

## 12.2 Vector Intro

*Def'n & Notation:* A **vector** represents **magnitude** and **direction**.

We depict a vector with an arrow:

- magnitude* = "arrow length".
- initial point* = "tail of the arrow"
- terminal point* = "head of arrow"

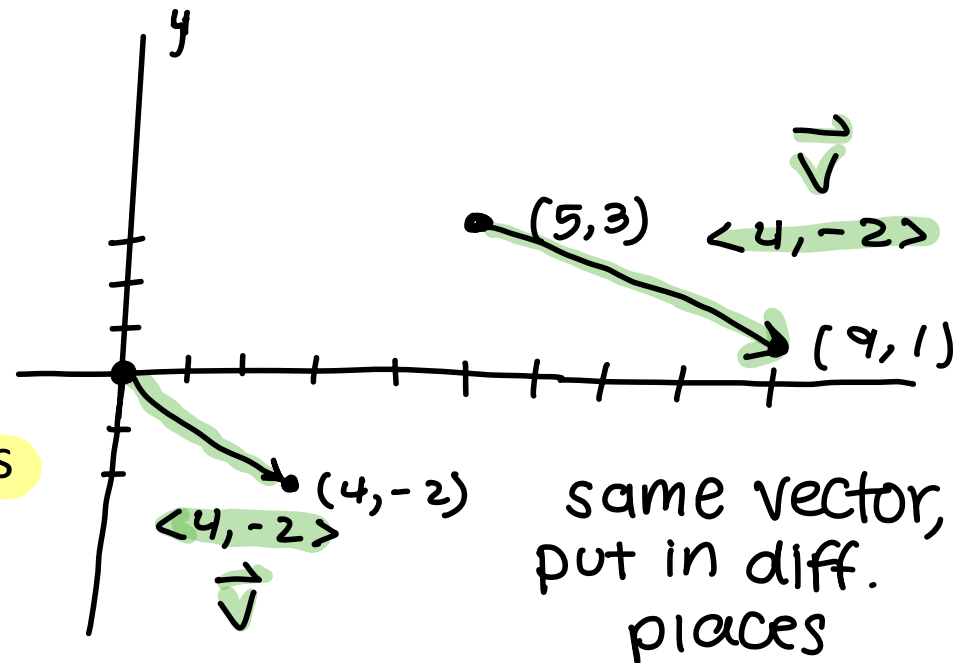
We denote a vector according to **changes** in x, y and z change from tail-to-head.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{v} &= \langle v_1, v_2, v_3 \rangle \\ &= \langle \Delta x, \Delta y, \Delta z \rangle \end{aligned}$$

In other words, if you move the vector so the tail is at the origin, then the head will be at the point  $(v_1, v_2, v_3)$

**Entry Task:** Consider the 2D vector  
 $\mathbf{v} = \langle 4, -2 \rangle$  ← vector

- Draw it with its tail at  $(5, 3)$  ← point
- Draw it with its tail at  $(0, 0)$



## Quick Run of Basic Facts

(please also read the text!)

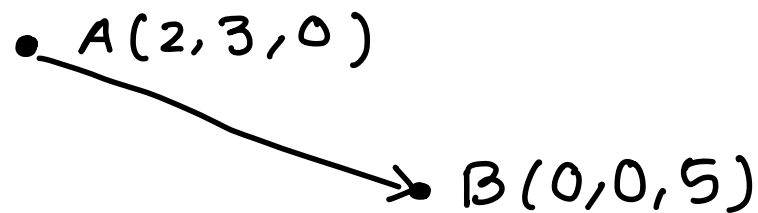
- Two vectors are equal if all components are equal.
- The **vector from**  $A(a_1, a_2, a_3)$  to  $B(b_1, b_2, b_3)$  is given by  
 $\overrightarrow{AB} = \langle b_1 - a_1, b_2 - a_2, b_3 - a_3 \rangle$   
head - tail

- We denote **magnitude** by  
 $|v| = \sqrt{v_1^2 + v_2^2 + v_3^2}$   
distance formula  
↳ absolute value

## Examples

- If  $\langle a, 4 \rangle = \langle 7, 4 \rangle$ , what is  $a$ ? 7
- Find the vector depicted by drawing an arrow with tail at  $A(2, 3, 0)$  and head is at  $B(0, 0, 5)$ ?

