

# Linear Algebra and Analytic Geometry

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2020

## 1 Vector Geometry

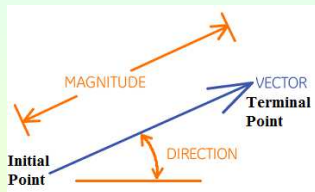
- Vectors in the Plane
- Vectors in Three Dimensions
- Dot Product and Angle Between Vectors
- The Cross Product
- Planes in Three-Space
- A Survey of Quadratic Surfaces
- Cylindrical and Spherical Coordinates

## Subsection 0

### Vectors

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- **Vector quantities** have a **magnitude** and a **direction**;



- Examples are force, velocity, displacement etc.;

## Definition of a Vector

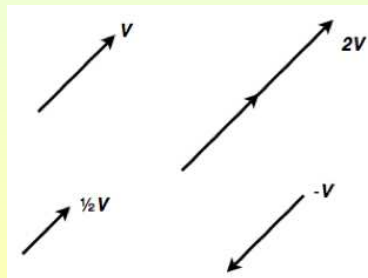
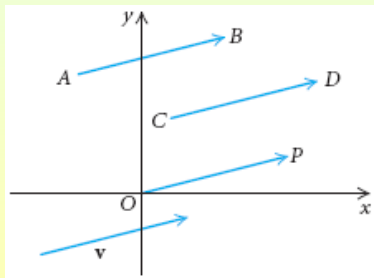
A **vector** is a directed line segment; The length of the line segment is the **magnitude** of the vector and the **direction** is measured by an angle.

- The starting point  $A$  is called the **initial point** or **tail** and the ending point  $B$  is called the **terminal point** or the **head** of the vector;
- A vector with tail  $A$  and head  $B$  is denoted  $\vec{AB}$  or **AB**;
- The magnitude of this vector is denoted  $\|\vec{AB}\| = \|\mathbf{AB}\|$ ;

$|\vec{AB}|$

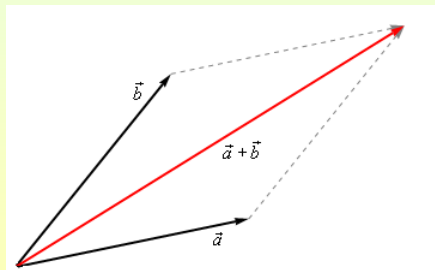
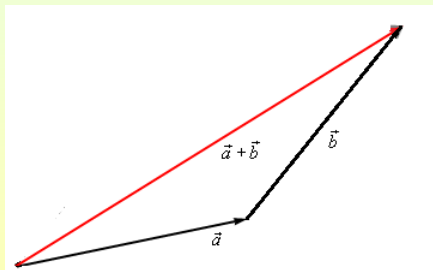
# Equivalence and Scalar Multiplication

- Two vectors are **equivalent** if they have the same magnitude and the same direction;
- Scalar multiplication** is the multiplication of a vector by a real number; If the real number is positive, then the magnitude changes but the direction does not; If the number is negative then the magnitude changes and the direction is reversed;



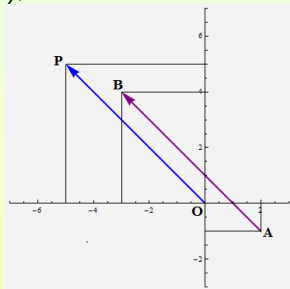
# Sum or Resultant Vector

- The **resultant** or **sum** of two vectors is the vector that has the same effect as the combined application of the two vectors;
- The resultant can be computed using
  - the **triangle method**; or
  - the **parallelogram method**;



# Standard Position

- A vector can be moved in the plane as long as its magnitude and direction are not changed;
- For instance, the vector **AB** with  $A(2, -1)$  and  $B(-3, 4)$  may be moved so that its initial point is at the origin  $O$ ; Then its terminal point becomes  $P(-5, 5)$ ;



- Because **OP** and **AB** have same magnitude and direction, they are equivalent: **OP** = **AB**;

## Subsection 1

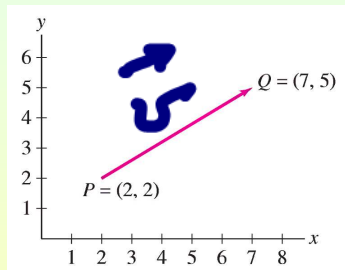
### Vectors in the Plane



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- A two-dimensional **vector**  $\mathbf{v}$  is determined by two points in the plane:
  - an **initial point**  $P$  (also called the **tail** or **basepoint**);
  - a **terminal point**  $Q$  (also called the **head**).

