- Review vector arithmetic: addition, scalar multiplication, dot & cross product
- Define a vector function and its application to motion on a curve

## 9.1 Vector Calculus

Def A vector is a list of numbers.

$$\vec{v} = \langle v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n \rangle$$

We concentrate on 3D vectors.

$$\vec{v} = \langle v_1, v_2, v_3 \rangle$$

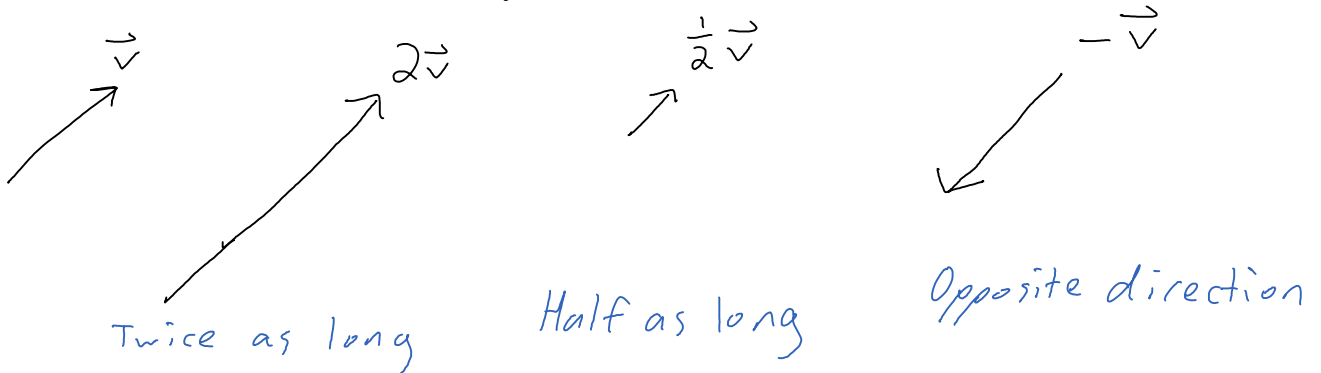
$$\vec{v} = v_1 \vec{i} + v_2 \vec{j} + v_3 \vec{k}$$

$$\vec{i} = \langle 1, 0, 0 \rangle \quad \vec{j} = \langle 0, 1, 0 \rangle \quad \vec{k} = \langle 0, 0, 1 \rangle$$

## Vector Arithmetic

### ① Scalar multiplication

$$c\vec{v} = \langle cv_1, cv_2, cv_3 \rangle$$

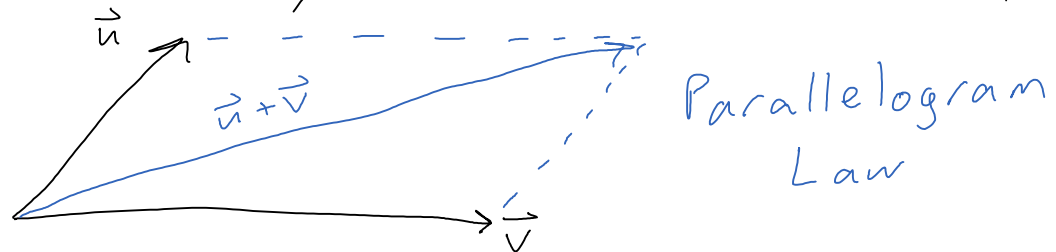


Multiplying by a constant scales the length of the vector.

## ② Vector addition

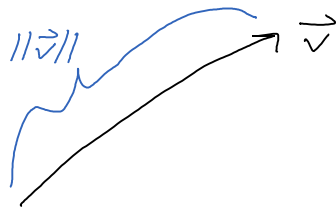
$$\vec{u} + \vec{v} = \langle u_1 + v_1, u_2 + v_2, u_3 + v_3 \rangle$$

Note: We can only add vectors of same #components.



## ③ Magnitude (Length)

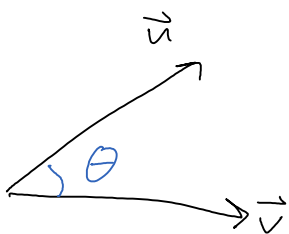
$$\|\vec{v}\| = \sqrt{v_1^2 + v_2^2 + \dots + v_n^2}$$



## ④ Dot Product

$$\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = u_1 v_1 + u_2 v_2 + u_3 v_3$$

Note: The dot product gives a scalar.



