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Fourteenth Edition in SI Units

R. C. Hibbeler

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# Engineering Mechanics: Statics

## Fourteenth Edition in SI Units



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ENGINEERING MECHANICS

# STATICS

FOURTEENTH EDITION IN SI UNITS

**R. C. HIBBELER**

*SI Conversion by*  
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Sample

## To the Student

With the hope that this work will stimulate an interest in Engineering Mechanics and provide an acceptable guide to its understanding.

Sample

The main purpose of this book is to provide the student with a clear and thorough presentation of the theory and application of engineering mechanics. To achieve this objective, this work has been shaped by the comments and suggestions of hundreds of reviewers in the teaching profession, as well as many of the author's students.

---

## New to this Edition

**Preliminary Problems.** This new feature can be found throughout the text, and is given just before the Fundamental Problems. The intent here is to test the student's conceptual understanding of the theory. Normally the solutions require little or no calculation, and as such, these problems provide a basic understanding of the concepts before they are applied numerically. All the solutions are given in the back of the text.

**Expanded Important Points Sections.** Summaries have been added which reinforces the reading material and highlights the important definitions and concepts of the sections.

**Re-writing of Text Material.** Further clarification of concepts has been included in this edition, and important definitions are now in boldface throughout the text to highlight their importance.

**End-of-the-Chapter Review Problems.** All the review problems now have solutions given in the back, so that students can check their work when studying for exams, and reviewing their skills when the chapter is finished.

**New Photos.** The relevance of knowing the subject matter is reflected by the real-world applications depicted in the over 30 new or updated photos placed throughout the book. These photos generally are used to explain how the relevant principles apply to real-world situations and how materials behave under load.

**New Problems.** There are approximately 30% new problems that have been added to this edition, which involve applications to many different fields of engineering.

---

## Hallmark Features

Besides the new features mentioned here, other outstanding features that define the contents of the text include the following.

**Organization and Approach.** Each chapter is organized into well-defined sections that contain an explanation of specific topics, illustrative example problems, and a set of homework problems. The topics within each section are placed into subgroups defined by boldface titles. The purpose of this is to present a structured method for introducing each new definition or concept and to make the book convenient for later reference and review.

**Chapter Contents.** Each chapter begins with an illustration demonstrating a broad-range application of the material within the chapter. A bulleted list of the chapter contents is provided to give a general overview of the material that will be covered.

**Emphasis on Free-Body Diagrams.** Drawing a free-body diagram is particularly important when solving problems, and for this reason this step is strongly emphasized throughout the book. In particular, special sections and examples are devoted to show how to draw free-body diagrams. Specific homework problems have also been added to develop this practice.

**Procedures for Analysis.** A general procedure for analyzing any mechanical problem is presented at the end of the first chapter. Then this procedure is customized to relate to specific types of problems that are covered throughout the book. This unique feature provides the student with a logical and orderly method to follow when applying the theory. The example problems are solved using this outlined method in order to clarify its numerical application. Realize, however, that once the relevant principles have been mastered and enough confidence and judgment have been obtained, the student can then develop his or her own procedures for solving problems.

**Important Points.** This feature provides a review or summary of the most important concepts in a section and highlights the most significant points that should be realized when applying the theory to solve problems.

**Fundamental Problems.** These problem sets are selectively located just after most of the example problems. They provide students with simple applications of the concepts, and therefore, the chance to develop their problem-solving skills before attempting to solve any of the standard problems that follow. In addition, they can be used for preparing for exams.

**Conceptual Understanding.** Through the use of photographs placed throughout the book, theory is applied in a simplified way in order to illustrate some of its more important conceptual features and instill the physical meaning of many

of the terms used in the equations. These simplified applications increase interest in the subject matter and better prepare the student to understand the examples and solve problems.

**Homework Problems.** Apart from the Fundamental and Conceptual type problems mentioned previously, other types of problems contained in the book include the following:

- **Free-Body Diagram Problems.** Some sections of the book contain introductory problems that only require drawing the free-body diagram for the specific problems within a problem set. These assignments will impress upon the student the importance of mastering this skill as a requirement for a complete solution of any equilibrium problem.
- **General Analysis and Design Problems.** The majority of problems in the book depict realistic situations encountered in engineering practice. Some of these problems come from actual products used in industry. It is hoped that this realism will both stimulate the student's interest in engineering mechanics and provide a means for developing the skill to reduce any such problem from its physical description to a model or symbolic representation to which the principles of mechanics may be applied.

An attempt has been made to arrange the problems in order of increasing difficulty except for the end of chapter review problems, which are presented in random order.

- **Computer Problems.** An effort has been made to include some problems that may be solved using a numerical procedure executed on either a desktop computer or a programmable pocket calculator. The intent here is to broaden the student's capacity for using other forms of mathematical analysis without sacrificing the time needed to focus on the application of the principles of mechanics. Problems of this type, which either can or must be solved using numerical procedures, are identified by a "square" symbol (■) preceding the problem number.

The many homework problems in this edition have been placed into two different categories. Problems that are simply indicated by a problem number have an answer and in some cases an additional numerical result given in the back of the book. An asterisk (\*) before every fourth problem number indicates a problem without an answer.

**Accuracy.** As with the previous editions, apart from the author, the accuracy of the text and problem solutions has been thoroughly checked by four other parties: Scott Hendricks, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; Karim Nohra, University of South Florida; Kurt Norlin, Bittner Development Group; and finally Kai Beng, a practicing engineer, who in addition to accuracy review provided suggestions for problem development.

**Animations.** On the Companion Website are eight animations identified as fundamental engineering mechanics concepts. The animations, flagged by a film icon, help students visualize the relation between mathematical explanation and real structure, breaking down complicated sequences and showing how free-body diagrams can be derived. These animations lend a graphic component in tutorials and lectures, assisting instructors in demonstrating the teaching of concepts with greater ease and clarity.

Each animation is flagged by a film icon.

### 11.3 Principle of Virtual Work for a System of Connected Rigid Bodies

The method of virtual work is particularly effective for solving equilibrium problems that involve a system of several *connected* rigid bodies, such as the ones shown in Fig. 11-5.

Each of these systems is said to have only one degree of freedom since the arrangement of the links can be completely specified using only one coordinate  $\theta$ . In other words, with this single coordinate and the length of the members, we can locate the position of the forces  $\mathbf{F}$  and  $\mathbf{P}$ .

In this text, we will only consider the application of the principle of virtual work to systems containing one degree of freedom.\* Because they are less complicated, they will serve as a way to approach the solution of more complex problems involving systems with many degrees of freedom. The procedure for solving problems involving a system of frictionless connected rigid bodies follows.

#### Important Points

- A force does work when it moves through a displacement in the direction of the force. A couple moment does work when it moves through a collinear rotation. Specifically, positive work is done when the force or couple moment and its displacement have the same sense of direction.
- The principle of virtual work is generally used to determine the equilibrium configuration for a system of multiple connected members.
- A virtual displacement is imaginary; i.e., it does not really happen. It is a differential displacement that is given in the positive direction of a position coordinate.
- Forces or couple moments that do not virtually displace do no virtual work.

\*This method of applying the principle of virtual work is sometimes called the *method of virtual displacements* because a virtual displacement is applied, resulting in the calculation of a real force. Although it is not used here, we can also apply the principle of virtual work as a *method of virtual forces*. This method is often used to apply a virtual force and then determine the displacements of points on deformable bodies. See R. C. Hibbeler, *Mechanics of Materials*, 8th edition, Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2011.



Please refer to the Companion Website for the animation: *Principle of Virtual Work*

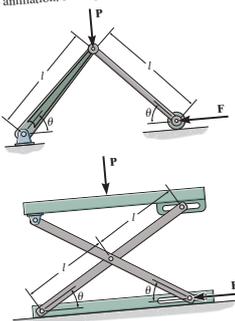
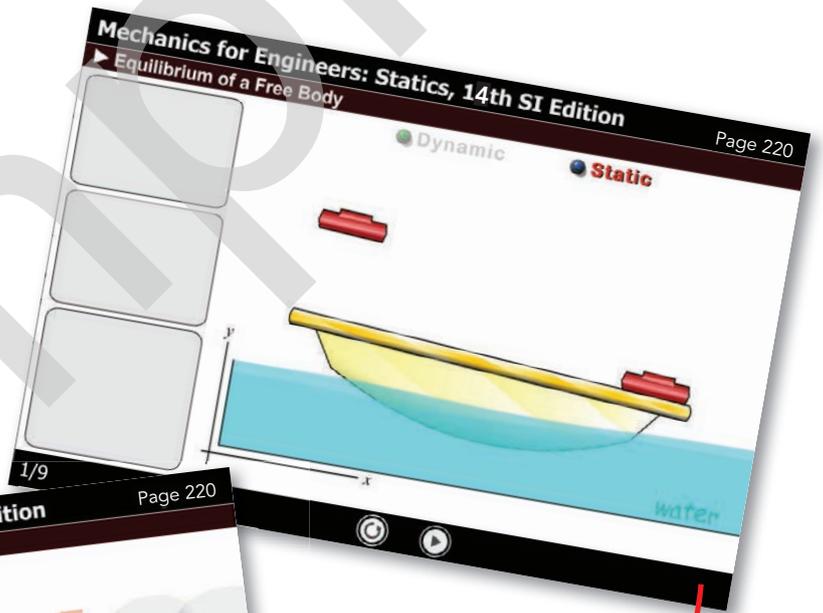


Fig. 11-5

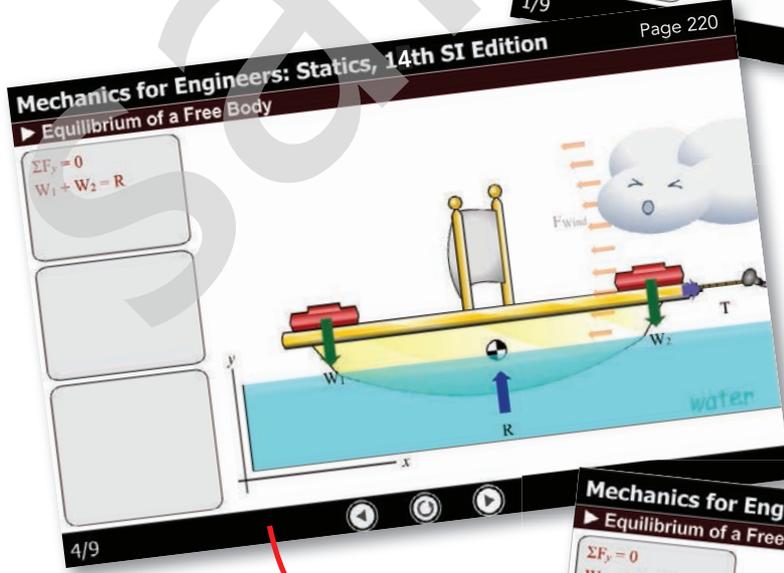


This scissors lift has one degree of freedom. Without the need for dismembering the mechanism, the force in the hydraulic cylinder  $AB$  required to provide the lift can be determined *directly* by using the principle of virtual work.

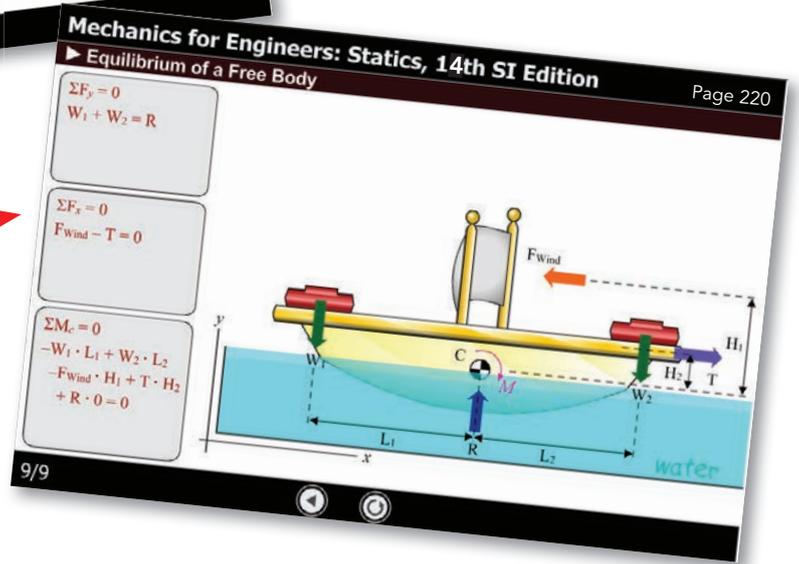
Instructors can demonstrate the different methods of analysis step-by-step. ▶



▶ Maximize the use of class contact time.



▶ Students can visualize how concepts are applied to the analysis of the structure.



**Video Solutions.** An invaluable resource in and out of the classroom, these complete solution walkthroughs of representative homework problems from each chapter offer fully worked solutions, self-paced instruction, and 24/7 accessibility. Lecturers and students can harness this resource to gain independent exposure to a wide range of examples applying formulas to actual structures.

## Internal Forces

### CHAPTER OBJECTIVES

- To use the method of sections to determine the internal loadings in a member at a specific point.
- To show how to obtain the internal shear and moment throughout a member and express the result graphically in the form of shear and moment diagrams.
- To analyze the forces and the shape of cables supporting various types of loadings.



Video Solutions are available for selected questions in this chapter.

Video solutions are available for certain questions.

### 7.1 Internal Loadings Developed in Structural Members

To design a structural or mechanical member it is necessary to know the loading acting within the member in order to be sure the material can resist this loading. Internal loadings can be determined by using the **method of sections**. To illustrate this method, consider the cantilever beam in Fig. 7-1*a*. If the internal loadings acting on the cross section *a-a* perpendicular to the axis of the beam through point *B* and then separate the beam into two segments. The internal loadings acting at *B* will then be exposed and become **external** on the free-body diagram of each segment, Fig. 7-1*b*.

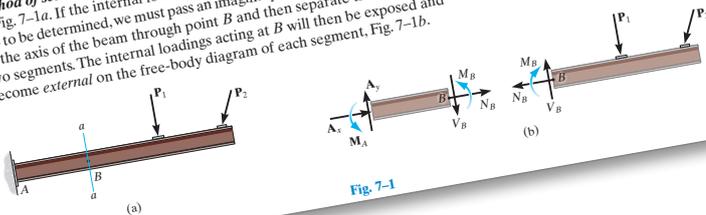


Fig. 7-1

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Chapter 2: Sections 7, 8 Video Solution

### Force Directed Along a Line

This problem shows how we can use position vectors to define force vectors corresponding to chains, cables, and ropes. In these problems, we know that the force is directed along the direction of the cable, so we define a position vector in that direction, then use the position vector to derive an expression for the force vector. The usual outcome is that the force vector is expressed as a magnitude (the tension in the cable) times a unit vector in the direction of the cable.

Created by Edward Berger, PhD, University of Virginia

11:35

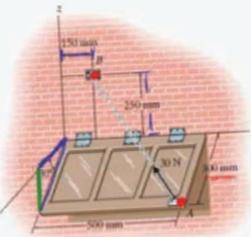
Independent video replays of a lecturer's explanation reinforces students' understanding.

Reduces lecturers' time spent in repetitive explanation of concepts and applications.

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### Force Directed Along a Line

The window is held open by cable AB. Determine the length of the cable and express the 30 N force acting at A along the cable as a Cartesian Vector.



Approach

1. write position vector from A to B,  $\vec{r}_{AB}$
2. magnitude of  $\vec{r}_{AB}$  (length of cable)
3.  $\vec{u}_{AB}$
4. express force as a Cartesian vector

B: (0, 0.15, 0.25) m  
A: (0.3, 0, 0, 0.5, -0.3, sin 30) m

11:35

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### Force Directed Along a Line

1. position vector A to B

$$\vec{r}_A, \vec{r}_B \Rightarrow \vec{r}_{AB} = \vec{r}_B - \vec{r}_A$$

$$\vec{r}_{AB} = (0.15\vec{j} + 0.25\vec{k}) - (0.26\vec{i} + 0.5\vec{j} - 0.15\vec{k})$$

$$\vec{r}_{AB} = (-0.26\vec{i} - 0.35\vec{j} + 0.4\vec{k}) \text{ m}$$

2. magnitude

$$|\vec{r}_{AB}| = \sqrt{(-0.26)^2 + (-0.35)^2 + (0.4)^2}$$

$$|\vec{r}_{AB}| = 0.59 \text{ m}$$

11:20

Flexible resource for students where they can learn at a comfortable pace without relying too much on their instructors.

---

## Contents

The book is divided into 11 chapters, in which the principles are first applied to simple, then to more complicated situations. In a general sense, each principle is applied first to a particle, then a rigid body subjected to a coplanar system of forces, and finally to three-dimensional force systems acting on a rigid body.

Chapter 1 begins with an introduction to mechanics and a discussion of units. The vector properties of a concurrent force system are introduced in Chapter 2. This theory is then applied to the equilibrium of a particle in Chapter 3. Chapter 4 contains a general discussion of both concentrated and distributed force systems and the methods used to simplify them. The principles of rigid-body equilibrium are developed in Chapter 5 and then applied to specific problems involving the equilibrium of trusses, frames, and machines in Chapter 6, and to the analysis of internal forces in beams and cables in Chapter 7. Applications to problems involving frictional forces are discussed in Chapter 8, and topics related to the center of gravity and centroid are treated in Chapter 9. If time permits, sections involving more advanced topics, indicated by stars (★), may be covered. Most of these topics are included in Chapter 10 (area and mass moments of inertia) and Chapter 11 (virtual work and potential energy). Note that this material also provides a suitable reference for basic principles when it is discussed in more advanced courses. Finally, Appendix A provides a review and list of mathematical formulas needed to solve the problems in the book.

**Alternative Coverage.** At the discretion of the instructor, some of the material may be presented in a different sequence with no loss of continuity. For example, it is possible to introduce the concept of a force and all the necessary methods of vector analysis by first covering Chapter 2 and Section 4.2 (the cross product). Then after covering the rest of Chapter 4 (force and moment systems), the equilibrium methods of Chapters 3 and 5 can be discussed.

---

## Acknowledgments

The author has endeavored to write this book so that it will appeal to both the student and instructor. Through the years, many people have helped in its development, and I will always be grateful for their valued suggestions and comments. Specifically, I wish to thank all the individuals who have contributed their comments relative to preparing the fourteenth edition of this work, and in particular, O. Barton, Jr. of the U.S. Naval Academy, K. Cook-Chennault at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, Robert Viesca of Tufts University, Ismail Orabi of the University of New Haven, Paul Ziehl of the University of South Carolina, Yabin Laio of Arizona State University, Niki Schulz of the University of Portland, Michael Reynolds of the University of Arkansas, Candace Sulzbach of the Colorado School of Mines, Thomas Miller of Oregon State University and Ahmad Itani of the University of Nevada.

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Lastly, many thanks are extended to all my students and to members of the teaching profession who have freely taken the time to e-mail me their suggestions and comments. Since this list is too long to mention, it is hoped that those who have given help in this manner will accept this anonymous recognition.

I would greatly appreciate hearing from you if at any time you have any comments, suggestions, or problems related to any matters regarding this edition.

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## Global Edition

The publishers would like to thank the following for their contribution to the Global Edition:

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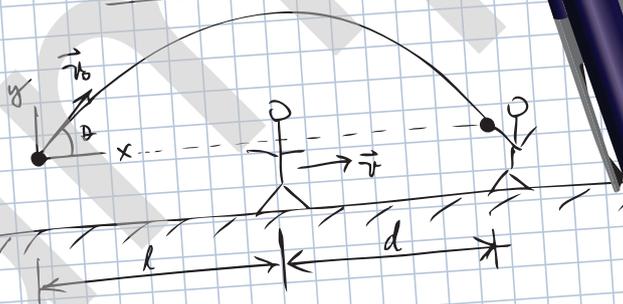
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PART A



$$\text{given} = v = 7.000 \text{ m/s}; t = 2.000 \text{ s}; l = 18.00 \text{ m}$$

$$d = v \cdot t \Rightarrow d = (7.000 \text{ m/s})(2.000 \text{ s}) = 14.00 \text{ m}$$

$$x = l + d \Rightarrow x = 18.00 \text{ m} + 14.00 \text{ m} = 32.00 \text{ m}$$

$$g = 9.807 \text{ m/s}^2$$

$$v_{0x} = \frac{x}{t} = \frac{32.00 \text{ m}}{2.000 \text{ s}} = 16.00 \text{ m/s (COMP. X)}$$

$$v_{0y} = \frac{1}{2} g t = \frac{1}{2} (9.807 \text{ m/s}^2)(2.000 \text{ s}) = 9.80 \text{ m/s (COMP. Y)}$$

$$v_0 = v_{0x} + v_{0y} = 16.00 \text{ m/s} + 9.80 \text{ m/s} = 25.80 \text{ m/s (TOTAL)}$$

$$\boxed{v_0 = 25.80 \text{ m/s}}$$

# your answer **specific feedback**

$v_0 =$   m/s

[submit](#) [hints](#) [my answers](#) [show answer](#) [review part](#)

Try Again; 4 attempts remaining

**Feedback** Close

This is the sum of the components of the velocity. You need to use the Pythagorean theorem to find the total velocity.

You may need to review [Vector Magnitudes](#).

---

## Resources for Instructors

- **MasteringEngineering.** This online Tutorial Homework program allows you to integrate dynamic homework with automatic grading and adaptive tutoring. MasteringEngineering allows you to easily track the performance of your entire class on an assignment-by-assignment basis, or the detailed work of an individual student.
- **Instructor's Solutions Manual.** This supplement provides complete solutions supported by problem statements and problem figures. The fourteenth edition manual was revised to improve readability and was triple accuracy checked. The Instructor's Solutions Manual is available on the Pearson Higher Education website: [www.pearsonglobaleditions.com](http://www.pearsonglobaleditions.com).
- **Instructor's Resource.** Visual resources to accompany the text are located on the Pearson Higher Education website: [www.pearsonglobaleditions.com](http://www.pearsonglobaleditions.com). If you are in need of a login and password for this site, please contact your local Pearson representative. Visual resources include all art from the text, available in PowerPoint and JPEG format.
- **Video Solutions.** Developed by Professor Edward Berger, University of Virginia, video solutions are located in the study area of MasteringEngineering and offer step-by-step solution walkthroughs of representative homework problems from each section of the text. Make efficient use of class time and office hours by showing students the complete and concise problem-solving approaches that they can access any time and view at their own pace. The videos are designed to be a flexible resource to be used however each instructor and student prefers. A valuable tutorial resource, the videos are also helpful for student self-evaluation as students can pause the videos to check their understanding and work alongside the video.

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## Resources for Students

- **MasteringEngineering.** Tutorial homework problems emulate the instructor's office-hour environment, guiding students through engineering concepts with self-paced individualized coaching. These in-depth tutorial homework problems are designed to coach students with feedback specific to their errors and optional hints that break problems down into simpler steps.
- **Statics Study Pack.** This supplement contains chapter-by-chapter study materials and a Free-Body Diagram Workbook.
- **Video Solutions.** Complete, step-by-step solution walkthroughs of representative homework problems. Videos offer fully worked solutions that show every step of representative homework problems—this helps students make vital connections between concepts. Videos are available in the Study Area of MasteringEngineering.

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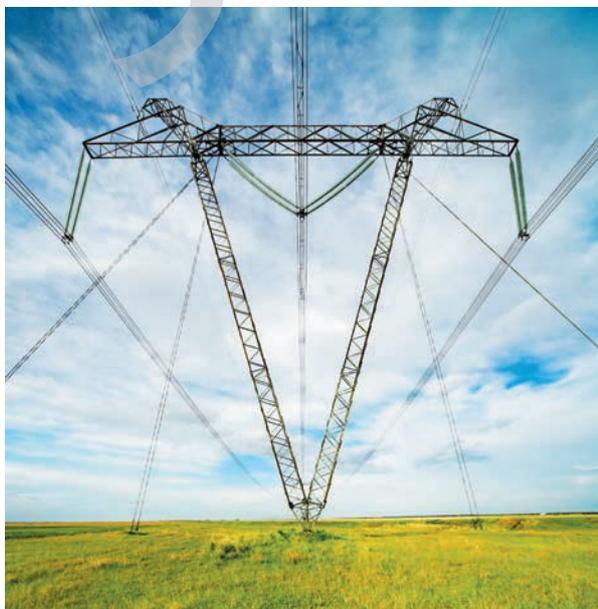
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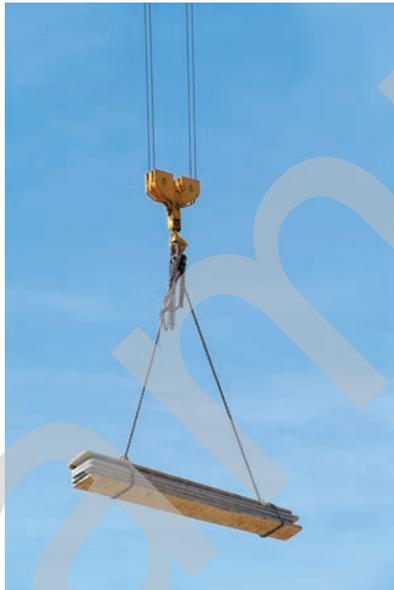
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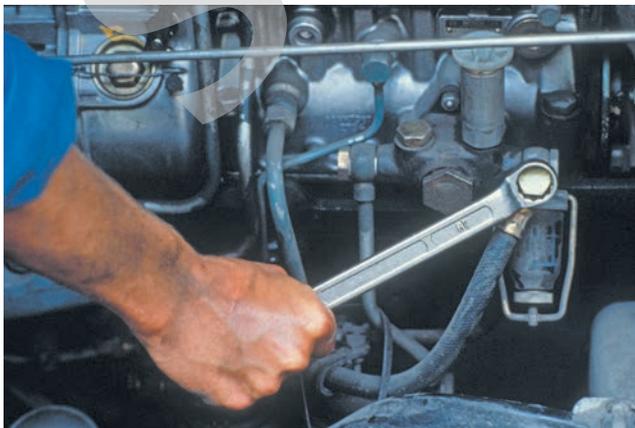
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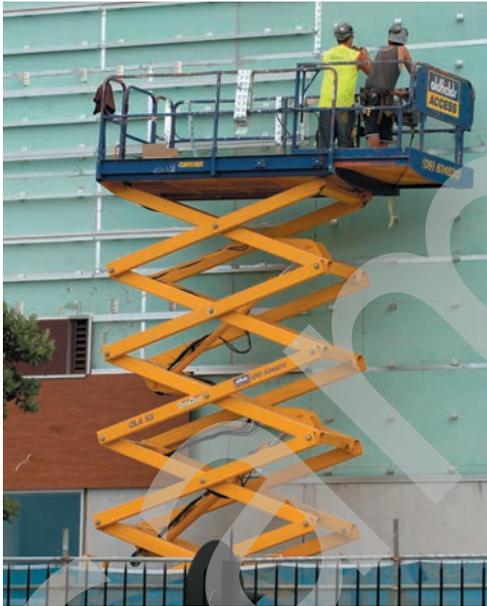
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Sample

ENGINEERING MECHANICS

# STATICS

FOURTEENTH EDITION IN SI UNITS

# Chapter 1



(© Andrew Peacock/Lonely Planet Images/Getty Images)

Large cranes such as this one are required to lift extremely large loads. Their design is based on the basic principles of statics and dynamics, which form the subject matter of engineering mechanics.

