

Chapter 1

Units, Physical Quantities, and Vectors

PowerPoint® Lectures for
University Physics—Hugh D. Young and
Roger A. Freedman

Goals for Chapter 1

- To learn three fundamental quantities of physics and the units to measure them
- To understand vectors and scalars and how to add vectors graphically
- To determine vector components and how to use them in calculations
- To understand unit vectors and how to use them with components to describe vectors
- To learn two ways of multiplying vectors

Copyright © 2012 Pearson Education Inc.

The nature of physics

- Physics is an *experimental* science in which physicists seek patterns that relate the phenomena of nature.
- The patterns are called *physical theories*.
- A very well established or widely used theory is called a *physical law* or *principle*.

Copyright © 2012 Pearson Education Inc.

Standards and units

- Length, time, and mass are three *fundamental* quantities of physics.
- The *International System* (SI for *Système International*) is the most widely used system of units.
- In SI units, length is measured in *meters*, time in *seconds*, and mass in *kilograms*.

Copyright © 2012 Pearson Education Inc.

Fundamental Quantities and Their Units

Quantity	SI Unit
Length	meter
Mass	kilogram
Time	second
Temperature	Kelvin
Electric Current	Ampere
Luminous Intensity	Candela
Amount of Substance	mole

Copyright © 2012 Pearson Education Inc.

Unit prefixes

- Table 1.1 shows some larger and smaller units for the fundamental quantities.

Table 1.1 Some Units of Length, Mass, and Time

Length	Mass	Time
1 nanometer = 1 nm = 10^{-9} m (a few times the size of the largest atom)	1 microgram = 1 μ g = 10^{-6} g = 10^{-9} kg (mass of a very small dust particle)	1 nanosecond = 1 ns = 10^{-9} s (time for light to travel 0.3 m)
1 micrometer = 1 μ m = 10^{-6} m (size of some bacteria and living cells)	1 milligram = 1 mg = 10^{-3} g = 10^{-6} kg (mass of a grain of salt)	1 microsecond = 1 μ s = 10^{-6} s (time for space station to move 8 mm)
1 millimeter = 1 mm = 10^{-3} m (diameter of the point of a ballpoint pen)	1 gram = 1 g = 10^{-3} kg (mass of a paper clip)	1 millisecond = 1 ms = 10^{-3} s (time for sound to travel 0.35 m)
1 centimeter = 1 cm = 10^{-2} m (diameter of your little finger)		
1 kilometer = 1 km = 10^3 m (a 10-minute walk)		

Copyright © 2012 Pearson Education Inc.

Prefixes, cont.

TABLE 1.4

Prefixes for Powers of Ten

Power	Prefix	Abbreviation	Power	Prefix	Abbreviation
10^{-24}	yocto	y	10^3	kilo	k
10^{-21}	zepto	z	10^6	mega	M
10^{-18}	atto	a	10^9	giga	G
10^{-15}	femto	f	10^{12}	tera	T
10^{-12}	pico	p	10^{15}	peta	P
10^{-9}	nano	n	10^{18}	exa	E
10^{-6}	micro	μ	10^{21}	zetta	Z
10^{-3}	milli	m	10^{24}	yotta	Y
10^{-2}	centi	c			
10^{-1}	deci	d			

© 2007 Thomson Higher Education

Copyright © 2012 Pearson Education Inc.

Unit consistency and conversions

- An equation must be *dimensionally consistent*. Terms to be added or equated must *always* have the same units. (Be sure you're adding "apples to apples.")
- Always carry units through calculations.
- Convert to standard units as necessary.

Copyright © 2012 Pearson Education Inc.

Uncertainty and significant figures—Figure 1.7

- The uncertainty of a measured quantity is indicated by its number of *significant figures*.
- For multiplication and division, the answer can have no more significant figures than the *smallest* number of significant figures in the factors.
- For addition and subtraction, the number of significant figures is determined by the term having the fewest digits to the right of the decimal point.
- As this train mishap illustrates, even a small percent error can have spectacular results!



Copyright © 2012 Pearson Education Inc.