$$\overrightarrow{AB} = \langle 0 - 2, 0 - 3, 5 - 0 \rangle$$
$$\overrightarrow{AB} = \langle -2, -3, 5 \rangle$$



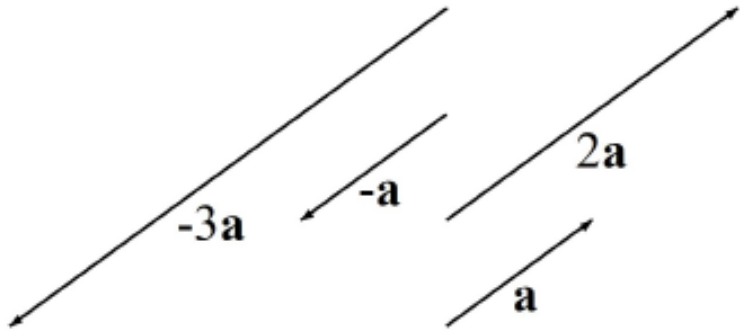
- Give the magnitude of  $v = \langle 3, 2, 4 \rangle$ ?  
 $|v| = \sqrt{9 + 4 + 16} = \sqrt{29}$

## • Scalar Multiplication

If  $c$  is a constant, then we define

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

which scales the magnitude by a factor of  $c$ .



- A **unit vector** has length one. Note:

$\frac{1}{|\mathbf{v}|} \mathbf{v}$  = “unit vector in the same direction as  $\mathbf{v}$ ”.

## Examples

- Give the vector in the direction of  $\mathbf{v} = \langle 3, 2, 4 \rangle$  that is twice as long.

$$2\vec{v} = 2\langle 3, 2, 4 \rangle$$

$$2\vec{v} = \langle 6, 4, 8 \rangle$$

- Give the vector in the opposite direction of  $\mathbf{v} = \langle 3, 2, 4 \rangle$  that is three times as long. → negative

$$-3\vec{v} = -3\langle 3, 2, 4 \rangle$$

$$-3\vec{v} = \langle -9, -6, -12 \rangle$$

- Give the vector that is length one and in the direction of  $\mathbf{v} = \langle 3, 2, 4 \rangle$

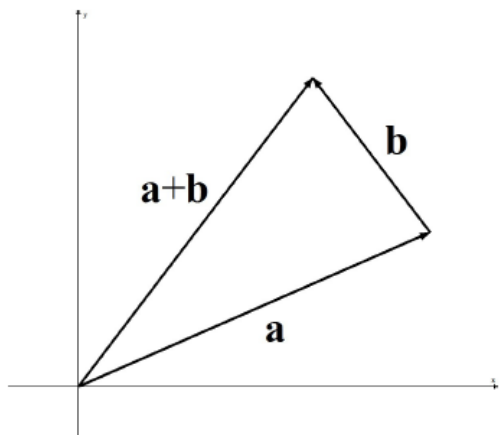
$$|\vec{v}| = \sqrt{9+4+16} = \sqrt{29}$$

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{29}} \langle 3, 2, 4 \rangle = \left\langle \frac{3}{\sqrt{29}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{29}}, \frac{4}{\sqrt{29}} \right\rangle$$

## Vector Sum:

We define

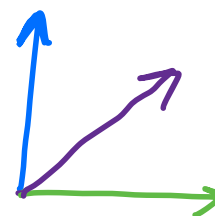
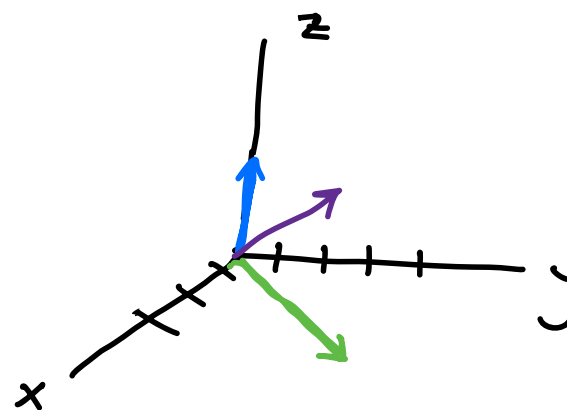
$$\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w} = \langle v_1, v_2, v_3 \rangle + \langle w_1, w_2, w_3 \rangle \\ = \langle v_1 + w_1, v_2 + w_2, v_3 + w_3 \rangle$$