# General Principles

## CHAPTER OBJECTIVES

- To provide an introduction to the basic quantities and idealizations of mechanics.
- To give a statement of Newton's Laws of Motion and Gravitation.
- To review the principles for applying the SI system of units.
- To examine the standard procedures for performing numerical calculations.
- To present a general guide for solving problems.



Video Solutions are available for selected questions in this chapter.

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## 1.1 Mechanics

**Mechanics** is a branch of the physical sciences that is concerned with the state of rest or motion of bodies that are subjected to the action of forces. In general, this subject can be subdivided into three branches: *rigid-body mechanics*, *deformable-body mechanics*, and *fluid mechanics*. In this book we will study rigid-body mechanics since it is a basic requirement for the study of the mechanics of deformable bodies and the mechanics of fluids. Furthermore, rigid-body mechanics is essential for the design and analysis of many types of structural members, mechanical components, or electrical devices encountered in engineering.

Rigid-body mechanics is divided into two areas: statics and dynamics. **Statics** deals with the equilibrium of bodies, that is, those that are either at rest or move with a constant velocity; whereas **dynamics** is concerned with the accelerated motion of bodies. We can consider statics as a special case of dynamics, in which the acceleration is zero; however, statics deserves separate treatment in engineering education since many objects are designed with the intention that they remain in equilibrium.

**Historical Development.** The subject of statics developed very early in history because its principles can be formulated simply from measurements of geometry and force. For example, the writings of Archimedes (287–212 B.C.) deal with the principle of the lever. Studies of the pulley, inclined plane, and wrench are also recorded in ancient writings—at times when the requirements for engineering were limited primarily to building construction.

Since the principles of dynamics depend on an accurate measurement of time, this subject developed much later. Galileo Galilei (1564–1642) was one of the first major contributors to this field. His work consisted of experiments using pendulums and falling bodies. The most significant contributions in dynamics, however, were made by Isaac Newton (1642–1727), who is noted for his formulation of the three fundamental laws of motion and the law of universal gravitational attraction. Shortly after these laws were postulated, important techniques for their application were developed by other scientists and engineers, some of whom will be mentioned throughout the text.

---

## 1.2 Fundamental Concepts

Before we begin our study of engineering mechanics, it is important to understand the meaning of certain fundamental concepts and principles.

**Basic Quantities.** The following four quantities are used throughout mechanics.

**Length.** *Length* is used to locate the position of a point in space and thereby describe the size of a physical system. Once a standard unit of length is defined, one can then use it to define distances and geometric properties of a body as multiples of this unit.

**Time.** *Time* is conceived as a succession of events. Although the principles of statics are time independent, this quantity plays an important role in the study of dynamics.

**Mass.** *Mass* is a measure of a quantity of matter that is used to compare the action of one body with that of another. This property manifests itself as a gravitational attraction between two bodies and provides a measure of the resistance of matter to a change in velocity.

**Force.** In general, *force* is considered as a “push” or “pull” exerted by one body on another. This interaction can occur when there is direct contact between the bodies, such as a person pushing on a wall, or it can occur through a distance when the bodies are physically separated. Examples of the latter type include gravitational, electrical, and magnetic forces. In any case, a force is completely characterized by its magnitude, direction, and point of application.

**Idealizations.** Models or idealizations are used in mechanics in order to simplify application of the theory. Here we will consider three important idealizations.

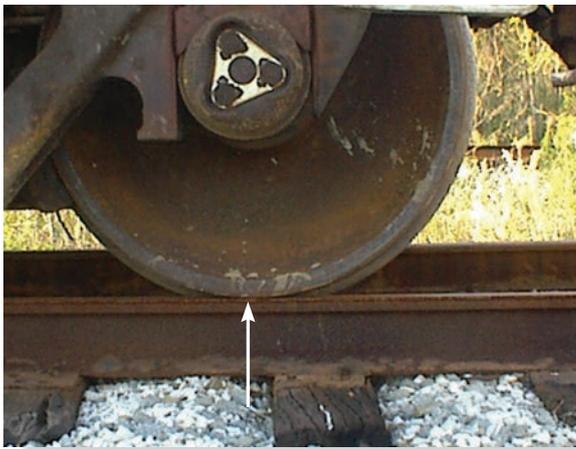
**Particle.** A *particle* has a mass, but a size that can be neglected. For example, the size of the earth is insignificant compared to the size of its orbit, and therefore the earth can be modeled as a particle when studying its orbital motion. When a body is idealized as a particle, the principles of mechanics reduce to a rather simplified form since the geometry of the body *will not be involved* in the analysis of the problem.

**Rigid Body.** A *rigid body* can be considered as a combination of a large number of particles in which all the particles remain at a fixed distance from one another, both before and after applying a load. This model is important because the body's shape does not change when a load is applied, and so we do not have to consider the type of material from which the body is made. In most cases the actual deformations occurring in structures, machines, mechanisms, and the like are relatively small, and the rigid-body assumption is suitable for analysis.

**Concentrated Force.** A *concentrated force* represents the effect of a loading which is assumed to act at a point on a body. We can represent a load by a concentrated force, provided the area over which the load is applied is very small compared to the overall size of the body. An example would be the contact force between a wheel and the ground.



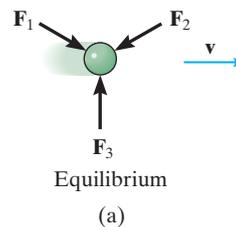
Three forces act on the ring. Since these forces all meet at a point, then for any force analysis, we can assume the ring to be represented as a particle.



Steel is a common engineering material that does not deform very much under load. Therefore, we can consider this railroad wheel to be a rigid body acted upon by the concentrated force of the rail.

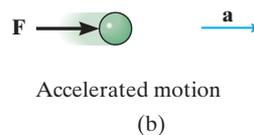
**Newton's Three Laws of Motion.** Engineering mechanics is formulated on the basis of Newton's three laws of motion, the validity of which is based on experimental observation. These laws apply to the motion of a particle as measured from a *nonaccelerating* reference frame. They may be briefly stated as follows.

**First Law.** A particle originally at rest, or moving in a straight line with constant velocity, tends to remain in this state provided the particle is *not* subjected to an unbalanced force, Fig. 1-1a.

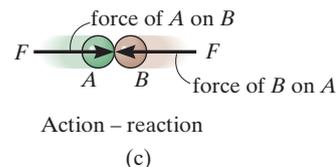


**Second Law.** A particle acted upon by an *unbalanced force*  $\mathbf{F}$  experiences an acceleration  $\mathbf{a}$  that has the same direction as the force and a magnitude that is directly proportional to the force, Fig. 1-1b.\* If  $\mathbf{F}$  is applied to a particle of mass  $m$ , this law may be expressed mathematically as

$$\mathbf{F} = m\mathbf{a} \quad (1-1)$$



**Third Law.** The mutual forces of action and reaction between two particles are equal, opposite, and collinear, Fig. 1-1c.



**Fig. 1-1**

\*Stated another way, the unbalanced force acting on the particle is proportional to the time rate of change of the particle's linear momentum.

**Newton's Law of Gravitational Attraction.** Shortly after formulating his three laws of motion, Newton postulated a law governing the gravitational attraction between any two particles. Stated mathematically,

$$F = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2} \quad (1-2)$$

where

$F$  = force of gravitation between the two particles

$G$  = universal constant of gravitation; according to experimental evidence,  $G = 66.73(10^{-12}) \text{ m}^3/(\text{kg} \cdot \text{s}^2)$

$m_1, m_2$  = mass of each of the two particles

$r$  = distance between the two particles

**Weight.** According to Eq. 1-2, any two particles or bodies have a mutual attractive (gravitational) force acting between them. In the case of a particle located at or near the surface of the earth, however, the only gravitational force having any sizable magnitude is that between the earth and the particle. Consequently, this force, termed the *weight*, will be the only gravitational force considered in our study of mechanics.

From Eq. 1-2, we can develop an approximate expression for finding the weight  $W$  of a particle having a mass  $m_1 = m$ . If we assume the earth to be a nonrotating sphere of constant density and having a mass  $m_2 = M_e$ , then if  $r$  is the distance between the earth's center and the particle, we have

$$W = G \frac{m M_e}{r^2}$$

Letting  $g = GM_e/r^2$  yields

$$W = mg \quad (1-3)$$

By comparison with  $\mathbf{F} = m\mathbf{a}$ , we can see that  $g$  is the acceleration due to gravity. Since it depends on  $r$ , then the weight of a body is *not* an absolute quantity. Instead, its magnitude is determined from where the measurement was made. For most engineering calculations, however,  $g$  is determined at sea level and at a latitude of  $45^\circ$ , which is considered the "standard location."



The astronaut's weight is diminished since she is far removed from the gravitational field of the earth. (© NikoNomad/Shutterstock)

## 1.3 The International System of Units

The four basic quantities—length, time, mass, and force—are not all independent from one another; in fact, they are *related* by Newton's second law of motion,  $\mathbf{F} = m\mathbf{a}$ . Because of this, the *units* used to measure these quantities cannot *all* be selected arbitrarily. The equality  $\mathbf{F} = m\mathbf{a}$  is maintained only if three of the four units, called **base units**, are *defined* and the fourth unit is then *derived* from the equation.

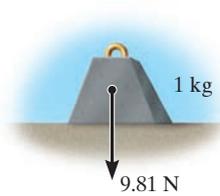


Fig. 1-2

The International System of units, abbreviated SI after the French *Système International d'Unités*, is a modern version of the metric system which has received worldwide recognition. As shown in Table 1-1, this system defines length in meters (m), time in seconds (s), and mass in kilograms (kg). The unit of force, called a **newton** (N), is *derived* from  $\mathbf{F} = ma$ . Thus, 1 newton is equal to a force required to give 1 kilogram of mass an acceleration of  $1 \text{ m/s}^2$  ( $\text{N} = \text{kg} \cdot \text{m/s}^2$ ).

If the weight of a body located at the “standard location” is to be determined in newtons, then Eq. 1-3 must be applied. Here measurements give  $g = 9.806 \text{ 65 m/s}^2$ ; however, for calculations, the value  $g = 9.81 \text{ m/s}^2$  will be used. Thus,

$$W = mg \quad (g = 9.81 \text{ m/s}^2) \quad (1-4)$$

Therefore, a body of mass 1 kg has a weight of 9.81 N, a 2-kg body weighs 19.62 N, and so on, Fig. 1-2.

TABLE 1-1 International System of Units

Quantity	Length	Time	Mass	Force
SI Units	meter	second	kilogram	newton*
	m	s	kg	$\frac{\text{N}}{\left(\frac{\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}}{\text{s}^2}\right)}$
*Derived unit.				

**Prefixes.** When a numerical quantity is either very large or very small, the SI units used to define its size may be modified by using a prefix. Some of these prefixes used are shown in Table 1-2. Each represents a multiple or submultiple of a unit which, if applied successively, moves the decimal point of a numerical quantity to every third place.\* For example,  $4 \text{ 000 000 N} = 4 \text{ 000 kN}$  (kilo-newton)  $= 4 \text{ MN}$  (mega-newton), or  $0.005 \text{ m} = 5 \text{ mm}$  (milli-meter). Notice that the SI system does not include the multiple deca (10) or the submultiple centi (0.01), which form part of the metric system. Except for some volume and area measurements, the use of these prefixes is to be avoided in science and engineering.

TABLE 1–2 Prefixes

	Exponential Form	Prefix	SI Symbol
<i>Multiple</i>			
1 000 000 000	$10^9$	giga	G
1 000 000	$10^6$	mega	M
1 000	$10^3$	kilo	k
<i>Submultiple</i>			
0.001	$10^{-3}$	milli	m
0.000 001	$10^{-6}$	micro	$\mu$
0.000 000 001	$10^{-9}$	nano	n

\*The kilogram is the only base unit that is defined with a prefix.

**Rules for Use.** Here are a few of the important rules that describe the proper use of the various SI symbols:

- Quantities defined by several units which are multiples of one another are separated by a *dot* to avoid confusion with prefix notation, as indicated by  $N = \text{kg} \cdot \text{m}/\text{s}^2 = \text{kg} \cdot \text{m} \cdot \text{s}^{-2}$ . Also,  $\text{m} \cdot \text{s}$  (meter-second), whereas  $\text{ms}$  (milli-second).
- The exponential power on a unit having a prefix refers to both the unit *and* its prefix. For example,  $\mu\text{N}^2 = (\mu\text{N})^2 = \mu\text{N} \cdot \mu\text{N}$ . Likewise,  $\text{mm}^2$  represents  $(\text{mm})^2 = \text{mm} \cdot \text{mm}$ .
- With the exception of the base unit the kilogram, in general avoid the use of a prefix in the denominator of composite units. For example, do not write  $\text{N}/\text{mm}$ , but rather  $\text{kN}/\text{m}$ ; also,  $\text{m}/\text{mg}$  should be written as  $\text{Mm}/\text{kg}$ .
- When performing calculations, represent the numbers in terms of their *base or derived units* by converting all prefixes to powers of 10. The final result should then be expressed using a *single prefix*. Also, after calculation, it is best to keep numerical values between 0.1 and 1000; otherwise, a suitable prefix should be chosen. For example,

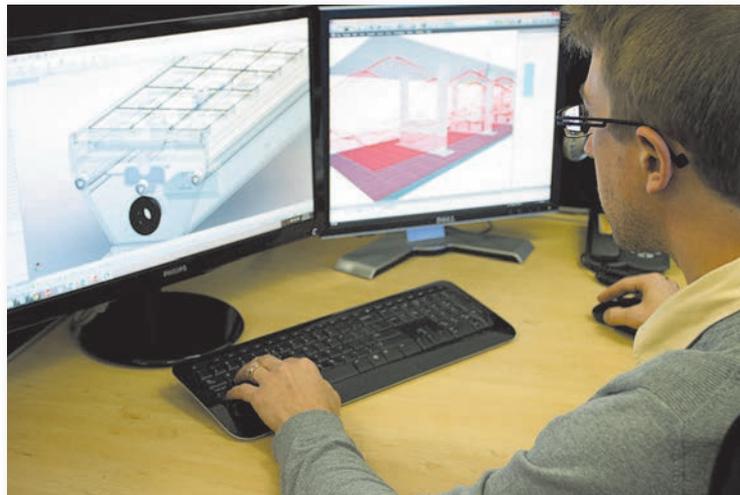
$$\begin{aligned} (50 \text{ kN})(60 \text{ nm}) &= [50(10^3) \text{ N}][60(10^{-9}) \text{ m}] \\ &= 3000(10^{-6}) \text{ N} \cdot \text{m} = 3(10^{-3}) \text{ N} \cdot \text{m} = 3 \text{ mN} \cdot \text{m} \end{aligned}$$

## 1.4 Numerical Calculations

Numerical work in engineering practice is most often performed by using handheld calculators and computers. It is important, however, that the answers to any problem be reported with justifiable accuracy using appropriate significant figures. In this section we will discuss these topics together with some other important aspects involved in all engineering calculations.

**Dimensional Homogeneity.** The terms of any equation used to describe a physical process must be *dimensionally homogeneous*; that is, each term must be expressed in the same units. Provided this is the case, all the terms of an equation can then be combined if numerical values are substituted for the variables. Consider, for example, the equation  $s = vt + \frac{1}{2}at^2$ , where, in SI units,  $s$  is the position in meters,  $m$ ,  $t$  is time in seconds,  $s$ ,  $v$  is velocity in  $m/s$  and  $a$  is acceleration in  $m/s^2$ . Regardless of how this equation is evaluated, it maintains its dimensional homogeneity. In the form stated, each of the three terms is expressed in meters  $[m, (m/s)s, (m/s^2)s^2]$  or solving for  $a$ ,  $a = 2s/t^2 - 2v/t$ , the terms are each expressed in units of  $m/s^2$   $[m/s^2, m/s^2, (m/s)/s]$ .

Keep in mind that problems in mechanics always involve the solution of dimensionally homogeneous equations, and so this fact can then be used as a partial check for algebraic manipulations of an equation.



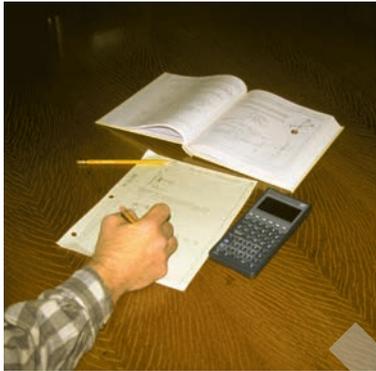
Computers are often used in engineering for advanced design and analysis. (© Blaize Pascall/Alamy)

**Significant Figures.** The number of significant figures contained in any number determines the accuracy of the number. For instance, the number 4981 contains four significant figures. However, if zeros occur at the end of a whole number, it may be unclear as to how many significant figures the number represents. For example, 23 400 might have three (234), four (2340), or five (23 400) significant figures. To avoid these ambiguities, we will use *engineering notation* to report a result. This requires that numbers be rounded off to the appropriate number of significant digits and then expressed in multiples of  $(10^3)$ , such as  $(10^3)$ ,  $(10^6)$ , or  $(10^{-9})$ . For instance, if 23 400 has five significant figures, it is written as  $23.400(10^3)$ , but if it has only three significant figures, it is written as  $23.4(10^3)$ .

If zeros occur at the beginning of a number that is less than one, then the zeros are not significant. For example, 0.008 21 has three significant figures. Using engineering notation, this number is expressed as  $8.21(10^{-3})$ . Likewise, 0.000 582 can be expressed as  $0.582(10^{-3})$  or  $582(10^{-6})$ .

**Rounding Off Numbers.** Rounding off a number is necessary so that the accuracy of the result will be the same as that of the problem data. As a general rule, any numerical figure ending in a number greater than five is rounded up and a number less than five is not rounded up. The rules for rounding off numbers are best illustrated by examples. Suppose the number 3.5587 is to be rounded off to *three* significant figures. Because the fourth digit (8) is *greater than 5*, the third number is rounded up to 3.56. Likewise 0.5896 becomes 0.590 and 9.3866 becomes 9.39. If we round off 1.341 to three significant figures, because the fourth digit (1) is *less than 5*, then we get 1.34. Likewise 0.3762 becomes 0.376 and 9.871 becomes 9.87. There is a special case for any number that ends in a 5. As a general rule, if the digit preceding the 5 is an *even number*, then this digit is *not* rounded up. If the digit preceding the 5 is an *odd number*, then it is rounded up. For example, 75.25 rounded off to three significant digits becomes 75.2, 0.1275 becomes 0.128, and 0.2555 becomes 0.256.

**Calculations.** When a sequence of calculations is performed, it is best to store the intermediate results in the calculator. In other words, do not round off calculations until expressing the final result. This procedure maintains precision throughout the series of steps to the final solution. In this text we will generally round off the answers to three significant figures since most of the data in engineering mechanics, such as geometry and loads, may be reliably measured to this accuracy.



When solving problems, do the work as neatly as possible. Being neat will stimulate clear and orderly thinking, and vice versa.

## 1.5 General Procedure for Analysis

Attending a lecture, reading this book, and studying the example problems helps, but **the most effective way of learning the principles of engineering mechanics is to solve problems**. To be successful at this, it is important to always present the work in a *logical* and *orderly manner*, as suggested by the following sequence of steps:

- Read the problem carefully and try to correlate the actual physical situation with the theory studied.
- Tabulate the problem data and *draw to a large scale* any necessary diagrams.
- Apply the relevant principles, generally in mathematical form. When writing any equations, be sure they are dimensionally homogeneous.
- Solve the necessary equations, and report the answer with no more than three significant figures.
- Study the answer with technical judgment and common sense to determine whether or not it seems reasonable.

### Important Points

- Statics is the study of bodies that are at rest or move with constant velocity.
- A particle has a mass but a size that can be neglected, and a rigid body does not deform under load.
- A force is considered as a “push” or “pull” of one body on another.
- Concentrated forces are assumed to act at a point on a body.
- Newton’s three laws of motion should be memorized.
- Mass is measure of a quantity of matter that does not change from one location to another. Weight refers to the gravitational attraction of the earth on a body or quantity of mass. Its magnitude depends upon the elevation at which the mass is located.
- In the SI system the unit of force, the newton, is a derived unit. The meter, second, and kilogram are base units.
- Prefixes G, M, k, m,  $\mu$ , and n are used to represent large and small numerical quantities. Their exponential size should be known, along with the rules for using the SI units.
- Perform numerical calculations with several significant figures, and then report the final answer to three significant figures.
- Algebraic manipulations of an equation can be checked in part by verifying that the equation remains dimensionally homogeneous.
- Know the rules for rounding off numbers.

**EXAMPLE 1.1**

Convert 100 km/h to m/s and 24 m/s to km/h.

**SOLUTION**

Since 1 km = 1000 m and 1 h = 3600 s, the factors of conversion are arranged in the following order, so that a cancellation of the units can be applied:

$$\begin{aligned} 100 \text{ km/h} &= \frac{100 \text{ km}}{\text{h}} \left( \frac{1000 \text{ m}}{\text{km}} \right) \left( \frac{1 \text{ h}}{3600 \text{ s}} \right) \\ &= \frac{100(10^3) \text{ m}}{3600 \text{ s}} = 27.8 \text{ m/s} \quad \text{Ans.} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 24 \text{ m/s} &= \left( \frac{24 \text{ m}}{\text{s}} \right) \left( \frac{1 \text{ km}}{1000 \text{ m}} \right) \left( \frac{3600 \text{ s}}{1 \text{ h}} \right) \\ &= \frac{86.4 (10^3) \text{ km}}{1000 \text{ h}} = 86.4 \text{ km/h} \quad \text{Ans.} \end{aligned}$$

**NOTE:** Remember to round off the final answer to three significant figures.

**EXAMPLE 1.2**

Convert the density of steel 7.85 g/cm<sup>3</sup> to kg/m<sup>3</sup>.

**SOLUTION**

Using 1 kg = 1000 g and 1 m = 100 cm, and arrange the conversion factor in such a way that g and cm<sup>3</sup> can be canceled out.

$$\begin{aligned} 7.85 \text{ g/cm}^3 &= \left( \frac{7.85 \text{ g}}{\text{cm}^3} \right) \left( \frac{1 \text{ kg}}{1000 \text{ g}} \right) \left( \frac{100 \text{ cm}}{1 \text{ m}} \right)^3 \\ &= \left( \frac{7.85 \text{ g}}{\text{cm}^3} \right) \left( \frac{1 \text{ kg}}{1000 \text{ g}} \right) \left( \frac{100^3 \text{ cm}^3}{1 \text{ m}^3} \right) \\ &= 7.85(10^3) \text{ kg/m}^3 \quad \text{Ans.} \end{aligned}$$

## EXAMPLE 1.3

Evaluate each of the following and express with SI units having an appropriate prefix: (a)  $(50 \text{ mN})(6 \text{ GN})$ , (b)  $(400 \text{ mm})(0.6 \text{ MN})^2$ , (c)  $45 \text{ MN}^3/900 \text{ Gg}$ .

**SOLUTION**

First convert each number to base units, perform the indicated operations, then choose an appropriate prefix.

