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Chapter Three

Vectors and Two-Dimensional Motion

Vectors and Motion

- In one-dimensional motion, vectors were used to a limited extent
- For more complex motion, manipulating vectors will be more important

Vector vs. Scalar Review

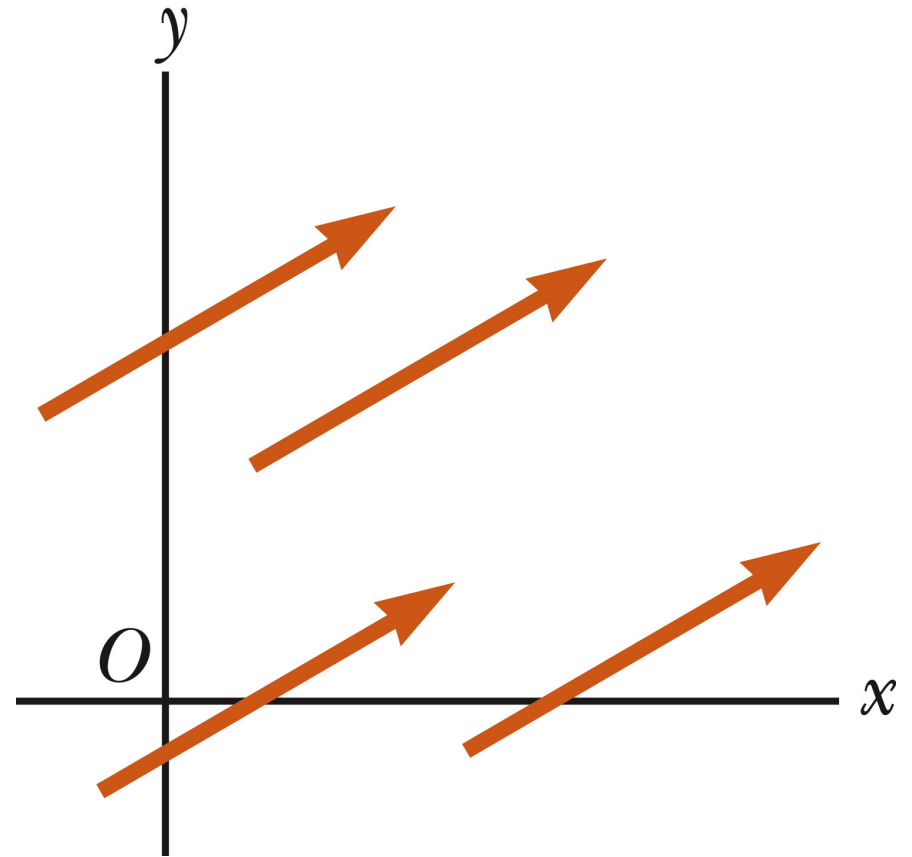
- All physical quantities encountered in this text will be either a scalar or a vector
- A **vector** quantity has both magnitude (size) and direction
- A **scalar** is completely specified by only a magnitude (size)

Vector Notation

- When handwritten, use an arrow: \vec{A}
- When printed, will be in bold print with an arrow: $\vec{\mathbf{A}}$
- When dealing with just the magnitude of a vector in print, an italic letter will be used: A
 - Italics will also be used to represent scalars

Properties of Vectors

- Equality of Two Vectors
 - Two vectors are **equal** if they have the same magnitude and the same direction
- Movement of vectors in a diagram
 - Any vector can be moved parallel to itself without being affected



Adding Vectors

- When adding vectors, their directions must be taken into account
- Units must be the same
- Geometric Methods
 - Use scale drawings
- Algebraic Methods
- The resultant vector (sum) is denoted as \vec{R}

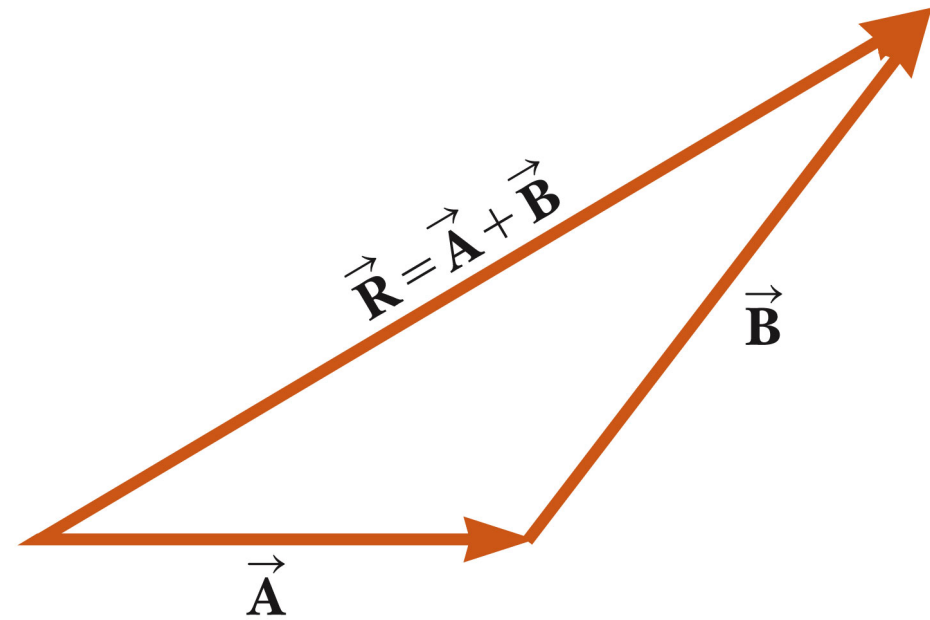
$$\vec{R} = \vec{A} + \vec{B}$$

Adding Vectors Geometrically (Triangle or Polygon Method)

- Choose a scale
- Draw the first vector with the appropriate length and in the direction specified, with respect to a coordinate system
- Draw the next vector using the same scale with the appropriate length and in the direction specified, with respect to a coordinate system whose origin is the end of the first vector and parallel to the ordinate system used for the first vector

Graphically Adding Vectors, cont.

