

Chapter 2 – Part 1

Forces

STATICS, AGE-1330

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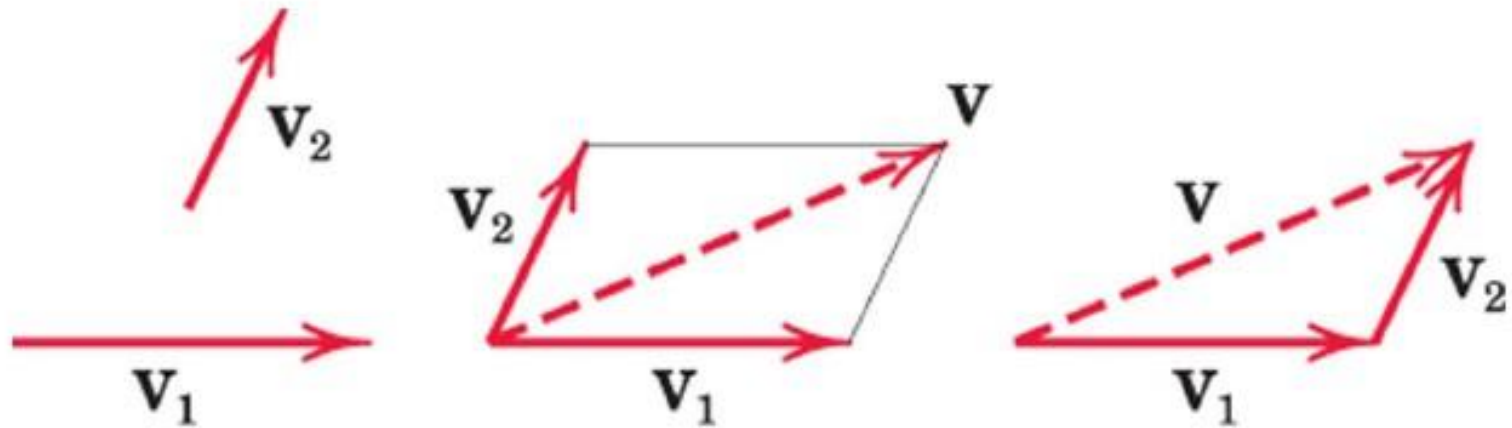
Spring-2026

Mechanics: Scalars and Vectors

- Scalar
 - Only **magnitude** is associated with it
 - e.g., time, volume, density, speed, energy, mass etc.
- Vector
 - Possess **direction** as well as **magnitude**
 - Parallelogram law of addition (and the triangle law)
 - e.g., displacement, velocity, acceleration etc.

Mechanics: Scalars and Vectors

- Laws of vector addition
 - Equivalent vector $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}_1 + \mathbf{v}_2$ (Vector Sum)



Mechanics: Scalars and Vectors

A Vector **\mathbf{V}** can be written as: **$\mathbf{V} = V\mathbf{n}$**

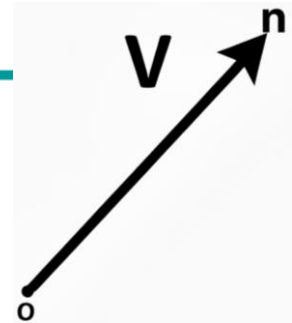
V = magnitude of **\mathbf{V}**

\mathbf{n} = unit vector whose magnitude is one and whose direction coincides with that of **\mathbf{V}**

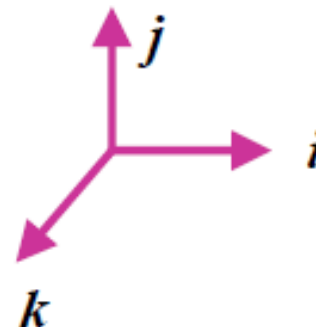
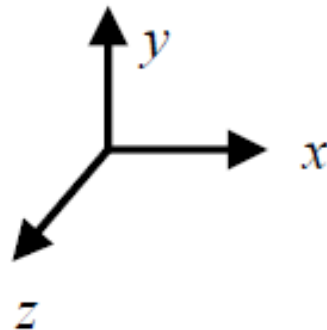
Unit vector can be formed by dividing any vector, such as the geometric position vector, by its length or magnitude

