

Section 12.2

Definition: The term vector is a quantity that has both magnitude and direction.

Definition: For instance, suppose a particle moves along a line segment from point A to point B . The corresponding displacement vector \vec{v} has initial point A (the tail) and terminal point B (the tip) and we indicate this by writing $\vec{v} = \overrightarrow{AB}$.

Definition: Suppose that \vec{u} and \vec{v} have the same length and direction. We say that \vec{u} and v are equivalent and we write $\vec{u} = \vec{v}$.

Definition: The zero vector, denoted by $\vec{0}$, has length 0. It is the only vector with no specific direction.

Definition: If \vec{u} and \vec{v} are vectors positioned so the initial point of \vec{v} is at the terminal point of \vec{u} , the sum $\vec{u} + \vec{v}$ is the vector from the initial point of \vec{u} to the terminal point of \vec{v} .

Definition: If c is a scalar and \vec{v} is a vector, then the scalar multiple $c\vec{v}$ is the vector whose length is $|c|$ times the length of \vec{v} and whose direction is the same as \vec{v} if $c > 0$ and is opposite to \vec{v} if $c < 0$. If $c = 0$ and $\vec{v} = \vec{0}$, then $c\vec{v} = \vec{0}$.

Definition: Notice that two nonzero vectors are parallel if they are scalar multiples of one another.

Definition: The vector $-\vec{v} = (-1)\vec{v}$ has the same length as \vec{v} but points in the opposite direction. We call it the negative of \vec{v} .

Definition: By the difference $\vec{u} - \vec{v}$ of two vectors we mean

$$\vec{u} - \vec{v} = \vec{u} + (-\vec{v}).$$

Definition: If we place the initial point of a vector \vec{a} at the origin of a rectangular coordinate system, then the terminal point of \vec{a} has coordinates of the form (a_1, a_2) or (a_1, a_2, a_3) depending on whether our coordinate system is two- or three- dimensional. These coordinates are called the components of \vec{a} and we write

$$\vec{a} = \langle a_1, a_2 \rangle \text{ or } \vec{a} = \langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle.$$

Definition: The particular representation \overrightarrow{OP} from the origin to the point P is called the position vector of the point P .

Definition: Given the points $A(x_1, y_1, z_1)$ and $B(x_2, y_2, z_2)$, the vector \vec{v} with representation \overrightarrow{AB} is

$$\vec{v} = \langle x_2 - x_1, y_2 - y_1, z_2 - z_1 \rangle.$$

Definition: The magnitude or length of the vector \vec{v} is the length of any of its representations.

Notation: The length is denoted by $|\vec{v}|$.

Formula: The length of the two-dimensional vector $\vec{a} = \langle a_1, a_2 \rangle$ is

$$|\vec{a}| = \sqrt{a_1^2 + a_2^2}.$$

Formula: The length of the three-dimensional vector $\vec{a} = \langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle$ is

$$|\vec{a}| = \sqrt{a_1^2 + a_2^2 + a_3^2}.$$

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

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{a} + \vec{b} &= \langle a_1 + b_1, a_2 + b_2 \rangle \\ \vec{a} - \vec{b} &= \langle a_1 - b_1, a_2 - b_2 \rangle \\ c\vec{a} &= \langle ca_1, ca_2 \rangle\end{aligned}$$

Similarly, for three-dimensional vectors,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle + \langle b_1, b_2, b_3 \rangle &= \langle a_1 + b_1, a_2 + b_2, a_3 + b_3 \rangle \\ \langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle - \langle b_1, b_2, b_3 \rangle &= \langle a_1 - b_1, a_2 - b_2, a_3 - b_3 \rangle \\ c \langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle &= \langle ca_1, ca_2, ca_3 \rangle \end{aligned}$$

Properties of Vectors: If \vec{a} , \vec{b} , and \vec{c} in V_n and c and d are scalars, then:

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

Definition: The **standard basis vectors** are \vec{i} , \vec{j} , and \vec{k} , where

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

Exercise 1. Find $\vec{a} + \vec{b}$, $2\vec{a} + 3\vec{b}$, $|\vec{a}|$, $|\vec{a} - \vec{b}|$.

- (a) $\vec{a} = \vec{i} + \vec{j}$, $\vec{b} = 2\vec{i} - 5\vec{j}$
- (b) $\vec{a} = 2\vec{i} - 5\vec{j}$, $\vec{b} = 3\vec{i} - \vec{j}$

Class Exercise 1. Find $\vec{a} + \vec{b}$, $2\vec{a} + 3\vec{b}$, $|\vec{a}|$, $|\vec{a} - \vec{b}|$.

- (a) $\vec{a} = 4\vec{i} + \vec{j}$, $\vec{b} = \vec{i} - 2\vec{j}$ (#20)
- (b) $\vec{a} = 2\vec{i} - 4\vec{j} + 4\vec{k}$, $\vec{b} = 2\vec{j} - \vec{k}$ (#22)

Definition: A **unit vector** is a vector whose length is 1.

Exercise 2. Find a unit vector \vec{u} in the direction of the vector from $P_1(1, 0, 1)$ to $P_2(3, 2, 0)$. (Hass Sec 12.2 Example 4)

Exercise 3. Find the unit vector \vec{u} that has the same direction as $3\vec{i} - 4\vec{j}$. (Swokowski Sec 14.1 Example 6)

Class Exercise 2. Find a unit vector that has the same direction as the given vector $\langle -4, 2, 4 \rangle$. (#24)

Exercise 4. A 75-N weight is suspended by two wires, as shown in the figure in the video. Find the forces \vec{F}_1 and \vec{F}_2 acting on both wires. (Hass Sec 12.2 Example 9)

Class Exercise 3. Ropes 3 m and 5 m in length are fastened to a holiday decoration that is suspended over a town square. The decoration has a mass of 5 kg. The ropes, fastened at different heights, make angles of 52° and 40° with the horizontal. Find the tension in each and the magnitude of each tension. (#36)

Homework: 3-35 (every 4th)