

Student Outcomes

- Students find the components of a vector by subtracting the coordinates of an initial point from the coordinates of a terminal point.
- . Students add vectors end-to-end using the parallelogram rule or component-wise. They understand vector arithmetic from a geometric perspective.

Lesson Notes

This lesson introduces students to directed line segments and how to subtract initial point coordinates from terminal point coordinates to find the components of a vector. Vector arithmetic operations are reviewed and the parallelogram rule is introduced. Students should be able to do much of this lesson without the aid of technology. Continue to emphasize the connections between vector arithmetic and transformations.

Classwork

Discussion (3 minutes)

Start this lesson by introducing the new terminology relating to directed line segments. Have students read the text in the student materials, and then use the discussion questions below to clarify their understanding of vectors defined by an initial point and a terminal point.



A(3, -2, 1), B(-1, 4, -3)



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Show the diagram below, and ask students the following questions:

- Which point is the initial point? Which point is the terminal point? How do you know?
 - The initial point is *A* and the terminal point is *B*. The end without the arrow tip is the initial point. The arrow indicates the direction of the translation of point *A* to its new location at *B*.



- How many units is the initial point translated horizontally? How many units vertically? How do you know?
 - 4 units horizontally and 2 units vertically. You can subtract corresponding coordinates or count the units on the grid.
- What are the components of the vector?

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$$\mathbf{v} = \langle 4, 2 \rangle$$

- What is the magnitude of the vector?
 - The magnitude is $\sqrt{20} = 2\sqrt{5}$.

Exercises 1–3 (9 minutes)

Start students on the next exercise. Have them work independently for a few minutes, and then have them team up with a partner to share their work. Call on individual students to explain how they got each answer. Emphasize that we must calculate the components by starting from the initial point and ending at the terminal point. The signs of the components matter because they indicate direction.







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If students did not struggle with Exercise 1, move them on to the next exercise which takes away their ability to count segments on the grid to determine the components of the vectors. Exercises 1-3 are designed to lead students to knowing that they can find the components by subtracting the coordinates of the initial point from the coordinates of the terminal point.



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Give students time to struggle with Exercise 3 before intervening. Emphasize that they must generalize the process used in Exercises 1 and 2 to write a rule in Exercise 3.



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Discussion (3 minutes)

Introduce the term *directed line segment* before students begin Exercises 4–6. Students use the results of Exercise 3 to find the components of vectors. The next exercises use the directed line segment notation.

When we use the initial and terminal points to describe a vector, we often refer to the vector as a <u>directed line segment</u>. A vector or directed line segment with initial point A and terminal point B is denoted \overrightarrow{AB} .

Exercises 4–7 (8 minutes)





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b. Draw a diagram representing the vectors as arrows placed end-to-end to support why their sum would be the zero vector.

If we position v to have an initial point at (0,0) then v translates the point (0,0) to (2,-3). Each additional vector translates the point by its components. The result of all four translations returns the point back to the origin.





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Example 1 (5 minutes): The Parallelogram Rule for Vector Addition

This exercise introduces the parallelogram rule for vector addition. Depending on the level of your students, you can provide more or less support with this example. Point out the use of the word position vector to denote a vector whose initial point is the origin, and then point out that the terminal point coordinates are the same as the horizontal and vertical components of the vector.



When the initial point of a vector is the origin, then the coordinates of the terminal point will correspond to the horizontal and vertical components of the vector. This type of vector, with initial point at the origin, is often called a position vector.

- a. Draw arrows to represent the vectors $v = \langle 5, 3 \rangle$ and $u = \langle 1, 7 \rangle$ with the initial point of each vector at (0, 0).
- b. Add v + u end-to-end. What is v + u? Draw the arrow that represents v + u with initial point at the origin.
- c. Add u + v end-to-end. What is u + v? Draw the arrow that represents u + v with an initial point at the origin.



Lead a discussion to introduce the parallelogram rule for adding two vectors. Make sure students' diagrams clearly show the parallelogram.

- Notice that the vectors lie on the sides of a parallelogram and the sum of the two vectors is the diagonal of this
 parallelogram with initial point at the same location as the original two vectors.
- How do you know the vectors would lie on the sides of a parallelogram?
 - We can calculate the slope of the arrow that represents the vector. You can see that opposite sides would have the same slope and thus lie on parallel lines so the opposite sides of the quadrilateral are parallel, which gives us a parallelogram.
- How does this example support the fact that the operation (i.e., vector addition) is commutative?
 - We got the same result regardless of the order in which we added the two vectors.
- Suppose we translated all these vectors by another vector t. Would the components of v + u change? Explain your reasoning.
 - No. Translation is a rigid transformation so the size and shape would be preserved, which means the components would remain the same.







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- Explain how to use the parallelogram rule to add two vectors.
 - To use the parallelogram rule, draw both vectors with the same initial point, and then construct a parallelogram with adjacent sides corresponding to the arrows that represent each vector. The vector sum will be the diagonal from the initial point.