**Part (a)**

$$\begin{aligned} (50 \text{ mN})(6 \text{ GN}) &= [50(10^{-3}) \text{ N}][6(10^9) \text{ N}] \\ &= 300(10^6) \text{ N}^2 \\ &= 300(10^6) \text{ N}^2 \left( \frac{1 \text{ kN}}{10^3 \text{ N}} \right) \left( \frac{1 \text{ kN}}{10^3 \text{ N}} \right) \\ &= 300 \text{ kN}^2 \end{aligned} \quad \text{Ans.}$$

**NOTE:** Keep in mind the convention  $\text{kN}^2 = (\text{kN})^2 = 10^6 \text{ N}^2$ .

**Part (b)**

$$\begin{aligned} (400 \text{ mm})(0.6 \text{ MN})^2 &= [400(10^{-3}) \text{ m}][0.6(10^6) \text{ N}]^2 \\ &= [400(10^{-3}) \text{ m}][0.36(10^{12}) \text{ N}^2] \\ &= 144(10^9) \text{ m} \cdot \text{N}^2 \\ &= 144 \text{ Gm} \cdot \text{N}^2 \end{aligned} \quad \text{Ans.}$$

We can also write

$$\begin{aligned} 144(10^9) \text{ m} \cdot \text{N}^2 &= 144(10^9) \text{ m} \cdot \text{N}^2 \left( \frac{1 \text{ MN}}{10^6 \text{ N}} \right) \left( \frac{1 \text{ MN}}{10^6 \text{ N}} \right) \\ &= 0.144 \text{ m} \cdot \text{MN}^2 \end{aligned} \quad \text{Ans.}$$

**Part (c)**

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{45 \text{ MN}^3}{900 \text{ Gg}} &= \frac{45(10^6 \text{ N})^3}{900(10^6) \text{ kg}} \\ &= 50(10^9) \text{ N}^3/\text{kg} \\ &= 50(10^9) \text{ N}^3 \left( \frac{1 \text{ kN}}{10^3 \text{ N}} \right)^3 \frac{1}{\text{kg}} \\ &= 50 \text{ kN}^3/\text{kg} \end{aligned} \quad \text{Ans.}$$

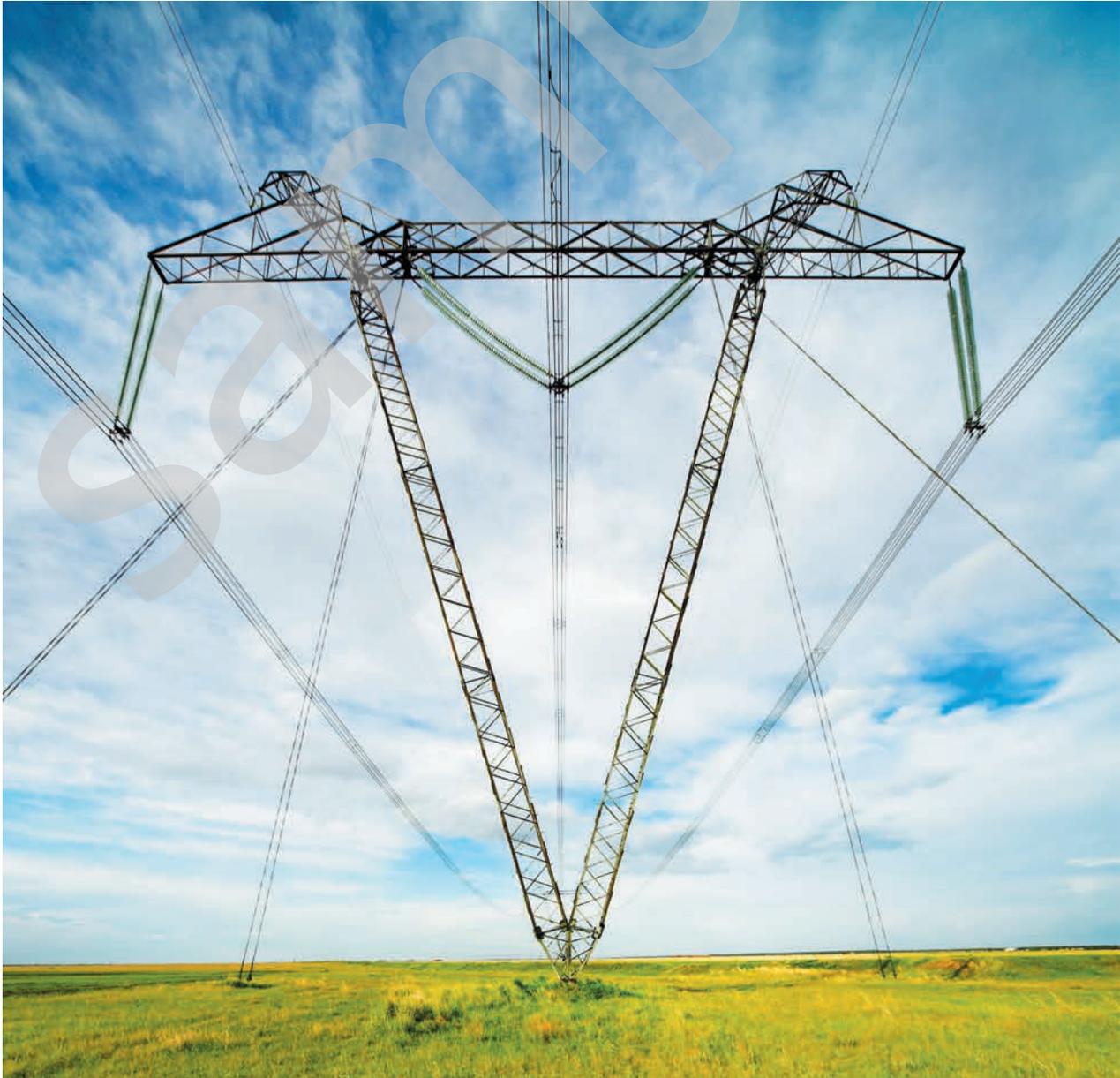
## PROBLEMS

1

*The answers to all but every fourth problem (asterisk) are given in the back of the book.*

- 1-1.** Evaluate each of the following and express with an appropriate prefix: (a)  $(430 \text{ kg})^2$ , (b)  $(0.002 \text{ mg})^2$ , and (c)  $(230 \text{ m})^3$ .
- 1-2.** Represent each of the following combinations of units in the correct SI form: (a) Mg/ms, (b) N/mm, (c) mN/(kg · μs).
- 1-3.** What is the weight in newtons of an object that has a mass of (a) 8 kg, (b) 0.04 kg, and (c) 760 Mg?
- \*1-4.** Represent each of the following combinations of units in the correct SI form: (a) kN/μs, (b) Mg/mN, and (c) MN/(kg · μs).
- 1-5.** Represent each of the following quantities in the correct SI form using an appropriate prefix: (a) 0.000 431 kg, (b)  $35.3(10^3) \text{ N}$ , (c) 0.005 32 km.
- 1-6.** Represent each of the following combinations of units in the correct SI form using an appropriate prefix: (a) m/ms, (b) μkm, (c) ks/mg, and (d) km · μN.
- 1-7.** Represent each of the following as a number between 0.1 and 1000 using an appropriate prefix: (a) 45 320 kN, (b)  $568(10^5) \text{ mm}$ , and (c) 0.00563 mg.
- \*1-8.** Represent each of the following combinations of units in the correct SI form: (a) GN · μm, (b) kg/μm, (c) N/ks<sup>2</sup>, and (d) kN/μs.
- 1-9.** Represent each of the following combinations of units in the correct SI form using an appropriate prefix: (a) Mg/mm, (b) mN/μs, (c) μm · Mg.
- 1-10.** Represent each of the following with SI units having an appropriate prefix: (a) 8653 ms, (b) 8368 N, (c) 0.893 kg.
- 1-11.** Using the SI system of units, show that Eq. 1-2 is a dimensionally homogeneous equation which gives  $F$  in newtons. Determine to three significant figures the gravitational force acting between two spheres that are touching each other. The mass of each sphere is 200 kg and the radius is 300 mm.
- \*1-12.** Round off the following numbers to three significant figures: (a) 58 342 m, (b) 68.534 s, (c) 2553 N, and (d) 7555 kg.
- 1-13.** A rocket has a mass  $3.529(10^6) \text{ kg}$  on earth. Specify (a) its mass in SI units, and (b) its weight in SI units. If the rocket is on the moon, where the acceleration due to gravity is  $g_m = 1.61 \text{ m/s}^2$ , determine to three significant figures (c) its weight in SI units, and (d) its mass in SI units.
- 1-14.** Evaluate each of the following to three significant figures and express each answer in SI units using an appropriate prefix: (a)  $354 \text{ mg} (45 \text{ km}) / (0.0356 \text{ kN})$ , (b)  $(0.004 53 \text{ Mg}) (201 \text{ ms})$ , (c)  $435 \text{ MN} / 23.2 \text{ mm}$ .
- 1-15.** Evaluate each of the following to three significant figures and express each answer in SI units using an appropriate prefix: (a)  $(212 \text{ mN})^2$ , (b)  $(52 800 \text{ ms})^2$ , and (c)  $[548(10^6)]^{1/2} \text{ ms}$ .
- \*1-16.** Evaluate each of the following to three significant figures and express each answer in SI units using an appropriate prefix: (a)  $(684 \mu\text{m}) / (43 \text{ ms})$ , (b)  $(28 \text{ ms})(0.0458 \text{ Mm}) / (348 \text{ mg})$ , (c)  $(2.68 \text{ mm})(426 \text{ Mg})$ .
- 1-17.** A concrete column has a diameter of 350 mm and a length of 2 m. If the density (mass/volume) of concrete is  $2.45 \text{ Mg/m}^3$ , determine the weight of the column.
- 1-18.** Determine the mass of an object that has a weight of (a) 20 mN, (b) 150 kN, (c) 60 MN. Express the answer to three significant figures.
- 1-19.** If a man weighs 690 newtons on earth, specify (a) his mass in kilograms. If the man is on the moon, where the acceleration due to gravity is  $g_m = 1.61 \text{ m/s}^2$ , determine (b) his weight in newtons, and (c) his mass in kilograms.
- \*1-20.** Evaluate each of the following to three significant figures and express each answer in SI units using an appropriate prefix: (a)  $(200 \text{ kN})^2$ , (b)  $(0.005 \text{ mm})^2$ , and (c)  $(400 \text{ m})^3$ .
- 1-21.** Two particles have a mass of 8 kg and 12 kg, respectively. If they are 800 mm apart, determine the force of gravity acting between them. Compare this result with the weight of each particle.

# Chapter 2



(© Vasily Koval/Fotolia)

This electric transmission tower is stabilized by cables that exert forces on the tower at their points of connection. In this chapter we will show how to express these forces as Cartesian vectors, and then determine their resultant.

# Force Vectors

## CHAPTER OBJECTIVES

- To show how to add forces and resolve them into components using the Parallelogram Law.
- To express force and position in Cartesian vector form and explain how to determine the vector's magnitude and direction.
- To introduce the dot product in order to use it to find the angle between two vectors or the projection of one vector onto another.



Video Solutions are available for selected questions in this chapter.

## 2.1 Scalars and Vectors

Many physical quantities in engineering mechanics are measured using either scalars or vectors.

**Scalar.** A *scalar* is any positive or negative physical quantity that can be completely specified by its *magnitude*. Examples of scalar quantities include length, mass, and time.

**Vector.** A *vector* is any physical quantity that requires both a *magnitude* and a *direction* for its complete description. Examples of vectors encountered in statics are force, position, and moment. A vector is shown graphically by an arrow. The length of the arrow represents the *magnitude* of the vector, and the angle  $\theta$  between the vector and a fixed axis defines the *direction of its line of action*. The head or tip of the arrow indicates the *sense of direction* of the vector, Fig. 2-1.

In print, vector quantities are represented by boldface letters such as  $\mathbf{A}$ , and the magnitude of a vector is italicized,  $A$ . For handwritten work, it is often convenient to denote a vector quantity by simply drawing an arrow above it,  $\vec{A}$ .

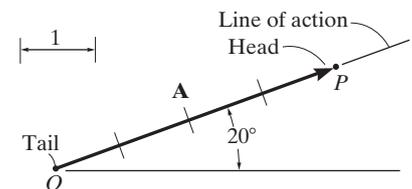
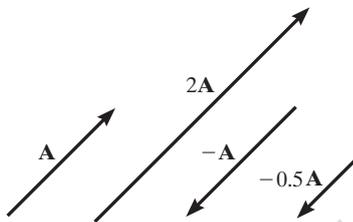


Fig. 2-1



Scalar multiplication and division

Fig. 2-2

## 2.2 Vector Operations

**Multiplication and Division of a Vector by a Scalar.** If a vector is multiplied by a positive scalar, its magnitude is increased by that amount. Multiplying by a negative scalar will also change the directional sense of the vector. Graphic examples of these operations are shown in Fig. 2-2.

**Vector Addition.** When adding two vectors together it is important to account for both their magnitudes and their directions. To do this we must use the *parallelogram law of addition*. To illustrate, the two *component vectors*  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$  in Fig. 2-3a are added to form a *resultant vector*  $\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B}$  using the following procedure:

- First join the tails of the components at a point to make them concurrent, Fig. 2-3b.
- From the head of  $\mathbf{B}$ , draw a line parallel to  $\mathbf{A}$ . Draw another line from the head of  $\mathbf{A}$  that is parallel to  $\mathbf{B}$ . These two lines intersect at point  $P$  to form the adjacent sides of a parallelogram.
- The diagonal of this parallelogram that extends to  $P$  forms  $\mathbf{R}$ , which then represents the resultant vector  $\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B}$ , Fig. 2-3c.

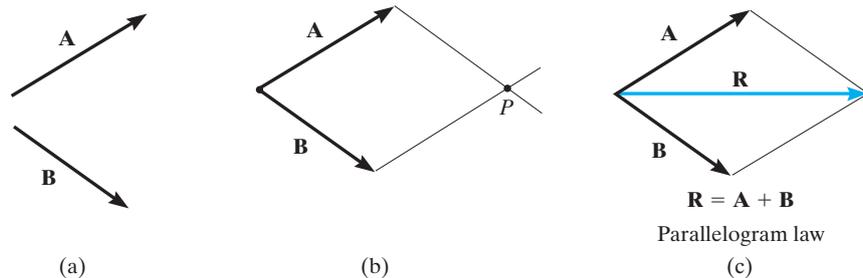


Fig. 2-3

We can also add  $\mathbf{B}$  to  $\mathbf{A}$ , Fig. 2-4a, using the *triangle rule*, which is a special case of the parallelogram law, whereby vector  $\mathbf{B}$  is added to vector  $\mathbf{A}$  in a “head-to-tail” fashion, i.e., by connecting the head of  $\mathbf{A}$  to the tail of  $\mathbf{B}$ , Fig. 2-4b. The resultant  $\mathbf{R}$  extends from the tail of  $\mathbf{A}$  to the head of  $\mathbf{B}$ . In a similar manner,  $\mathbf{R}$  can also be obtained by adding  $\mathbf{A}$  to  $\mathbf{B}$ , Fig. 2-4c. By comparison, it is seen that vector addition is commutative; in other words, the vectors can be added in either order, i.e.,  $\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{A}$ .

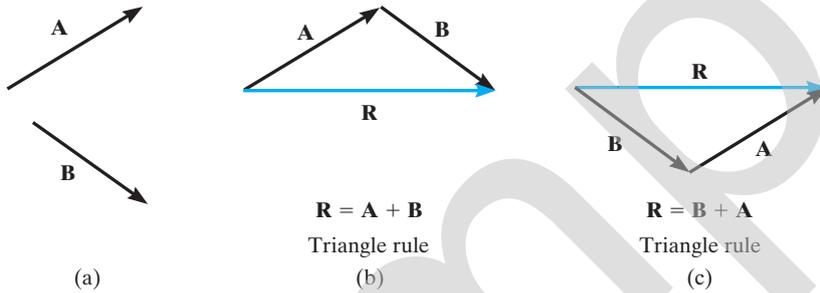
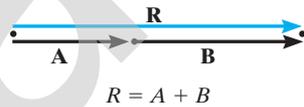


Fig. 2-4

As a special case, if the two vectors  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$  are *collinear*, i.e., both have the same line of action, the parallelogram law reduces to an *algebraic* or *scalar addition*  $R = A + B$ , as shown in Fig. 2-5.



Addition of collinear vectors

Fig. 2-5

**Vector Subtraction.** The resultant of the *difference* between two vectors  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$  of the same type may be expressed as

$$\mathbf{R}' = \mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{A} + (-\mathbf{B})$$

This vector sum is shown graphically in Fig. 2-6. Subtraction is therefore defined as a special case of addition, so the rules of vector addition also apply to vector subtraction.

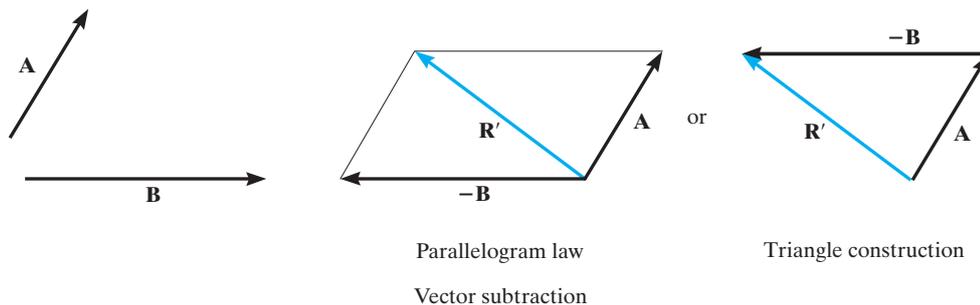
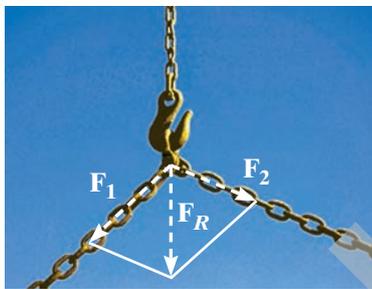


Fig. 2-6

## 2.3 Vector Addition of Forces



The parallelogram law must be used to determine the resultant of the two forces acting on the hook.

Experimental evidence has shown that a force is a vector quantity since it has a specified magnitude, direction, and sense and it adds according to the parallelogram law. Two common problems in statics involve either finding the resultant force, knowing its components, or resolving a known force into two components. We will now describe how each of these problems is solved using the parallelogram law.

**Finding a Resultant Force.** The two component forces  $\mathbf{F}_1$  and  $\mathbf{F}_2$  acting on the pin in Fig. 2-7a can be added together to form the resultant force  $\mathbf{F}_R = \mathbf{F}_1 + \mathbf{F}_2$ , as shown in Fig. 2-7b. From this construction, or using the triangle rule, Fig. 2-7c, we can apply the law of cosines or the law of sines to the triangle in order to obtain the magnitude of the resultant force and its direction.

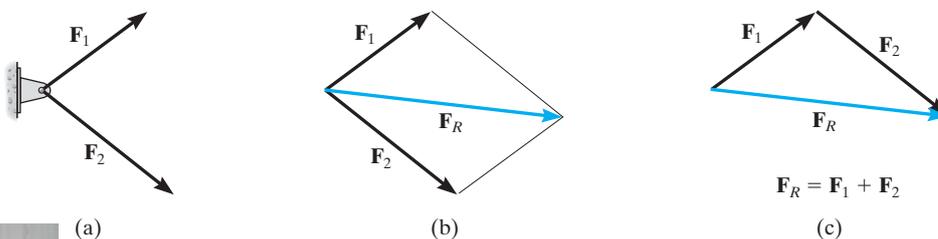


Fig. 2-7



Using the parallelogram law the supporting force  $\mathbf{F}$  can be resolved into components acting along the  $u$  and  $v$  axes.

**Finding the Components of a Force.** Sometimes it is necessary to resolve a force into two *components* in order to study its pulling or pushing effect in two specific directions. For example, in Fig. 2-8a,  $\mathbf{F}$  is to be resolved into two components along the two members, defined by the  $u$  and  $v$  axes. In order to determine the magnitude of each component, a parallelogram is constructed first, by drawing lines starting from the tip of  $\mathbf{F}$ , one line parallel to  $u$ , and the other line parallel to  $v$ . These lines then intersect with the  $v$  and  $u$  axes, forming a parallelogram. The force components  $\mathbf{F}_u$  and  $\mathbf{F}_v$  are then established by simply joining the tail of  $\mathbf{F}$  to the intersection points on the  $u$  and  $v$  axes, Fig. 2-8b. This parallelogram can then be reduced to a triangle, which represents the triangle rule, Fig. 2-8c. From this, the law of sines can then be applied to determine the unknown magnitudes of the components.

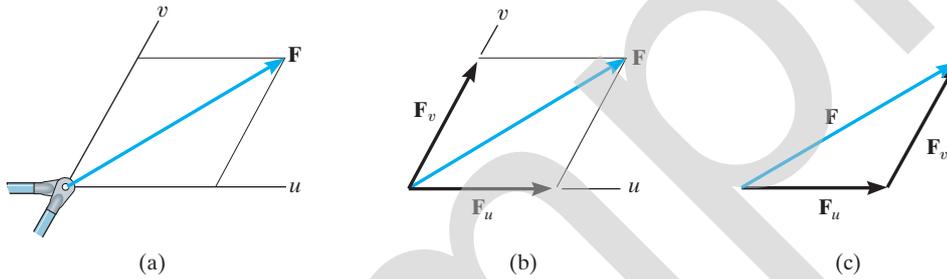


Fig. 2-8

**Addition of Several Forces.** If more than two forces are to be added, successive applications of the parallelogram law can be carried out in order to obtain the resultant force. For example, if three forces  $\mathbf{F}_1$ ,  $\mathbf{F}_2$ ,  $\mathbf{F}_3$  act at a point  $O$ , Fig. 2-9, the resultant of any two of the forces is found, say,  $\mathbf{F}_1 + \mathbf{F}_2$ —and then this resultant is added to the third force, yielding the resultant of all three forces; i.e.,  $\mathbf{F}_R = (\mathbf{F}_1 + \mathbf{F}_2) + \mathbf{F}_3$ . Using the parallelogram law to add more than two forces, as shown here, often requires extensive geometric and trigonometric calculation to determine the numerical values for the magnitude and direction of the resultant. Instead, problems of this type are easily solved by using the “rectangular-component method,” which is explained in Sec. 2.4.

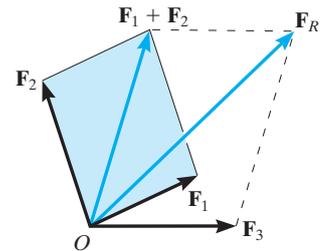
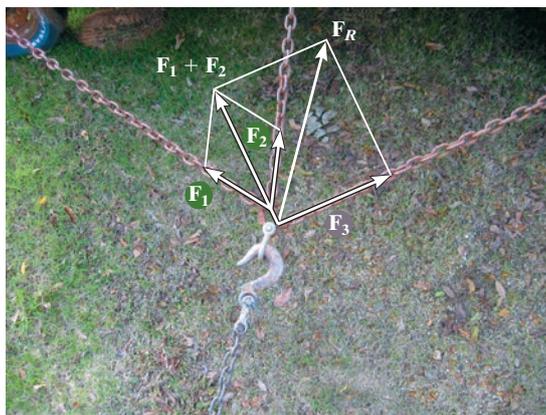


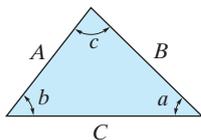
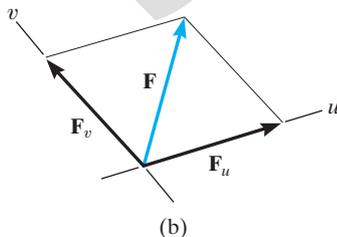
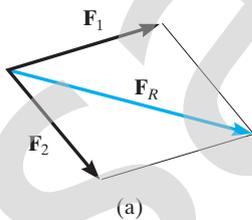
Fig. 2-9



The resultant force  $\mathbf{F}_R$  on the hook requires the addition of  $\mathbf{F}_1 + \mathbf{F}_2$ , then this resultant is added to  $\mathbf{F}_3$ .

## Important Points

- A scalar is a positive or negative number.
- A vector is a quantity that has a magnitude, direction, and sense.
- Multiplication or division of a vector by a scalar will change the magnitude of the vector. The sense of the vector will change if the scalar is negative.
- As a special case, if the vectors are collinear, the resultant is formed by an algebraic or scalar addition.



Cosine law:

$$C = \sqrt{A^2 + B^2 - 2AB \cos c}$$

Sine law:

$$\frac{A}{\sin a} = \frac{B}{\sin b} = \frac{C}{\sin c}$$

**Fig. 2-10**

## Procedure for Analysis

Problems that involve the addition of two forces can be solved as follows:

### Parallelogram Law.

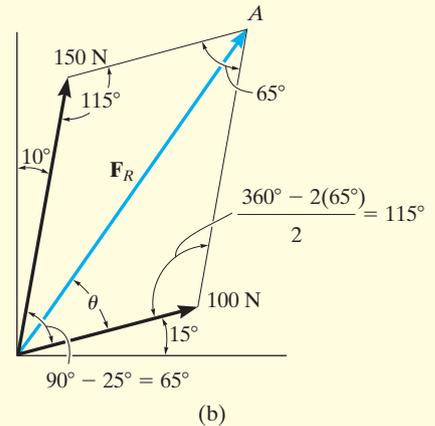
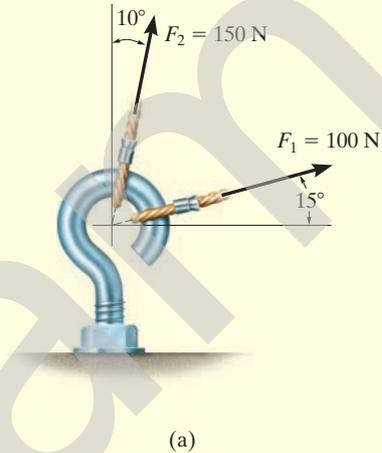
- Two “component” forces  $\mathbf{F}_1$  and  $\mathbf{F}_2$  in Fig. 2-10a add according to the parallelogram law, yielding a *resultant* force  $\mathbf{F}_R$  that forms the diagonal of the parallelogram.
- If a force  $\mathbf{F}$  is to be resolved into *components* along two axes  $u$  and  $v$ , Fig. 2-10b, then start at the head of force  $\mathbf{F}$  and construct lines parallel to the axes, thereby forming the parallelogram. The sides of the parallelogram represent the components,  $\mathbf{F}_u$  and  $\mathbf{F}_v$ .
- Label all the known and unknown force magnitudes and the angles on the sketch and identify the two unknowns as the magnitude and direction of  $\mathbf{F}_R$ , or the magnitudes of its components.

### Trigonometry.

- Redraw a half portion of the parallelogram to illustrate the triangular head-to-tail addition of the components.
- From this triangle, the magnitude of the resultant force can be determined using the law of cosines, and its direction is determined from the law of sines. The magnitudes of two force components are determined from the law of sines. The formulas are given in Fig. 2-10c.

**EXAMPLE 2.1**

The screw eye in Fig. 2–11a is subjected to two forces,  $\mathbf{F}_1$  and  $\mathbf{F}_2$ . Determine the magnitude and direction of the resultant force.

**SOLUTION**

**Parallelogram Law.** The parallelogram is formed by drawing a line from the head of  $\mathbf{F}_1$  that is parallel to  $\mathbf{F}_2$ , and another line from the head of  $\mathbf{F}_2$  that is parallel to  $\mathbf{F}_1$ . The resultant force  $\mathbf{F}_R$  extends to where these lines intersect at point A, Fig. 2–11b. The two unknowns are the magnitude of  $\mathbf{F}_R$  and the angle  $\theta$  (theta).