The angle between vectors  $\vec{u}$  and  $\vec{v}$  is given by

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v}}{\|\vec{u}\| \|\vec{v}\|}$$

Ex Find the angle between  $\vec{a} = \langle 2, 1, 0 \rangle$  and  $\vec{b} = \langle -1, 4, 6 \rangle$ .

$$\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = (2)(-1) + (1)(4) + (0)(6) = -2 + 4 + 0 = 2$$

$$\|\vec{a}\| = \sqrt{2^2 + 1^2 + 0^2} = \sqrt{5}$$

$$\|\vec{b}\| = \sqrt{(-1)^2 + 4^2 + 6^2} = \sqrt{53}$$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}{\|\vec{a}\| \|\vec{b}\|} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{5} \sqrt{53}}$$

$$\theta = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{2}{\sqrt{5} \sqrt{53}}\right)$$

$$\vec{u} \perp \vec{v} \iff \vec{u} \cdot \vec{v} = 0$$

### ⑤ Cross Product

The cross product is only for 3D vectors.

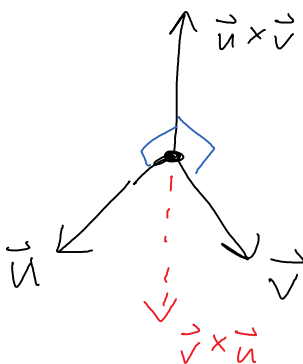
$$\vec{u} \times \vec{v} = \begin{vmatrix} \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ u_1 & u_2 & u_3 \\ v_1 & v_2 & v_3 \end{vmatrix} \quad \leftarrow \text{Determinant of a } 3 \times 3 \text{ matrix}$$
$$= +\vec{i} \begin{vmatrix} u_2 & u_3 \\ v_2 & v_3 \end{vmatrix} - \vec{j} \begin{vmatrix} u_1 & u_3 \\ v_1 & v_3 \end{vmatrix} + \vec{k} \begin{vmatrix} u_1 & u_2 \\ v_1 & v_2 \end{vmatrix}$$

2x2 Determinant:  $\begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix} = ad - bc$

Ex Compute  $\vec{a} \times \vec{b}$  for  $\vec{a} = \langle 2, 1, 0 \rangle$  and  $\vec{b} = \langle -1, 4, 6 \rangle$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{a} \times \vec{b} &= \begin{vmatrix} \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 4 & 6 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= \vec{i} \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 4 & 6 \end{vmatrix} - \vec{j} \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ -1 & 6 \end{vmatrix} + \vec{k} \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ -1 & 4 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= \vec{i}(6 - 0) - \vec{j}(12 - 0) + \vec{k}(8 + 1) \\ &= 6\vec{i} - 12\vec{j} + 9\vec{k} \\ &= \langle 6, -12, 9 \rangle \end{aligned}$$

The cross product  $\vec{u} \times \vec{v}$  is perpendicular to both vectors  $\vec{u}$  and  $\vec{v}$ .



Right-hand rule

$$(\vec{u} \times \vec{v}) \cdot \vec{u} = 0$$

$$(\vec{u} \times \vec{v}) \cdot \vec{v} = 0$$

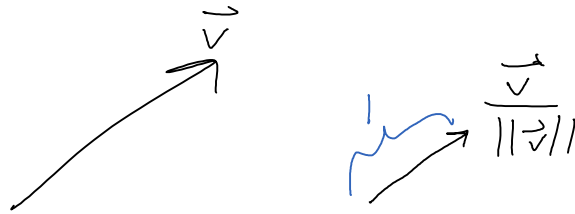
$$\vec{u} \times \vec{v} = \vec{0} \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \vec{u} \parallel \vec{v}$$

## ⑥ Unit Vector

A unit vector has length one:  $\|\vec{u}\| = 1$ .

To make a vector into a unit vector by dividing by its magnitude.

The unit vector version of a vector is called the "direction" of the vector.