Vectors represented by Bold and Non-Italic letters (**\mathbf{V}**)

Magnitude of vectors represented by Non-Bold, Italic letters (V)



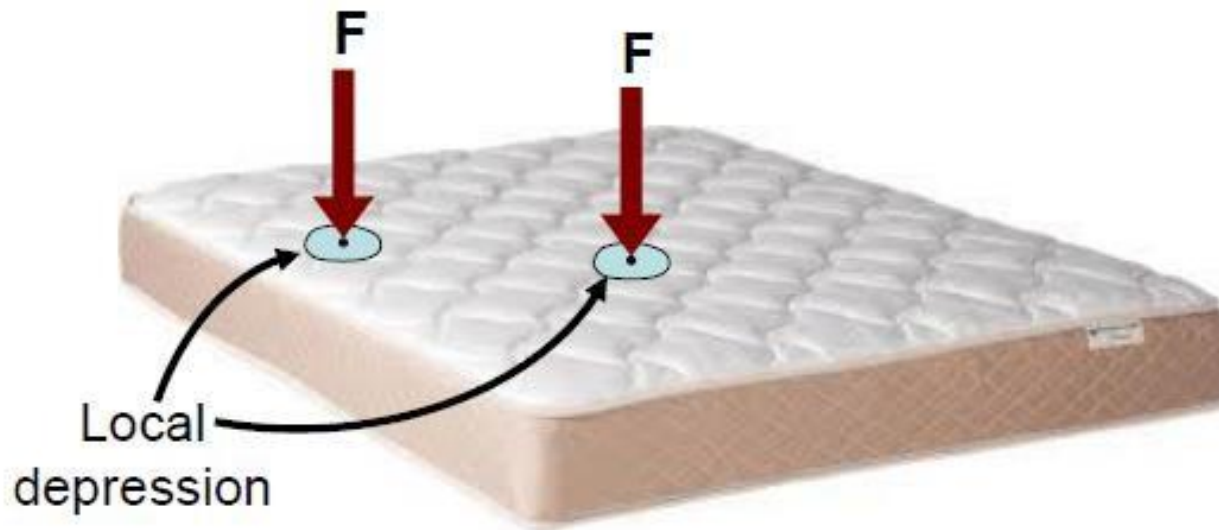
$$\frac{\mathbf{V}}{V} = \mathbf{n}$$



Types of Vectors: Fixed Vector

- **Fixed Vector**

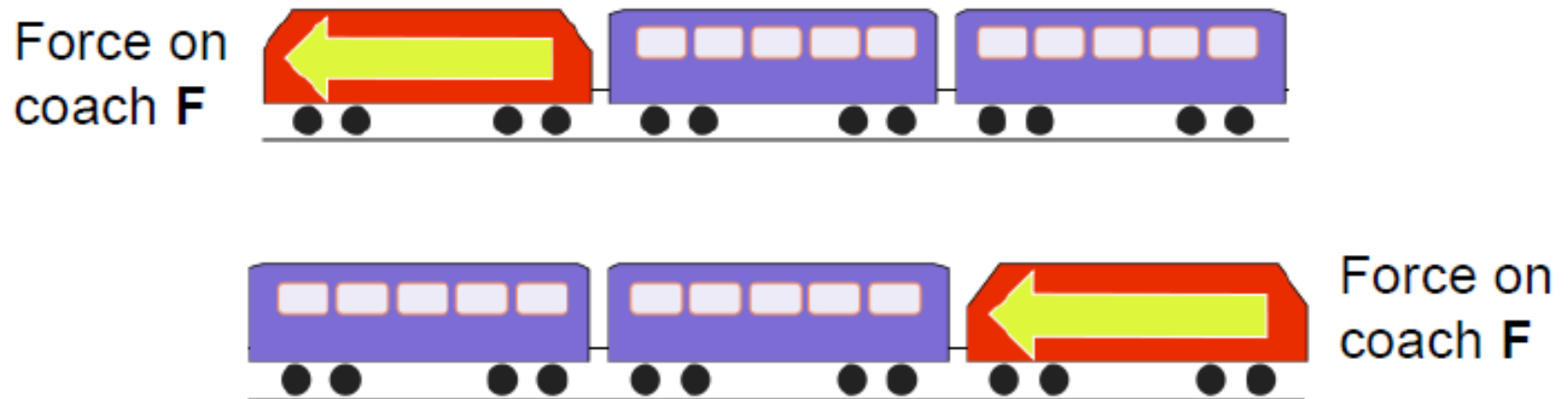
- Constant magnitude and direction
 - **Unique point of application**
- e.g., force on a deformable body