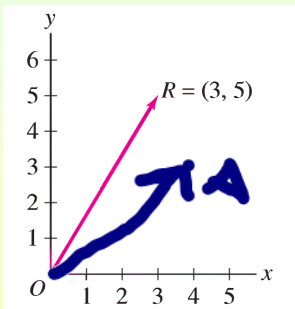
We write  $\mathbf{v} = \overrightarrow{PQ}$  and we draw  $\mathbf{v}$  as an arrow pointing from  $P$  to  $Q$ . This vector is said to be **based at**  $P$ .



- The **length** or **magnitude** of  $\mathbf{v}$ , denoted  $\|\mathbf{v}\|$ , is the distance from  $P$  to  $Q$ .

# Position Vectors

- The vector  $\mathbf{v} = \overrightarrow{OR}$  pointing from the origin to a point  $R$  is called the **position vector** of  $R$ .



**Example:** The figure shows the position vector of  $R = (3, 5)$ .

# Parallel and Translate Vectors

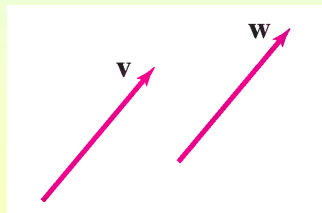
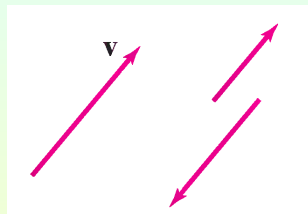
- Two vectors  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  of nonzero length are called **parallel** if the lines through  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  are parallel.

Parallel vectors point either in the same or in opposite directions.

- A vector  $\mathbf{v}$  is said to undergo a **translation** when it is moved parallel to itself *without changing its length or direction*.

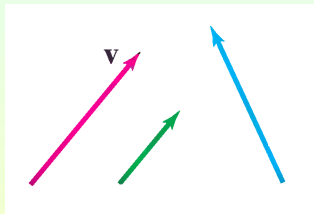
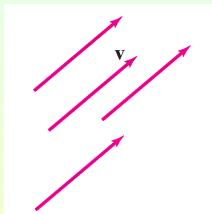
The resulting vector  $\mathbf{w}$  is called a **translate** of  $\mathbf{v}$ .

Translates have the same length and direction but different basepoints.

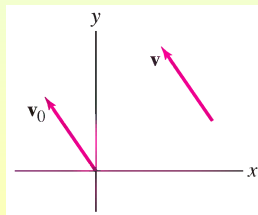


# Equivalent Vectors

- Two vectors  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  are **equivalent** if  $\mathbf{w}$  is a translate of  $\mathbf{v}$ .



- Every vector can be translated so that its tail is at the origin. Therefore, every vector  $\mathbf{v}$  is equivalent to a unique vector  $\mathbf{v}_0$  based at the origin.



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## Components, Length and Zero Vector

- The **components** of  $\mathbf{v} = \overrightarrow{PQ}$ , where  $P = (a_1, b_1)$  and  $Q = (a_2, b_2)$ , are the quantities

$$a = a_2 - a_1 \quad (\text{x-component}),$$

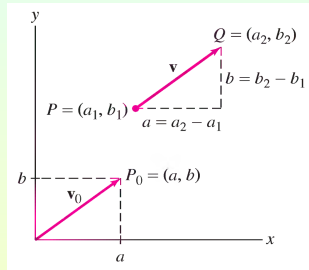
$$b = b_2 - b_1 \quad (\text{y-component}).$$

The pair of components is denoted  $\langle a, b \rangle$ .

- The length of a vector in terms of its components (by the distance formula) is

$$\|\overrightarrow{PQ}\| = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}.$$

- The **zero vector** (whose head and tail coincide) is the vector  $\mathbf{0} = \langle 0, 0 \rangle$  of length zero.



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

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- The components  $\langle a, b \rangle$  determine the length and direction of  $\mathbf{v}$ , but not its basepoint.

Two vectors have the same components if and only if they are equivalent.

- Nevertheless, the standard practice is to describe a vector by its components, and thus we write  $\mathbf{v} = \langle a, b \rangle$ .

$$\vec{v} = (a, b)$$

Although this notation is ambiguous (because it does not specify the basepoint), it rarely causes confusion in practice.

In the sequel we **assume all vectors are based at the origin** unless otherwise stated.



