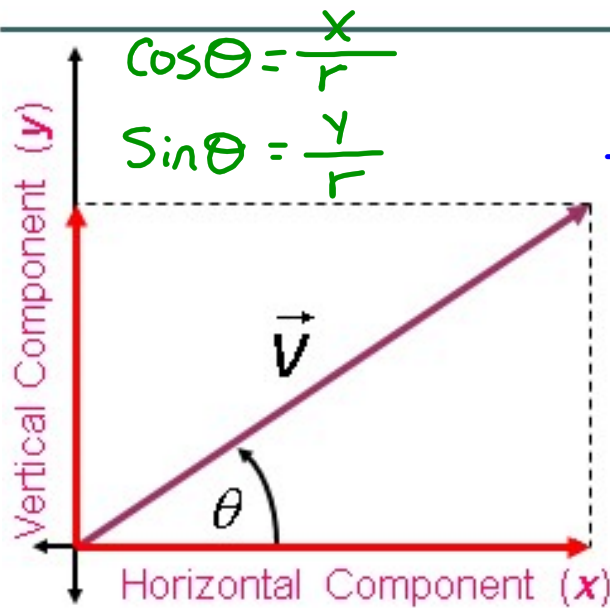


Honors PreCalculus

Direction Angles and
Finding Components of Vectors

Direction Angle:

The angle that a vector makes with the positive x-axis (Counter-clockwise)



$$\cos \theta = \frac{x}{r}$$

$$\sin \theta = \frac{y}{r}$$

Finding the components of a vector
a.k.a: "Resolving a vector into its components"

$$\vec{v} = \langle \|v\| \cos \theta, \|v\| \sin \theta \rangle$$

$\|v\| \rightarrow$ magnitude

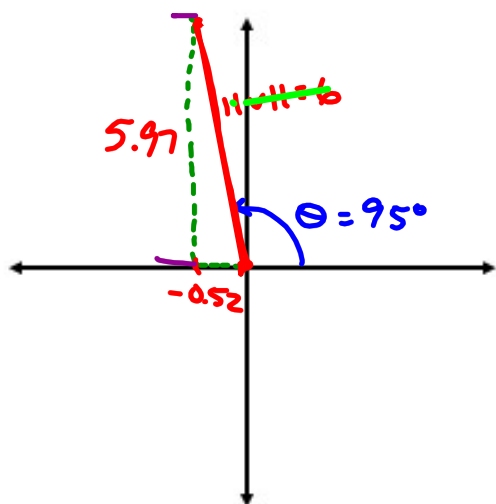
So: If you are given (or can find) the direction angle and the magnitude of a vector, the component form of the vector is:

Example 1: $\langle \quad \rangle$

Find the components of the vector with:

• Direction angle of 95°

• Magnitude of 6 $\rightarrow \|v\| = 6$



$$\vec{v} = \langle x, y \rangle$$

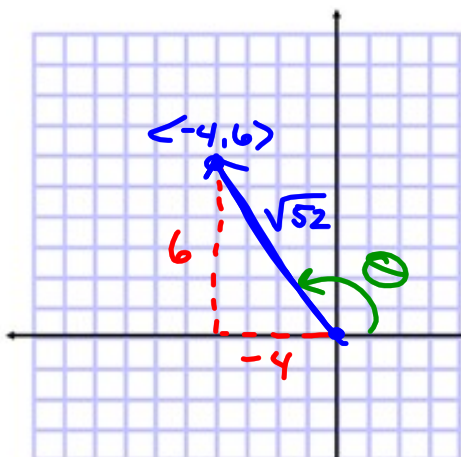
$$\vec{v} = \langle 6 \cos 95^\circ, 6 \sin 95^\circ \rangle$$

$$= \langle -0.523, 5.977 \rangle$$

Example 2:Find the direction angle of the vector:

$$\vec{v} = \langle -4, 6 \rangle \quad \text{Component form}$$

Sketch the vector so that you know what quadrant it's in!!!!!!



$$\|\vec{v}\| = \sqrt{(-4)^2 + 6^2} = \sqrt{52}$$

16 + 36

$$\vec{v} = \langle \|\vec{v}\| \cos \theta, \|\vec{v}\| \sin \theta \rangle$$

$$\theta = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{-4}{\sqrt{52}} \right)$$

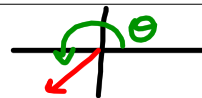
$$\theta \approx 123.69^\circ$$

Example 3: θ

Find the direction angle of the vector:

$$\vec{v} = \langle 7, -4 \rangle$$

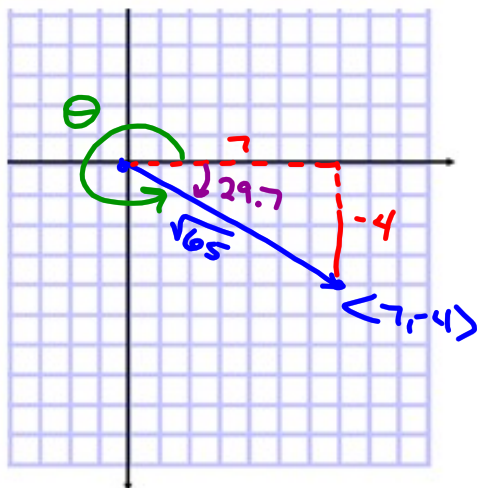
~~$$\vec{v} = \langle \|\vec{v}\| \cos \theta, \|\vec{v}\| \sin \theta \rangle$$~~



Sketch the vector so that you know what quadrant it's in!!!!!!

$$|\vec{v}| = \sqrt{7^2 + (-4)^2} = \sqrt{65}$$

49 + 16



$$\theta = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{7}{\sqrt{65}}\right) \approx 29.7^\circ$$

$$\theta = 360 - 29.7 \approx 330.3^\circ$$