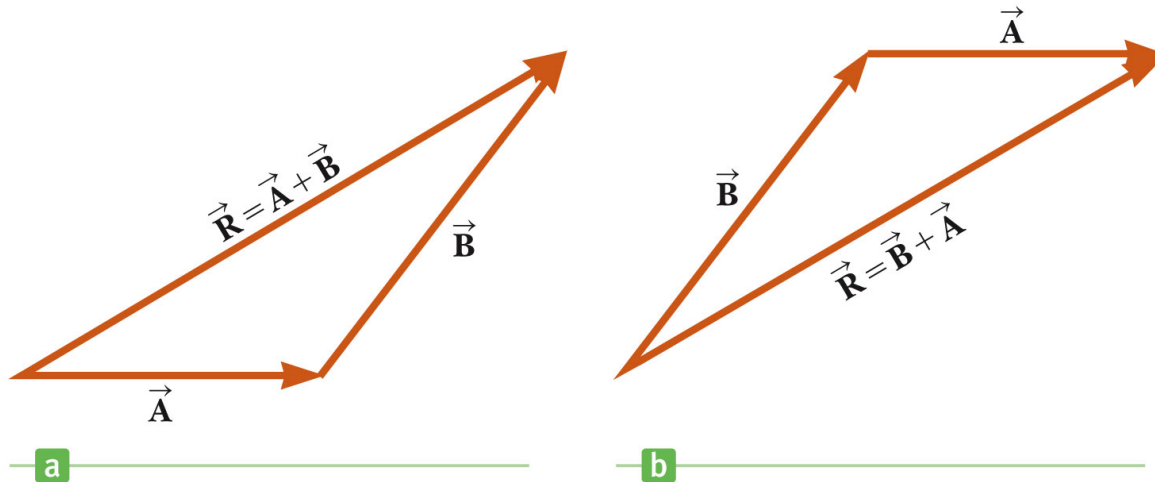
- Continue drawing the vectors “tip-to-tail”
- The resultant is drawn from the origin of the first vector to the end of the last vector
- Measure the length of the resultant and its angle
 - Use the scale factor to convert length to actual magnitude
- This method is called the triangle method



Notes about Vector Addition

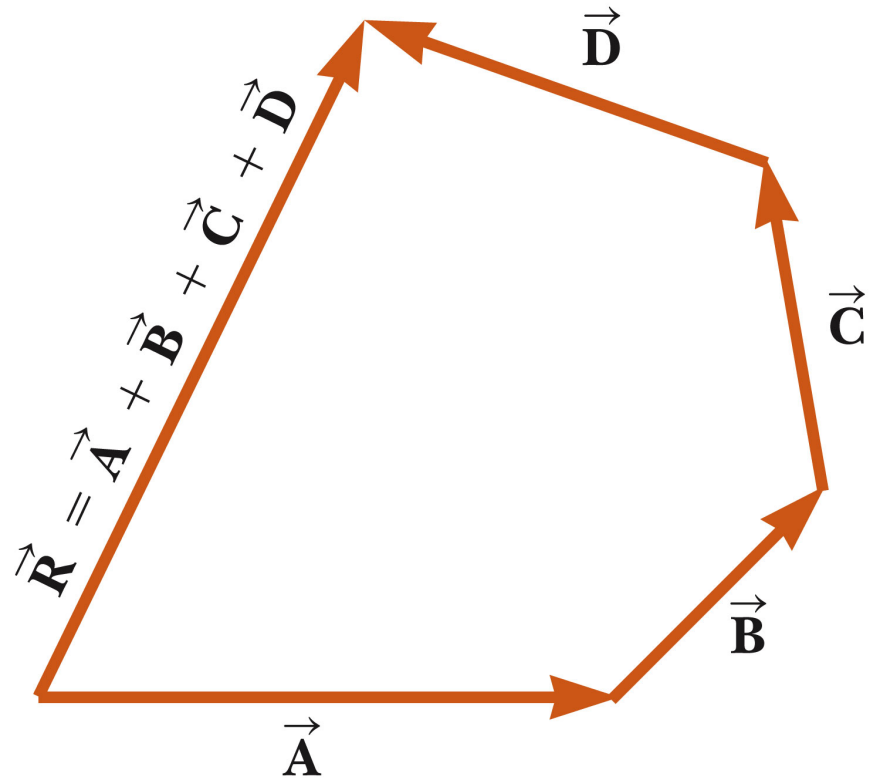
- Vectors obey the **Commutative Law of Addition**
 - The order in which the vectors are added doesn't affect the result

$$\vec{\mathbf{A}} + \vec{\mathbf{B}} = \vec{\mathbf{B}} + \vec{\mathbf{A}}$$



Graphically Adding Vectors, cont.