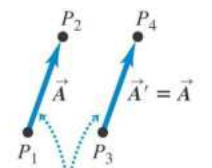
Vectors and scalars

- A *scalar quantity* can be described by a *single number*.
- A *vector quantity* has both a *magnitude* and a *direction* in space.
- In this book, a vector quantity is represented in boldface italic type with an arrow over it: \vec{A} .
- The magnitude of \vec{A} is written as A or $|\vec{A}|$.

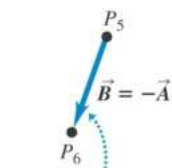
Copyright © 2012 Pearson Education Inc.

Drawing vectors—Figure 1.10

- Draw a vector as a line with an arrowhead at its tip.
- The *length* of the line shows the vector's *magnitude*.
- The *direction* of the line shows the vector's *direction*.



Displacements \vec{A} and \vec{A}' are equal because they have the same length and direction.



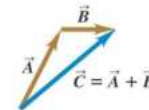
Displacement \vec{B} has the same magnitude as \vec{A} but opposite direction; \vec{B} is the negative of \vec{A} .

Copyright © 2012 Pearson Education Inc.

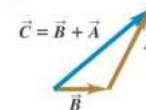
Adding two vectors graphically

- Two vectors may be added graphically using either the *parallelogram* method or the *head-to-tail* method.

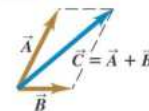
(a) We can add two vectors by placing them head to tail.



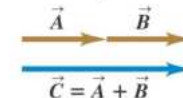
(b) Adding them in reverse order gives the same result.



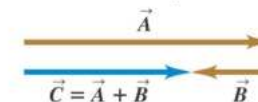
(c) We can also add them by constructing a parallelogram.



(a) The sum of two parallel vectors



(b) The sum of two antiparallel vectors

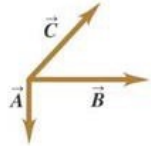


Copyright © 2012 Pearson Education Inc.

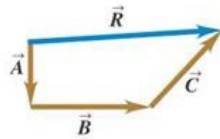
Adding more than two vectors graphically—

- To add several vectors, use the head-to-tail method.
- The vectors can be added in any order.

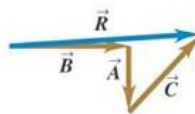
(a) To find the sum of these three vectors ...



(b) we could add \vec{A} , \vec{B} , and \vec{C} to get \vec{R}

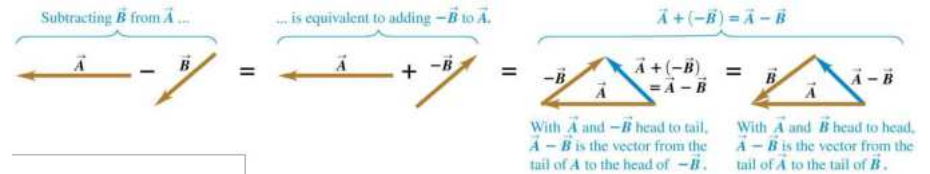


(c) or we could add \vec{A} , \vec{B} , and \vec{C} in any other order and still get \vec{R} .



Subtracting vectors

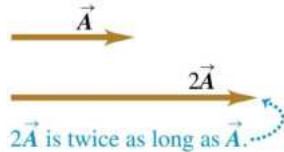
- Figure shows how to subtract vectors.



Multiplying a vector by a scalar

- If c is a scalar, the product $c\vec{A}$ has magnitude $|c|A$.
- Multiplication of a vector by a positive scalar and a negative scalar.

(a) Multiplying a vector by a positive scalar changes the magnitude (length) of the vector, but not its direction.



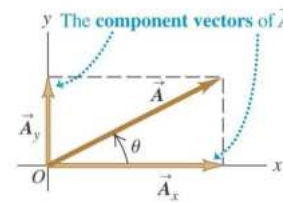
(b) Multiplying a vector by a negative scalar changes its magnitude and reverses its direction.