- e.g., force on a given particle

Types of Vectors: Sliding Vector

- **Sliding Vector**
 - Constant magnitude and direction
 - **Unique line of action**
 - “Slide” along the line of action
 - **No unique point of application**



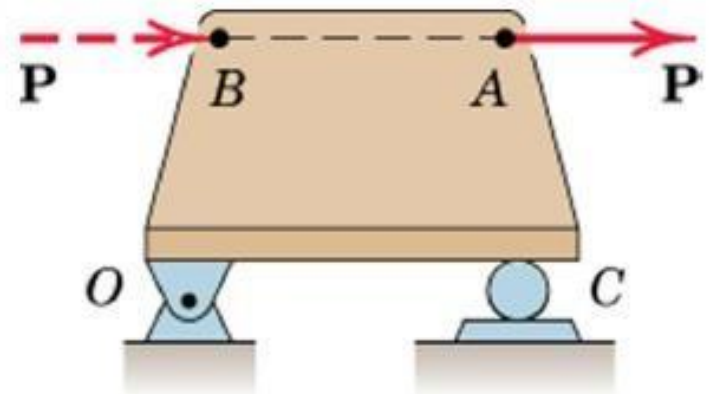
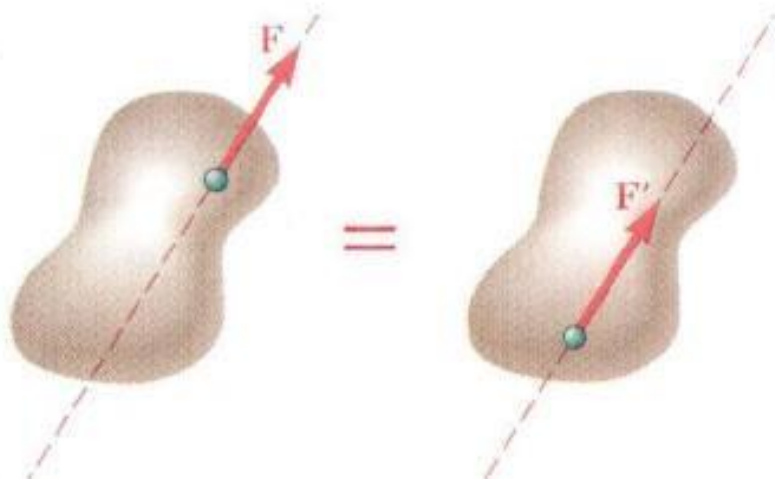
Types of Vectors: Sliding Vector