- When you have many vectors, just keep repeating the “tip-to-tail” process until all are included
- The resultant is still drawn from the origin of the first vector to the end of the last vector

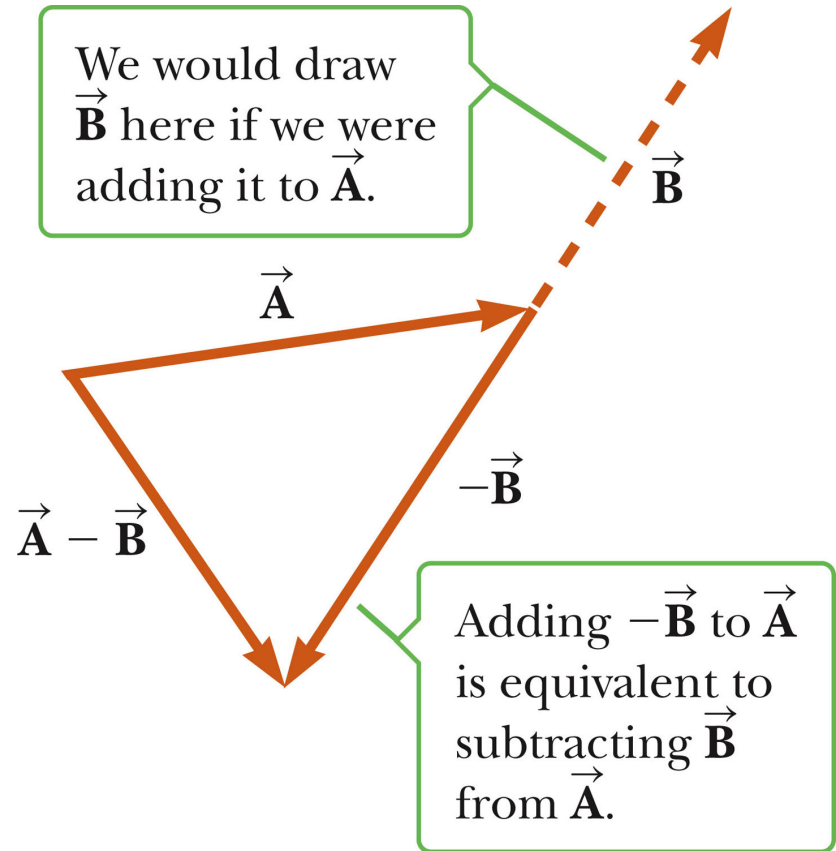


More Properties of Vectors

- Negative Vectors
 - The negative of the vector is defined as the vector that gives zero when added to the original vector
 - Two vectors are **negative** if they have the same magnitude but are 180° apart (opposite directions)
 - $\vec{\mathbf{A}} + (-\vec{\mathbf{A}}) = \mathbf{0}$

Vector Subtraction

- Special case of vector addition
 - Add the negative of the subtracted vector
- $\vec{\mathbf{A}} - \vec{\mathbf{B}} = \vec{\mathbf{A}} + (-\vec{\mathbf{B}})$
- Continue with standard vector addition procedure

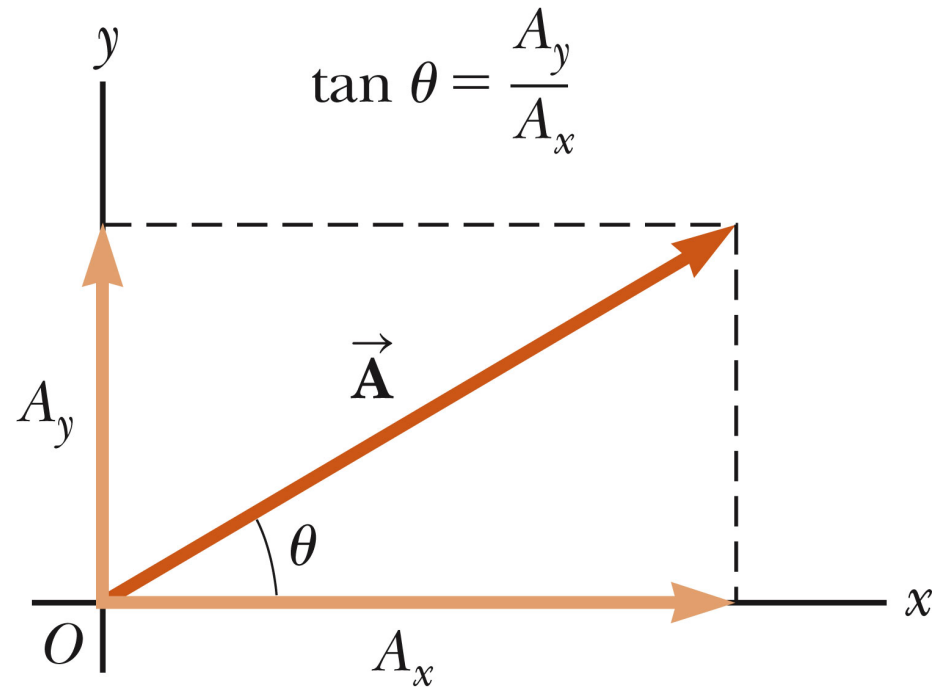


Multiplying or Dividing a Vector by a Scalar

- The result of the multiplication or division is a vector
- The magnitude of the vector is multiplied or divided by the scalar
- If the scalar is positive, the direction of the result is the same as of the original vector
- If the scalar is negative, the direction of the result is opposite that of the original vector

Components of a Vector

- It is useful to use **rectangular components** to add vectors
 - These are the projections of the vector along the x- and y-axes



Components of a Vector, cont.

