SAMPLE PROBLEM 1/3

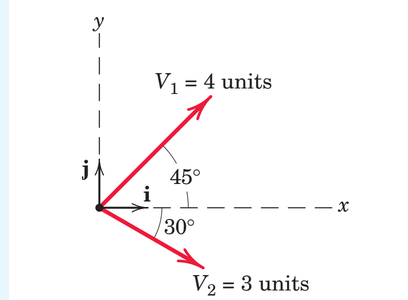
For the vectors $\mathbf{V}_1$ and $\mathbf{V}_2$ shown in the figure,

(*a*) determine the magnitude S of their vector sum $\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{V}_1 + \mathbf{V}_2$

(*b*) determine the angle α between $\mathbf{S}$ and the positive x-axis

(*c*) write $\mathbf{S}$ as a vector in terms of the unit vectors $\mathbf{i}$ and $\mathbf{j}$ and then write a unit vector $\mathbf{n}$ along the vector sum $\mathbf{S}$

(*d*) determine the vector difference $\mathbf{D} = \mathbf{V}_1 - \mathbf{V}_2$



Solution (*a*) We construct to scale the parallelogram shown in Fig. *a* for adding $\mathbf{V}_1$ and $\mathbf{V}_2$. Using the law of cosines, we have

$$S^2 = 3^2 + 4^2 - 2(3)(4)\cos 105°$$

$$S = 5.59 \text{ units} \qquad \textit{Ans.}$$

1 (*b*) Using the law of sines for the lower triangle, we have

$$\frac{\sin 105°}{5.59} = \frac{\sin(\alpha + 30°)}{4}$$

$$\sin(\alpha + 30°) = 0.692$$

$$(\alpha + 30°) = 43.8° \qquad \alpha = 13.76° \qquad \textit{Ans.}$$

(*c*) With knowledge of both S and α, we can write the vector $\mathbf{S}$ as

$$\mathbf{S} = S[\mathbf{i}\cos\alpha + \mathbf{j}\sin\alpha]$$

$$= 5.59[\mathbf{i}\cos 13.76° + \mathbf{j}\sin 13.76°] = 5.43\mathbf{i} + 1.328\mathbf{j} \text{ units} \qquad \textit{Ans.}$$

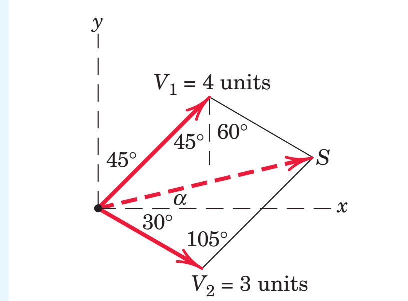
2 Then $$\mathbf{n} = \frac{\mathbf{S}}{S} = \frac{5.43\mathbf{i} + 1.328\mathbf{j}}{5.59} = 0.971\mathbf{i} + 0.238\mathbf{j} \qquad \textit{Ans.}$$

(*d*) The vector difference $\mathbf{D}$ is

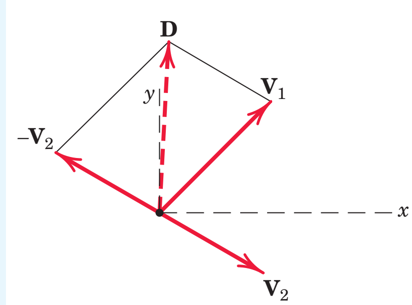
$$\mathbf{D} = \mathbf{V}_1 - \mathbf{V}_2 = 4(\mathbf{i}\cos 45° + \mathbf{j}\sin 45°) - 3(\mathbf{i}\cos 30° - \mathbf{j}\sin 30°)$$

$$= 0.230\mathbf{i} + 4.33\mathbf{j} \text{ units} \qquad \textit{Ans.}$$

The vector $\mathbf{D}$ is shown in Fig. *b* as $\mathbf{D} = \mathbf{V}_1 + (-\mathbf{V}_2)$.



(*a*)



(*b*)

Helpful Hints

1 You will frequently use the laws of cosines and sines in mechanics. See Art. C/6 of Appendix C for a review of these important geometric principles.

2 A unit vector may always be formed by dividing a vector by its magnitude. Note that a unit vector is dimensionless.