# Example I

- Determine whether  $\mathbf{v}_1 = \overrightarrow{P_1Q_1}$  and  $\mathbf{v}_2 = \overrightarrow{P_2Q_2}$  are equivalent, where  $P_1 = (3, 7)$ ,  $Q_1 = (6, 5)$  and  $P_2 = (-1, 4)$ ,  $Q_2 = (2, 1)$ . What is the magnitude of  $\mathbf{v}_1$ ?

We compare components:

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \langle 6 - 3, 5 - 7 \rangle = \langle 3, -2 \rangle$$

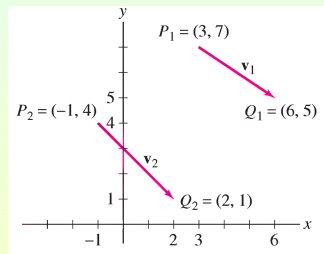
and

$$\mathbf{v}_2 = \langle 2 - (-1), 1 - 4 \rangle = \langle 3, -3 \rangle.$$

Since  $\mathbf{v}_1$  and  $\mathbf{v}_2$  have different components, they are not equivalent vectors.

The magnitude of  $\mathbf{v}_1$  is

$$\|\mathbf{v}_1\| = \sqrt{3^2 + (-2)^2} = \sqrt{13}.$$



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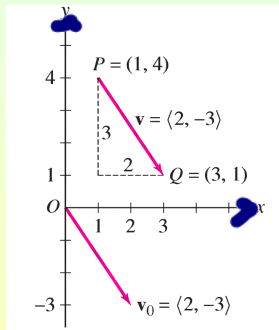
## Example II

- Sketch the vector  $\mathbf{v} = \langle 2, -3 \rangle$  based at  $P = (1, 4)$  and the vector  $\mathbf{v}_0$  equivalent to  $\mathbf{v}$  based at the origin.

The vector  $\mathbf{v} = \langle 2, 3 \rangle$  based at  $P = (1, 4)$  has terminal point

$$Q = (1 + 2, 4 - 3) = (3, 1).$$

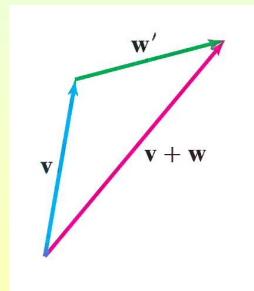
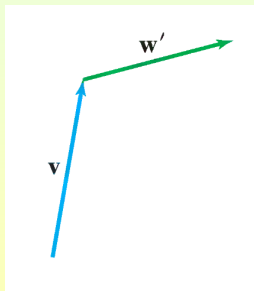
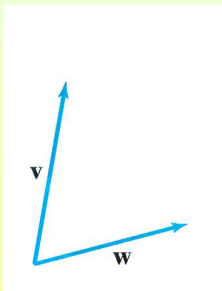
The vector  $\mathbf{v}_0$  equivalent to  $\mathbf{v}$  based at  $O$  has terminal point  $(2, -3)$ .





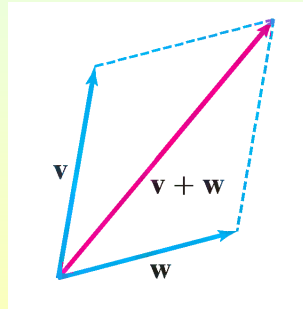
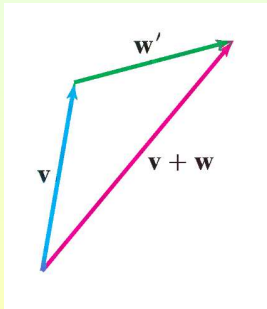
# Addition of Two Vectors: Tail-to-Head Method

- The **vector sum**  $\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w}$  is defined when  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  have the same basepoint:
  - Translate  $\mathbf{w}$  to the equivalent vector  $\mathbf{w}'$  whose tail coincides with the head of  $\mathbf{v}$ .
  - The sum  $\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w}$  is the vector pointing from the tail of  $\mathbf{v}$  to the head of  $\mathbf{w}'$ .