- 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
 - $A_y = A \sin \theta$
- Then, $\vec{\mathbf{A}} = \vec{\mathbf{A}}_x + \vec{\mathbf{A}}_y$

More About Components of a Vector

- The previous equations are valid ***only if θ is measured with respect to the x-axis***
- The components can be positive or negative and will have the same units as the original vector

More About Components, cont.

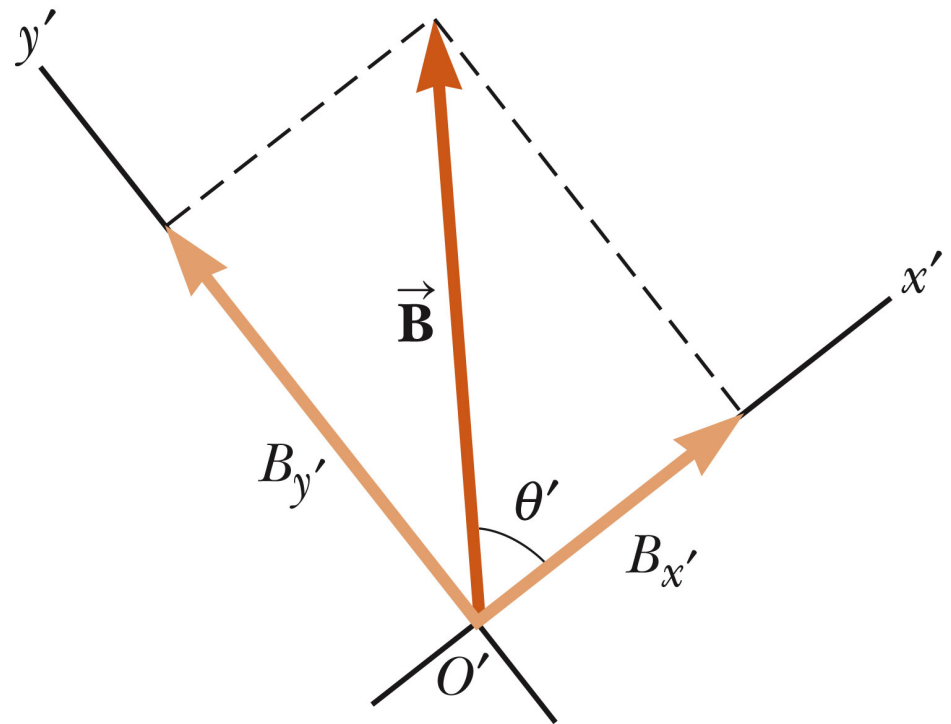
- The components are the legs of the right triangle whose hypotenuse is \vec{A}

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

- May still have to find θ with respect to the positive x-axis
- The value will be correct only if the angle lies in the first or fourth quadrant
- In the second or third quadrant, add 180°

Other Coordinate Systems

- It may be convenient to use a coordinate system other than horizontal and vertical
- Choose axes that are perpendicular to each other
- Adjust the components accordingly



Adding Vectors Algebraically

- Choose a coordinate system and sketch the vectors
- Find the x- and y-components of all the vectors
- Add all the x-components
 - This gives R_x : $R_x = \sum v_x$

Adding Vectors Algebraically, cont.

- Add all the y-components
 - This gives R_y : $R_y = \sum v_y$
- Use the Pythagorean Theorem to find the magnitude of the resultant: $R = \sqrt{R_x^2 + R_y^2}$
- Use the inverse tangent function to find the direction of R:

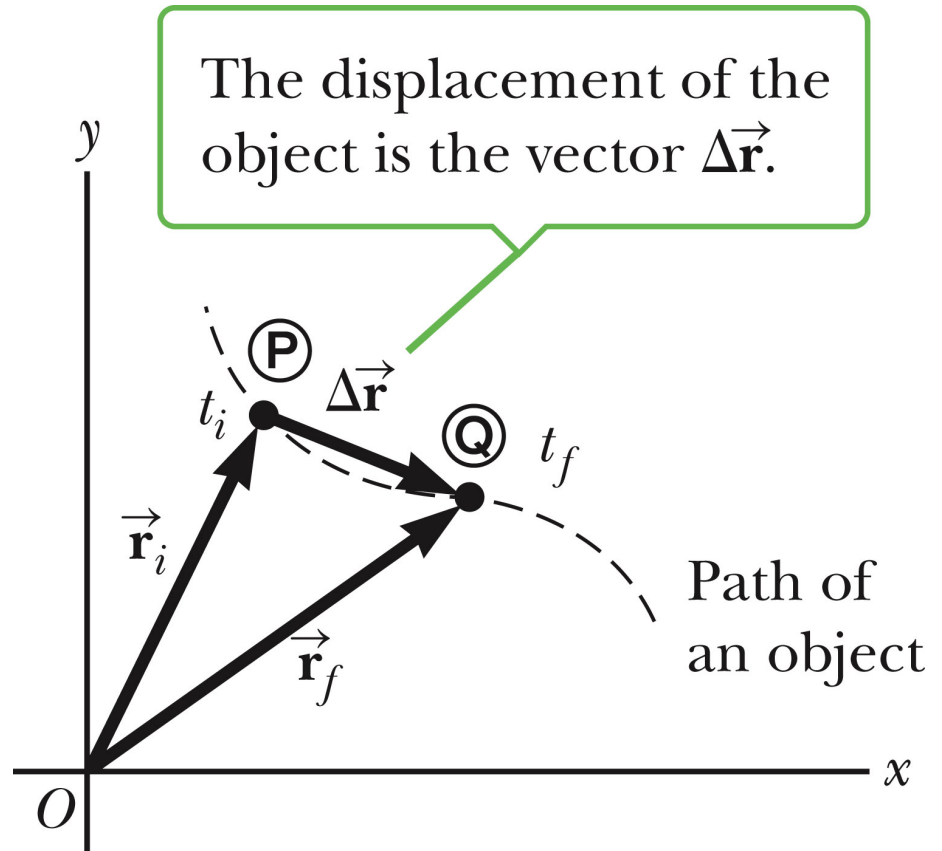
$$\theta = \tan^{-1} \frac{R_y}{R_x}$$

Motion in Two Dimensions

- Using + or – signs is not always sufficient to fully describe motion in more than one dimension
 - Vectors can be used to more fully describe motion
- Still interested in displacement, velocity, and acceleration

Displacement

- The position of an object is described by its position vector, \vec{r}
- The **displacement** of the object is defined as the **change in its position**
 - $\Delta\vec{r} = \vec{r}_f - \vec{r}_i$
 - SI unit: meter (m)



Velocity

- The average velocity is the ratio of the displacement to the time interval for the displacement

$$\vec{\mathbf{v}}_{av} \equiv \frac{\Delta \vec{\mathbf{r}}}{\Delta t}$$

- The instantaneous velocity is the limit of the average velocity as Δt approaches zero
 - The direction of the instantaneous velocity is along a line that is tangent to the path of the particle and in the direction of motion
- SI unit: meter per second (m/s)

Acceleration

- The average acceleration is defined as the rate at which the velocity changes

$$\vec{\mathbf{a}}_{av} = \frac{\Delta \vec{\mathbf{v}}}{\Delta t}$$

- The instantaneous acceleration is the limit of the average acceleration as Δt approaches zero
- SI unit: meter per second squared (m/s^2)

Unit Summary (SI)

- Displacement
 - m
- Average velocity and instantaneous velocity
 - m/s
- Average acceleration and instantaneous acceleration
 - m/s²

Ways an Object Might Accelerate

- The magnitude of the velocity (the speed) may change with time
- The direction of the velocity may change with time
 - Even though the magnitude is constant
- Both the magnitude and the direction may change with time

Projectile Motion

- An object may move in both the x and y directions simultaneously
 - It moves in two dimensions
- The form of two dimensional motion we will deal with is an important special case called **projectile motion**