- **Sliding Vector**

- Principle of Transmissibility

- **Application of force at any point along a particular line of action**

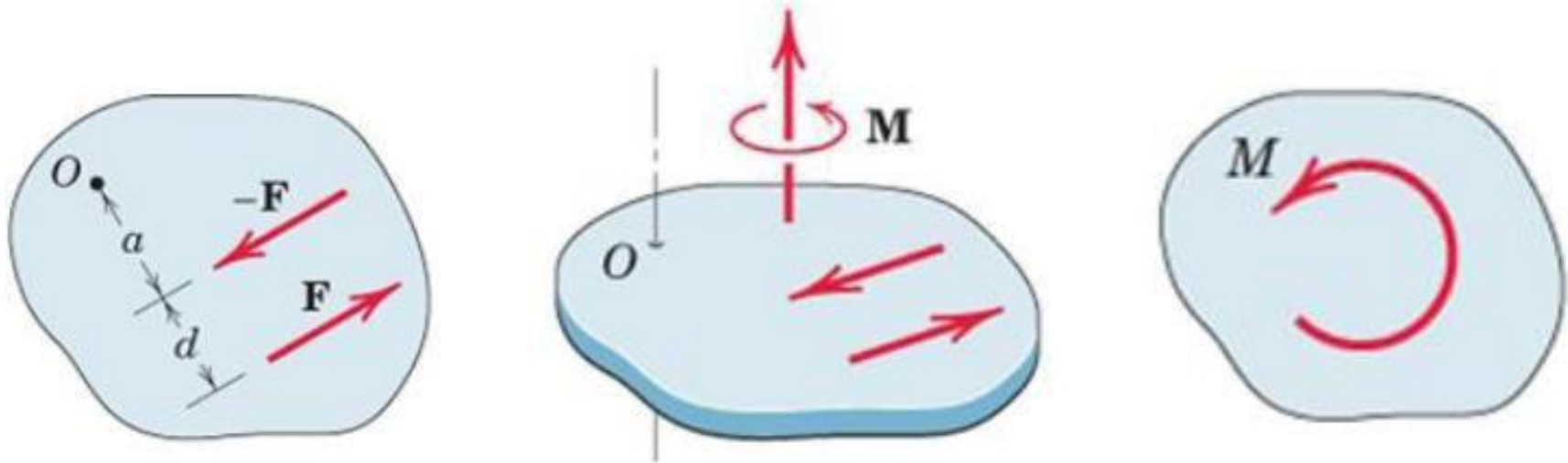
- No change in resultant external effects of the force



Types of Vectors: Free Vector

- **Free Vector**

- Freely movable in space
 - **No unique line of action**
 - **No unique point of application**
- e.g., moment of a couple



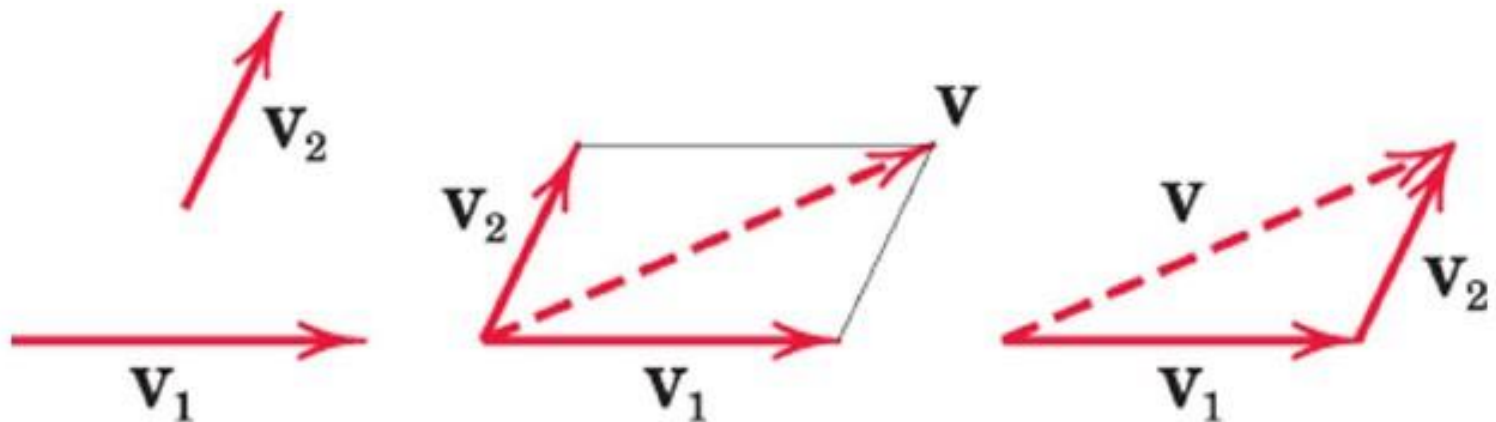
Vectors: Rules of addition

- **Parallelogram Law**

- Equivalent vector represented by the diagonal of a parallelogram

- $\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{V}_1 + \mathbf{V}_2$ (*Vector Sum*)