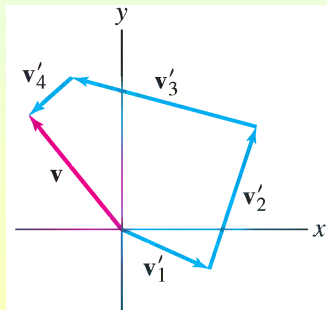
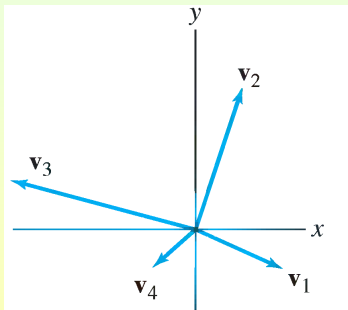
# Addition of Two Vectors: Parallelogram Law

- Another way to add vectors is to use the **Parallelogram Law**:  
 $\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w}$  is the vector pointing from the basepoint to the opposite vertex of the parallelogram formed by  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$ .



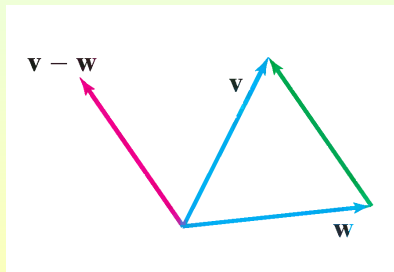
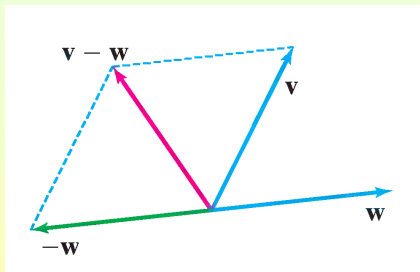
# Addition of Multiple Vectors

- To add several vectors  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n$ :
  - translate the vectors to  $\mathbf{v}_1 = \mathbf{v}'_1, \mathbf{v}'_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}'_n$  so that they lie head to tail;
  - The vector sum  $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}_1 + \mathbf{v}_2 + \dots + \mathbf{v}_n$  is the vector whose terminal point is the terminal point of  $\mathbf{v}'_n$ .



# Subtraction of Vectors

- **Vector subtraction**  $\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{w}$  is carried out by adding  $-\mathbf{w}$  to  $\mathbf{v}$ .
- More simply:
  - draw the vector pointing from  $\mathbf{w}$  to  $\mathbf{v}$ ;
  - translate it back to the basepoint to obtain  $\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{w}$ .

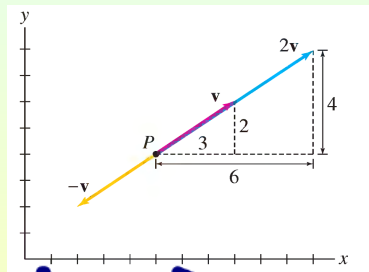


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## Scalar Multiplication

- The term **scalar** is another word for “real number”.
- If  $\lambda$  is a scalar and  $\mathbf{v}$  is a nonzero vector, **the scalar multiple  $\lambda\mathbf{v}$**  is defined as follows:

- $\lambda\mathbf{v}$  has length  $|\lambda||\mathbf{v}|$ .
- It points in the same direction as  $\mathbf{v}$  if  $\lambda > 0$ .
- It points in the opposite direction if  $\lambda < 0$ .

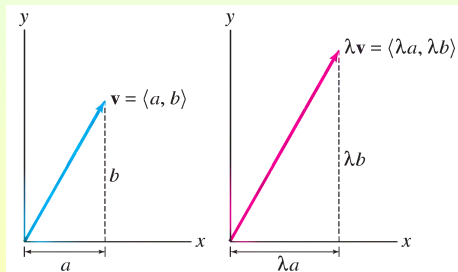
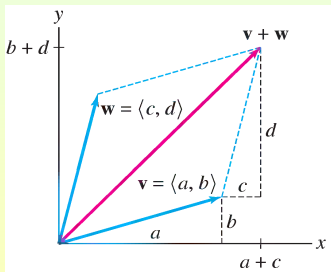


$$0\vec{v} = \vec{0}$$

- Note that  $0\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$ , for all  $\mathbf{v}$ ;
- Also  $\|\lambda\mathbf{v}\| = |\lambda|\|\mathbf{v}\|$ .
- $-\mathbf{v}$  has the same length as  $\mathbf{v}$  but points in the opposite direction.
- A vector  $\mathbf{w}$  is parallel to  $\mathbf{v}$  if and only if  $\mathbf{w} = \lambda\mathbf{v}$ , for some nonzero scalar  $\lambda$ .

# Vector Operations Using Components

- To add or subtract two vectors  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$ , we add or subtract their components.
- To multiply  $\mathbf{v}$  by a scalar  $\lambda$ , we multiply the components of  $\mathbf{v}$  by  $\lambda$ .