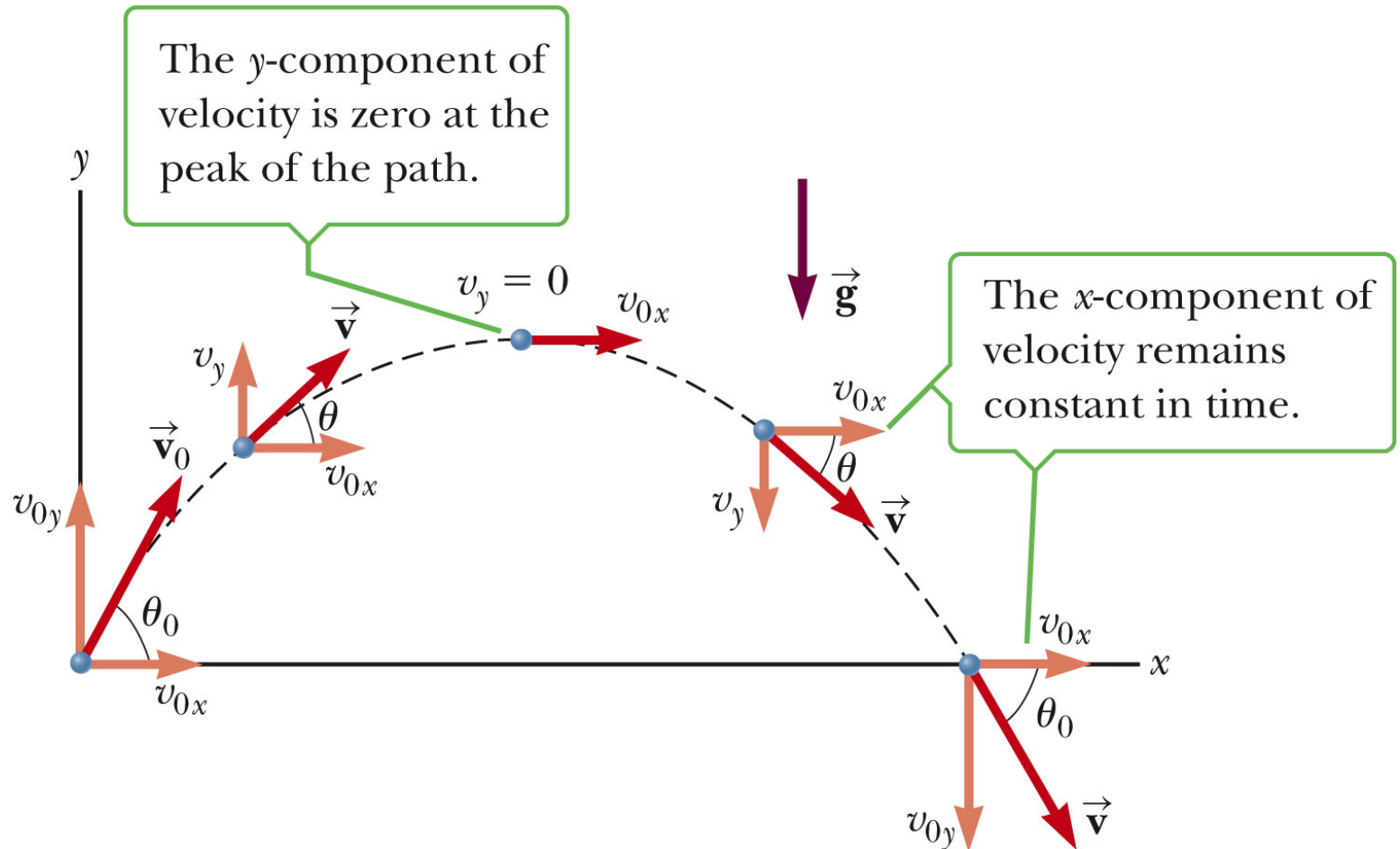
Assumptions of Projectile Motion

- We may ignore air friction
- We may ignore the rotation of the earth
- With these assumptions, an object in projectile motion will follow a parabolic path

Rules of Projectile Motion

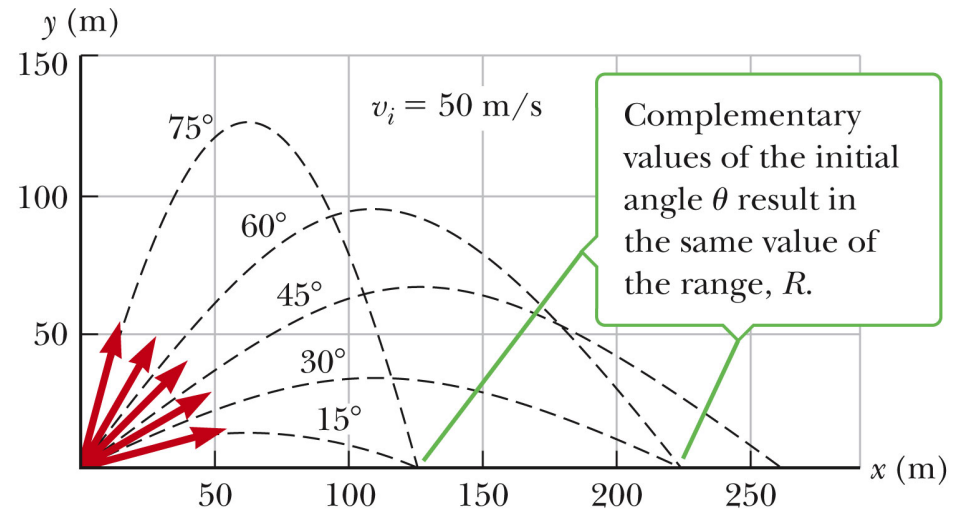
- The x- and y-directions of motion are completely independent of each other
- The x-direction is uniform motion
 - $a_x = 0$
- The y-direction is free fall
 - $a_y = -g$
- The initial velocity can be broken down into its x- and y-components
 - $v_{ox} = v_o \cos\theta_o$ $v_{oy} = v_o \sin\theta_o$

Projectile Motion



Projectile Motion at Various Initial Angles

- Complementary values of the initial angle result in the same range
 - The heights will be different
- The maximum range occurs at a projection angle of 45°



Some Details About the Rules

- x-direction
 - $a_x = 0$
 - $v_x = v_{o_x} = v_o \cos\theta_o = \text{constant}$
 - $x = v_{o_x}t$
 - This is the only operative equation in the x-direction since there is uniform velocity in that direction

More Details About the Rules

- y-direction
 - $v_{oy} = v_o \sin\theta_o$
 - Free fall problem
 - $a = -g$
 - Take the positive direction as upward
 - Uniformly accelerated motion, so the motion equations all hold

Velocity of the Projectile

- The velocity of the projectile at any point of its motion is the vector sum of its x and y components at that point

$$v = \sqrt{v_x^2 + v_y^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \theta = \tan^{-1} \frac{v_y}{v_x}$$

- Remember to be careful about the angle's quadrant

Projectile Motion Summary

- Provided air resistance is negligible, the horizontal component of the velocity remains constant
 - Since $a_x = 0$
- The vertical component of the acceleration is equal to the free fall acceleration $-g$
 - The acceleration in the y -direction is not zero at the top of the projectile's trajectory

Projectile Motion Summary, cont

- The vertical component of the velocity v_y and the displacement in the y -direction are identical to those of a freely falling body
- Projectile motion can be described as a superposition of two independent motions in the x - and y -directions

