

Topic 1B: Distance (Scalar) and Displacement (Vector)

Intro to Vector and Scalar (CON'T)

Skill 7: Head to Tail and Tail to Tail Addition of Vectors

In both methods - draw each arrow to scale and with direction (angle) relative to 0°

Head to tail (used for 2 or more vectors)

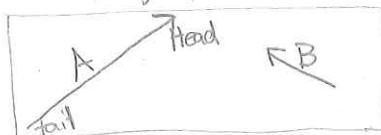
Tail to Tail (Parallelogram) used for 2 vectors

order not important

start each new vector
at end of prior

(keeping magnitude & direction)

Resultant is from tail of 1st to head of last



Create a parallelogram by
making a copy of each vector
(keeping length/magnitude & direction)

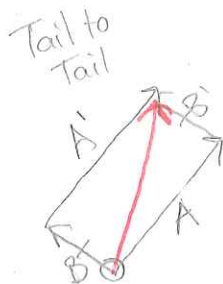
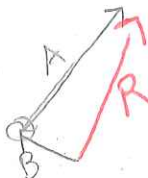
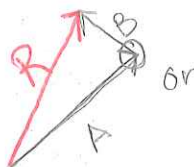
For either system
use logic of the
parts

A is to the right & up

B is a little left
a little up.

R is the combo of
the 2 so it is more
upward than A &
less right

Head to tail

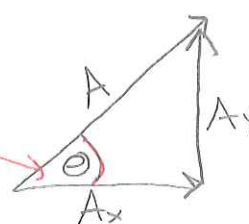


Skill 8: Vector Equation

Vector equations can be used to combine two perpendicular
vectors (horizontal = x & vertical = y) to find a resultant
OR to break down a single vector into "x" & "y" components

Assumptions for using equations

- Must be a $\triangle$ right triangle
where the angle is drawn between
the horizontal (A_x or adj) and the
resultant (A or hyp).



A = resultant (hyp)

A_x = horizontal (adj)

A_y = vertical (opp)

So $\sin \theta = \frac{\text{opp}}{\text{hyp}}$ becomes $\sin \theta = \frac{A_y}{A}$ or $A_y = A \sin \theta$ $\theta = \sin^{-1}(\frac{A_y}{A})$

$\cos \theta = \frac{\text{adj}}{\text{hyp}}$ becomes $\cos \theta = \frac{A_x}{A}$ or $A_x = A \cos \theta$ $\theta = \cos^{-1}(\frac{A_x}{A})$

$\tan \theta = \frac{\text{opp}}{\text{adj}}$ becomes $\tan \theta = \frac{A_y}{A_x}$ or $\theta = \tan^{-1}(\frac{A_y}{A_x})$ $A_y = A_x \tan \theta$