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## Vector Operations Using Components

- If  $\mathbf{v} = \langle a, b \rangle$  and  $\mathbf{w} = \langle c, d \rangle$ , then:

- (i)  $\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w} = \langle a + c, b + d \rangle$ ;

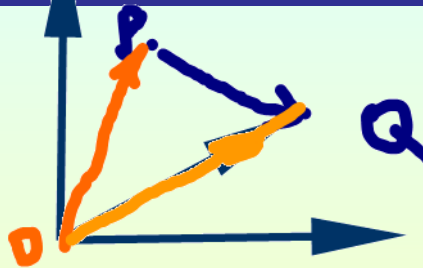
- (ii)  $\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{w} = \langle a - c, b - d \rangle$ ;

- (iii)  $\lambda \mathbf{v} = \langle \lambda a, \lambda b \rangle$ ;

- (iv)  $\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{0} = \mathbf{0} + \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}$ .

- Also note that if  $P = (a_1, b_1)$  and  $Q = (a_2, b_2)$ , then the components of the vector  $\mathbf{v} = \overrightarrow{PQ}$  are conveniently computed as the difference

$$\overrightarrow{PQ} = \overrightarrow{OQ} - \overrightarrow{OP} = \langle a_2, b_2 \rangle - \langle a_1, b_1 \rangle = \langle a_2 - a_1, b_2 - b_1 \rangle.$$



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## Example

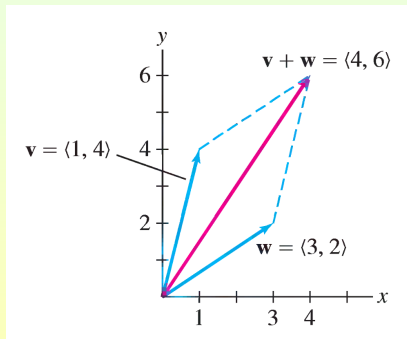
- For  $\mathbf{v} = \langle 1, 4 \rangle$ ,  $\mathbf{w} = \langle 3, 2 \rangle$ , calculate

(a)  $\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w}$       (b)  $5\mathbf{v}$

and sketch  $\mathbf{v}$ ,  $\mathbf{w}$  and their sum.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w} &= \langle 1, 4 \rangle + \langle 3, 2 \rangle \\
 &= \langle 1 + 3, 4 + 2 \rangle \\
 &= \langle 4, 6 \rangle.
 \end{aligned}$$

$$5\mathbf{v} = 5\langle 1, 4 \rangle = \langle 5, 20 \rangle.$$





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## Basic Properties of Vector Algebra



$$\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$$

- For all vectors  $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}$  and for all scalars  $\lambda$ ,
  - $\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{v}$ ;      (**Commutative Law**)
  - $\mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w}) = (\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) + \mathbf{w}$ ;      (**Associative Law**)
  - $\lambda(\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w}) = \lambda\mathbf{v} + \lambda\mathbf{w}$ .      (**Distributive Law for Scalars**)
- These properties are easily checked using components:
  - $\langle a, b \rangle + \langle c, d \rangle = \langle a + c, b + d \rangle = \langle c + a, d + b \rangle = \langle c, d \rangle + \langle a, b \rangle$ ;
  - $\langle a, b \rangle + (\langle c, d \rangle + \langle e, f \rangle) = \langle a, b \rangle + \langle c + e, d + f \rangle = \langle a + (c + e), b + (d + f) \rangle = \langle (a + c) + e, (b + d) + f \rangle = \langle a + c, b + d \rangle + \langle e, f \rangle = (\langle a, b \rangle + \langle c, d \rangle) + \langle e, f \rangle$ .
  - $\lambda(\langle a, b \rangle + \langle c, d \rangle) = \lambda\langle a + c, b + d \rangle = \langle \lambda(a + c), \lambda(b + d) \rangle = \langle \lambda a + \lambda c, \lambda b + \lambda d \rangle = \langle \lambda a, \lambda b \rangle + \langle \lambda c, \lambda d \rangle = \lambda\langle a, b \rangle + \lambda\langle c, d \rangle$ .