Ex Find the direction of  $\vec{w} = \langle 3, 2, -1 \rangle$ .

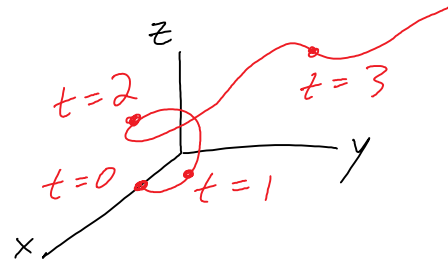
$$\frac{\vec{w}}{\|\vec{w}\|} = \frac{\langle 3, 2, -1 \rangle}{\sqrt{3^2 + 2^2 + (-1)^2}} = \frac{\langle 3, 2, -1 \rangle}{\sqrt{14}} = \left\langle \frac{3}{\sqrt{14}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{14}}, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{14}} \right\rangle$$

Def A vector function is a vector with each component being a function of a common variable.

$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle f(t), g(t), h(t) \rangle$$

## Applications

① Position  $\vec{r}(t)$



② Velocity  $\vec{v}(t)$

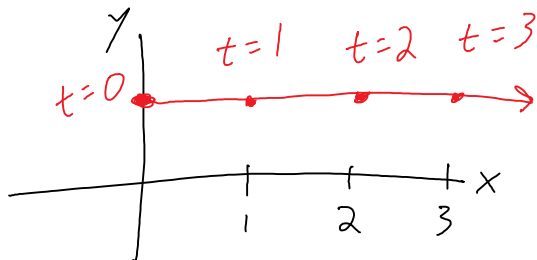
$$\|\vec{v}\| = \text{speed}$$

③ Force over time  $\vec{F}(t)$

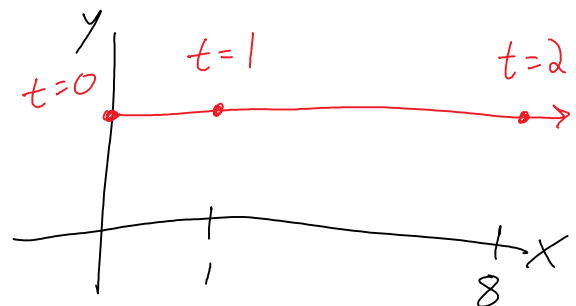
$$\|\vec{F}\| = \text{total force}$$

## 2D Vector Functions

$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle t, 2 \rangle$$

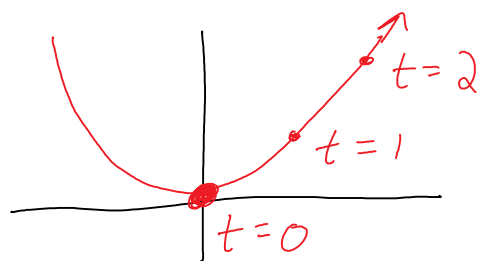


$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle t^3, 2 \rangle$$



Accelerating

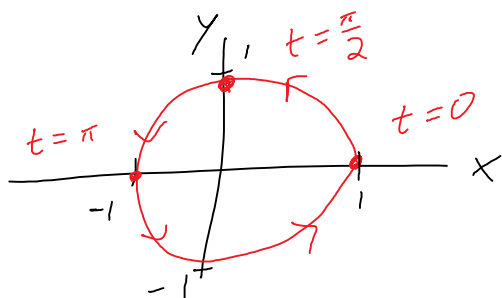
$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle t, t^2 \rangle$$



To write  $y=f(x)$  as a vector function

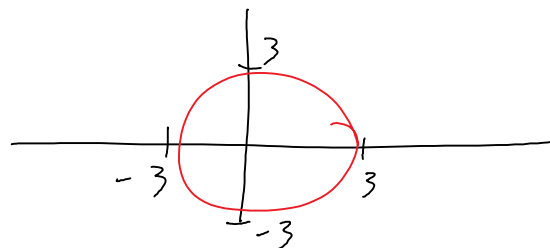
$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle t, f(t) \rangle$$

$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle \cos t, \sin t \rangle$$