**Trigonometry.** From the parallelogram, the vector triangle is constructed, Fig. 2–11c. Using the law of cosines

$$\begin{aligned} F_R &= \sqrt{(100 \text{ N})^2 + (150 \text{ N})^2 - 2(100 \text{ N})(150 \text{ N}) \cos 115^\circ} \\ &= \sqrt{10\,000 + 22\,500 - 30\,000(-0.4226)} = 212.6 \text{ N} \\ &= 213 \text{ N} \end{aligned}$$

*Ans.*

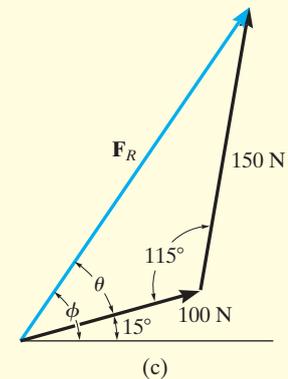
Applying the law of sines to determine  $\theta$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{150 \text{ N}}{\sin \theta} &= \frac{212.6 \text{ N}}{\sin 115^\circ} & \sin \theta &= \frac{150 \text{ N}}{212.6 \text{ N}} (\sin 115^\circ) \\ & & \theta &= 39.8^\circ \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the direction  $\phi$  (phi) of  $\mathbf{F}_R$ , measured from the horizontal, is

$$\phi = 39.8^\circ + 15.0^\circ = 54.8^\circ \quad \textit{Ans.}$$

**NOTE:** The results seem reasonable, since Fig. 2–11b shows  $\mathbf{F}_R$  to have a magnitude larger than its components and a direction that is between them.

**Fig. 2–11**

## EXAMPLE 2.2

Resolve the horizontal 600-N force in Fig. 2–12a into components acting along the  $u$  and  $v$  axes and determine the magnitudes of these components.

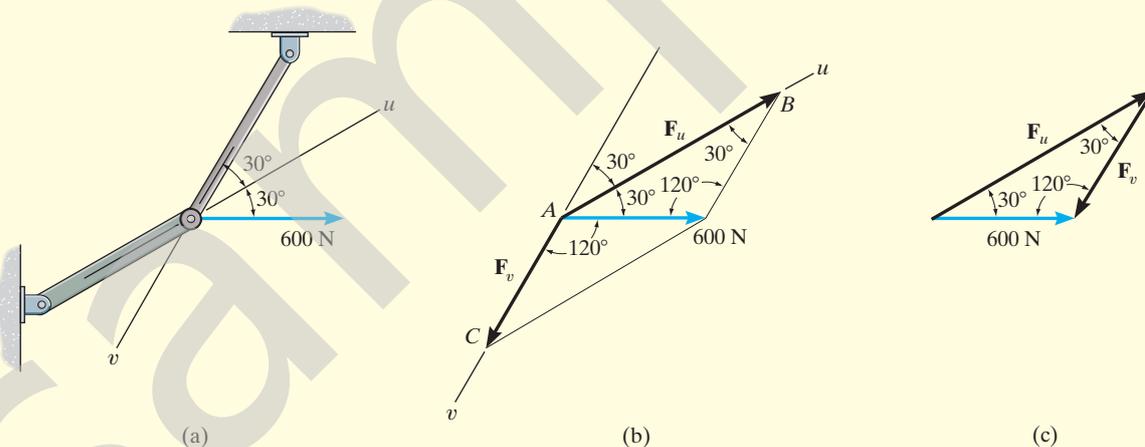


Fig. 2–12

## SOLUTION

The parallelogram is constructed by extending a line from the *head* of the 600-N force parallel to the  $v$  axis until it intersects the  $u$  axis at point  $B$ , Fig. 2–12b. The arrow from  $A$  to  $B$  represents  $F_u$ . Similarly, the line extended from the head of the 600-N force drawn parallel to the  $u$  axis intersects the  $v$  axis at point  $C$ , which gives  $F_v$ .

The vector addition using the triangle rule is shown in Fig. 2–12c. The two unknowns are the magnitudes of  $F_u$  and  $F_v$ . Applying the law of sines,

$$\frac{F_u}{\sin 120^\circ} = \frac{600 \text{ N}}{\sin 30^\circ}$$

$$F_u = 1039 \text{ N} \quad \text{Ans.}$$

$$\frac{F_v}{\sin 30^\circ} = \frac{600 \text{ N}}{\sin 30^\circ}$$

$$F_v = 600 \text{ N} \quad \text{Ans.}$$

**NOTE:** The result for  $F_u$  shows that sometimes a component can have a greater magnitude than the resultant.

## EXAMPLE 2.3

Determine the magnitude of the component force  $\mathbf{F}$  in Fig. 2-13a and the magnitude of the resultant force  $\mathbf{F}_R$  if  $\mathbf{F}_R$  is directed along the positive y axis.

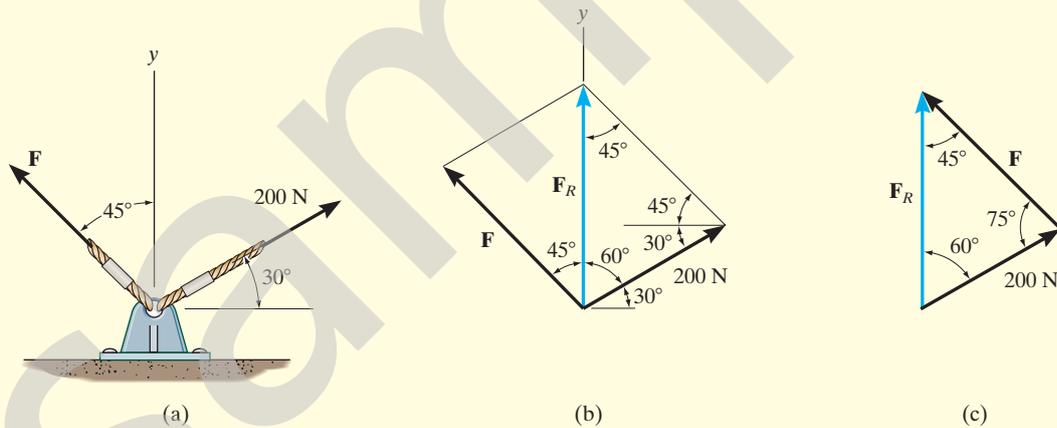


Fig. 2-13

## SOLUTION

The parallelogram law of addition is shown in Fig. 2-13b, and the triangle rule is shown in Fig. 2-13c. The magnitudes of  $\mathbf{F}_R$  and  $\mathbf{F}$  are the two unknowns. They can be determined by applying the law of sines.

$$\frac{F}{\sin 60^\circ} = \frac{200\text{ N}}{\sin 45^\circ}$$

$$F = 245\text{ N} \quad \text{Ans.}$$

$$\frac{F_R}{\sin 75^\circ} = \frac{200\text{ N}}{\sin 45^\circ}$$

$$F_R = 273\text{ N} \quad \text{Ans.}$$

## EXAMPLE 2.4

It is required that the resultant force acting on the eyebolt in Fig. 2-14a be directed along the positive  $x$  axis and that  $\mathbf{F}_2$  have a *minimum* magnitude. Determine this magnitude, the angle  $\theta$ , and the corresponding resultant force.

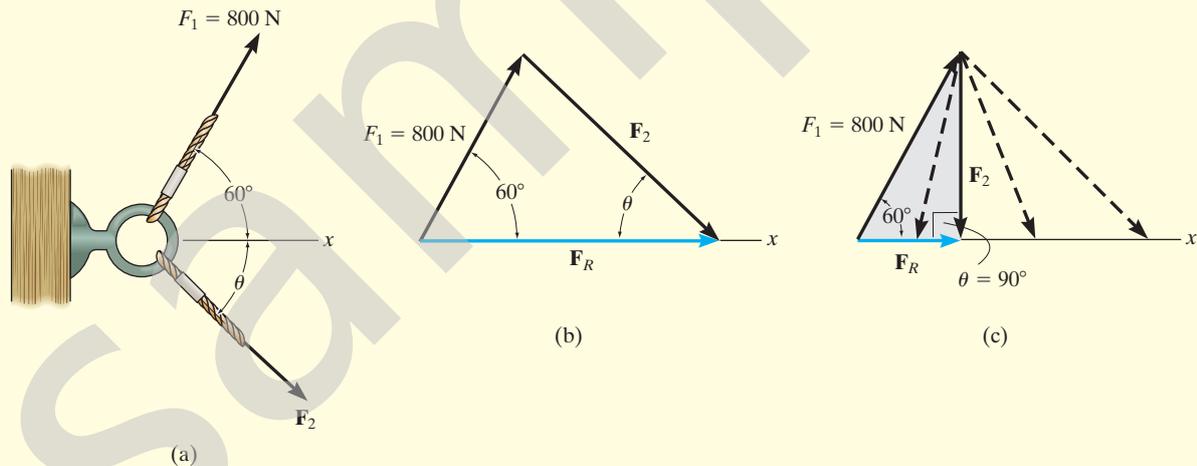


Fig. 2-14

## SOLUTION

The triangle rule for  $\mathbf{F}_R = \mathbf{F}_1 + \mathbf{F}_2$  is shown in Fig. 2-14b. Since the magnitudes (lengths) of  $\mathbf{F}_R$  and  $\mathbf{F}_2$  are not specified, then  $\mathbf{F}_2$  can actually be any vector that has its head touching the line of action of  $\mathbf{F}_R$ , Fig. 2-14c. However, as shown, the magnitude of  $\mathbf{F}_2$  is a *minimum* or the shortest length when its line of action is *perpendicular* to the line of action of  $\mathbf{F}_R$ , that is, when

$$\theta = 90^\circ \quad \text{Ans.}$$

Since the vector addition now forms the shaded right triangle, the two unknown magnitudes can be obtained by trigonometry.

$$F_R = (800\text{ N})\cos 60^\circ = 400\text{ N} \quad \text{Ans.}$$

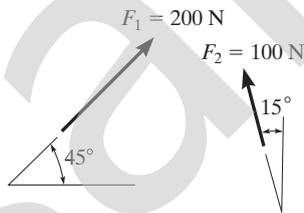
$$F_2 = (800\text{ N})\sin 60^\circ = 693\text{ N} \quad \text{Ans.}$$

**It is strongly suggested that you test yourself on the solutions to these examples, by covering them over and then trying to draw the parallelogram law, and thinking about how the sine and cosine laws are used to determine the unknowns. Then before solving any of the problems, try to solve the Preliminary Problems and some of the Fundamental Problems given on the next pages. The solutions and answers to these are given in the back of the book. Doing this throughout the book will help immensely in developing your problem-solving skills.**

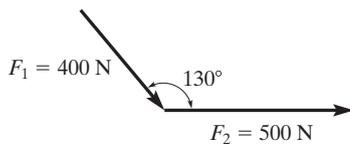
## PRELIMINARY PROBLEMS

*Partial solutions and answers to all Preliminary Problems are given in the back of the book.*

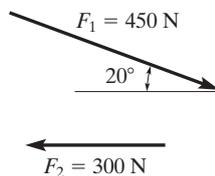
**P2-1.** In each case, construct the parallelogram law to show  $\mathbf{F}_R = \mathbf{F}_1 + \mathbf{F}_2$ . Then establish the triangle rule, where  $\mathbf{F}_R = \mathbf{F}_1 + \mathbf{F}_2$ . Label all known and unknown sides and internal angles.



(a)



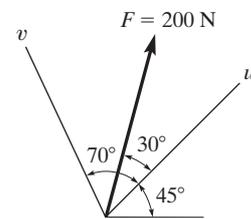
(b)



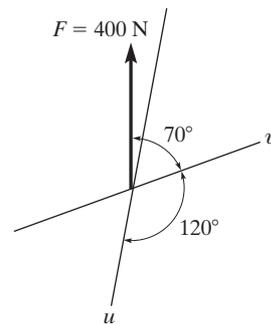
(c)

**Prob. P2-1**

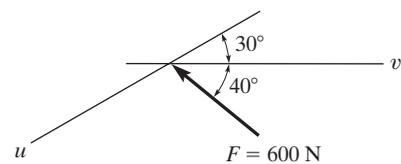
**P2-2.** In each case, show how to resolve the force  $\mathbf{F}$  into components acting along the  $u$  and  $v$  axes using the parallelogram law. Then establish the triangle rule to show  $\mathbf{F}_R = \mathbf{F}_u + \mathbf{F}_v$ . Label all known and unknown sides and interior angles.



(a)



(b)



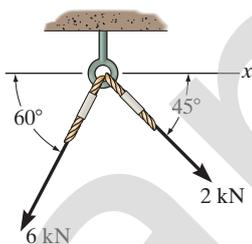
(c)

**Prob. P2-2**

## FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS

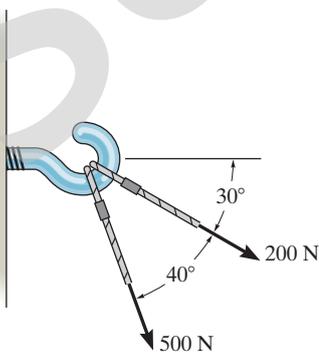
Partial solutions and answers to all Fundamental Problems are given in the back of the book.

**F2-1.** Determine the magnitude of the resultant force acting on the screw eye and its direction measured clockwise from the  $x$  axis.



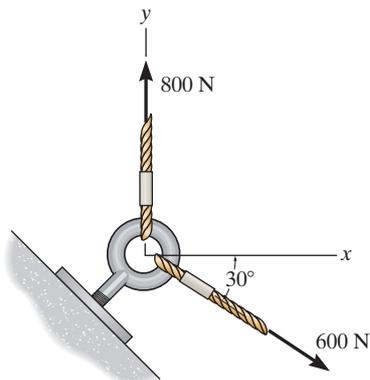
**Prob. F2-1**

**F2-2.** Two forces act on the hook. Determine the magnitude of the resultant force.



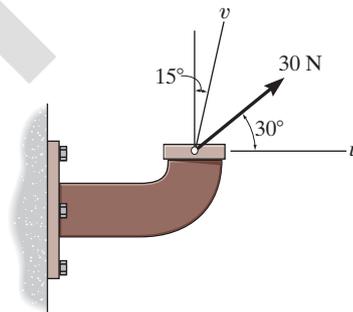
**Prob. F2-2**

**F2-3.** Determine the magnitude of the resultant force and its direction measured counterclockwise from the positive  $x$  axis.



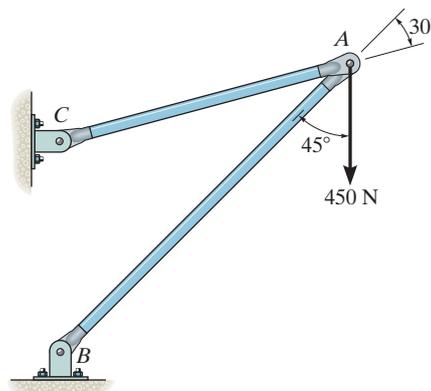
**Prob. F2-3**

**F2-4.** Resolve the 30-N force into components along the  $u$  and  $v$  axes, and determine the magnitude of each of these components.



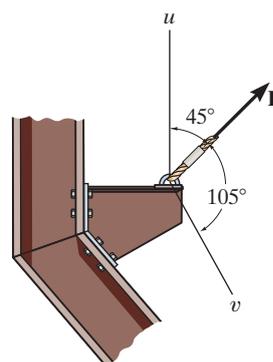
**Prob. F2-4**

**F2-5.** The force  $F = 450$  N acts on the frame. Resolve this force into components acting along members  $AB$  and  $AC$ , and determine the magnitude of each component.



**Prob. F2-5**

**F2-6.** If force  $\mathbf{F}$  is to have a component along the  $u$  axis of  $F_u = 6$  kN, determine the magnitude of  $\mathbf{F}$  and the magnitude of its component  $\mathbf{F}_v$  along the  $v$  axis.



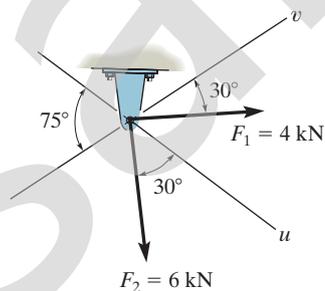
**Prob. F2-6**

## PROBLEMS

**2-1.** Determine the magnitude of the resultant force  $\mathbf{F}_R = \mathbf{F}_1 + \mathbf{F}_2$  and its direction, measured clockwise from the positive  $u$  axis.

**2-2.** Resolve the force  $\mathbf{F}_1$  into components acting along the  $u$  and  $v$  axes and determine the magnitudes of the components.

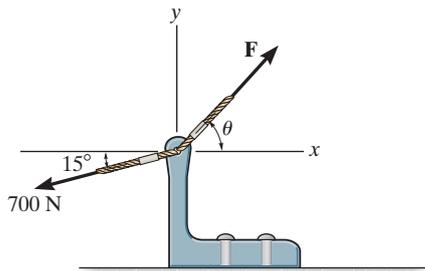
**2-3.** Resolve the force  $\mathbf{F}_2$  into components acting along the  $u$  and  $v$  axes and determine the magnitudes of the components.



**Probs. 2-1/2/3**

**\*2-4.** If  $\theta = 60^\circ$  and  $F = 450$  N, determine the magnitude of the resultant force and its direction, measured counterclockwise from the positive  $x$  axis.

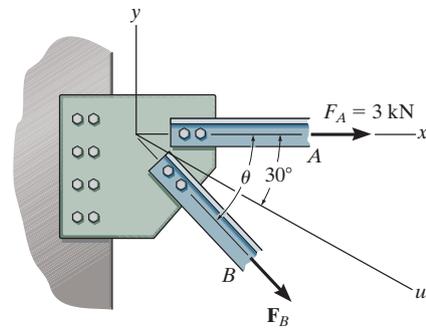
**2-5.** If the magnitude of the resultant force is to be 500 N, directed along the positive  $y$  axis, determine the magnitude of force  $\mathbf{F}$  and its direction  $\theta$ .



**Probs. 2-4/5**

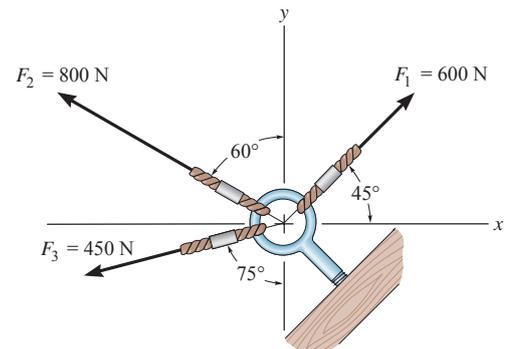
**2-6.** If  $F_B = 2$  kN and the resultant force acts along the positive  $u$  axis, determine the magnitude of the resultant force and the angle  $\theta$ .

**2-7.** If the resultant force is required to act along the positive  $u$  axis and have a magnitude of 5 kN, determine the required magnitude of  $\mathbf{F}_B$  and its direction  $\theta$ .



**Probs. 2-6/7**

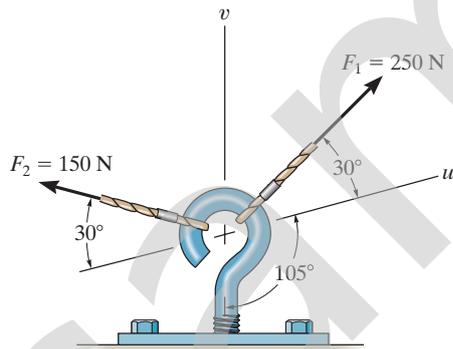
**\*2-8.** Determine the magnitude of the resultant force  $\mathbf{F}_R = \mathbf{F}_1 + \mathbf{F}_2$  and its direction, measured clockwise from the positive  $x$  axis.



**Prob. 2-8**

**2-9.** Resolve  $\mathbf{F}_1$  into components along the  $u$  and  $v$  axes and determine the magnitudes of these components.

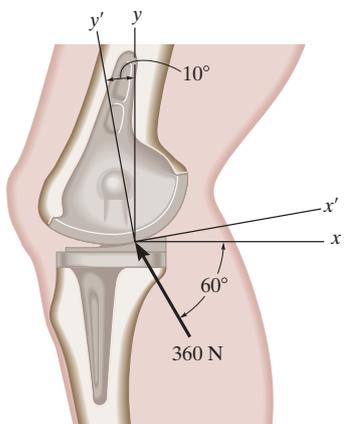
**2-10.** Resolve  $\mathbf{F}_2$  into components along the  $u$  and  $v$  axes and determine the magnitudes of these components



**Probs. 2-9/10**

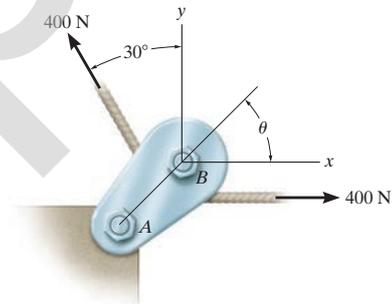
**2-11.** The device is used for surgical replacement of the knee joint. If the force acting along the leg is 360 N, determine its components along the  $x$  and  $y'$  axes.

**\*2-12.** The device is used for surgical replacement of the knee joint. If the force acting along the leg is 360 N, determine its components along the  $x'$  and  $y$  axes.



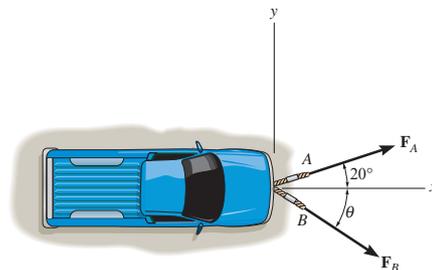
**Probs. 2-11/12**

**2-13.** If the tension in the cable is 400 N, determine the magnitude and direction of the resultant force acting on the pulley. This angle defines the same angle  $\theta$  of line  $AB$  on the tailboard block.



**Prob. 2-13**

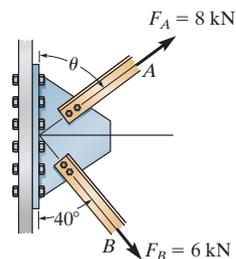
**2-14.** The truck is to be towed using two ropes. Determine the magnitude of forces  $\mathbf{F}_A$  and  $\mathbf{F}_B$  acting on each rope in order to develop a resultant force of 950 N directed along the positive  $x$  axis. Set  $\theta = 50^\circ$ .



**Prob. 2-14**

**2-15.** The plate is subjected to the two forces at  $A$  and  $B$  as shown. If  $\theta = 60^\circ$ , determine the magnitude of the resultant of these two forces and its direction measured clockwise from the horizontal.

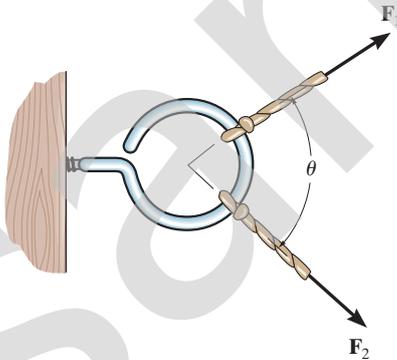
**\*2-16.** Determine the angle  $\theta$  for connecting member  $A$  to the plate so that the resultant force of  $\mathbf{F}_A$  and  $\mathbf{F}_B$  is directed horizontally to the right. Also, what is the magnitude of the resultant force?



**Probs. 2-15/16**

**2-17.** Two forces act on the screw eye. If  $F_1 = 400\text{ N}$  and  $F_2 = 600\text{ N}$ , determine the angle  $\theta$  ( $0^\circ \leq \theta \leq 180^\circ$ ) between them, so that the resultant force has a magnitude of  $F_R = 800\text{ N}$ .

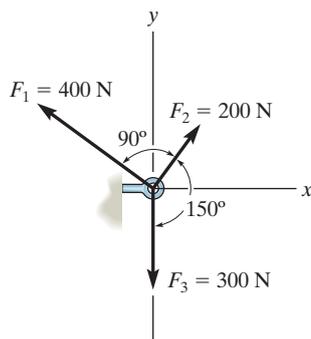
**2-18.** Two forces  $\mathbf{F}_1$  and  $\mathbf{F}_2$  act on the screw eye. If their lines of action are at an angle  $\theta$  apart and the magnitude of each force is  $F_1 = F_2 = F$ , determine the magnitude of the resultant force  $\mathbf{F}_R$  and the angle between  $\mathbf{F}_R$  and  $\mathbf{F}_1$ .



Probs. 2-17/18

**2-19.** Determine the magnitude and direction of the resultant force,  $\mathbf{F}_R$  measured counterclockwise from the positive  $x$  axis. Solve the problem by first finding the resultant  $\mathbf{F}' = \mathbf{F}_1 + \mathbf{F}_2$  and then forming  $\mathbf{F}_R = \mathbf{F}' + \mathbf{F}_3$ .

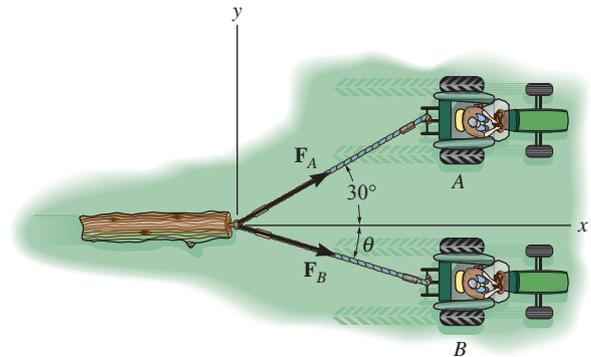
**\*2-20.** Determine the magnitude and direction of the resultant force,  $\mathbf{F}_R$  measured counterclockwise from the positive  $x$  axis. Solve the problem by first finding the resultant  $\mathbf{F}' = \mathbf{F}_2 + \mathbf{F}_3$  and then forming  $\mathbf{F}_R = \mathbf{F}' + \mathbf{F}_1$ .



Probs. 2-19/20

**2-21.** The log is being towed by two tractors  $A$  and  $B$ . Determine the magnitude of the two towing forces  $\mathbf{F}_A$  and  $\mathbf{F}_B$  if it is required that the resultant force have a magnitude  $F_R = 10\text{ kN}$  and be directed along the  $x$  axis. Set  $\theta = 15^\circ$ .