$\vec{a}$

$\vec{b}$ ,

$\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$

$\mu \in \mathbb{R}$

$$\vec{c} = \lambda \vec{a} + \mu \vec{b}$$

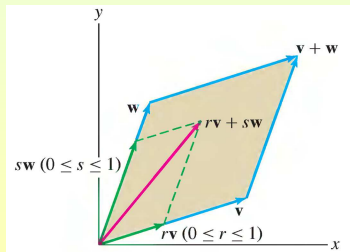
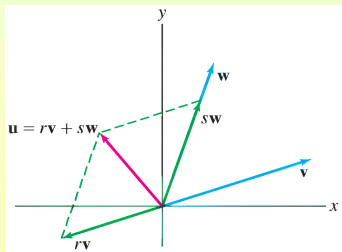
linear

comb

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## Linear Combinations

- A **linear combination** of vectors  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  is a vector  $r\mathbf{v} + s\mathbf{w}$ , where  $r$  and  $s$  are scalars.
- If  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  are not parallel, then every vector  $\mathbf{u}$  in the plane can be expressed as a linear combination  $\mathbf{u} = r\mathbf{v} + s\mathbf{w}$ .
- The parallelogram  $\mathcal{P}$  whose vertices are the origin and the terminal points of  $\mathbf{v}$ ,  $\mathbf{w}$  and  $\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w}$  is called the **parallelogram spanned** by  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$ . It consists of the linear combinations  $r\mathbf{v} + s\mathbf{w}$ , with  $0 \leq r \leq 1$  and  $0 \leq s \leq 1$ .



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## Example

- Express the vector  $\mathbf{u} = \langle 4, 4 \rangle$  as a linear combination of  $\mathbf{v} = \langle 6, 2 \rangle$  and  $\mathbf{w} = \langle 2, 4 \rangle$ .

We must find  $r$  and  $s$ , such that  $r\mathbf{v} + s\mathbf{w} = \langle 4, 4 \rangle$ . This gives  $r\langle 6, 2 \rangle + s\langle 2, 4 \rangle = \langle 6r + 2s, 2r + 4s \rangle = \langle 4, 4 \rangle$ . The components must be equal, so we have a system of two linear equations:

$$\begin{cases} 6r + 2s = 4 \\ 2r + 4s = 4 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} 6r + 2s = 4 \\ -r - 2s = -2 \end{cases} \\ \Rightarrow \begin{cases} s = 2 - 3r \\ 5r = 2 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} s = 2 - 3 \cdot \frac{2}{5} = \frac{4}{5} \\ r = \frac{2}{5} \end{cases}.$$

Therefore,  $\mathbf{u} = \langle 4, 4 \rangle = \frac{2}{5}\langle 6, 2 \rangle + \frac{4}{5}\langle 2, 4 \rangle$ .

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## Unit Vectors

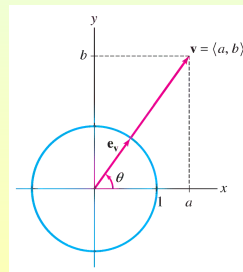
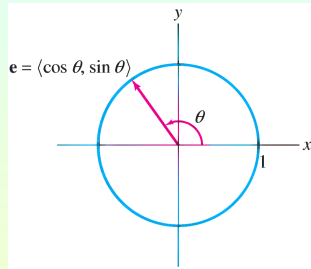
- A vector of length 1 is called a **unit vector**.

The head of a unit vector  $\mathbf{e}$  based at the origin lies on the unit circle and has components  $\mathbf{e} = \langle \cos \theta, \sin \theta \rangle$ , where  $\theta$  is the angle between  $\mathbf{e}$  and the positive  $x$ -axis.

- We can always scale a nonzero vector  $\mathbf{v} = \langle a, b \rangle$  to obtain a unit vector pointing in the same direction:  $\mathbf{e}_v = \frac{1}{\|\mathbf{v}\|} \mathbf{v}$ .

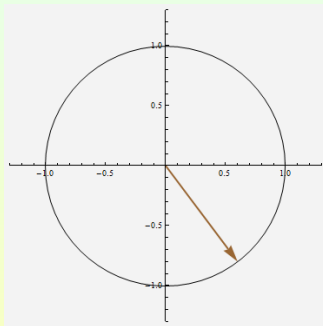
If  $\mathbf{v} = \langle a, b \rangle$  makes an angle  $\theta$  with the positive  $x$ -axis, then

$$\mathbf{v} = \langle a, b \rangle = \|\mathbf{v}\| \mathbf{e}_v = \|\mathbf{v}\| \langle \cos \theta, \sin \theta \rangle.$$



# Unit Vectors

- A **unit vector** is one whose magnitude is 1;
- **Example:** Verify that  $\mathbf{v} = \langle \frac{3}{5}, -\frac{4}{5} \rangle$  is a unit vector;



We have

$$\|\mathbf{v}\| = \sqrt{\left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^2 + \left(-\frac{4}{5}\right)^2} = \sqrt{\frac{9}{25} + \frac{16}{25}} = \sqrt{1} = 1;$$

# Example

- Find the unit vector in the direction of  $\mathbf{v} = \langle 3, 5 \rangle$ .