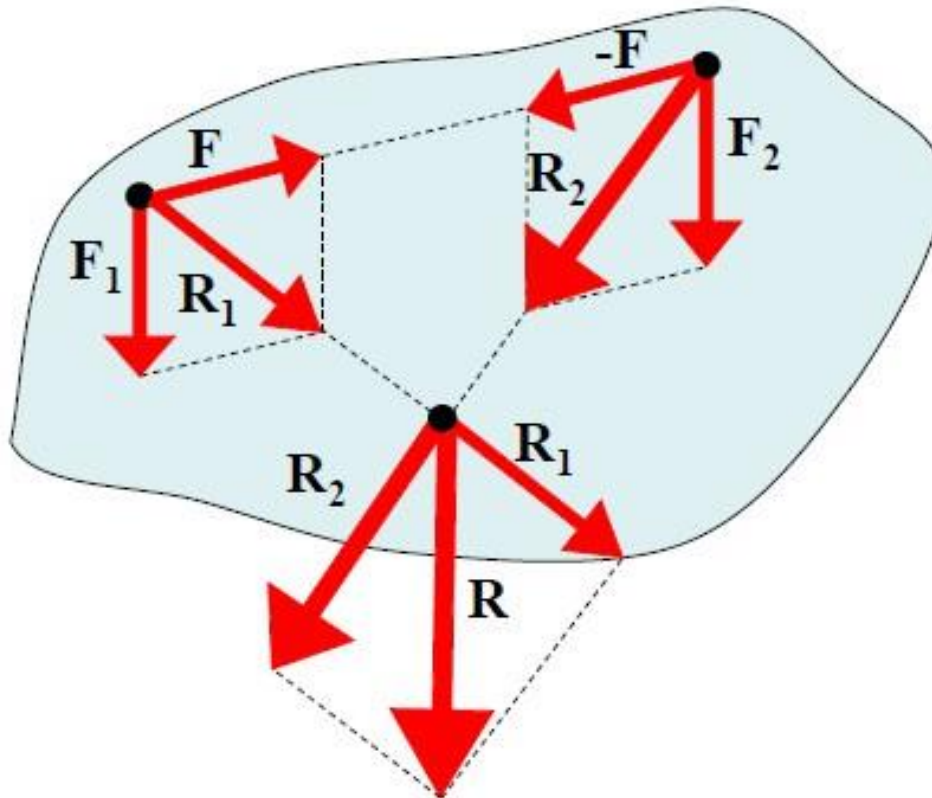
- $\mathbf{V} \neq \mathbf{V}_1 + \mathbf{V}_2$ (*Scalar sum*)



Vectors: Parallelogram law of addition

- Addition of two parallel vectors

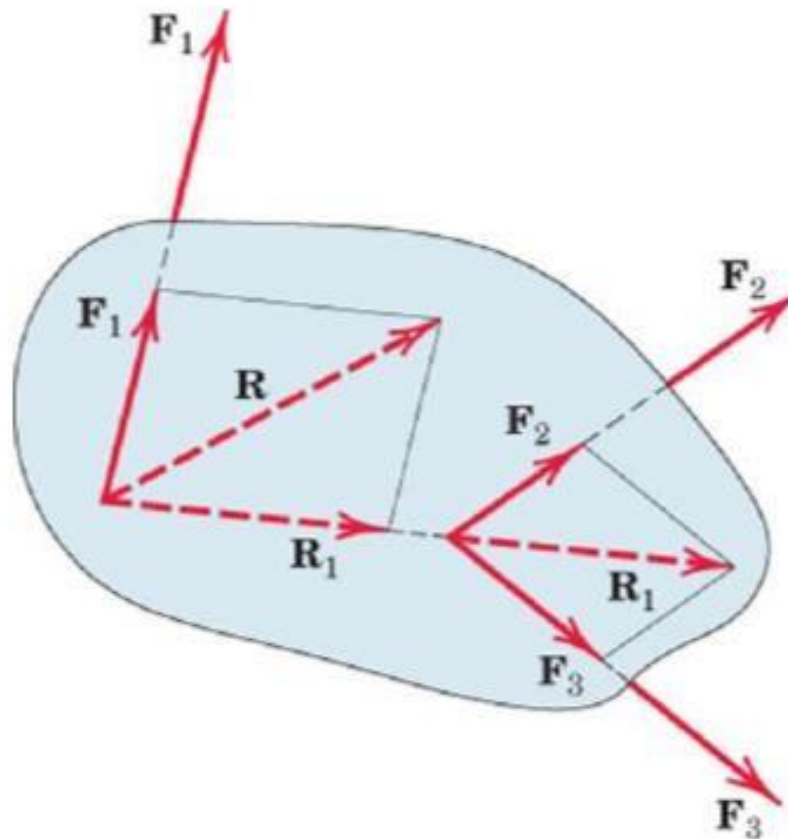
$$\mathbf{F}_1 + \mathbf{F}_2 = \mathbf{R}$$