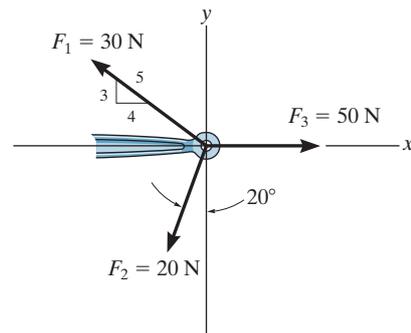
**2-22.** If the resultant  $\mathbf{F}_R$  of the two forces acting on the log is to be directed along the positive  $x$  axis and have a magnitude of  $10\text{ kN}$ , determine the angle  $\theta$  of the cable, attached to  $B$  such that the force  $\mathbf{F}_B$  in this cable is minimum. What is the magnitude of the force in each cable for this situation?



Probs. 2-21/22

**2-23.** Determine the magnitude and direction of the resultant  $\mathbf{F}_R = \mathbf{F}_1 + \mathbf{F}_2 + \mathbf{F}_3$  of the three forces by first finding the resultant  $\mathbf{F}' = \mathbf{F}_1 + \mathbf{F}_2$  and then forming  $\mathbf{F}_R = \mathbf{F}' + \mathbf{F}_3$ .

**\*2-24.** Determine the magnitude and direction of the resultant  $\mathbf{F}_R = \mathbf{F}_1 + \mathbf{F}_2 + \mathbf{F}_3$  of the three forces by first finding the resultant  $\mathbf{F}' = \mathbf{F}_2 + \mathbf{F}_3$  and then forming  $\mathbf{F}_R = \mathbf{F}' + \mathbf{F}_1$ .

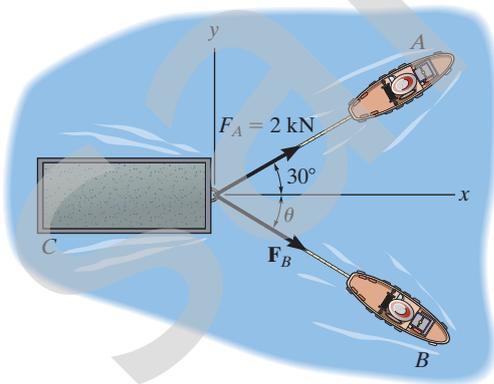


Probs. 2-23/24

**2-25.** If the resultant force of the two tugboats is 3 kN, directed along the positive  $x$  axis, determine the required magnitude of force  $\mathbf{F}_B$  and its direction  $\theta$ .

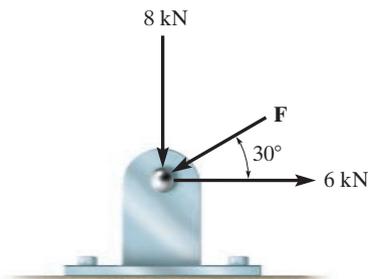
**2-26.** If  $\mathbf{F}_B = 3$  kN and  $\theta = 45^\circ$ , determine the magnitude of the resultant force of the two tugboats and its direction measured clockwise from the positive  $x$  axis.

**2-27.** If the resultant force of the two tugboats is required to be directed towards the positive  $x$  axis, and  $\mathbf{F}_B$  is to be a minimum, determine the magnitude of  $\mathbf{F}_R$  and  $\mathbf{F}_B$  and the angle  $\theta$ .



**Probs. 2-25/26/27**

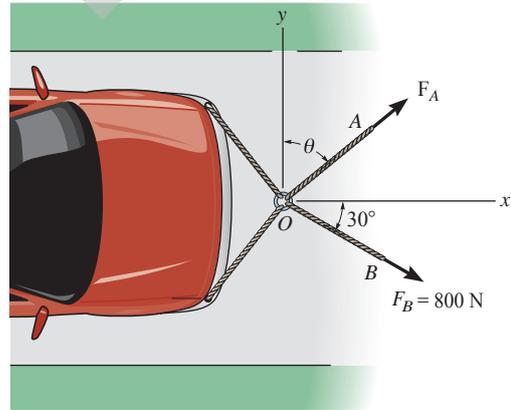
**\*2-28.** Determine the magnitude of force  $\mathbf{F}$  so that the resultant  $\mathbf{F}_R$  of the three forces is as small as possible. What is the minimum magnitude of  $\mathbf{F}_R$ ?



**Prob. 2-28**

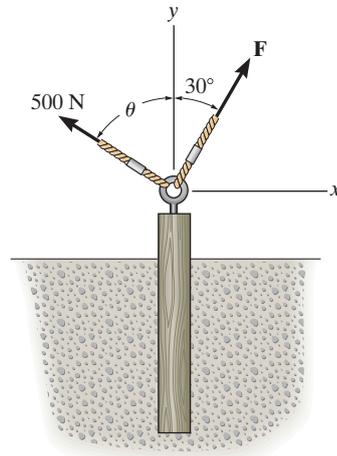
**2-29.** Determine the magnitude and direction  $\theta$  of  $\mathbf{F}_A$  so that the resultant force is directed along the positive  $x$  axis and has a magnitude of 1250 N.

**2-30.** Determine the magnitude and direction, measured counterclockwise from the positive  $x$  axis, of the resultant force acting on the ring at  $O$ , if  $F_A = 750$  N and  $\theta = 45^\circ$ .



**Probs. 2-29/30**

**2-31.** Two forces act on the screw eye. If  $F = 600$  N, determine the magnitude of the resultant force and the angle  $\theta$  if the resultant force is directed vertically upward.



**Prob. 2-31**

## 2.4 Addition of a System of Coplanar Forces

When a force is resolved into two components along the  $x$  and  $y$  axes, the components are then called **rectangular components**. For analytical work we can represent these components in one of two ways, using either scalar or Cartesian vector notation.

**Scalar Notation.** The rectangular components of force  $\mathbf{F}$  shown in Fig. 2-15a are found using the parallelogram law, so that  $\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{F}_x + \mathbf{F}_y$ . Because these components form a right triangle, they can be determined from

$$F_x = F \cos \theta \quad \text{and} \quad F_y = F \sin \theta$$

Instead of using the angle  $\theta$ , however, the direction of  $\mathbf{F}$  can also be defined using a small “slope” triangle, as in the example shown in Fig. 2-15b. Since this triangle and the larger shaded triangle are similar, the proportional length of the sides gives

$$\frac{F_x}{F} = \frac{a}{c}$$

or

$$F_x = F \left( \frac{a}{c} \right)$$

and

$$\frac{F_y}{F} = \frac{b}{c}$$

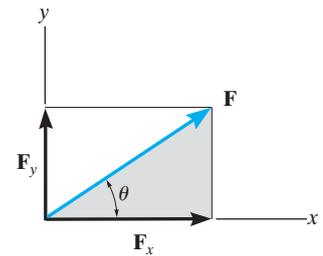
or

$$F_y = -F \left( \frac{b}{c} \right)$$

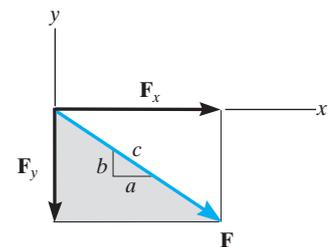
Here the  $y$  component is a *negative scalar* since  $\mathbf{F}_y$  is directed along the negative  $y$  axis.

It is important to keep in mind that this positive and negative scalar notation is to be used only for computational purposes, not for graphical representations in figures. Throughout the book, the *head of a vector arrow* in *any figure* indicates the sense of the vector *graphically*; algebraic signs are not used for this purpose. Thus, the vectors in Figs. 2-15a and 2-15b are designated by using boldface (vector) notation.\* Whenever italic symbols are written near vector arrows in figures, they indicate the *magnitude* of the vector, which is *always* a *positive* quantity.

\*Negative signs are used only in figures with boldface notation when showing equal but opposite pairs of vectors, as in Fig. 2-2.



(a)



(b)

**Fig. 2-15**

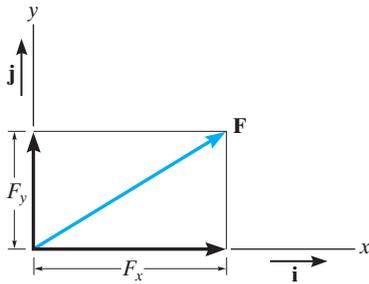
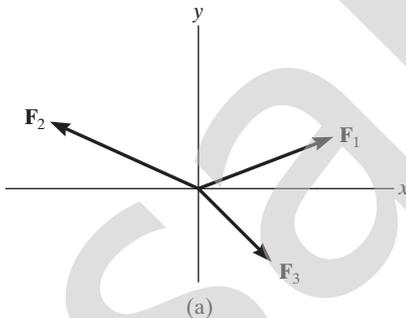
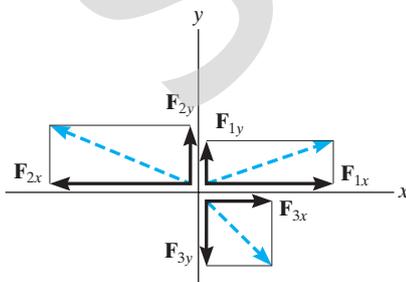


Fig. 2-16

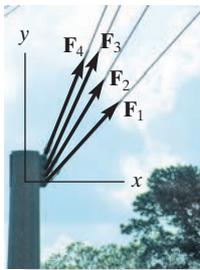


(a)



(b)

Fig. 2-17



The resultant force of the four cable forces acting on the post can be determined by adding algebraically the separate  $x$  and  $y$  components of each cable force. This resultant  $\mathbf{F}_R$  produces the *same pulling effect* on the post as all four cables.

**Cartesian Vector Notation.** It is also possible to represent the  $x$  and  $y$  components of a force in terms of Cartesian unit vectors  $\mathbf{i}$  and  $\mathbf{j}$ . They are called unit vectors because they have a dimensionless magnitude of 1, and so they can be used to designate the *directions* of the  $x$  and  $y$  axes, respectively, Fig. 2-16.\*

Since the *magnitude* of each component of  $\mathbf{F}$  is *always a positive quantity*, which is represented by the (positive) scalars  $F_x$  and  $F_y$ , then we can express  $\mathbf{F}$  as a **Cartesian vector**,

$$\mathbf{F} = F_x \mathbf{i} + F_y \mathbf{j}$$

**Coplanar Force Resultants.** We can use either of the two methods just described to determine the resultant of several **coplanar forces**, i.e., forces that all lie in the same plane. To do this, each force is first resolved into its  $x$  and  $y$  components, and then the respective components are added using *scalar algebra* since they are collinear. The resultant force is then formed by adding the resultant components using the parallelogram law. For example, consider the three concurrent forces in Fig. 2-17a, which have  $x$  and  $y$  components shown in Fig. 2-17b. Using Cartesian vector notation, each force is first represented as a Cartesian vector, i.e.,

$$\mathbf{F}_1 = F_{1x} \mathbf{i} + F_{1y} \mathbf{j}$$

$$\mathbf{F}_2 = -F_{2x} \mathbf{i} + F_{2y} \mathbf{j}$$

$$\mathbf{F}_3 = F_{3x} \mathbf{i} - F_{3y} \mathbf{j}$$

The vector resultant is therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{F}_R &= \mathbf{F}_1 + \mathbf{F}_2 + \mathbf{F}_3 \\ &= F_{1x} \mathbf{i} + F_{1y} \mathbf{j} - F_{2x} \mathbf{i} + F_{2y} \mathbf{j} + F_{3x} \mathbf{i} - F_{3y} \mathbf{j} \\ &= (F_{1x} - F_{2x} + F_{3x}) \mathbf{i} + (F_{1y} + F_{2y} - F_{3y}) \mathbf{j} \\ &= (F_{Rx}) \mathbf{i} + (F_{Ry}) \mathbf{j} \end{aligned}$$

If *scalar notation* is used, then indicating the positive directions of components along the  $x$  and  $y$  axes with symbolic arrows, we have

$$\rightarrow \quad (F_R)_x = F_{1x} - F_{2x} + F_{3x}$$

$$\uparrow \quad (F_R)_y = F_{1y} + F_{2y} - F_{3y}$$

These are the *same results* as the  $\mathbf{i}$  and  $\mathbf{j}$  components of  $\mathbf{F}_R$  determined above.

\*For handwritten work, unit vectors are usually indicated using a circumflex, e.g.,  $\hat{i}$  and  $\hat{j}$ . Also, realize that  $F_x$  and  $F_y$  in Fig. 2-16 represent the *magnitudes* of the components, which are *always positive scalars*. The directions are defined by  $\mathbf{i}$  and  $\mathbf{j}$ . If instead we used scalar notation, then  $F_x$  and  $F_y$  could be positive or negative scalars, since they would account for *both* the magnitude and direction of the components.

We can represent the components of the resultant force of any number of coplanar forces symbolically by the algebraic sum of the  $x$  and  $y$  components of all the forces, i.e.,

$$\begin{aligned} (F_R)_x &= \Sigma F_x \\ (F_R)_y &= \Sigma F_y \end{aligned} \quad (2-1)$$

Once these components are determined, they may be sketched along the  $x$  and  $y$  axes with their proper sense of direction, and the resultant force can be determined from vector addition, as shown in Fig. 2-17c. From this sketch, the magnitude of  $\mathbf{F}_R$  is then found from the Pythagorean theorem; that is,

$$F_R = \sqrt{(F_R)_x^2 + (F_R)_y^2}$$

Also, the angle  $\theta$ , which specifies the direction of the resultant force, is determined from trigonometry:

$$\theta = \tan^{-1} \left| \frac{(F_R)_y}{(F_R)_x} \right|$$

The above concepts are illustrated numerically in the examples which follow.

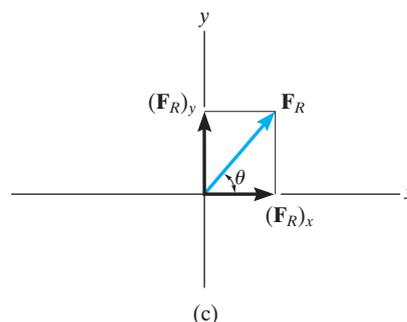
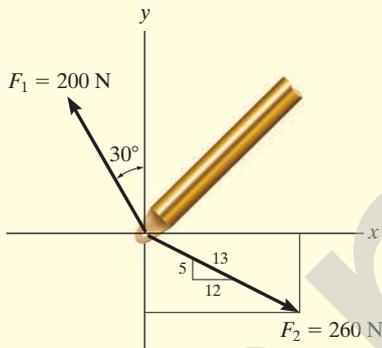


Fig. 2-17 (cont.)

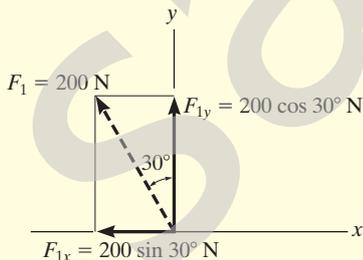
### Important Points

- The resultant of several coplanar forces can easily be determined if an  $x, y$  coordinate system is established and the forces are resolved along the axes.
- The direction of each force is specified by the angle its line of action makes with one of the axes, or by a slope triangle.
- The orientation of the  $x$  and  $y$  axes is arbitrary, and their positive direction can be specified by the Cartesian unit vectors  $\mathbf{i}$  and  $\mathbf{j}$ .
- The  $x$  and  $y$  components of the *resultant force* are simply the algebraic addition of the components of all the coplanar forces.
- The magnitude of the resultant force is determined from the Pythagorean theorem, and when the resultant components are sketched on the  $x$  and  $y$  axes, Fig. 2-17c, the direction  $\theta$  can be determined from trigonometry.

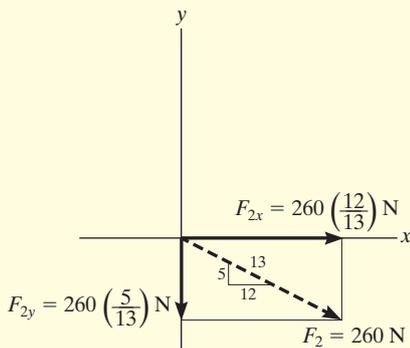
## EXAMPLE 2.5



(a)



(b)



(c)

Fig. 2-18

Determine the  $x$  and  $y$  components of  $\mathbf{F}_1$  and  $\mathbf{F}_2$  acting on the boom shown in Fig. 2-18a. Express each force as a Cartesian vector.

## SOLUTION

**Scalar Notation.** By the parallelogram law,  $\mathbf{F}_1$  is resolved into  $x$  and  $y$  components, Fig. 2-18b. Since  $\mathbf{F}_{1x}$  acts in the  $-x$  direction, and  $\mathbf{F}_{1y}$  acts in the  $+y$  direction, we have

$$F_{1x} = -200 \sin 30^\circ \text{ N} = -100 \text{ N} = 100 \text{ N} \leftarrow \quad \text{Ans.}$$

$$F_{1y} = 200 \cos 30^\circ \text{ N} = 173 \text{ N} = 173 \text{ N} \uparrow \quad \text{Ans.}$$

The force  $\mathbf{F}_2$  is resolved into its  $x$  and  $y$  components, as shown in Fig. 2-18c. Here the *slope* of the line of action for the force is indicated. From this “slope triangle” we could obtain the angle  $\theta$ , e.g.,  $\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{5}{12}\right)$ , and then proceed to determine the magnitudes of the components in the same manner as for  $\mathbf{F}_1$ . The easier method, however, consists of using proportional parts of similar triangles, i.e.,

$$\frac{F_{2x}}{260 \text{ N}} = \frac{12}{13} \quad F_{2x} = 260 \text{ N} \left( \frac{12}{13} \right) = 240 \text{ N}$$

Similarly,

$$F_{2y} = 260 \text{ N} \left( \frac{5}{13} \right) = 100 \text{ N}$$

Notice how the magnitude of the *horizontal component*,  $\mathbf{F}_{2x}$ , was obtained by multiplying the force magnitude by the ratio of the *horizontal leg* of the slope triangle divided by the hypotenuse; whereas the magnitude of the *vertical component*,  $F_{2y}$ , was obtained by multiplying the force magnitude by the ratio of the *vertical leg* divided by the hypotenuse. Hence, using scalar notation to represent these components, we have

$$F_{2x} = 240 \text{ N} = 240 \text{ N} \rightarrow \quad \text{Ans.}$$

$$F_{2y} = -100 \text{ N} = 100 \text{ N} \downarrow \quad \text{Ans.}$$

**Cartesian Vector Notation.** Having determined the magnitudes and directions of the components of each force, we can express each force as a Cartesian vector.

$$\mathbf{F}_1 = \{-100\mathbf{i} + 173\mathbf{j}\} \text{ N} \quad \text{Ans.}$$

$$\mathbf{F}_2 = \{240\mathbf{i} - 100\mathbf{j}\} \text{ N} \quad \text{Ans.}$$

**EXAMPLE 2.6**

The link in Fig. 2–19*a* is subjected to two forces  $\mathbf{F}_1$  and  $\mathbf{F}_2$ . Determine the magnitude and direction of the resultant force.

**SOLUTION I**

**Scalar Notation.** First we resolve each force into its  $x$  and  $y$  components, Fig. 2–19*b*, then we sum these components algebraically.

$$\begin{aligned} \rightarrow (F_R)_x = \Sigma F_x; \quad (F_R)_x &= 600 \cos 30^\circ \text{ N} - 400 \sin 45^\circ \text{ N} \\ &= 236.8 \text{ N} \rightarrow \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} +\uparrow (F_R)_y = \Sigma F_y; \quad (F_R)_y &= 600 \sin 30^\circ \text{ N} + 400 \cos 45^\circ \text{ N} \\ &= 582.8 \text{ N} \uparrow \end{aligned}$$

The resultant force, shown in Fig. 2–19*c*, has a *magnitude* of

$$\begin{aligned} F_R &= \sqrt{(236.8 \text{ N})^2 + (582.8 \text{ N})^2} \\ &= 629 \text{ N} \end{aligned}$$

*Ans.*

From the vector addition,

$$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{582.8 \text{ N}}{236.8 \text{ N}}\right) = 67.9^\circ$$

*Ans.***SOLUTION II**

**Cartesian Vector Notation.** From Fig. 2–19*b*, each force is first expressed as a Cartesian vector.

$$\mathbf{F}_1 = \{600 \cos 30^\circ \mathbf{i} + 600 \sin 30^\circ \mathbf{j}\} \text{ N}$$

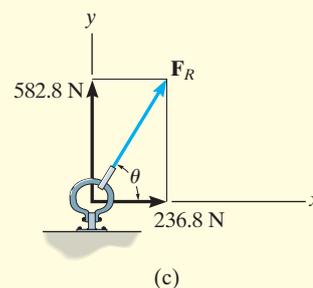
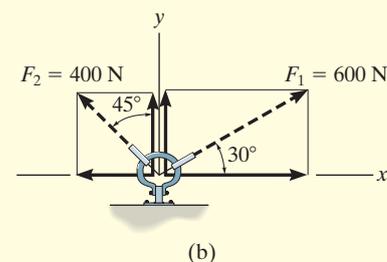
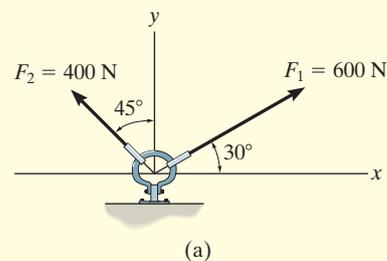
$$\mathbf{F}_2 = \{-400 \sin 45^\circ \mathbf{i} + 400 \cos 45^\circ \mathbf{j}\} \text{ N}$$

Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{F}_R = \mathbf{F}_1 + \mathbf{F}_2 &= (600 \cos 30^\circ \text{ N} - 400 \sin 45^\circ \text{ N})\mathbf{i} \\ &\quad + (600 \sin 30^\circ \text{ N} + 400 \cos 45^\circ \text{ N})\mathbf{j} \\ &= \{236.8\mathbf{i} + 582.8\mathbf{j}\} \text{ N} \end{aligned}$$

The magnitude and direction of  $\mathbf{F}_R$  are determined in the same manner as before.

**NOTE:** Comparing the two methods of solution, notice that the use of scalar notation is more efficient since the components can be found *directly*, without first having to express each force as a Cartesian vector before adding the components. Later, however, we will show that Cartesian vector analysis is very beneficial for solving three-dimensional problems.

**Fig. 2–19**

## EXAMPLE 2.7

The end of the boom  $O$  in Fig. 2–20a is subjected to three concurrent and coplanar forces. Determine the magnitude and direction of the resultant force.

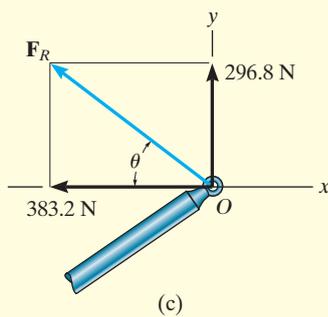
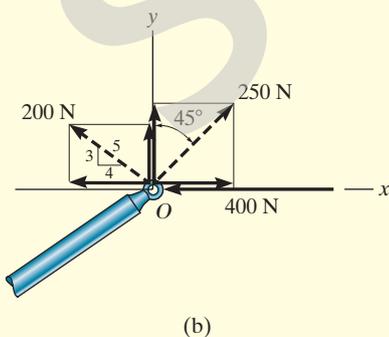
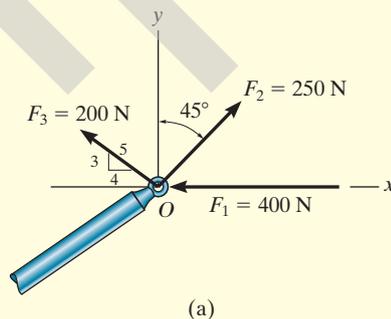


Fig. 2–20

## SOLUTION

Each force is resolved into its  $x$  and  $y$  components, Fig. 2–20b. Summing the  $x$  components, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \rightarrow (F_R)_x &= \Sigma F_x; & (F_R)_x &= -400 \text{ N} + 250 \sin 45^\circ \text{ N} - 200\left(\frac{4}{5}\right) \text{ N} \\ & & &= -383.2 \text{ N} = 383.2 \text{ N} \leftarrow \end{aligned}$$

The negative sign indicates that  $F_{Rx}$  acts to the left, i.e., in the negative  $x$  direction, as noted by the small arrow. Obviously, this occurs because  $F_1$  and  $F_3$  in Fig. 2–20b contribute a greater pull to the left than  $F_2$  which pulls to the right. Summing the  $y$  components yields

$$\begin{aligned} +\uparrow (F_R)_y &= \Sigma F_y; & (F_R)_y &= 250 \cos 45^\circ \text{ N} + 200\left(\frac{3}{5}\right) \text{ N} \\ & & &= 296.8 \text{ N} \uparrow \end{aligned}$$

The resultant force, shown in Fig. 2–20c, has a *magnitude* of

$$\begin{aligned} F_R &= \sqrt{(-383.2 \text{ N})^2 + (296.8 \text{ N})^2} \\ &= 485 \text{ N} \end{aligned}$$

Ans.

From the vector addition in Fig. 2–20c, the direction angle  $\theta$  is

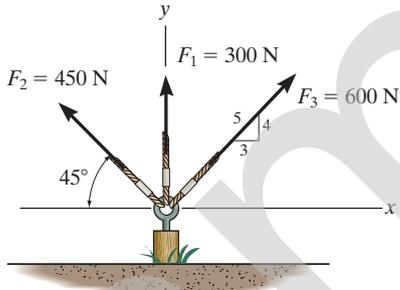
$$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{296.8}{383.2}\right) = 37.8^\circ$$

Ans.

**NOTE:** Application of this method is more convenient, compared to using two applications of the parallelogram law, first to add  $\mathbf{F}_1$  and  $\mathbf{F}_2$  then adding  $\mathbf{F}_3$  to this resultant.