Compute the magnitude

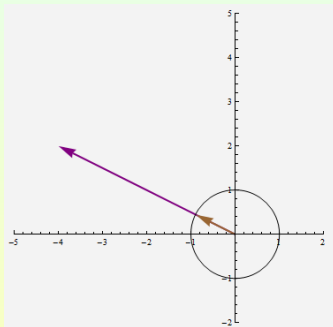
$$\|\mathbf{v}\| = \sqrt{3^2 + 5^2} = \sqrt{34}.$$

Then, we get

$$\mathbf{e}_\mathbf{v} = \frac{1}{\|\mathbf{v}\|} \mathbf{v} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{34}} \langle 3, 5 \rangle = \left\langle \frac{3}{\sqrt{34}}, \frac{5}{\sqrt{34}} \right\rangle.$$

# Unit Vector in a Given Direction

- **Example:** Find a unit vector  $\mathbf{u}$  in the direction of the vector  $\mathbf{v} = \langle -4, 2 \rangle$ ;



$$\mathbf{u} = \frac{1}{\|\mathbf{v}\|} \mathbf{v} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(-4)^2 + 2^2}} \langle -4, 2 \rangle = \left\langle -\frac{4}{\sqrt{20}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{20}} \right\rangle = \left\langle -\frac{2\sqrt{5}}{5}, \frac{\sqrt{5}}{5} \right\rangle;$$



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## Standard Basis Vectors

- We introduce a special notation for the unit vectors in the direction of the positive  $x$ - and  $y$ -axes:

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

The vectors  $\mathbf{i}$  and  $\mathbf{j}$  are called the **standard basis vectors**.

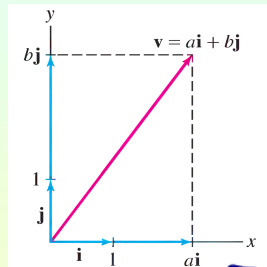
- Every vector in the plane is a linear combination of  $\mathbf{i}$  and  $\mathbf{j}$ :

$$\mathbf{v} = \langle a, b \rangle = \langle a, 0 \rangle + \langle 0, b \rangle = a\langle 1, 0 \rangle + b\langle 0, 1 \rangle = a\mathbf{i} + b\mathbf{j}.$$

**Example:**  $\langle 4, -2 \rangle = 4\mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j}$ .

- Moreover vector addition is performed by adding the  $\mathbf{i}$  and  $\mathbf{j}$  coefficients:

$$(4\mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j}) + (5\mathbf{i} + 7\mathbf{j}) = (4 + 5)\mathbf{i} + (-2 + 7)\mathbf{j} = 9\mathbf{i} + 5\mathbf{j}.$$



# Unit Vectors $\mathbf{i}$ and $\mathbf{j}$

## Definitions of Vectors $\mathbf{i}$ and $\mathbf{j}$

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

- **Example:** Write the vector  $\langle 3, 7 \rangle$  in terms of the unit vectors  $\mathbf{i}$  and  $\mathbf{j}$ ;

$$\langle 3, 7 \rangle = \langle 3, 0 \rangle + \langle 0, 7 \rangle = 3\langle 1, 0 \rangle + 7\langle 0, 1 \rangle = 3\mathbf{i} + 7\mathbf{j};$$

## Representation of a Vector in Terms of $\mathbf{i}$ and $\mathbf{j}$

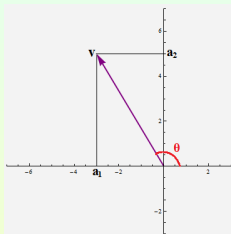
If  $\mathbf{v}$  is a vector and  $\mathbf{v} = \langle a_1, a_2 \rangle$ , then  $\mathbf{v} = a_1\mathbf{i} + a_2\mathbf{j}$ .