Vectors: Parallelogram law of addition

- Addition of 3 vectors

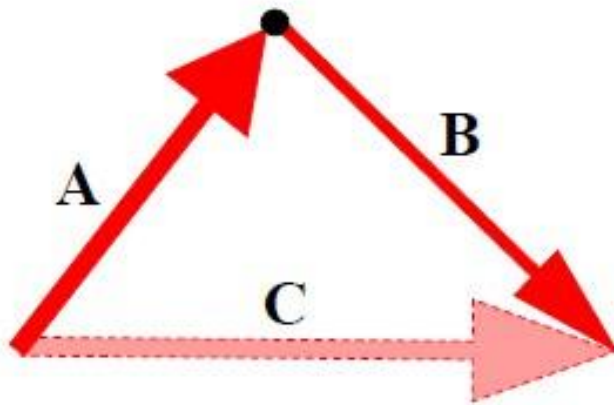
$$\mathbf{F}_1 + \mathbf{F}_2 + \mathbf{F}_3 = \mathbf{R}$$



Vectors: Rules of addition

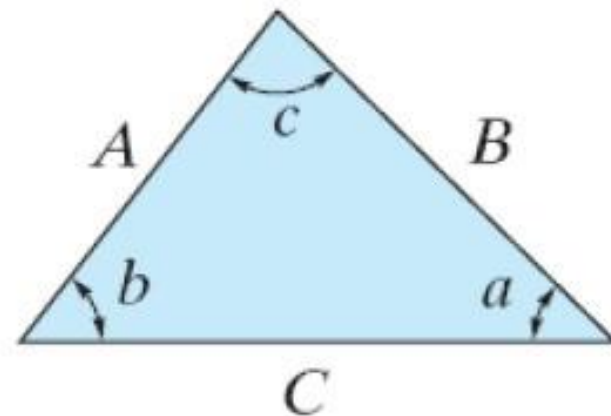
- **Trigonometric Rule**

- Law of Sines
- Law of Cosine



Sine law:

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



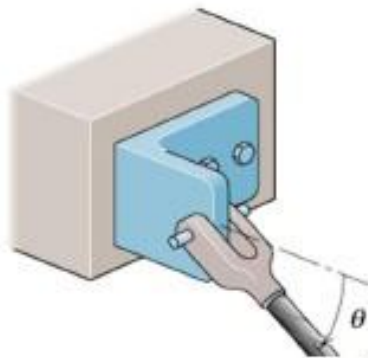
Cosine law:

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

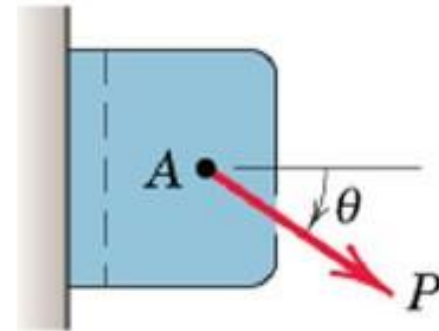
Force Systems



Force Systems



Cable Tension P

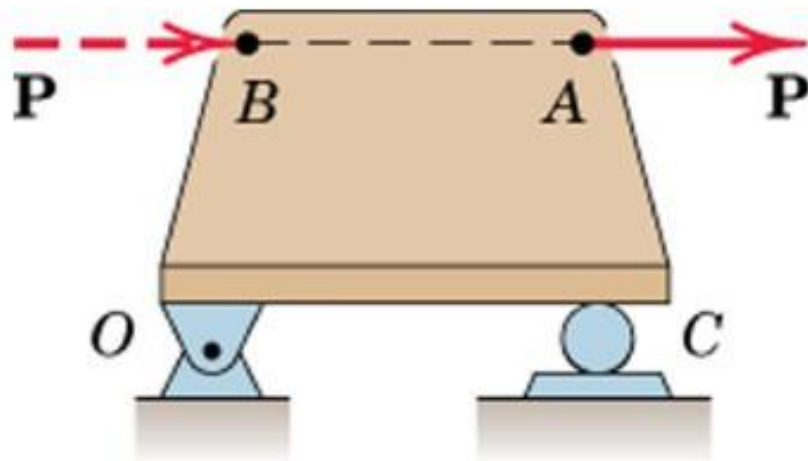


- **Force:** Represented by vector
 - Magnitude, direction, point of application
 - P : fixed vector (or sliding vector??)
 - External Effect
 - Applied force; Forces exerted by bracket, bolts, Foundation (reactive force)

Force Systems

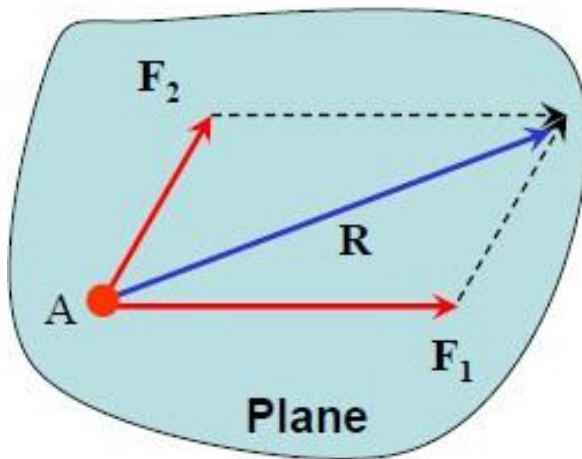
- **Rigid Bodies**

- External effects only
 - **Line of action** of force is **important**
 - Not its point of application
 - Force as **sliding vector**

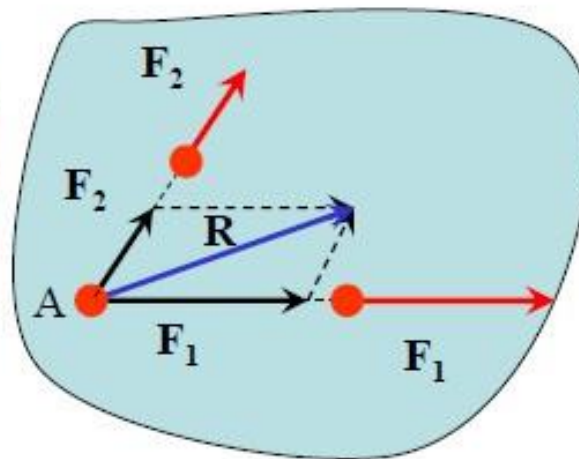


Force Systems

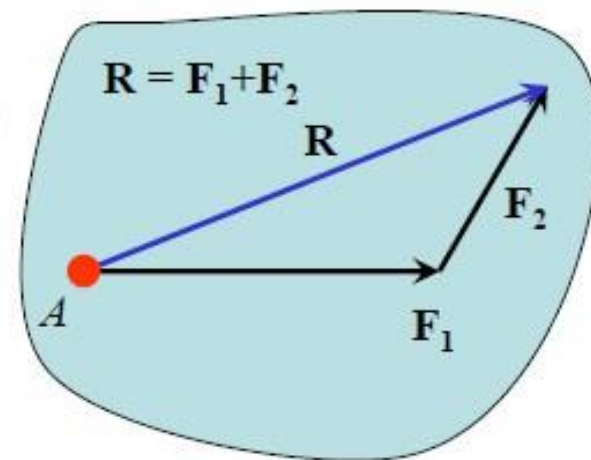
- **Concurrent forces**
 - Lines of action intersect at a point