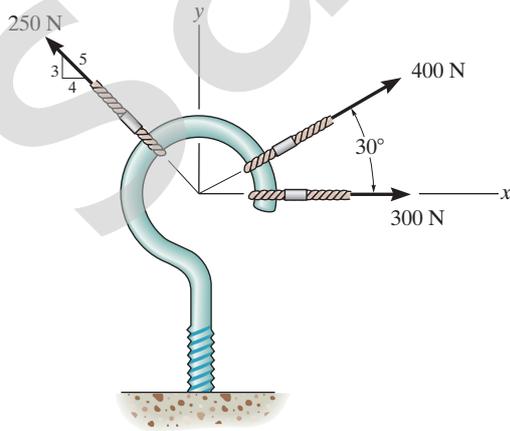
## FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS

**F2-7.** Resolve each force acting on the post into its  $x$  and  $y$  components.



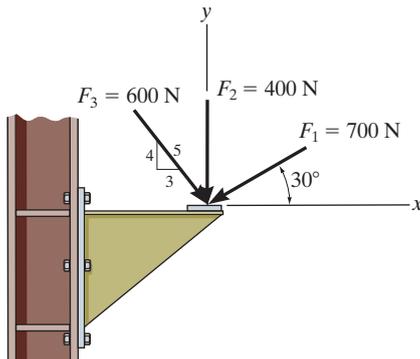
**Prob. F2-7**

**F2-8.** Determine the magnitude and direction of the resultant force.



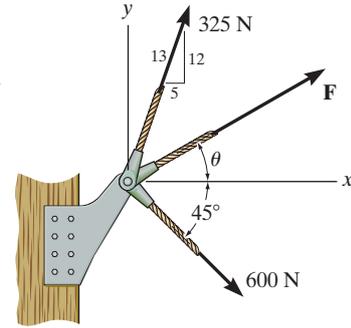
**Prob. F2-8**

**F2-9.** Determine the magnitude of the resultant force acting on the corbel and its direction  $\theta$  measured counterclockwise from the  $x$  axis.



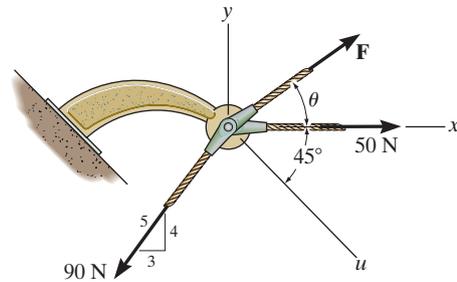
**Prob. F2-9**

**F2-10.** If the resultant force acting on the bracket is to be 750 N directed along the positive  $x$  axis, determine the magnitude of  $\mathbf{F}$  and its direction  $\theta$ .



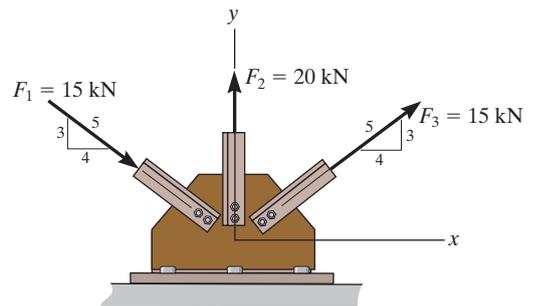
**Prob. F2-10**

**F2-11.** If the magnitude of the resultant force acting on the bracket is to be 80 N directed along the  $u$  axis, determine the magnitude of  $\mathbf{F}$  and its direction  $\theta$ .



**Prob. F2-11**

**F2-12.** Determine the magnitude of the resultant force and its direction  $\theta$  measured counterclockwise from the positive  $x$  axis.

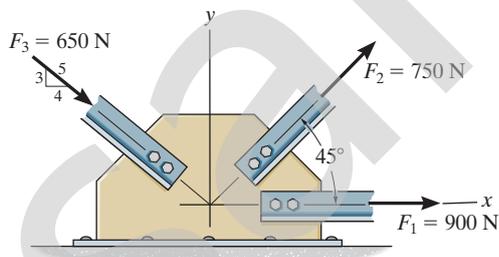


**Prob. F2-12**

## PROBLEMS

**\*2–32.** Resolve each force acting on the *gusset plate* into its  $x$  and  $y$  components, and express each force as a Cartesian vector.

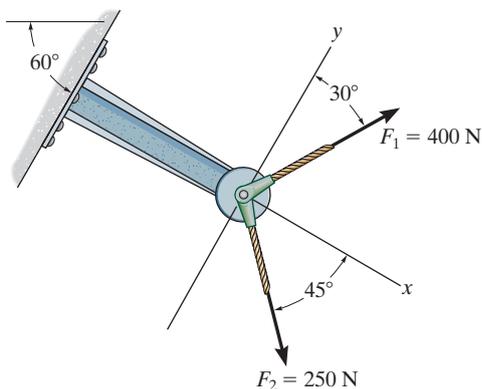
**2–33.** Determine the magnitude of the resultant force acting on the plate and its direction, measured counterclockwise from the positive  $x$  axis.



**Probs. 2–32/33**

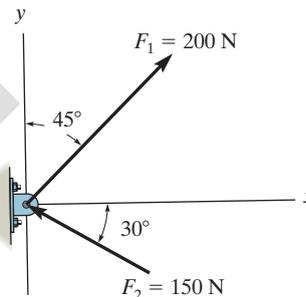
**2–34.** Resolve  $\mathbf{F}_1$  and  $\mathbf{F}_2$  into their  $x$  and  $y$  components.

**2–35.** Determine the magnitude of the resultant force and its direction measured counterclockwise from the positive  $x$  axis.



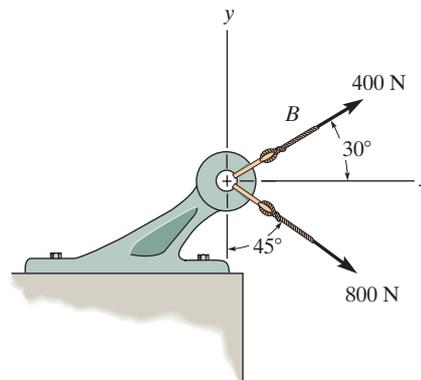
**Probs. 2–34/35**

**\*2–36.** Determine the magnitude of the resultant force and its direction, measured counterclockwise from the positive  $x$  axis.



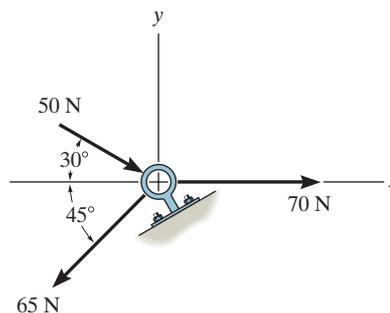
**Prob. 2–36**

**2–37.** Determine the magnitude of the resultant force and its direction, measured clockwise from the positive  $x$  axis.



**Prob. 2–37**

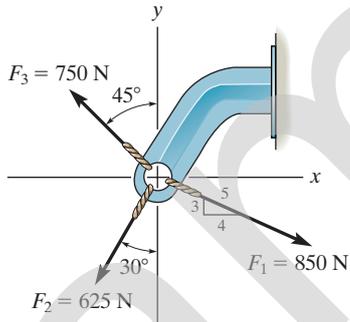
**2–38.** Determine the magnitude of the resultant force and its direction, measured clockwise from the positive  $x$  axis.



**Prob. 2–38**

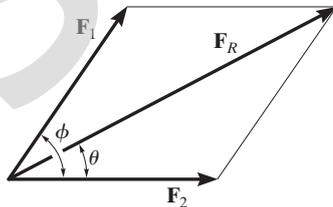
2-39. Express  $\mathbf{F}_1$ ,  $\mathbf{F}_2$ , and  $\mathbf{F}_3$  as Cartesian vectors.

\*2-40. Determine the magnitude of the resultant force and its direction, measured counterclockwise from the positive  $x$  axis.



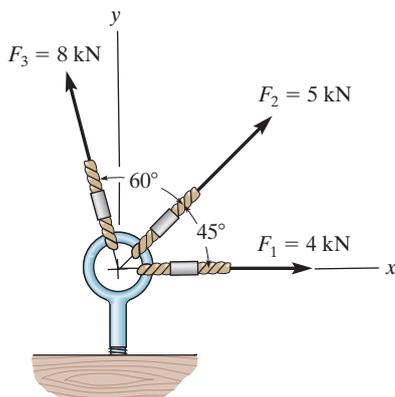
Probs. 2-39/40

2-41. Determine the magnitude and direction  $\theta$  of the resultant force  $\mathbf{F}_R$ . Express the result in terms of the magnitudes of the components  $\mathbf{F}_1$  and  $\mathbf{F}_2$  and the angle  $\phi$ .



Prob. 2-41

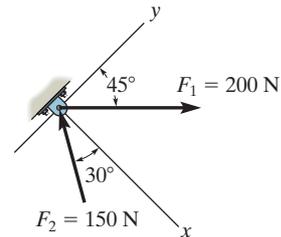
2-42. Determine the magnitude of the resultant force and its direction, measured counterclockwise from the positive  $x$  axis.



Prob. 2-42

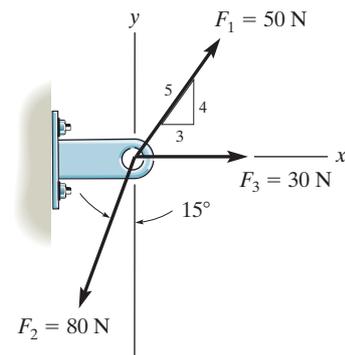
2-43. Determine the  $x$  and  $y$  components of  $\mathbf{F}_1$  and  $\mathbf{F}_2$ .

\*2-44. Determine the magnitude of the resultant force and its direction, measured counterclockwise from the positive  $x$  axis.



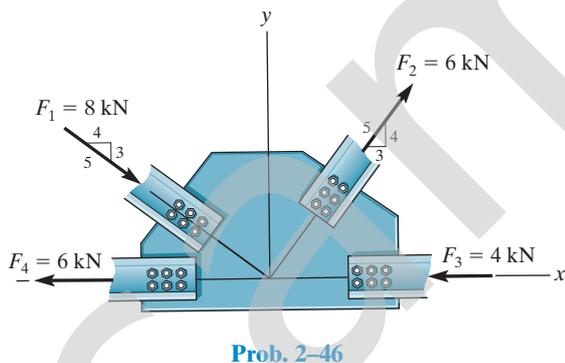
Probs. 2-43/44

2-45. Express each of the three forces acting on the support in Cartesian vector form and determine the magnitude of the resultant force and its direction, measured clockwise from positive  $x$  axis.



Prob. 2-45

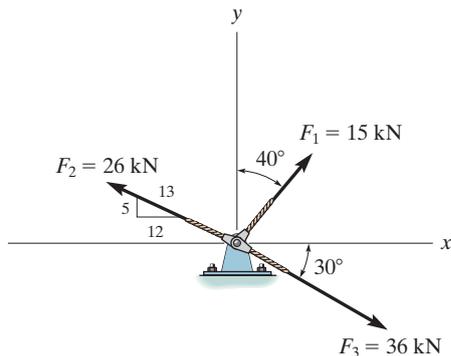
**2-46.** Determine the  $x$  and  $y$  components of each force acting on the *gusset plate* of a bridge truss. Show that the resultant force is zero.



**Prob. 2-46**

**2-47.** Express  $\mathbf{F}_1$ ,  $\mathbf{F}_2$ , and  $\mathbf{F}_3$  as Cartesian vectors.

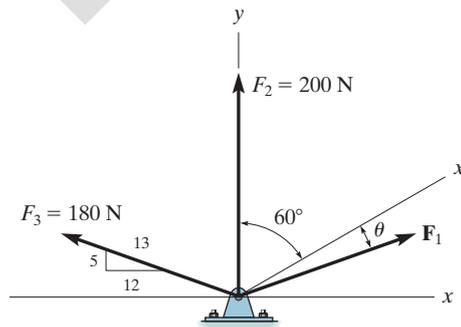
**\*2-48.** Determine the magnitude of the resultant force and its direction, measured counterclockwise from the positive  $x$  axis.



**Probs. 2-47/48**

**2-49.** If  $F_1 = 300$  N and  $\theta = 10^\circ$ , determine the magnitude and direction, measured counterclockwise from the positive  $x'$  axis, of the resultant force acting on the bracket.

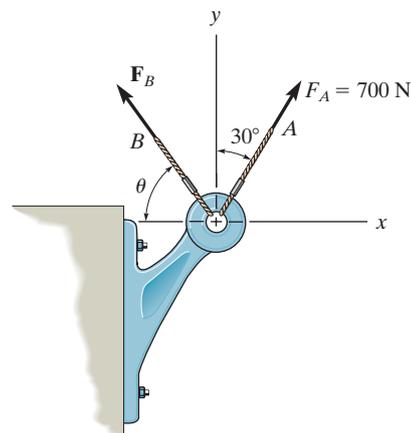
**2-50.** Three forces act on the bracket. Determine the magnitude and direction  $\theta$  of  $\mathbf{F}_1$  so that the resultant force is directed along the positive  $x'$  axis and has a magnitude of 800 N.



**Probs. 2-49/50**

**2-51.** Determine the magnitude and orientation  $\theta$  of  $\mathbf{F}_B$  so that the resultant force is directed along the positive  $y$  axis and has a magnitude of 1500 N.

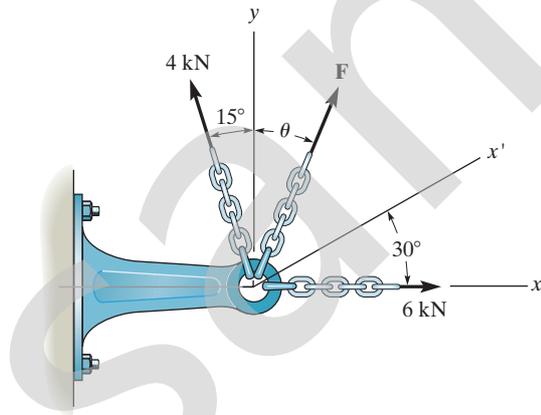
**\*2-52.** Determine the magnitude and orientation, measured counterclockwise from the positive  $y$  axis, of the resultant force acting on the bracket, if  $F_B = 600$  N and  $\theta = 20^\circ$ .



**Probs. 2-51/52**

**2-53.** Three forces act on the bracket. Determine the magnitude and direction  $\theta$  of  $\mathbf{F}$  so that the resultant force is directed along the positive  $x'$  axis and has a magnitude of 8 kN.

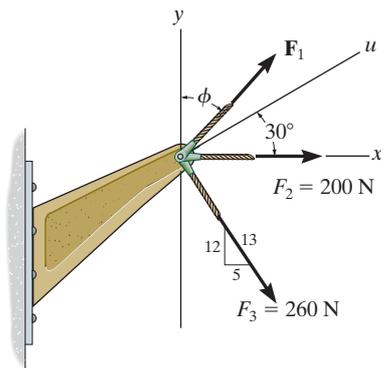
**2-54.** If  $F = 5$  kN and  $\theta = 30^\circ$ , determine the magnitude of the resultant force and its direction, measured counterclockwise from the positive  $x$  axis.



**Probs. 2-53/54**

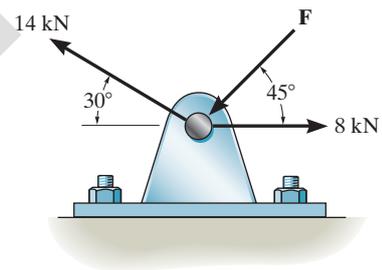
**2-55.** If the magnitude of the resultant force acting on the bracket is to be 450 N directed along the positive  $u$  axis, determine the magnitude of  $\mathbf{F}_1$  and its direction  $\phi$ .

**\*2-56.** If the resultant force acting on the bracket is required to be a minimum, determine the magnitudes of  $\mathbf{F}_1$  and the resultant force. Set  $\phi = 30^\circ$ .



**Probs. 2-55/56**

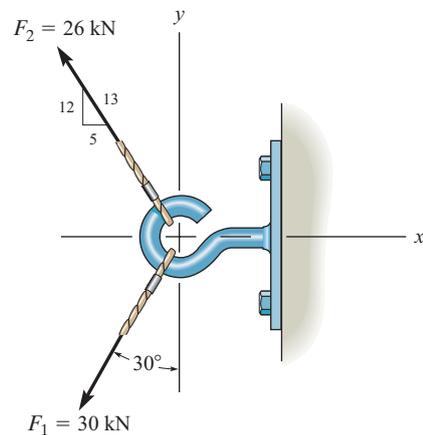
**2-57.** Determine the magnitude of force  $\mathbf{F}$  so that the resultant force of the three forces is as small as possible. What is the magnitude of the resultant force?



**Prob. 2-57**

**2-58.** Express  $\mathbf{F}_1$  and  $\mathbf{F}_2$  as Cartesian vectors.

**2-59.** Determine the magnitude of the resultant force and its direction measured counterclockwise from the positive  $x$  axis.



**Probs. 2-58/59**

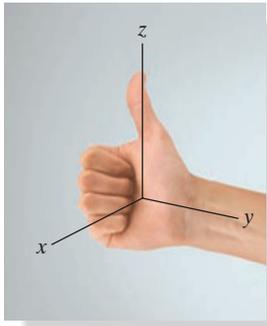


Fig. 2–21

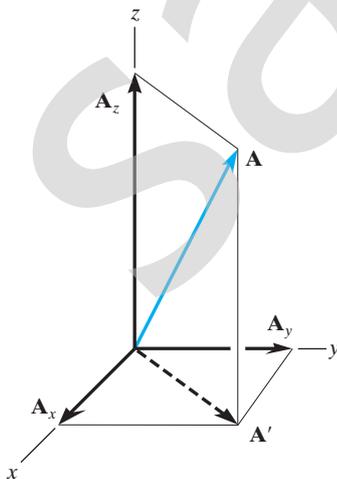


Fig. 2–22

## 2.5 Cartesian Vectors

The operations of vector algebra, when applied to solving problems in *three dimensions*, are greatly simplified if the vectors are first represented in Cartesian vector form. In this section we will present a general method for doing this; then in the next section we will use this method for finding the resultant force of a system of concurrent forces.

**Right-Handed Coordinate System.** We will use a right-handed coordinate system to develop the theory of vector algebra that follows. A rectangular coordinate system is said to be *right-handed* if the thumb of the right hand points in the direction of the positive  $z$  axis when the right-hand fingers are curled about this axis and directed from the positive  $x$  towards the positive  $y$  axis, Fig. 2–21.

**Rectangular Components of a Vector.** A vector  $\mathbf{A}$  may have one, two, or three rectangular components along the  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$  coordinate axes, depending on how the vector is oriented relative to the axes. In general, though, when  $\mathbf{A}$  is directed within an octant of the  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$  frame, Fig. 2–22, then by two successive applications of the parallelogram law, we may resolve the vector into components as  $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A}' + \mathbf{A}_z$  and then  $\mathbf{A}' = \mathbf{A}_x + \mathbf{A}_y$ . Combining these equations, to eliminate  $\mathbf{A}'$ ,  $\mathbf{A}$  is represented by the vector sum of its *three* rectangular components,

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A}_x + \mathbf{A}_y + \mathbf{A}_z \quad (2-2)$$

**Cartesian Unit Vectors.** In three dimensions, the set of Cartesian unit vectors,  $\mathbf{i}$ ,  $\mathbf{j}$ ,  $\mathbf{k}$ , is used to designate the directions of the  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$  axes, respectively. As stated in Sec. 2–4, the *sense* (or arrowhead) of these vectors will be represented analytically by a plus or minus sign, depending on whether they are directed along the positive or negative  $x$ ,  $y$ , or  $z$  axes. The positive Cartesian unit vectors are shown in Fig. 2–23.

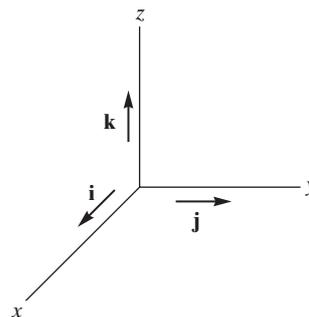


Fig. 2–23

**Cartesian Vector Representation.** Since the three components of  $\mathbf{A}$  in Eq. 2-2 act in the positive  $\mathbf{i}$ ,  $\mathbf{j}$ , and  $\mathbf{k}$  directions, Fig. 2-24, we can write  $\mathbf{A}$  in Cartesian vector form as

$$\mathbf{A} = A_x \mathbf{i} + A_y \mathbf{j} + A_z \mathbf{k} \quad (2-3)$$

There is a distinct advantage to writing vectors in this manner. Separating the *magnitude* and *direction* of each *component vector* will simplify the operations of vector algebra, particularly in three dimensions.

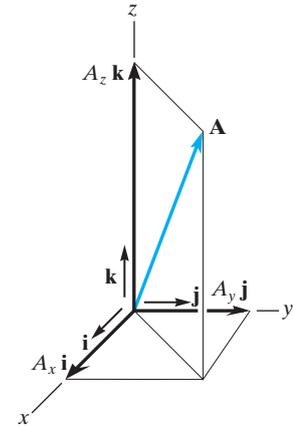


Fig. 2-24

**Magnitude of a Cartesian Vector.** It is always possible to obtain the magnitude of  $\mathbf{A}$  provided it is expressed in Cartesian vector form. As shown in Fig. 2-25, from the blue right triangle,  $A = \sqrt{A'^2 + A_z^2}$ , and from the gray right triangle,  $A' = \sqrt{A_x^2 + A_y^2}$ . Combining these equations to eliminate  $A'$  yields

$$A = \sqrt{A_x^2 + A_y^2 + A_z^2} \quad (2-4)$$

Hence, the magnitude of  $\mathbf{A}$  is equal to the positive square root of the sum of the squares of its components.

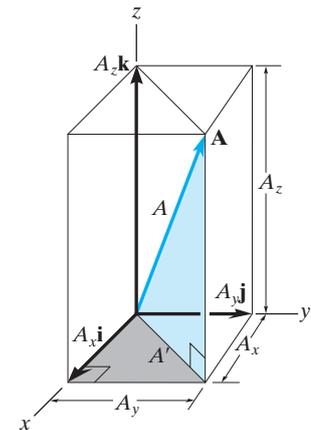


Fig. 2-25

**Coordinate Direction Angles.** We will define the *direction* of  $\mathbf{A}$  by the **coordinate direction angles**  $\alpha$  (alpha),  $\beta$  (beta), and  $\gamma$  (gamma), measured between the *tail* of  $\mathbf{A}$  and the *positive*  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$  axes provided they are located at the tail of  $\mathbf{A}$ , Fig. 2-26. Note that regardless of where  $\mathbf{A}$  is directed, each of these angles will be between  $0^\circ$  and  $180^\circ$ .

To determine  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ , and  $\gamma$ , consider the projection of  $\mathbf{A}$  onto the  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$  axes, Fig. 2-27. Referring to the colored right triangles shown in the figure, we have

$$\cos \alpha = \frac{A_x}{A} \quad \cos \beta = \frac{A_y}{A} \quad \cos \gamma = \frac{A_z}{A} \quad (2-5)$$

These numbers are known as the **direction cosines** of  $\mathbf{A}$ . Once they have been obtained, the coordinate direction angles  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$  can then be determined from the inverse cosines.

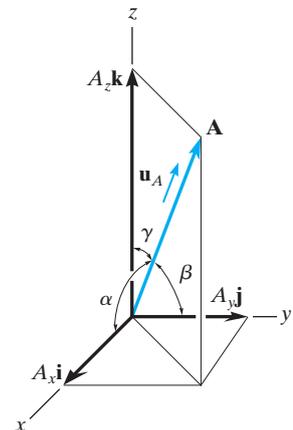


Fig. 2-26

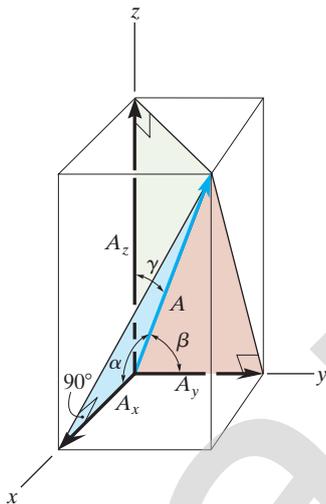


Fig. 2-27

An easy way of obtaining these direction cosines is to form a unit vector  $\mathbf{u}_A$  in the direction of  $\mathbf{A}$ , Fig. 2-26. If  $\mathbf{A}$  is expressed in Cartesian vector form,  $\mathbf{A} = A_x\mathbf{i} + A_y\mathbf{j} + A_z\mathbf{k}$ , then  $\mathbf{u}_A$  will have a magnitude of one and be dimensionless provided  $\mathbf{A}$  is divided by its magnitude, i.e.,

$$\mathbf{u}_A = \frac{\mathbf{A}}{A} = \frac{A_x}{A}\mathbf{i} + \frac{A_y}{A}\mathbf{j} + \frac{A_z}{A}\mathbf{k} \quad (2-6)$$

where  $A = \sqrt{A_x^2 + A_y^2 + A_z^2}$ . By comparison with Eqs. 2-5, it is seen that the  $\mathbf{i}$ ,  $\mathbf{j}$ ,  $\mathbf{k}$  components of  $\mathbf{u}_A$  represent the direction cosines of  $\mathbf{A}$ , i.e.,

$$\mathbf{u}_A = \cos \alpha \mathbf{i} + \cos \beta \mathbf{j} + \cos \gamma \mathbf{k} \quad (2-7)$$

Since the magnitude of a vector is equal to the positive square root of the sum of the squares of the magnitudes of its components, and  $\mathbf{u}_A$  has a magnitude of one, then from the above equation an important relation among the direction cosines can be formulated as

$$\cos^2 \alpha + \cos^2 \beta + \cos^2 \gamma = 1 \quad (2-8)$$

Here we can see that if only *two* of the coordinate angles are known, the third angle can be found using this equation.

