

10.2 Vectors

Definition

A vector is a quantity that has both magnitudes and direction. Magnitude is the length of a vector, while direction is the "arrow tip" of a vector.

Equivalent Vectors

For two vectors to be considered equivalent, they must have the same length and direction, $\vec{v} = \vec{v}$.

Zero Vector

A vector with a length of 0 and no specific direction, $\vec{0}$.

Vector Addition

The addition of the two vectors, $\vec{AB} + \vec{BC}$ can be represented by a vector \vec{AC} .

Triangle Law

Two vectors (\vec{u}, \vec{v}) where it creates the initial point of a vector is at the endpoint of other vector. The addition of these two vectors, $\vec{u} + \vec{v}$ can be represented as a straight line connected from the initial point of the feeding vector to the endpoint of the nonfeeding vector.

Parallelogram Law

Imagine two vectors, (\vec{u}, \vec{v}) connected by the same initial point, creating some sort of triangle. Parallelogram law is where the triangle is copied and mirrored across in a way to create a parallelogram. The sum of these two vectors can be represented as a diagonal line cutting through the parallelogram.

Scalar Multiplication

A vector can be scaled by a quantity. For example, a scalar multiplication of 2, increases the vector's size by 2x. While a scalar multiplication of -1 reverses the direction of the vector.

Vector Subtraction

If \vec{u} and \vec{v} are vectors, then $\vec{u} - \vec{v} = \vec{u} + (-\vec{v})$ This can be represented by drawing $-\vec{v}$, which is mirroring \vec{v} in the opposite direction. Then, we draw $-\vec{v}$ again but from the endpoint of \vec{u} . From there, we can finish the Parallelogram Law by drawing \vec{u} from the endpoint of the first $-\vec{v}$ to the endpoint of the second $-\vec{v}$. Then $\vec{u} - \vec{v}$ can be represented as a diagonal line cutting across the parallelogram.

Components

$\vec{a} = \langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle$ are components of \vec{a}

$\vec{AB} = \langle x_2 - x_1, y_2 - y_1 \rangle$ If \vec{AB} is a vector with initial point
 $\vec{AB} = \langle x_2 - x_1, y_2 - y_1, z_2 - z_1 \rangle$

$$\vec{AB} = \langle -2 - 2, 1 - (-3), 1 - 4 \rangle = \boxed{\langle -4, 4 - 3 \rangle}$$

Magnitude (or Length) of a Vector

The length of the 2-dimensional vector, $\vec{a} = \langle a_1, a_2 \rangle$ is $|\vec{a}| = \sqrt{(a_1)^2 + (a_2)^2}$. The length of the 3-dimensional vector, $\vec{a} = \langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle$ is $|\vec{a}| = \sqrt{(a_1)^2 + (a_2)^2 + (a_3)^2}$

Vector Addition and Scalar Math (cont.)

If $\vec{a} = \langle a_1, a_2 \rangle$ and $\vec{b} = \langle b_1, b_2 \rangle$, then

- 1) $\vec{a} + \vec{b} = \langle a_1 + b_1, a_2 + b_2 \rangle$
- 2) $c\vec{a} = \langle ca_1, ca_2 \rangle$ for any scalar c

Ex 1

$$\langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle + \langle b_1, b_2, b_3 \rangle = \langle a_1 + b_1, a_2 + b_2, a_3 + b_3 \rangle$$

Ex 2

If $\vec{a} = \langle 4, 0, 3 \rangle$ and $\vec{b} = \langle -2, 1, 5 \rangle$

$$|\vec{a}| = \sqrt{4^2 + 0^2 + 3^2} = \sqrt{25} = \boxed{5}$$

Properties of Vectors

If \vec{a}, \vec{b} and \vec{c} are vectors and c and d are scalars, then

- 1) $\vec{a} + \vec{b} = \vec{b} + \vec{a}$
- 2) $\vec{a} + (\vec{b} + \vec{c}) = (\vec{a} + \vec{b}) + \vec{c}$
- 4) $\vec{a} + \vec{0} = \vec{a}$
- 5) $\vec{a} + (-\vec{a}) = \vec{0}$
- 6) $c(\vec{a} + \vec{b}) = c\vec{a} + c\vec{b}$
- 7) $(c + d)\vec{a} = c\vec{a} + d\vec{a}$
- 8) $(cd)\vec{a} = c(d\vec{a})$
- 9) $1 \cdot \vec{a} = \vec{a}$

Standard Basis Vectors

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

If $\vec{a} = \langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{a} &= \langle a_1, 0, 0 \rangle + \langle 0, a_2, 0 \rangle + \langle 0, 0, a_3 \rangle \\ &= a_1 \langle 1, 0, 0 \rangle + a_2 \langle 0, 1, 0 \rangle + a_3 \langle 0, 0, 1 \rangle \\ &= a_1 \vec{i} + a_2 \vec{j} + a_3 \vec{k} \end{aligned}$$

Ex 3

If $\vec{a} = \vec{i} + 2\vec{j} - 3\vec{k}$ and $\vec{b} = 4\vec{i} + 7\vec{k}$, express the vector $2\vec{a} + 3\vec{b}$ in terms of \vec{i}, \vec{j} , and \vec{k} .

$$2(\vec{i} + 2\vec{j} - 3\vec{k}) + 3(4\vec{i} + 7\vec{k})$$

$$\vec{i} + 4\vec{j} - 6\vec{k} + 12\vec{i} + 21\vec{k}$$

$$\boxed{14\vec{i} + 4\vec{j} + 15\vec{k}}$$

Unit Vector

A unit vector is a unit whose length is 1. Note that $\vec{a} \neq \vec{0}$, then the unit vector \vec{u} that has the same direction as \vec{a} is $\vec{u} = \frac{\vec{a}}{|\vec{a}|}$

Ex 4

Find the unit vector in the direction of the vector $2\vec{i} - \vec{j} - 2\vec{k}$,