Example

- Find and try to visualize the sum of  $\mathbf{a} = \langle 3, 4, 0 \rangle$  and  $\mathbf{b} = \langle 0, 0, 2 \rangle$ .

$$\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b} = \langle 3+0, 4+0, 0+2 \rangle \\ \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b} = \langle 3, 4, 2 \rangle$$



Side  
view

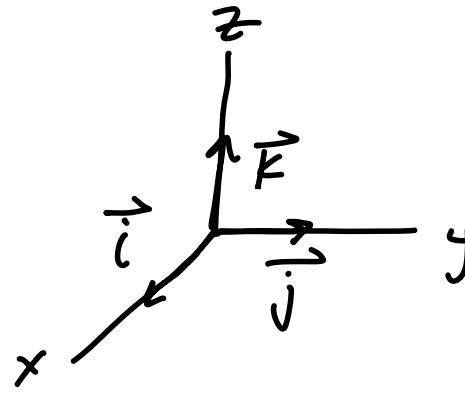
vector sum =  
resultant force

- Standard unit basis vectors:

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

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

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



Examples:

- What vector is given by

$$\mathbf{v} = 3\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k}?$$

$$= 3\langle 1, 0, 0 \rangle + 2\langle 0, 1, 0 \rangle - \langle 0, 0, 1 \rangle$$

$$= \langle 3, 0, 0 \rangle + \langle 0, 2, 0 \rangle - \langle 0, 0, 1 \rangle$$

$$= \boxed{\langle 3, 2, -1 \rangle} \rightarrow \text{also } 3\vec{i} + 2\vec{j} - \mathbf{k}$$

- What vector is given by

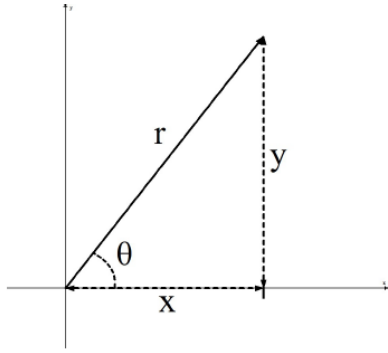
$$\mathbf{v} = 2\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{k}?$$

$$= 2\langle 1, 0, 0 \rangle + \langle 0, 0, 1 \rangle$$

$$= \boxed{\langle 2, 0, 1 \rangle}$$

• **Working in 2D (angles?):**

If the angle,  $\theta$ , and length,  $r$ , as shown



Remember,

$$x = r \cos(\theta), y = r \sin(\theta), x^2 + y^2 = r^2.$$

$$\vec{b} = \langle -300, 0 \rangle$$

$$\vec{a} = \langle 100, 100\sqrt{3} \rangle$$

$$\vec{a} + \vec{b} = \langle -200, 100\sqrt{3} \rangle$$

$$\text{magnitude} = \sqrt{200^2 + (100\sqrt{3})^2}$$

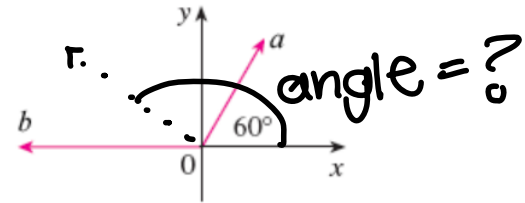
$$\text{angle} = ?$$

*Example (HW question)*

12. [Question Details](#)

Find the magnitude of the resultant force and the angle  
 magnitude  N  
 angle  °

$\rightarrow a+b$

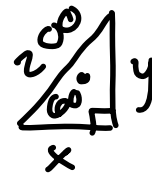


Given:  $|\mathbf{a}| = 200 \text{ N}$ ,  $|\mathbf{b}| = 300 \text{ N}$ .

Want:

Length of  $\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}$ ?