Problem-Solving Strategy

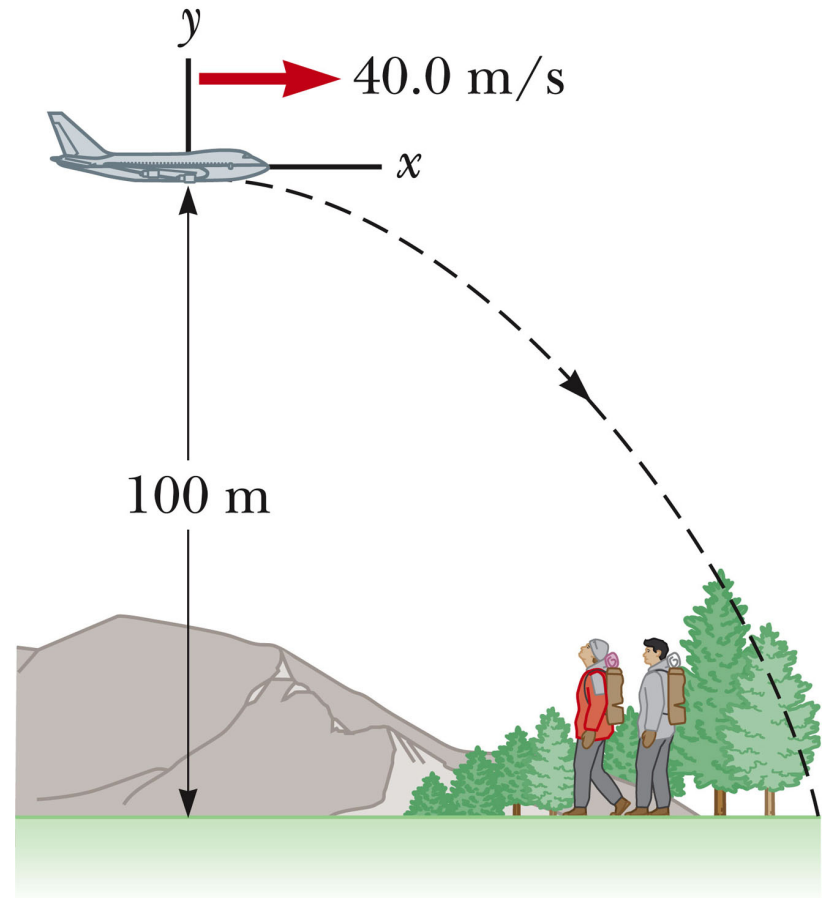
- **Select** a coordinate system and sketch the path of the projectile
 - Include initial and final positions, velocities, and accelerations
- **Resolve** the initial velocity into x- and y-components
- **Treat** the horizontal and vertical motions independently

Problem-Solving Strategy, cont

- **Follow** the techniques for solving problems with constant velocity to analyze the horizontal motion of the projectile
- **Follow** the techniques for solving problems with constant acceleration to analyze the vertical motion of the projectile

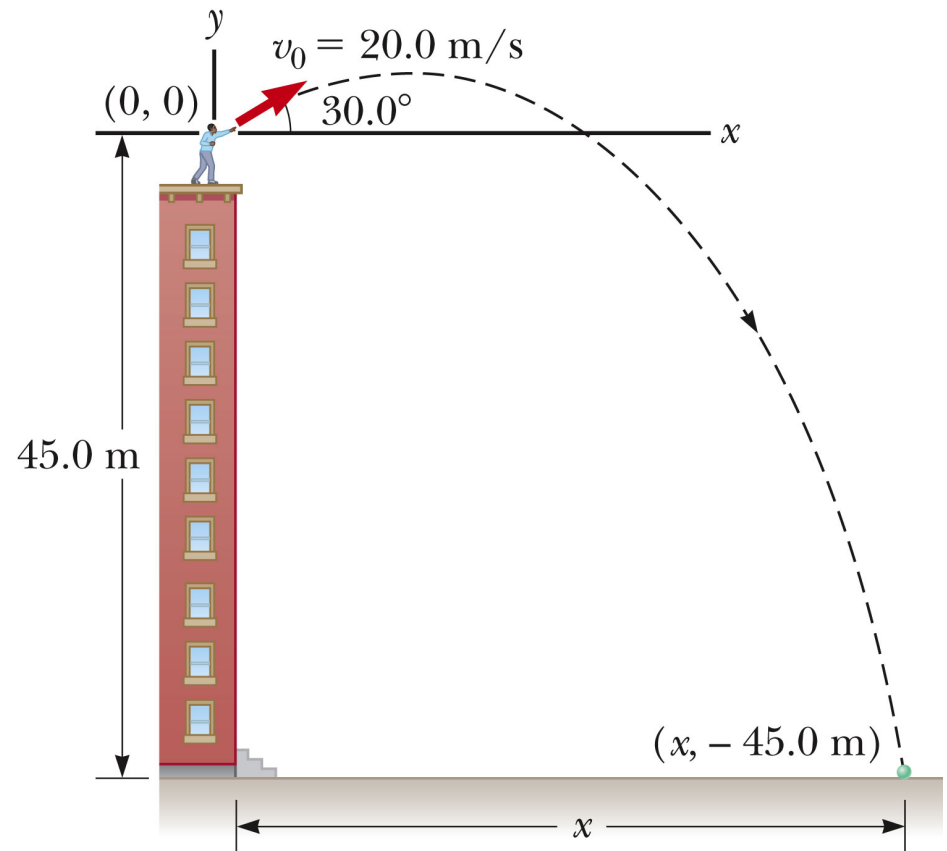
Some Variations of Projectile Motion

- An object may be fired horizontally
- The initial velocity is all in the x-direction
 - $v_o = v_x$ and $v_y = 0$
- All the general rules of projectile motion apply