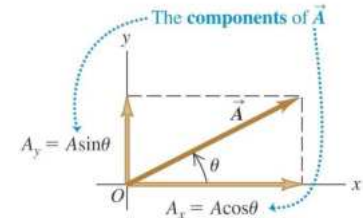
Components of a vector—

- Adding vectors graphically provides limited accuracy. Vector components provide a general method for adding vectors.
- Any vector can be represented by an x -component A_x and a y -component A_y .
- Use trigonometry to find the components of a vector: $A_x = A \cos \theta$ and $A_y = A \sin \theta$, where θ is measured from the $+x$ -axis toward the $+y$ -axis.

(a)



(b)



Components of a Vector

The x-component of a vector is the projection along the x-axis

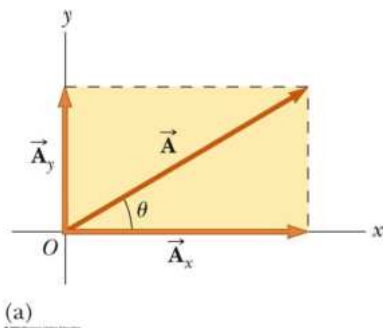
$$A_x = A \cos \theta$$

The y-component of a vector is the projection along the y-axis

$$A_y = A \sin \theta$$

This assumes the angle θ is measured with respect to the positive direction of x-axis

- If not, do not use these equations, use the sides of the triangle directly

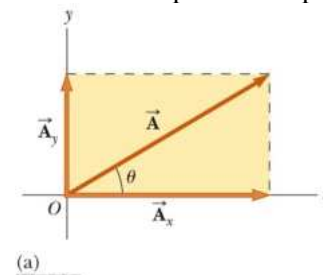


Components of a Vector, 4

The components are the legs of the right triangle whose hypotenuse is the length of A

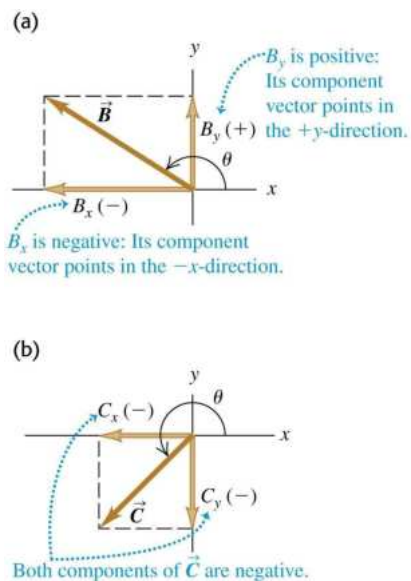
$$A = \sqrt{A_x^2 + A_y^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \theta = \tan^{-1} \frac{A_y}{A_x}$$

- May still have to find θ with respect to the positive x-axis

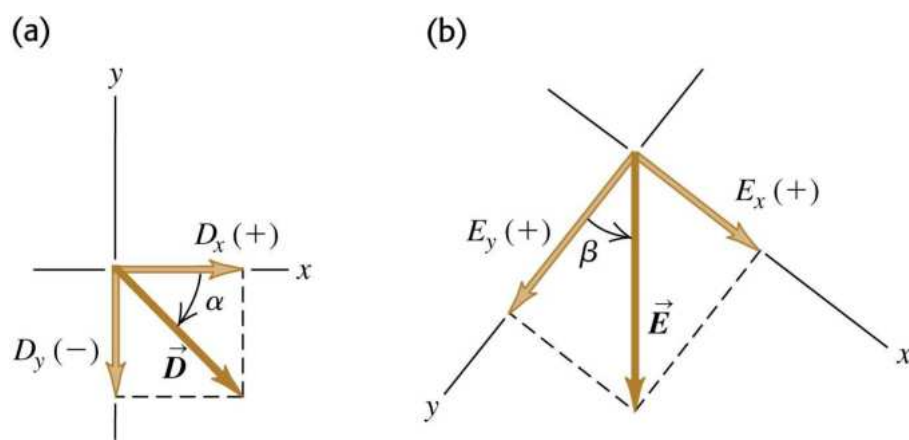


Positive and negative components—Figure 1.18

- The components of a vector can be positive or negative numbers, as shown in the figure.