Exercise 8 (5 minutes)





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Discussion (3 minutes)

Have students read the paragraph in their student materials and summarize it with a partner in their own words. Then lead a brief discussion before starting students on the exercises that follow.

- How are directed line segments in \mathbb{R}^2 the same as directed line segments in \mathbb{R}^3 ?
 - They still have an initial point and a terminal point. The components are still found by subtracting the initial point coordinates from the terminal point coordinates.
- How are directed line segments in \mathbb{R}^2 different from directed line segments in \mathbb{R}^3 ?
 - Instead of a point being described by an ordered pair we must use an ordered triple.

Directed line segments can also be represented in \mathbb{R}^3 . Instead of two coordinates like we use in \mathbb{R}^2 , we simply use three to locate a point in space relative to the origin, denoted (0, 0, 0). Thus the vector \overrightarrow{AB} with initial point $A(x_1, y_1, z_1)$ and terminal point $B(x_2, y_2, z_2)$ would have component form

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

Exercises 9–10 (3 minutes)

Exercises 9–10 Consider points A(1, 0, -5) and B(2, -3, 6). 9. What is the component form of \overrightarrow{AB} ? а. $\overrightarrow{AB} = \langle 2 - 1, -3 - 0, 6 - (-5) \rangle = \langle 1, -3, 11 \rangle$ What is the magnitude of \overline{AB} ? b. $\|\overrightarrow{AB}\| = \sqrt{1^2 + (-3)^2 + 11^2} = \sqrt{131}$ 10. Consider points A(1, 0, -5), B(2, -3, 6), and C(3, 1, -2). Show that $\overrightarrow{AB} + \overrightarrow{BA} = 0$. Explain your answer using geometric reasoning. а. $\overrightarrow{AB} = \langle 1, -3, 11 \rangle$ and $\overrightarrow{BA} = \langle -1, 3, -11 \rangle$ $\overrightarrow{AB} + \overrightarrow{BA} = \langle 1 - 1, -3 + 3, 11 - 11 \rangle = \langle 0, 0, 0 \rangle$ \overrightarrow{AB} translates A to B and the \overrightarrow{BA} translates B back to A. The net translation effect is zero. Show that $\overrightarrow{AB} + \overrightarrow{BC} + \overrightarrow{CA} = 0$. Explain your answer using geometric reasoning. b. We have $\overrightarrow{AB} = \langle 1, -3, 11 \rangle$, $\overrightarrow{BC} = \langle 1, 4, -8 \rangle$, and $\overrightarrow{CA} = \langle -2, -1, -3 \rangle$ Adding all the respective components together gives $\overrightarrow{AB} + \overrightarrow{BC} + \overrightarrow{CA} = \langle 1 + 1 - 2, -3 + 4 - 1, 11 - 8 - 3 \rangle = \langle 0, 0, 0 \rangle$ The sum of these three vectors translates A to B, the B to C and then C to A. The net translation effect is zero.



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Closing (3 minutes)

Have students respond to these questions in writing or with a partner to summarize their learning for this lesson.

- How do you use the parallelogram rule to add vectors?
 - Construct a parallelogram with the added vectors along adjacent sides. The sum will be the diagonal from the initial points of opposite vertex on the parallelogram.
- How do you find the components of a vector when you know the coordinates of the initial and terminal points?
 - You subtract the initial *x*-coordinate from the terminal *x*-coordinate to find the horizontal components. You subtract the initial *y*-coordinate from the terminal *y*-coordinate to find the vertical components.
- Why when you add the vectors that represent the directed line segments between the three vertices of a triangle do you get the zero vector?
 - The net effect of the transformations that result from adding these three vectors takes the initial point of the first vector back to its original location in the coordinate plane.

Lesson Summary

A vector v can be used to represent a directed line segment \overrightarrow{AB} . If the initial point is $A(x_1, y_1)$ and the terminal point is $B(x_2, y_2)$, then the component form of the vector is $v = \overrightarrow{AB} = \langle x_2 - x_1, y_2 - y_1 \rangle$

Vectors can be added end-to-end or using the parallelogram rule.

Exit Ticket (3 minutes)







A(2,4)

F(3,1)

B(1,1)

2

G(1,0) 0

PRECALCULUS AND ADVANCED TOPICS

C(-2,4)

D(-2,1)

E(-1,-1

-3 -2 3

2

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Exit Ticket

- 1. Consider vectors with their initial and terminal points as shown below. Find the components of the specified vectors and their magnitudes.
 - a. $\mathbf{u} = \overrightarrow{EF}$ and $\|\mathbf{u}\|$
 - b. $\mathbf{v} = \overrightarrow{AB}$ and $\|\mathbf{v}\|$
 - $\mathbf{w} = \overrightarrow{CD}$ and $\|\mathbf{w}\|$ c.
 - d. $\mathbf{t} = \overrightarrow{GF}$ and $\|\mathbf{t}\|$
- 2. For vectors \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} as in Question 1, explain how to find $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}$ using the parallelogram rule. Support your answer graphically below.





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Exit Ticket Sample Solutions





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Problem Set Sample Solutions











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