- **Example:** Given  $\mathbf{v} = 3\mathbf{i} - 4\mathbf{j}$  and  $\mathbf{w} = 5\mathbf{i} + 3\mathbf{j}$ , find  $3\mathbf{v} - 2\mathbf{w}$ ;

$$\begin{aligned} 3\mathbf{v} - 2\mathbf{w} &= 3(3\mathbf{i} - 4\mathbf{j}) - 2(5\mathbf{i} + 3\mathbf{j}) = (9\mathbf{i} - 12\mathbf{j}) - (10\mathbf{i} + 6\mathbf{j}) = \\ &= (9 - 10)\mathbf{i} + (-12 - 6)\mathbf{j} = -\mathbf{i} - 18\mathbf{j}; \end{aligned}$$

# Horizontal and Vertical Components

- Consider the vector  $\mathbf{v} = \langle a_1, a_2 \rangle$ ;



- Its magnitude is  $\|\mathbf{v}\| = \sqrt{a_1^2 + a_2^2}$ ;
- Recall the definitions of sine and cosine of the angle  $\theta$  with initial side the positive x-axis and terminal side the vector  $\mathbf{v}$ :

$$\cos \theta = \frac{a_1}{\|\mathbf{v}\|} \quad \text{and} \quad \sin \theta = \frac{a_2}{\|\mathbf{v}\|};$$

- Thus, we obtain  $a_1 = \|\mathbf{v}\| \cos \theta$  and  $a_2 = \|\mathbf{v}\| \sin \theta$ ;

## Horizontal and Vertical Components of a Vector

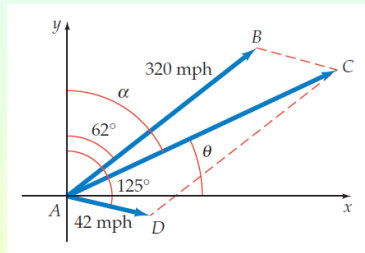
If  $\mathbf{v} = \langle a_1, a_2 \rangle$ , with  $\mathbf{v} \neq \mathbf{0}$ , then

$$a_1 = \|\mathbf{v}\| \cos \theta \quad \text{and} \quad a_2 = \|\mathbf{v}\| \sin \theta;$$

The **horizontal component** of  $\mathbf{v}$  is  $\|\mathbf{v}\| \cos \theta$  and the **vertical component** is  $\|\mathbf{v}\| \sin \theta$ .

# Application: Air Speed

An airplane is traveling with an airspeed of 320 mph and a heading of  $62^\circ$ ; A wind of 42 mph is blowing at a heading of  $125^\circ$ ; Find the ground speed and the course of the airplane;



$$\mathbf{AB} = 320 \cos 28^\circ \mathbf{i} + 320 \sin 28^\circ \mathbf{j};$$

$$\mathbf{AD} = 42 \cos (-35^\circ) \mathbf{i} + 42 \sin (-35^\circ) \mathbf{j};$$

$$\mathbf{AC} = [320 \cos 28^\circ + 42 \cos (-35^\circ)] \mathbf{i} + [320 \sin 28^\circ + 42 \sin (-35^\circ)] \mathbf{j} \approx (282.5 + 34.4) \mathbf{i} + (150.2 - 24.1) \mathbf{j} = 316.9 \mathbf{i} + 126.1 \mathbf{j};$$

Therefore,

$$\|\mathbf{AC}\| = \sqrt{(316.9)^2 + (126.1)^2} \approx 340;$$

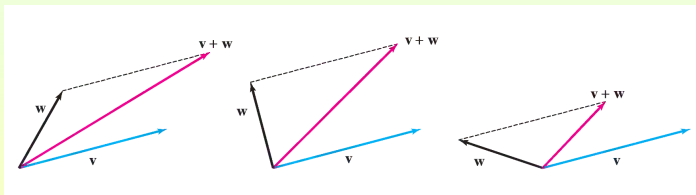
$$\alpha = 90^\circ - \theta \approx 90^\circ - \tan^{-1} \frac{126.1}{316.9} \approx 68^\circ;$$

# Triangle Inequality

- The vector sum  $\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w}$  for three different vectors  $\mathbf{w}$  of the same length is shown below.

Clearly, the length  $\|\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w}\|$  varies, depending on the angle between  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$ .

So in general,  $\|\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w}\|$  is not equal to the sum  $\|\mathbf{v}\| + \|\mathbf{w}\|$ .



- Triangle Inequality:** For any two vectors  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$ ,

$$\|\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w}\| \leq \|\mathbf{v}\| + \|\mathbf{w}\|.$$

Equality holds only if  $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$  or  $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{0}$ , or if  $\mathbf{w} = \lambda \mathbf{v}$ , where  $\lambda > 0$ .