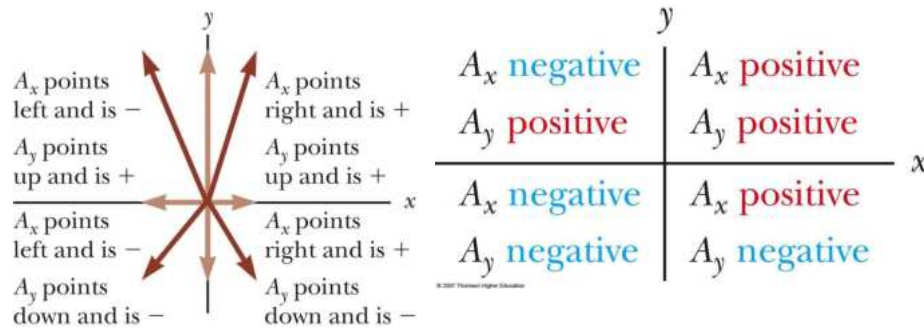
Finding components—Figure 1.19



Components of a Vector, final

The components can be positive or negative

The signs of the components will depend on the angle



Copyright © 2012 Pearson Education Inc.

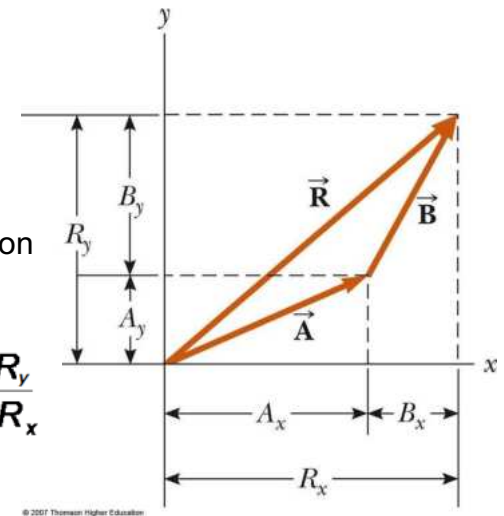
Adding Two Vectors Using Their Components

$$R_x = A_x + B_x$$

$$R_y = A_y + B_y$$

The magnitude and direction of resultant vectors are:

$$R = \sqrt{R_x^2 + R_y^2} \quad \theta = \tan^{-1} \frac{R_y}{R_x}$$



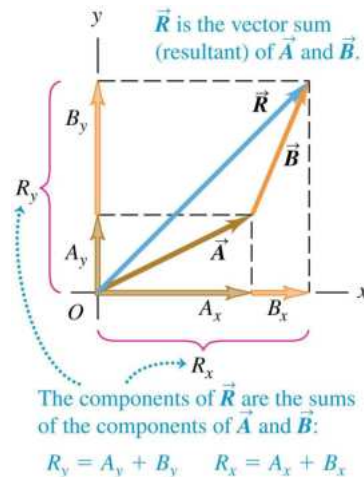
Copyright © 2012 Pearson Education Inc.

Adding vectors using their components

- For more than two vectors we can use the components of a set of vectors to find the components of their sum:

$$R_x = A_x + B_x + C_x + \dots, \quad R_y = A_y + B_y + C_y + \dots$$

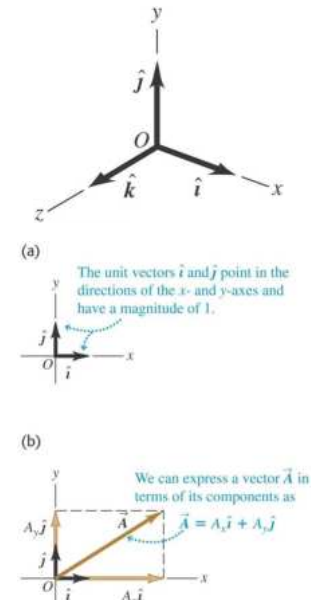
$$R = \sqrt{R_x^2 + R_y^2} \quad \theta = \tan^{-1} \frac{R_y}{R_x}$$



Copyright © 2012 Pearson Education Inc.

Unit vectors

- A *unit vector* has a magnitude of 1 with no units.
- The unit vector \hat{i} points in the +x-direction, \hat{j} points in the +y-direction, and \hat{k} points in the +z-direction.
- Any vector can be expressed in terms of its components as $\vec{A} = A_x \hat{i} + A_y \hat{j} + A_z \hat{k}$



Copyright © 2012 Pearson Education Inc.