Finally, if the magnitude and coordinate direction angles of  $\mathbf{A}$  are known, then  $\mathbf{A}$  may be expressed in Cartesian vector form as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{A} &= A\mathbf{u}_A \\ &= A \cos \alpha \mathbf{i} + A \cos \beta \mathbf{j} + A \cos \gamma \mathbf{k} \\ &= A_x \mathbf{i} + A_y \mathbf{j} + A_z \mathbf{k} \end{aligned} \quad (2-9)$$

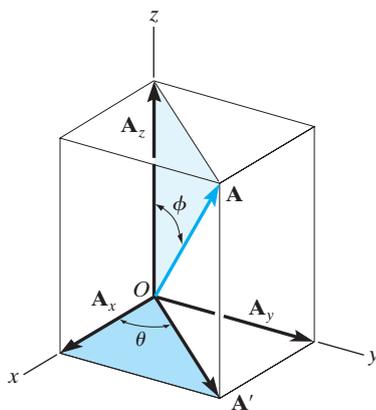


Fig. 2-28

**Transverse and Azimuth Angles.** Sometimes, the direction of  $\mathbf{A}$  can be specified using two angles, namely, a **transverse angle**  $\theta$  and an **azimuth angle**  $\phi$  (phi), such as shown in Fig. 2-28. The components of  $\mathbf{A}$  can then be determined by applying trigonometry first to the light blue right triangle, which yields

$$A_z = A \cos \phi$$

and

$$A' = A \sin \phi$$

Now applying trigonometry to the dark blue right triangle,

$$A_x = A' \cos \theta = A \sin \phi \cos \theta$$

$$A_y = A' \sin \theta = A \sin \phi \sin \theta$$

Therefore  $\mathbf{A}$  written in Cartesian vector form becomes

$$\mathbf{A} = A \sin \phi \cos \theta \mathbf{i} + A \sin \phi \sin \theta \mathbf{j} + A \cos \phi \mathbf{k}$$

You should not memorize this equation, rather it is important to understand how the components were determined using trigonometry.

## 2.6 Addition of Cartesian Vectors

The addition (or subtraction) of two or more vectors is greatly simplified if the vectors are expressed in terms of their Cartesian components. For example, if  $\mathbf{A} = A_x \mathbf{i} + A_y \mathbf{j} + A_z \mathbf{k}$  and  $\mathbf{B} = B_x \mathbf{i} + B_y \mathbf{j} + B_z \mathbf{k}$ , Fig. 2–29, then the resultant vector,  $\mathbf{R}$ , has components which are the scalar sums of the  $\mathbf{i}$ ,  $\mathbf{j}$ ,  $\mathbf{k}$  components of  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$ , i.e.,

$$\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B} = (A_x + B_x)\mathbf{i} + (A_y + B_y)\mathbf{j} + (A_z + B_z)\mathbf{k}$$

If this is generalized and applied to a system of several concurrent forces, then the force resultant is the vector sum of all the forces in the system and can be written as

$$\mathbf{F}_R = \Sigma \mathbf{F} = \Sigma F_x \mathbf{i} + \Sigma F_y \mathbf{j} + \Sigma F_z \mathbf{k} \quad (2-10)$$

Here  $\Sigma F_x$ ,  $\Sigma F_y$ , and  $\Sigma F_z$  represent the algebraic sums of the respective  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$  or  $\mathbf{i}$ ,  $\mathbf{j}$ ,  $\mathbf{k}$  components of each force in the system.

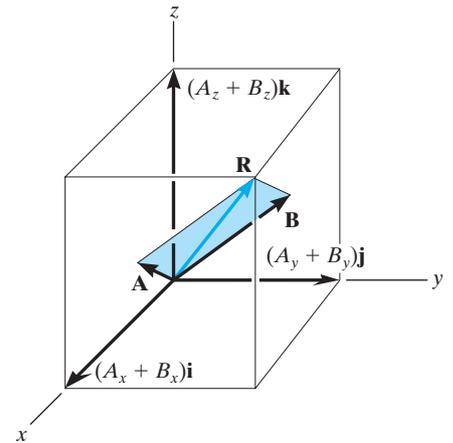


Fig. 2–29

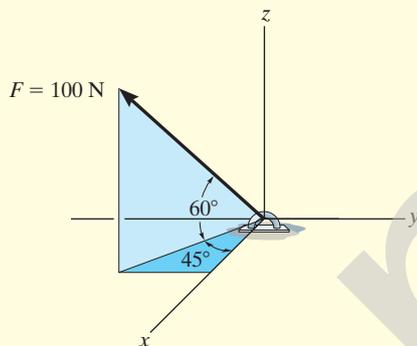


Cartesian vector analysis provides a convenient method for finding both the resultant force and its components in three dimensions.

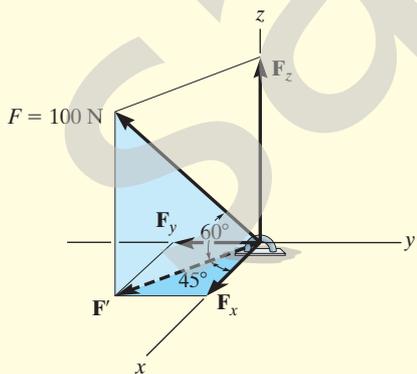
### Important Points

- A Cartesian vector  $\mathbf{A}$  has  $\mathbf{i}$ ,  $\mathbf{j}$ ,  $\mathbf{k}$  components along the  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$  axes. If  $\mathbf{A}$  is known, its magnitude is defined by  $A = \sqrt{A_x^2 + A_y^2 + A_z^2}$ .
- The direction of a Cartesian vector can be defined by the three angles  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$ , measured from the *positive*  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$  axes to the *tail* of the vector. To find these angles formulate a unit vector in the direction of  $\mathbf{A}$ , i.e.,  $\mathbf{u}_A = \mathbf{A}/A$ , and determine the inverse cosines of its components. Only two of these angles are independent of one another; the third angle is found from  $\cos^2 \alpha + \cos^2 \beta + \cos^2 \gamma = 1$ .
- The direction of a Cartesian vector can also be specified using a transverse angle  $\theta$  and azimuth angle  $\phi$ .

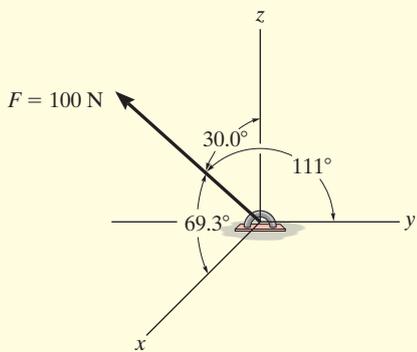
## EXAMPLE 2.8



(a)



(b)



(c)

Fig. 2-30

Express the force  $\mathbf{F}$  shown in Fig. 2-30a as a Cartesian vector.

## SOLUTION

The angles of  $60^\circ$  and  $45^\circ$  defining the direction of  $\mathbf{F}$  are *not* coordinate direction angles. Two successive applications of the parallelogram law are needed to resolve  $\mathbf{F}$  into its  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$  components. First  $\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{F}' + \mathbf{F}_z$ , then  $\mathbf{F}' = \mathbf{F}_x + \mathbf{F}_y$ , Fig. 2-30b. By trigonometry, the magnitudes of the components are

$$F_z = 100 \sin 60^\circ \text{ N} = 86.6 \text{ N}$$

$$F' = 100 \cos 60^\circ \text{ N} = 50 \text{ N}$$

$$F_x = F' \cos 45^\circ = 50 \cos 45^\circ \text{ N} = 35.4 \text{ N}$$

$$F_y = F' \sin 45^\circ = 50 \sin 45^\circ \text{ N} = 35.4 \text{ N}$$

Realizing that  $\mathbf{F}_y$  has a direction defined by  $-\mathbf{j}$ , we have

$$\mathbf{F} = \{35.4\mathbf{i} - 35.4\mathbf{j} + 86.6\mathbf{k}\} \text{ N}$$

*Ans.*

To show that the magnitude of this vector is indeed 100 N, apply Eq. 2-4,

$$\begin{aligned} F &= \sqrt{F_x^2 + F_y^2 + F_z^2} \\ &= \sqrt{(35.4)^2 + (35.4)^2 + (86.6)^2} = 100 \text{ N} \end{aligned}$$

If needed, the coordinate direction angles of  $\mathbf{F}$  can be determined from the components of the unit vector acting in the direction of  $\mathbf{F}$ . Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{u} &= \frac{\mathbf{F}}{F} = \frac{F_x}{F}\mathbf{i} + \frac{F_y}{F}\mathbf{j} + \frac{F_z}{F}\mathbf{k} \\ &= \frac{35.4}{100}\mathbf{i} - \frac{35.4}{100}\mathbf{j} + \frac{86.6}{100}\mathbf{k} \\ &= 0.354\mathbf{i} - 0.354\mathbf{j} + 0.866\mathbf{k} \end{aligned}$$

so that

$$\alpha = \cos^{-1}(0.354) = 69.3^\circ$$

$$\beta = \cos^{-1}(-0.354) = 111^\circ$$

$$\gamma = \cos^{-1}(0.866) = 30.0^\circ$$

These results are shown in Fig. 2-30c.

## EXAMPLE 2.9

Two forces act on the hook shown in Fig. 2–31*a*. Specify the magnitude of  $\mathbf{F}_2$  and its coordinate direction angles so that the resultant force  $\mathbf{F}_R$  acts along the positive  $y$  axis and has a magnitude of 800 N.

### SOLUTION

To solve this problem, the resultant force  $\mathbf{F}_R$  and its two components,  $\mathbf{F}_1$  and  $\mathbf{F}_2$ , will each be expressed in Cartesian vector form. Then, as shown in Fig. 2–31*b*, it is necessary that  $\mathbf{F}_R = \mathbf{F}_1 + \mathbf{F}_2$ .

Applying Eq. 2–9,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{F}_1 &= F_1 \cos \alpha_1 \mathbf{i} + F_1 \cos \beta_1 \mathbf{j} + F_1 \cos \gamma_1 \mathbf{k} \\ &= 300 \cos 45^\circ \mathbf{i} + 300 \cos 60^\circ \mathbf{j} + 300 \cos 120^\circ \mathbf{k} \\ &= \{212.1\mathbf{i} + 150\mathbf{j} - 150\mathbf{k}\} \text{ N}\end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbf{F}_2 = F_{2x}\mathbf{i} + F_{2y}\mathbf{j} + F_{2z}\mathbf{k}$$

Since  $\mathbf{F}_R$  has a magnitude of 800 N and acts in the  $+\mathbf{j}$  direction,

$$\mathbf{F}_R = (800 \text{ N})(+\mathbf{j}) = \{800\mathbf{j}\} \text{ N}$$

We require

$$\mathbf{F}_R = \mathbf{F}_1 + \mathbf{F}_2$$

$$800\mathbf{j} = 212.1\mathbf{i} + 150\mathbf{j} - 150\mathbf{k} + F_{2x}\mathbf{i} + F_{2y}\mathbf{j} + F_{2z}\mathbf{k}$$

$$800\mathbf{j} = (212.1 + F_{2x})\mathbf{i} + (150 + F_{2y})\mathbf{j} + (-150 + F_{2z})\mathbf{k}$$

To satisfy this equation the  $\mathbf{i}$ ,  $\mathbf{j}$ ,  $\mathbf{k}$  components of  $\mathbf{F}_R$  must be equal to the corresponding  $\mathbf{i}$ ,  $\mathbf{j}$ ,  $\mathbf{k}$  components of  $(\mathbf{F}_1 + \mathbf{F}_2)$ . Hence,

$$0 = 212.1 + F_{2x} \quad F_{2x} = -212.1 \text{ N}$$

$$800 = 150 + F_{2y} \quad F_{2y} = 650 \text{ N}$$

$$0 = -150 + F_{2z} \quad F_{2z} = 150 \text{ N}$$

The magnitude of  $\mathbf{F}_2$  is thus

$$\begin{aligned}F_2 &= \sqrt{(-212.1 \text{ N})^2 + (650 \text{ N})^2 + (150 \text{ N})^2} \\ &= 700 \text{ N}\end{aligned}$$

*Ans.*

We can use Eq. 2–9 to determine  $\alpha_2, \beta_2, \gamma_2$ .

$$\cos \alpha_2 = \frac{-212.1}{700}; \quad \alpha_2 = 108^\circ$$

*Ans.*

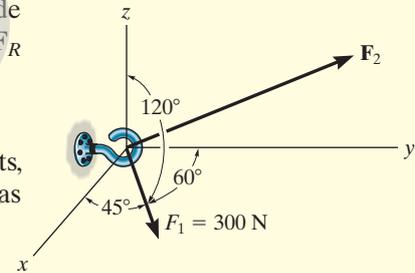
$$\cos \beta_2 = \frac{650}{700}; \quad \beta_2 = 21.8^\circ$$

*Ans.*

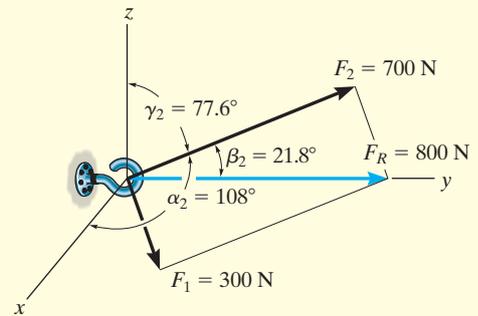
$$\cos \gamma_2 = \frac{150}{700}; \quad \gamma_2 = 77.6^\circ$$

*Ans.*

These results are shown in Fig. 2–31*b*.



(a)



(b)

**Fig. 2–31**

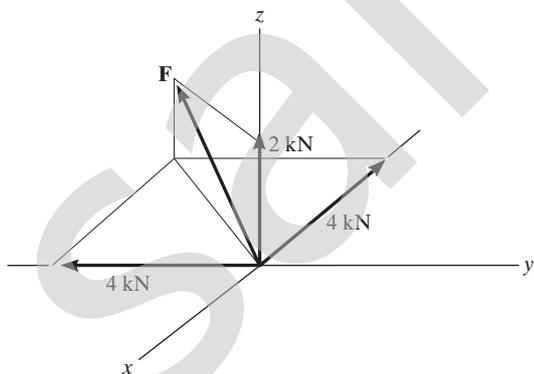
## PRELIMINARY PROBLEMS

**P2-3.** Sketch the following forces on the  $x, y, z$  coordinate axes. Show  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$ .

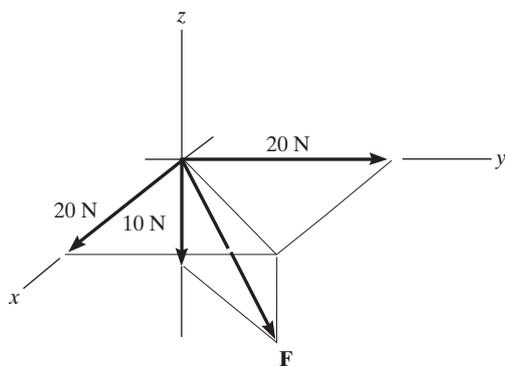
a)  $\mathbf{F} = \{50\mathbf{i} + 60\mathbf{j} - 10\mathbf{k}\}$  kN

b)  $\mathbf{F} = \{-40\mathbf{i} - 80\mathbf{j} + 60\mathbf{k}\}$  kN

**P2-4.** In each case, establish  $\mathbf{F}$  as a Cartesian vector, and find the magnitude of  $\mathbf{F}$  and the direction cosine of  $\beta$ .



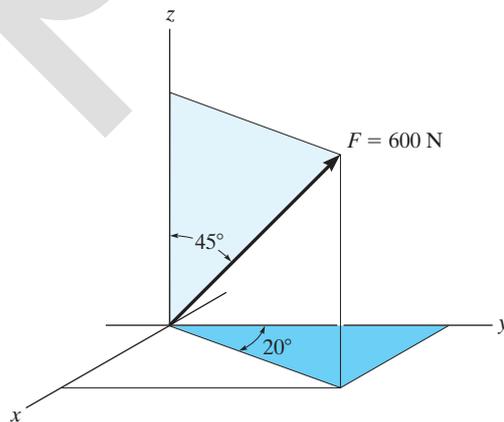
(a)



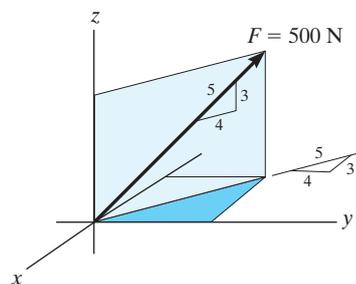
(b)

**Prob. P2-4**

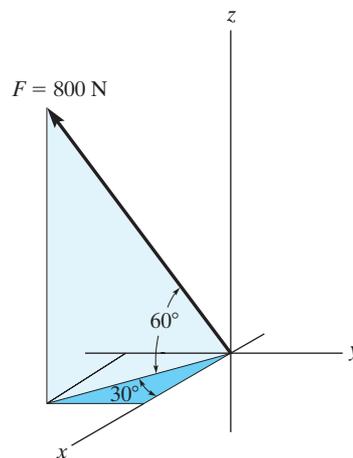
**P2-5.** Show how to resolve each force into its  $x, y, z$  components. Set up the calculation used to find the magnitude of each component.



(a)



(b)

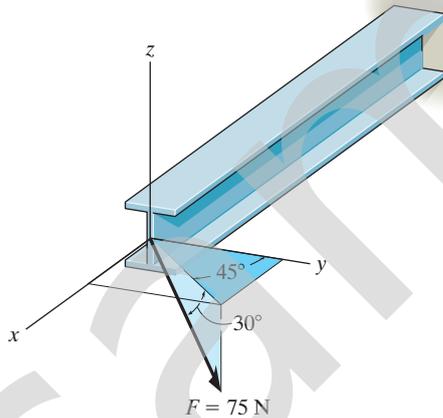


(c)

**Prob. P2-5**

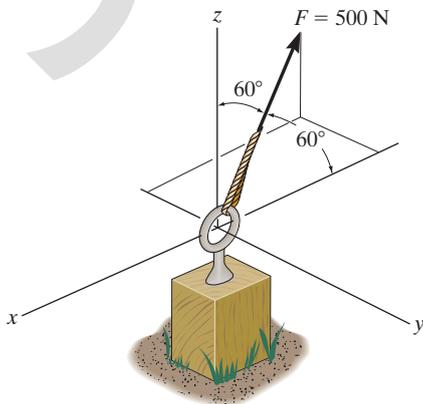
## FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS

**F2-13.** Determine the coordinate direction angles of the force.



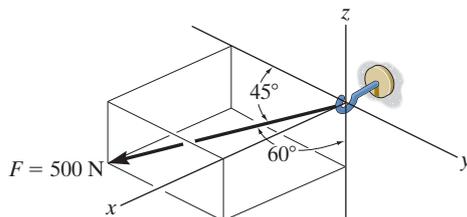
**Prob. F2-13**

**F2-14.** Express the force as a Cartesian vector.



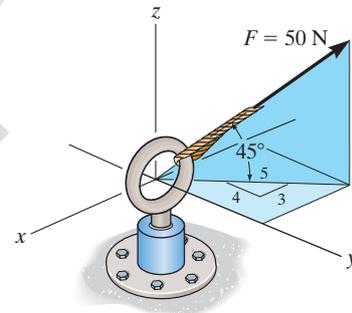
**Prob. F2-14**

**F2-15.** Express the force as a Cartesian vector.



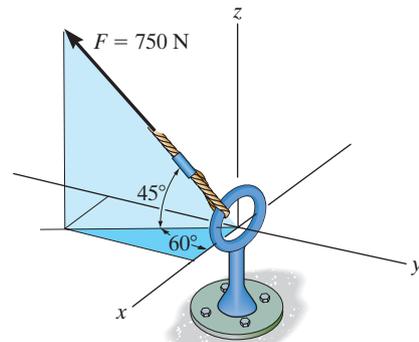
**Prob. F2-15**

**F2-16.** Express the force as a Cartesian vector.



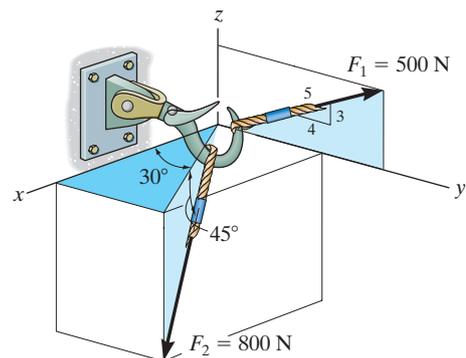
**Prob. F2-16**

**F2-17.** Express the force as a Cartesian vector.



**Prob. F2-17**

**F2-18.** Determine the resultant force acting on the hook.

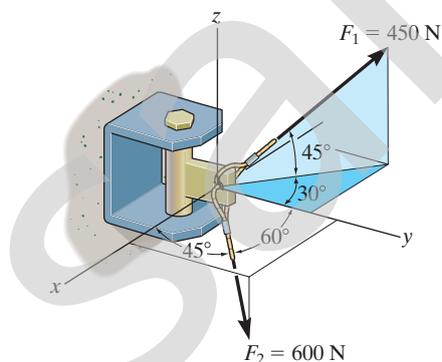


**Prob. F2-18**

## PROBLEMS

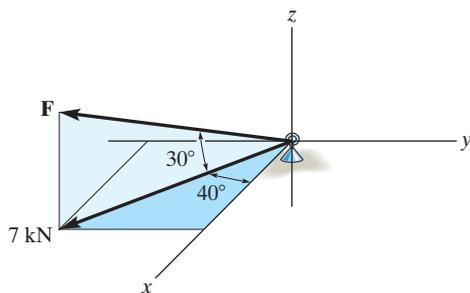
**\*2-60.** Determine the coordinate angle  $\gamma$  for  $\mathbf{F}_2$  and then express each force acting on the bracket as a Cartesian vector.

**2-61.** Determine the magnitude and coordinate direction angles of the resultant force acting on the bracket.



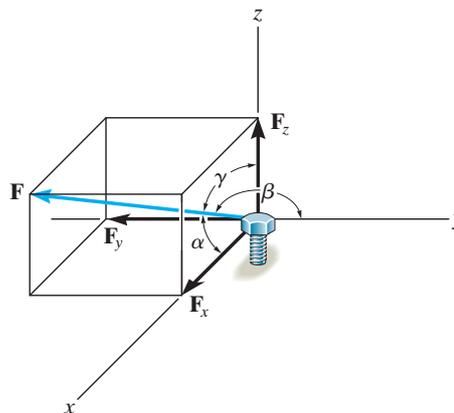
**Probs. 2-60/61**

**2-62.** Determine the magnitude and coordinate direction angles of the force  $\mathbf{F}$  acting on the support. The component of  $\mathbf{F}$  in the  $x$ - $y$  plane is 7 kN.



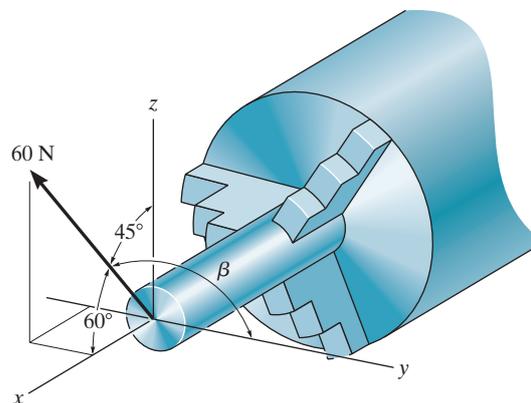
**Prob. 2-62**

**2-63.** The bolt is subjected to the force  $\mathbf{F}$ , which has components acting along the  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$  axes as shown. If the magnitude of  $\mathbf{F}$  is 80 N, and  $\alpha = 60^\circ$  and  $\gamma = 45^\circ$ , determine the magnitudes of its components.



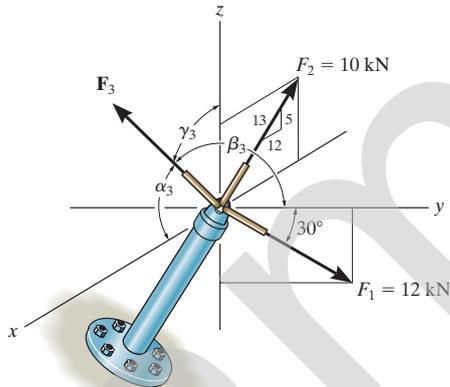
**Prob. 2-63**

**\*2-64.** The stock mounted on the lathe is subjected to a force of 60 N. Determine the coordinate direction angle  $\beta$  and express the force as a Cartesian vector.



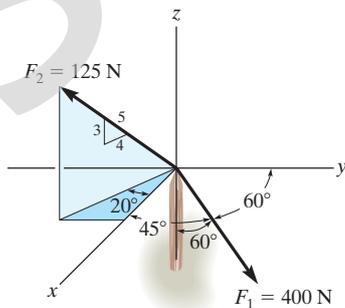
**Prob. 2-64**

**2-65.** Specify the magnitude  $F_3$  and directions  $\alpha_3, \beta_3,$  and  $\gamma_3$  of  $\mathbf{F}_3$  so that the resultant force of the three forces is  $\mathbf{F}_R = \{9\mathbf{j}\}$  kN.



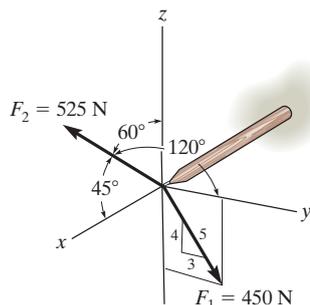
**Prob. 2-65**

**2-66.** Determine the magnitude and coordinate direction angles of the resultant force, and sketch this vector on the coordinate system.



**Prob. 2-66**

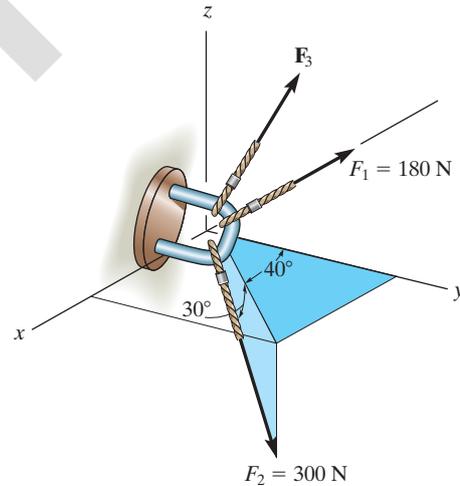
**2-67.** Determine the magnitude and coordinate direction angles of the resultant force, and sketch this vector on the coordinate system.