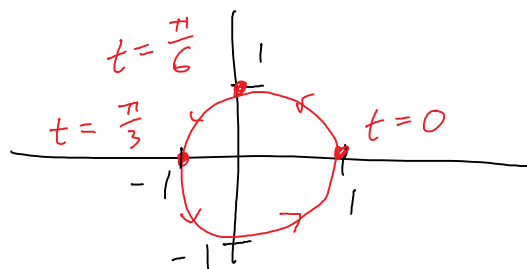


Circle of radius 3

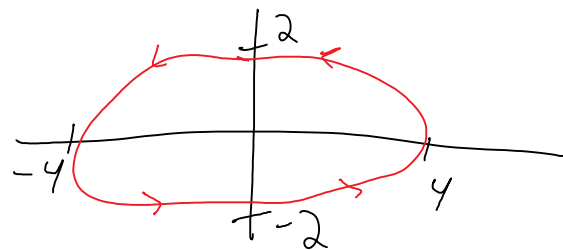
$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle 3\cos t, 3\sin t \rangle$$



$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle \cos 3t, \sin 3t \rangle$$



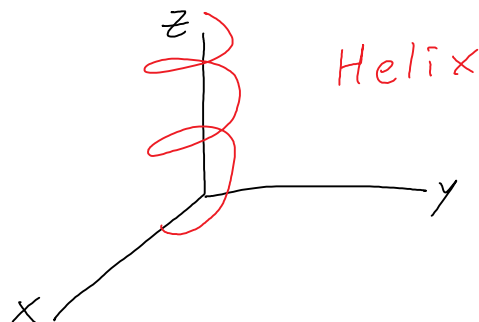
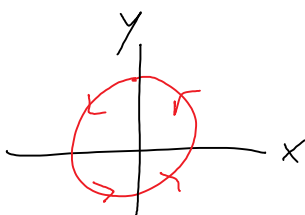
$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle 4\cos t, 2\sin t \rangle$$



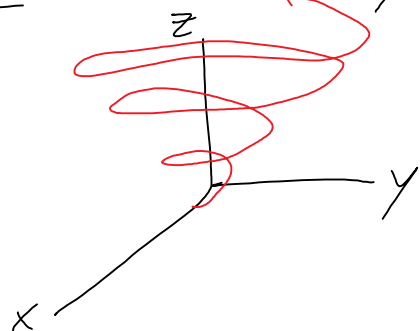
### 3D Vectors

Ex Draw

$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle \cos t, \sin t, t \rangle$$



Ex How do you make a tornado?



$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle t \cos t, t \sin t, t \rangle$$

A line in 3D that starts at a point  $P$  and is parallel to vector  $\vec{v}$  is given by

$$\vec{r}(t) = P + t \vec{v}$$

### Application Motion

Position  $\vec{r}(t)$

Velocity  $\vec{v}(t) = \vec{r}'(t)$

Acceleration  $\vec{a}(t) = \vec{v}'(t) = \vec{r}''(t)$

Ex Pikachu starts at  $(3, 2, 0)$  at time  $t=0$  and runs with velocity

$$\vec{v}(t) = \langle 3t, e^t, t^2 + 1 \rangle.$$

Find Pikachu's position.



$$\vec{r}(t) = \int \vec{v}(t) dt$$

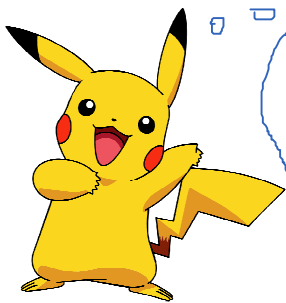
$$= \langle \int 3t dt, \int e^t dt, \int t^2 + 1 dt \rangle$$

$$= \langle \frac{3}{2}t^2 + C_1, e^t + C_2, \frac{1}{3}t^3 + t + C_3 \rangle$$

$$\vec{r}(0) = (3, 2, 0) = \langle C_1, 1 + C_2, C_3 \rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow C_1 = 3, C_2 = 1, C_3 = 0$$

$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle \frac{3}{2}t^2 + 3, e^t + 1, \frac{1}{3}t^3 + t \rangle$$



A common mistake is to assume that the starting point tells us the values of the constants directly.

We actually have to plug  $t=0$  into the vector function and then solve 3 equations separately to find the values of  $C_1$ ,  $C_2$ ,  $C_3$ .