Unit vector notation , adding vectors

In two dimensions, if $\vec{R} = \vec{A} + \vec{B}$

then

$$\vec{R} = (A_x \hat{i} + A_y \hat{j}) + (B_x \hat{i} + B_y \hat{j})$$

$$\vec{R} = (A_x + B_x) \hat{i} + (A_y + B_y) \hat{j} \quad \vec{R} = R_x \hat{i} + R_y \hat{j}$$

and so $R_x = A_x + B_x$, $R_y = A_y + B_y$,

The magnitude and direction are

$$R = \sqrt{R_x^2 + R_y^2} \quad \theta = \tan^{-1} \frac{R_y}{R_x}$$

Example 3

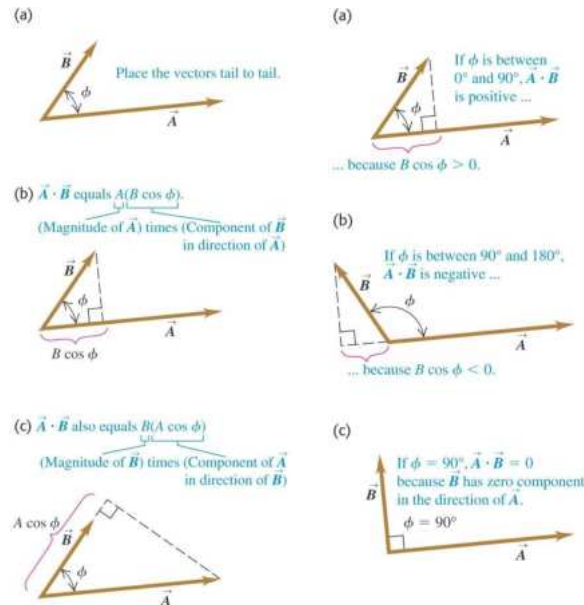
If $\mathbf{A} = 24\mathbf{i} - 32\mathbf{j}$ and $\mathbf{B} = 24\mathbf{i} + 10\mathbf{j}$, what is the magnitude and direction of the vector $\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}$?

The scalar product

- The *scalar product* (also called the “dot product”) of two vectors is

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = AB \cos \phi.$$

- Figures illustrate the scalar product.



Dot Products of Unit Vectors

$$\hat{i} \cdot \hat{i} = \hat{j} \cdot \hat{j} = \hat{k} \cdot \hat{k} = 1$$

$$\hat{i} \cdot \hat{j} = \hat{i} \cdot \hat{k} = \hat{j} \cdot \hat{k} = 0$$

Using component form with vectors:

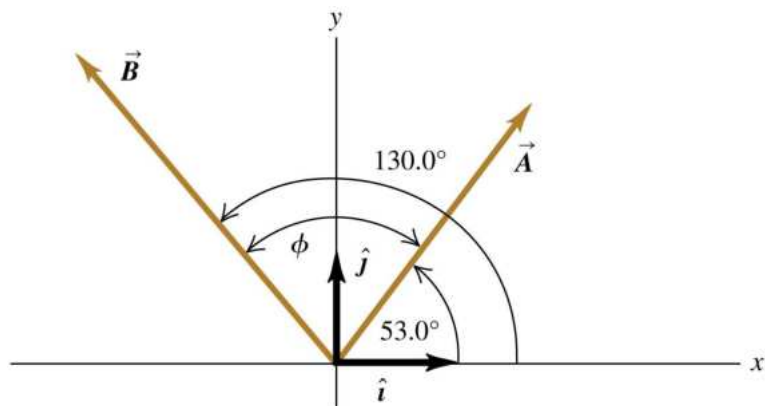
$$\vec{A} = A_x \hat{i} + A_y \hat{j} + A_z \hat{k}$$

$$\vec{B} = B_x \hat{i} + B_y \hat{j} + B_z \hat{k}$$

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = A_x B_x + A_y B_y + A_z B_z$$