Non-Symmetrical Projectile Motion

- Follow the general rules for projectile motion
- Break the y -direction into parts
 - up and down
 - symmetrical back to initial height and then the rest of the height



Special Equations

- The motion equations can be combined algebraically and solved for the range and maximum height

$$\Delta x = \frac{v_o^2 \sin 2\theta_o}{g}$$

$$\Delta y_{max} = \frac{v_o^2 \sin^2 \theta_o}{2g}$$

Relative Velocity

- Relative velocity is about relating the measurements of two different observers
- It may be useful to use a moving frame of reference instead of a stationary one
- It is important to specify the frame of reference, since the motion may be different in different frames of reference
- There are no specific equations to learn to solve relative velocity problems

Relative Velocity Notation

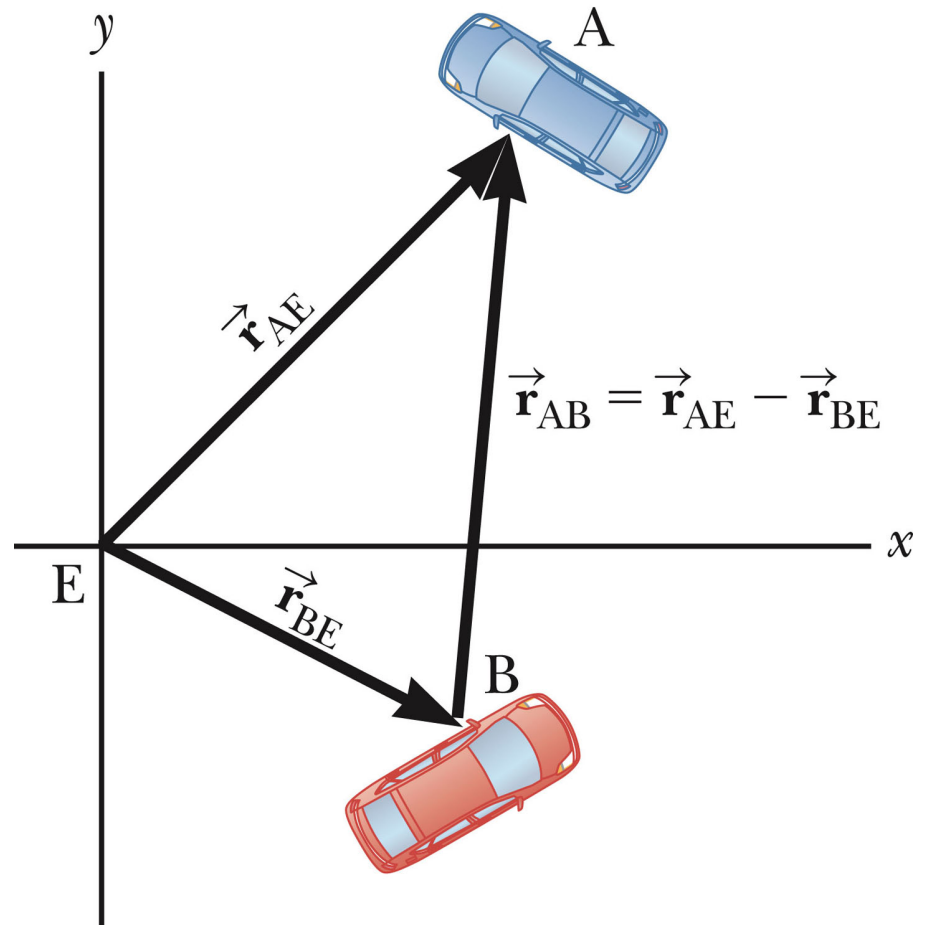
- The pattern of subscripts can be useful in solving relative velocity problems
- Assume the following notation:
 - E is an observer, stationary with respect to the earth
 - A and B are two moving cars

Relative Position Equations

- \vec{r}_{AE} is the position of car A as measured by E
- \vec{r}_{BE} is the position of car B as measured by E
- \vec{r}_{AB} is the position of car A as measured by car B
- $\vec{r}_{AB} = \vec{r}_{AE} - \vec{r}_{BE}$

Relative Position

- The position of car A relative to car B is given by the vector subtraction equation



Relative Velocity Equations

- The rate of change of the displacements gives the relationship for the velocities

$$\vec{\mathbf{v}}_{AB} = \vec{\mathbf{v}}_{AE} - \vec{\mathbf{v}}_{BE}$$

Problem-Solving Strategy: Relative Velocity

- **Label** all the objects with a descriptive letter
- **Look** for phrases such as “velocity of A relative to B”
 - Write the velocity variables with appropriate notation
 - If there is something not explicitly noted as being relative to something else, it is probably relative to the earth

Problem-Solving Strategy: Relative Velocity, cont

- **Take** the velocities and put them into an equation
 - Keep the subscripts in an order analogous to the standard equation
- **Solve** for the unknown(s)

Relative Velocity, Example

- Need velocities
 - Boat relative to river
 - River relative to the Earth
 - Boat with respect to the Earth (observer)

- Equation

$$\vec{v}_{BR} = \vec{v}_{BE} - \vec{v}_{RE}$$