Angle  $\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}$  makes with pos. x-axis?



$$\cos(60^\circ) = \frac{x}{200} = \frac{1}{2}(200) = 100$$

$$\sin(60^\circ) = \frac{y}{200} = 200\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right) = 100\sqrt{3}$$

- **Working in 2D (slopes?):**

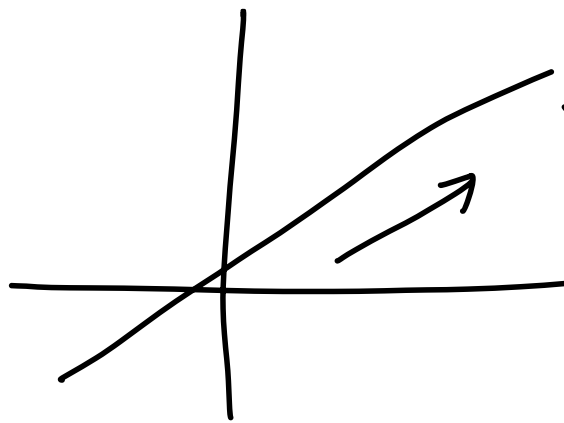
If you want a vector that is **parallel to a line with slope  $m$** , then the vector  $\langle 1, m \rangle$  works!

### Example (HW question):

13. [Question Details](#)

Find a unit vector that is parallel to the line tangent to the parabola  $y = x^2$  at the point  $(3, 9)$ .

unit vector parallel  $\rightarrow$   
divide by length!



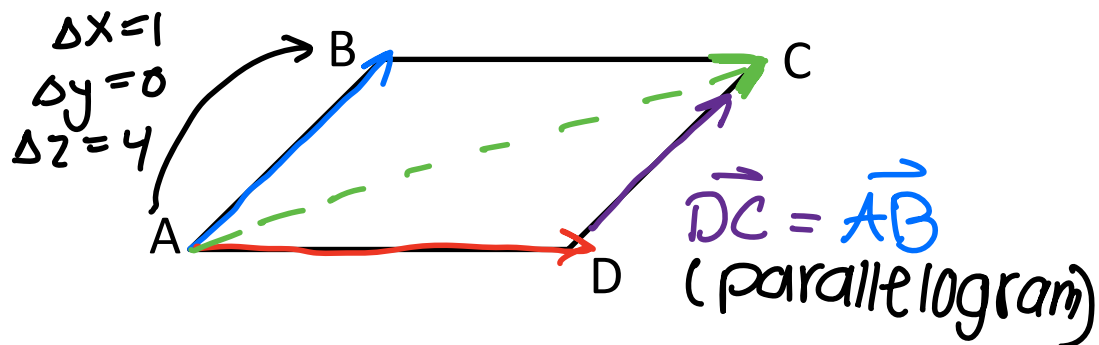
vector parallel to line

$$\langle \Delta x, \Delta y \rangle$$

same slope!  $\left( \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} \right)$

## 12.2 Old Exam Problem (do this over and over again until it is easy!)

The parallelogram shown has corners, A(1,1,2), B(2,1,6), C(?,?,?) and D(5,2,3)



- Find  $\vec{AB} + \vec{AD}$ .
- Find the coordinates of C.
- Find a unit vector that is parallel to  $\vec{BD}$ .

$$\vec{AB} = \langle 2-1, 1-1, 6-2 \rangle = \langle 1, 0, 4 \rangle$$

$$\vec{AD} = \langle 5-1, 2-1, 3-2 \rangle = \langle 4, 1, 1 \rangle$$

$$\vec{AB} + \vec{AD} = \boxed{\langle 5, 1, 5 \rangle} = \vec{AC}$$

changes!

to get from point A to point C ...

$$\boxed{C = (6, 2, 7)}$$

$$\text{length} = \sqrt{9+1+9} = \sqrt{19}$$

$$\vec{BD} = \langle 5-2, 2-1, 3-6 \rangle = \langle 3, 1, -3 \rangle$$

$$\boxed{\left\langle \frac{3}{\sqrt{19}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{19}}, \frac{-3}{\sqrt{19}} \right\rangle}$$



## **Preview - 12.3 Dot Products**

We define

$$\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = a_1b_1 + a_2b_2 + a_3b_3$$

*Manipulation facts*

$$\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{a}$$

$$\mathbf{a} \cdot (\mathbf{b} + \mathbf{c}) = \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c}$$

$$\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a} = a_1^2 + a_2^2 + a_3^2 = |\mathbf{a}|^2$$

**The most important fact:**

$$\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = |\mathbf{a}||\mathbf{b}| \cos(\theta),$$

where  $\theta$  is the smallest angle between  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$ . ( $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$ ) TAIL-TO-TAIL!!

**Most important consequence:**

If  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$  are orthogonal, then

$$\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = 0.$$