Calculating a scalar product

- $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = AB \cos \phi$. $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = A_x B_x + A_y B_y + A_z B_z$.
- Find the scalar product $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B}$ of two vectors shown in the figure. The magnitudes of the vectors are: $A = 4.00$, and $B = 5.00$



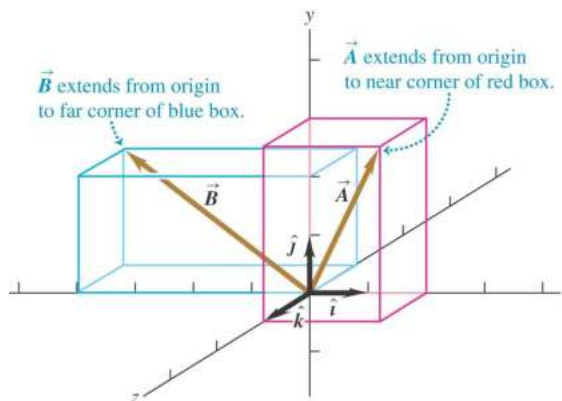
Copyright © 2012 Pearson Education Inc.

Finding an angle using the scalar product – Ex. 5

- Find the angle between the vectors.

$$\vec{A} = 2.00\hat{i} + 3.00\hat{j} + 1.00\hat{k}$$

$$\vec{B} = -4.00\hat{i} + 2.00\hat{j} - 1.00\hat{k}$$
- Use equation: $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = AB \cos \phi$.



Copyright © 2012 Pearson Education Inc.

The Vector Product Defined

Given two vectors, \vec{A} and \vec{B}

The vector (cross) product of \vec{A} and \vec{B} is defined as a *third vector*, $\vec{C} = \vec{A} \times \vec{B}$

The magnitude of vector C is $AB \sin \theta$

- θ is the angle between \vec{A} and \vec{B}

Copyright © 2012 Pearson Education Inc.

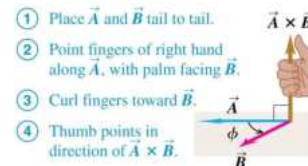
The vector product—Summary

- The vector product (“cross product”) of two vectors has magnitude

$$|\vec{A} \times \vec{B}| = AB \sin \phi$$

and the *right-hand rule* gives its direction.

- (a) Using the right-hand rule to find the direction of $\vec{A} \times \vec{B}$



- (b) $\vec{B} \times \vec{A} = -\vec{A} \times \vec{B}$ (the vector product is anticommutative)



Same magnitude but opposite direction

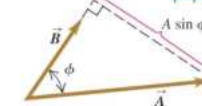
- (a)

(Magnitude of $\vec{A} \times \vec{B}$) equals $A(B \sin \phi)$.
(Magnitude of \vec{A}) times (Component of \vec{B} perpendicular to \vec{A})



- (b)

(Magnitude of $\vec{A} \times \vec{B}$) also equals $B(A \sin \phi)$.
(Magnitude of \vec{B}) times (Component of \vec{A} perpendicular to \vec{B})



Copyright © 2012 Pearson Education Inc.

Using Determinants

The components of cross product can be calculated as

$$\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ A_x & A_y & A_z \\ B_x & B_y & B_z \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} A_y & A_z \\ B_y & B_z \end{vmatrix} \hat{i} - \begin{vmatrix} A_x & A_z \\ B_x & B_z \end{vmatrix} \hat{j} + \begin{vmatrix} A_x & A_y \\ B_x & B_y \end{vmatrix} \hat{k}$$

Expanding the determinants gives

$$\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = (A_y B_z - A_z B_y) \hat{i} - (A_x B_z - A_z B_x) \hat{j} + (A_x B_y - A_y B_x) \hat{k}$$

If $A_z = 0$ and $B_z = 0$ then

$$\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = (A_x B_y - A_y B_x) \hat{k}$$

Calculating the vector product— ex. 6

- Vector \vec{A} has magnitude 6 units and is in the direction of the +x axis. Vector \vec{B} has magnitude 4 units and lies in the xy-plane making an angle of 30° with the x axis. Find the cross product $\vec{A} \times \vec{B}$

Use $AB \sin \phi$ to find the magnitude and the right-hand rule to find the direction.