**Prob. 2-67**

**\*2-68.** Determine the magnitude and coordinate direction angles of  $\mathbf{F}_3$  so that the resultant of the three forces acts along the positive  $y$  axis and has a magnitude of 600 N.

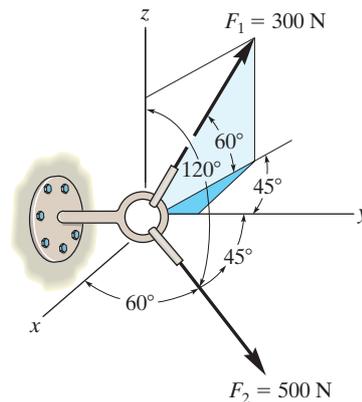
**2-69.** Determine the magnitude and coordinate direction angles of  $\mathbf{F}_3$  so that the resultant of the three forces is zero.



**Probs. 2-68/69**

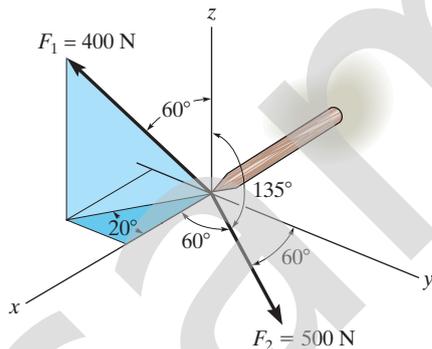
**2-70.** The screw eye is subjected to the two forces shown. Express each force in Cartesian vector form and then determine the resultant force. Find the magnitude and coordinate direction angles of the resultant force.

**2-71.** Determine the coordinate direction angles of  $\mathbf{F}_1$ .



**Probs. 2-70/71**

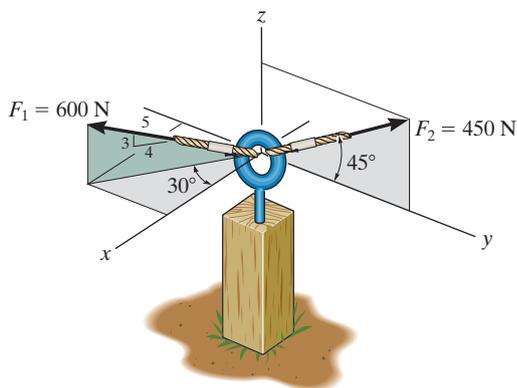
**\*2-72.** Determine the magnitude and coordinate direction angles of the resultant force, and sketch this vector on the coordinate system.



**Prob. 2-72**

**2-73.** Determine the coordinate direction angles of force  $\mathbf{F}_1$ .

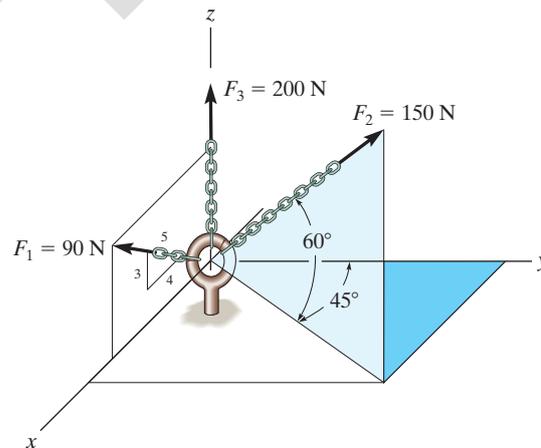
**2-74.** Determine the magnitude and coordinate direction angles of the resultant force acting on the eyebolt.



**Probs. 2-73/74**

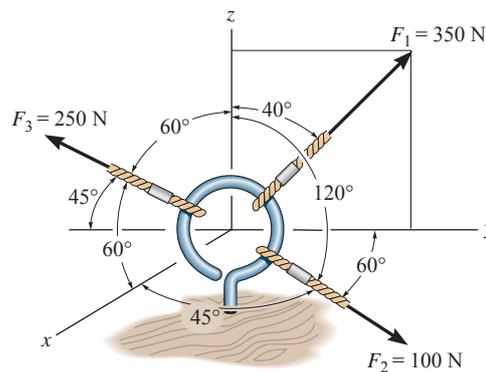
**2-75.** Express each force in Cartesian vector form.

**\*2-76.** Determine the magnitude and coordinate direction angles of the resultant force, and sketch this vector on the coordinate system.



**Probs. 2-75/76**

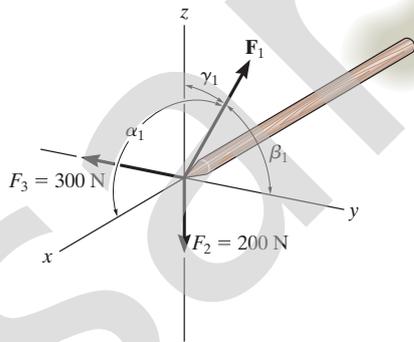
**2-77.** The cables attached to the screw eye are subjected to the three forces shown. Express each force in Cartesian vector form and determine the magnitude and coordinate direction angles of the resultant force.



**Prob. 2-77**

**2-78.** The mast is subjected to the three forces shown. Determine the coordinate direction angles  $\alpha_1, \beta_1, \gamma_1$  of  $\mathbf{F}_1$  so that the resultant force acting on the mast is  $\mathbf{F}_R = \{350\mathbf{i}\}$  N.

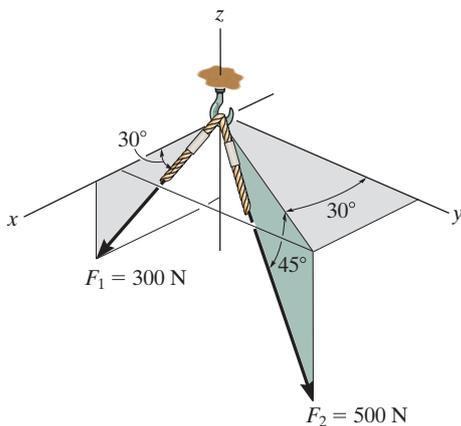
**2-79.** The mast is subjected to the three forces shown. Determine the coordinate direction angles  $\alpha_1, \beta_1, \gamma_1$  of  $\mathbf{F}_1$  so that the resultant force acting on the mast is zero.



**Probs. 2-78/79**

**\*2-80.** Express each force as a Cartesian vector.

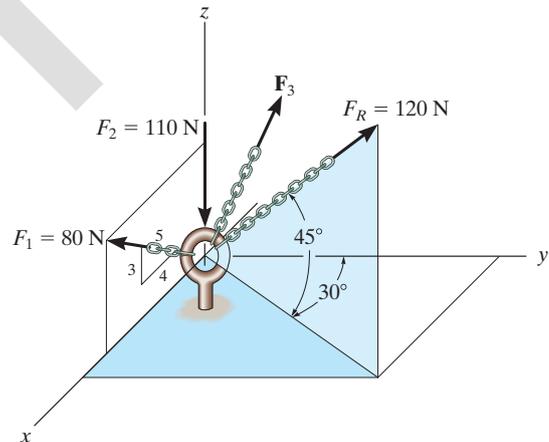
**2-81.** Determine the magnitude and coordinate direction angles of the resultant force acting on the hook.



**Probs. 2-80/81**

**2-82.** Three forces act on the ring. If the resultant force  $\mathbf{F}_R$  has a magnitude and direction as shown, determine the magnitude and the coordinate direction angles of force  $\mathbf{F}_3$ .

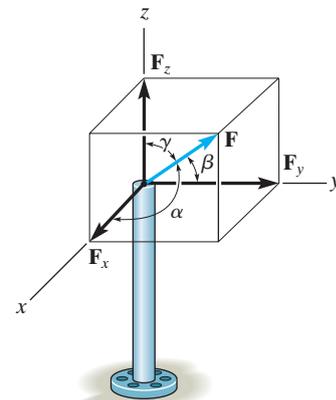
**2-83.** Determine the coordinate direction angles of  $\mathbf{F}_1$  and  $\mathbf{F}_R$ .



**Probs. 2-82/83**

**\*2-84.** The pole is subjected to the force  $\mathbf{F}$ , which has components acting along the  $x, y, z$  axes as shown. If the magnitude of  $\mathbf{F}$  is 3 kN,  $\beta = 30^\circ$ , and  $\gamma = 75^\circ$ , determine the magnitudes of its three components.

**2-85.** The pole is subjected to the force  $\mathbf{F}$  which has components  $F_x = 1.5$  kN and  $F_z = 1.25$  kN. If  $\beta = 75^\circ$ , determine the magnitudes of  $\mathbf{F}$  and  $\mathbf{F}_y$ .



**Probs. 2-84/85**

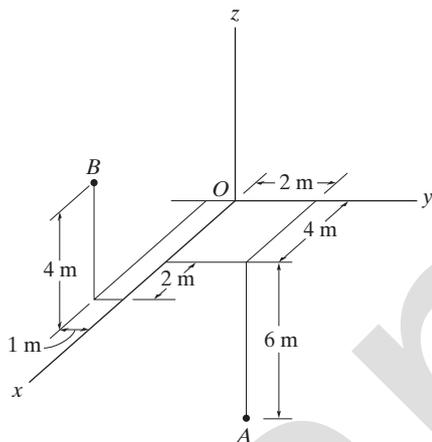


Fig. 2-32

## 2.7 Position Vectors

In this section we will introduce the concept of a position vector. It will be shown that this vector is of importance in formulating a Cartesian force vector directed between two points in space.

**$x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$  Coordinates.** Throughout the book we will use a *right-handed* coordinate system to reference the location of points in space. We will also use the convention followed in many technical books, which requires the positive  $z$  axis to be directed *upward* (the zenith direction) so that it measures the height of an object or the altitude of a point. The  $x$ ,  $y$  axes then lie in the horizontal plane, Fig. 2-32. Points in space are located relative to the origin of coordinates,  $O$ , by successive measurements along the  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$  axes. For example, the coordinates of point  $A$  are obtained by starting at  $O$  and measuring  $x_A = +4$  m along the  $x$  axis, then  $y_A = +2$  m along the  $y$  axis, and finally  $z_A = -6$  m along the  $z$  axis, so that  $A(4$  m,  $2$  m,  $-6$  m). In a similar manner, measurements along the  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$  axes from  $O$  to  $B$  yield the coordinates of  $B$ , that is,  $B(6$  m,  $-1$  m,  $4$  m).

**Position Vector.** A *position vector*  $\mathbf{r}$  is defined as a fixed vector which locates a point in space relative to another point. For example, if  $\mathbf{r}$  extends from the origin of coordinates,  $O$ , to point  $P(x, y, z)$ , Fig. 2-33a, then  $\mathbf{r}$  can be expressed in Cartesian vector form as

$$\mathbf{r} = x\mathbf{i} + y\mathbf{j} + z\mathbf{k}$$

Note how the head-to-tail vector addition of the three components yields vector  $\mathbf{r}$ , Fig. 2-33b. Starting at the origin  $O$ , one “travels”  $x$  in the  $+\mathbf{i}$  direction, then  $y$  in the  $+\mathbf{j}$  direction, and finally  $z$  in the  $+\mathbf{k}$  direction to arrive at point  $P(x, y, z)$ .

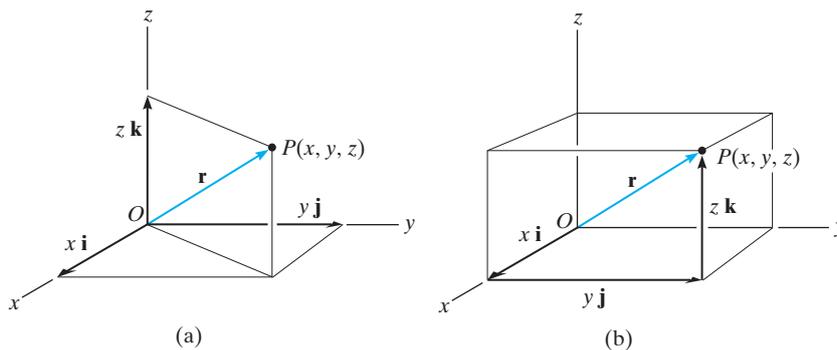


Fig. 2-33

In the more general case, the position vector may be directed from point  $A$  to point  $B$  in space, Fig. 2–34a. This vector is also designated by the symbol  $\mathbf{r}$ . As a matter of convention, we will *sometimes* refer to this vector with *two subscripts* to indicate from and to the point where it is directed. Thus,  $\mathbf{r}$  can also be designated as  $\mathbf{r}_{AB}$ . Also, note that  $\mathbf{r}_A$  and  $\mathbf{r}_B$  in Fig. 2–34a are referenced with only one subscript since they extend from the origin of coordinates.

From Fig. 2–34a, by the head-to-tail vector addition, using the triangle rule, we require

$$\mathbf{r}_A + \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{r}_B$$

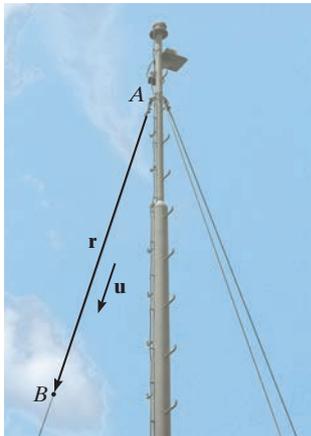
Solving for  $\mathbf{r}$  and expressing  $\mathbf{r}_A$  and  $\mathbf{r}_B$  in Cartesian vector form yields

$$\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{r}_B - \mathbf{r}_A = (x_B\mathbf{i} + y_B\mathbf{j} + z_B\mathbf{k}) - (x_A\mathbf{i} + y_A\mathbf{j} + z_A\mathbf{k})$$

or

$$\mathbf{r} = (x_B - x_A)\mathbf{i} + (y_B - y_A)\mathbf{j} + (z_B - z_A)\mathbf{k} \quad (2-11)$$

Thus, the  $\mathbf{i}$ ,  $\mathbf{j}$ ,  $\mathbf{k}$  components of the position vector  $\mathbf{r}$  may be formed by taking the coordinates of the tail of the vector  $A(x_A, y_A, z_A)$  and subtracting them from the corresponding coordinates of the head  $B(x_B, y_B, z_B)$ . We can also form these components *directly*, Fig. 2–34b, by starting at  $A$  and moving through a distance of  $(x_B - x_A)$  along the positive  $x$  axis ( $+\mathbf{i}$ ), then  $(y_B - y_A)$  along the positive  $y$  axis ( $+\mathbf{j}$ ), and finally  $(z_B - z_A)$  along the positive  $z$  axis ( $+\mathbf{k}$ ) to get to  $B$ .



If an  $x, y, z$  coordinate system is established, then the coordinates of two points  $A$  and  $B$  on the cable can be determined. From this the position vector  $\mathbf{r}$  acting along the cable can be formulated. Its magnitude represents the distance from  $A$  to  $B$ , and its unit vector,  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{r}/r$ , gives the direction defined by  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$ .

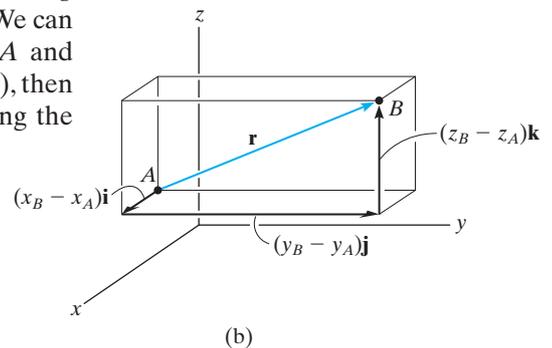
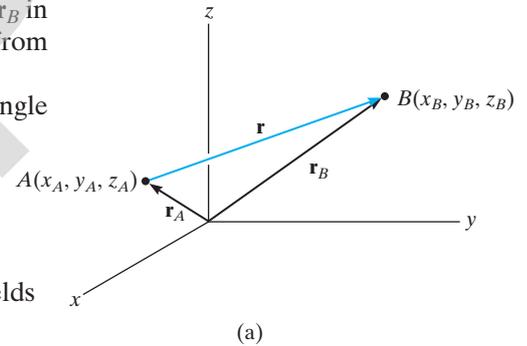


Fig. 2–34

## EXAMPLE 2.10

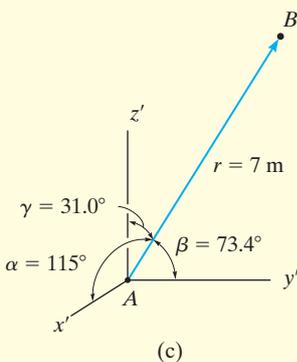
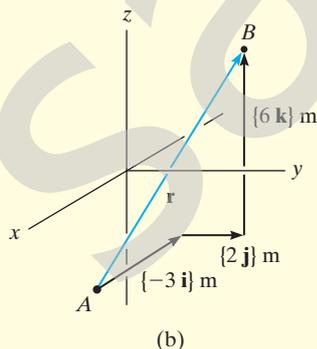
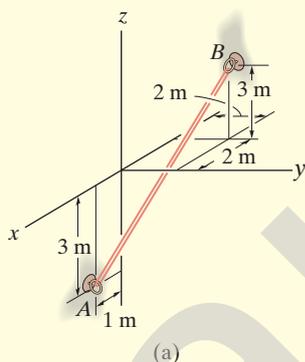


Fig. 2-35

An elastic rubber band is attached to points  $A$  and  $B$  as shown in Fig. 2-35a. Determine its length and its direction measured from  $A$  toward  $B$ .

## SOLUTION

We first establish a position vector from  $A$  to  $B$ , Fig. 2-35b. In accordance with Eq. 2-11, the coordinates of the tail  $A(1 \text{ m}, 0, -3 \text{ m})$  are subtracted from the coordinates of the head  $B(-2 \text{ m}, 2 \text{ m}, 3 \text{ m})$ , which yields

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{r} &= [-2 \text{ m} - 1 \text{ m}]\mathbf{i} + [2 \text{ m} - 0]\mathbf{j} + [3 \text{ m} - (-3 \text{ m})]\mathbf{k} \\ &= \{-3\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} + 6\mathbf{k}\} \text{ m}\end{aligned}$$

These components of  $\mathbf{r}$  can also be determined *directly* by realizing that they represent the direction and distance one must travel along each axis in order to move from  $A$  to  $B$ , i.e., along the  $x$  axis  $\{-3\mathbf{i}\} \text{ m}$ , along the  $y$  axis  $\{2\mathbf{j}\} \text{ m}$ , and finally along the  $z$  axis  $\{6\mathbf{k}\} \text{ m}$ .

The length of the rubber band is therefore

$$r = \sqrt{(-3 \text{ m})^2 + (2 \text{ m})^2 + (6 \text{ m})^2} = 7 \text{ m} \quad \text{Ans.}$$

Formulating a unit vector in the direction of  $\mathbf{r}$ , we have

$$\mathbf{u} = \frac{\mathbf{r}}{r} = -\frac{3}{7}\mathbf{i} + \frac{2}{7}\mathbf{j} + \frac{6}{7}\mathbf{k}$$

The components of this unit vector give the coordinate direction angles

$$\alpha = \cos^{-1}\left(-\frac{3}{7}\right) = 115^\circ \quad \text{Ans.}$$

$$\beta = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{2}{7}\right) = 73.4^\circ \quad \text{Ans.}$$

$$\gamma = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{6}{7}\right) = 31.0^\circ \quad \text{Ans.}$$

**NOTE:** These angles are measured from the *positive axes* of a localized coordinate system placed at the tail of  $\mathbf{r}$ , as shown in Fig. 2-35c.

## 2.8 Force Vector Directed Along a Line

Quite often in three-dimensional statics problems, the direction of a force is specified by two points through which its line of action passes. Such a situation is shown in Fig. 2–36, where the force  $\mathbf{F}$  is directed along the cord  $AB$ . We can formulate  $\mathbf{F}$  as a Cartesian vector by realizing that it has the *same direction* and *sense* as the position vector  $\mathbf{r}$  directed from point  $A$  to point  $B$  on the cord. This common direction is specified by the **unit vector**  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{r}/r$ . Hence,

$$\mathbf{F} = F\mathbf{u} = F\left(\frac{\mathbf{r}}{r}\right) = F\left(\frac{(x_B - x_A)\mathbf{i} + (y_B - y_A)\mathbf{j} + (z_B - z_A)\mathbf{k}}{\sqrt{(x_B - x_A)^2 + (y_B - y_A)^2 + (z_B - z_A)^2}}\right)$$

Although we have represented  $\mathbf{F}$  symbolically in Fig. 2–36, note that it has *units of force*, unlike  $\mathbf{r}$ , which has units of length.

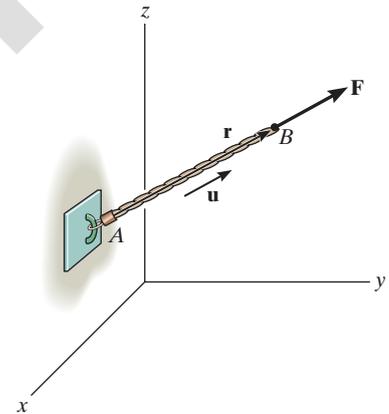


Fig. 2–36



The force  $\mathbf{F}$  acting along the rope can be represented as a Cartesian vector by establishing  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$  axes and first forming a position vector  $\mathbf{r}$  along the length of the rope. Then the corresponding unit vector  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{r}/r$  that defines the direction of both the rope and the force can be determined. Finally, the magnitude of the force is combined with its direction,  $\mathbf{F} = F\mathbf{u}$ .

### Important Points

- A position vector locates one point in space relative to another point.
- The easiest way to formulate the components of a position vector is to determine the distance and direction that must be traveled along the  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$  directions—going from the tail to the head of the vector.
- A force  $\mathbf{F}$  acting in the direction of a position vector  $\mathbf{r}$  can be represented in Cartesian form if the unit vector  $\mathbf{u}$  of the position vector is determined and it is multiplied by the magnitude of the force, i.e.,  $\mathbf{F} = F\mathbf{u} = F(\mathbf{r}/r)$ .

## EXAMPLE 2.11

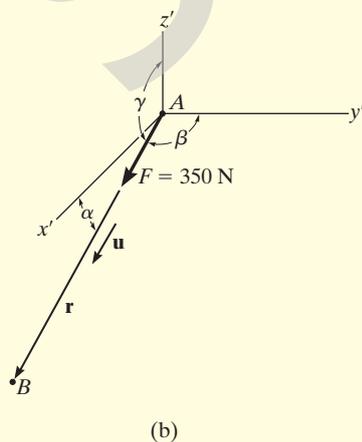
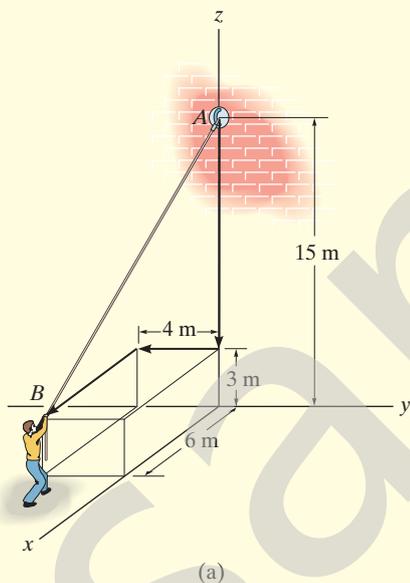


Fig. 2-37

The man shown in Fig. 2-37a pulls on the cord with a force of 350 N. Represent this force acting on the support  $A$  as a Cartesian vector and determine its direction.

## SOLUTION

Force  $\mathbf{F}$  is shown in Fig. 2-37b. The *direction* of this vector,  $\mathbf{u}$ , is determined from the position vector  $\mathbf{r}$ , which extends from  $A$  to  $B$ . Rather than using the coordinates of the end points of the cord,  $\mathbf{r}$  can be determined *directly* by noting in Fig. 2-37a that one must travel from  $A$   $\{-12\mathbf{k}\}$  m, then  $\{-4\mathbf{j}\}$  m, and finally  $\{6\mathbf{i}\}$  m to get to  $B$ . Thus,

$$\mathbf{r} = \{6\mathbf{i} - 4\mathbf{j} - 12\mathbf{k}\} \text{ m}$$

The magnitude of  $\mathbf{r}$ , which represents the *length* of cord  $AB$ , is

$$r = \sqrt{(6 \text{ m})^2 + (-4 \text{ m})^2 + (-12 \text{ m})^2} = 14 \text{ m}$$

Forming the unit vector that defines the direction and sense of both  $\mathbf{r}$  and  $\mathbf{F}$ , we have

$$\mathbf{u} = \frac{\mathbf{r}}{r} = \frac{6}{14}\mathbf{i} - \frac{4}{14}\mathbf{j} - \frac{12}{14}\mathbf{k} = \frac{3}{7}\mathbf{i} - \frac{2}{7}\mathbf{j} - \frac{6}{7}\mathbf{k}$$

Since  $\mathbf{F}$  has a *magnitude* of 350 N and a *direction* specified by  $\mathbf{u}$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{F} = F\mathbf{u} &= (350 \text{ N})\left(\frac{3}{7}\mathbf{i} - \frac{2}{7}\mathbf{j} - \frac{6}{7}\mathbf{k}\right) \\ &= \{150\mathbf{i} - 100\mathbf{j} - 300\mathbf{k}\} \text{ N} \end{aligned} \quad \text{Ans.}$$

The coordinate direction angles are measured between  $\mathbf{r}$  (or  $\mathbf{F}$ ) and the *positive axes* of a localized coordinate system with origin placed at  $A$ , Fig. 2-37b. From the components of the unit vector:

$$\alpha = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{3}{7}\right) = 64.6^\circ \quad \text{Ans.}$$

$$\beta = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{-2}{7}\right) = 107^\circ \quad \text{Ans.}$$

$$\gamma = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{-6}{7}\right) = 149^\circ \quad \text{Ans.}$$

**NOTE:** These results make sense when compared with the angles identified in Fig. 2-37b.