Concurrent Forces
 F_1 and F_2

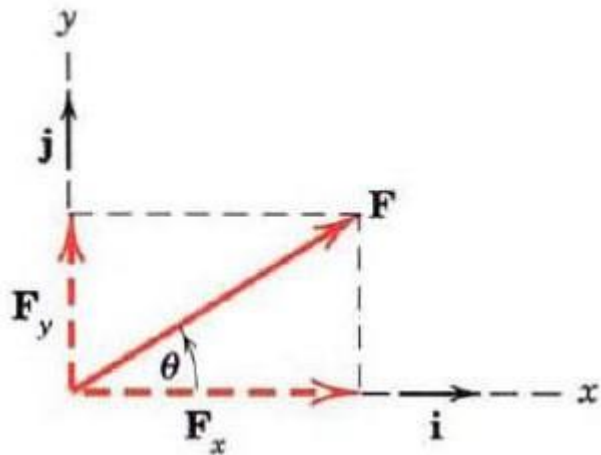


Principle of
Transmissibility



$$R = F_1 + F_2$$

Rectangular components of 2-D Force System



$$\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{F}_x + \mathbf{F}_y$$

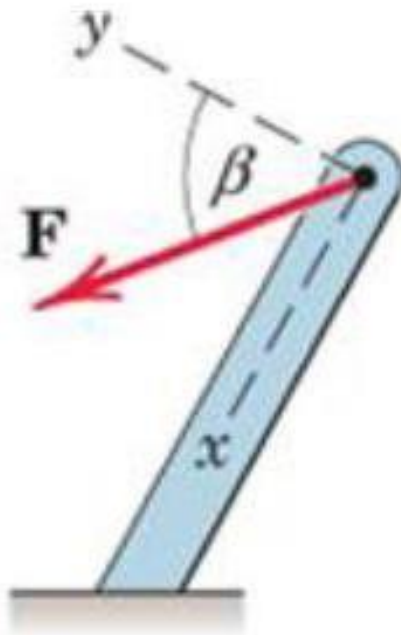
$$\mathbf{F} = F_x \mathbf{i} + F_y \mathbf{j}$$

$$\mathbf{F} = F \angle \theta$$

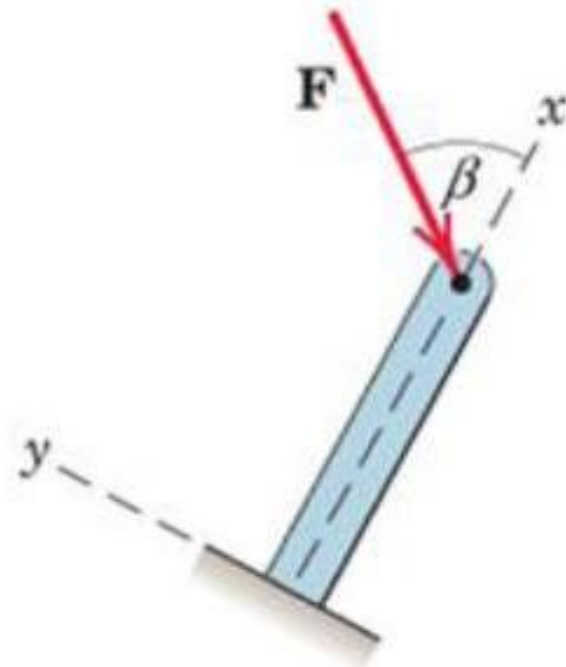
$$F_x = F \cos \theta \quad F = \sqrt{F_x^2 + F_y^2}$$
$$F_y = F \sin \theta \quad \theta = \tan^{-1} \frac{F_y}{F_x}$$

Components of a Force

- Examples



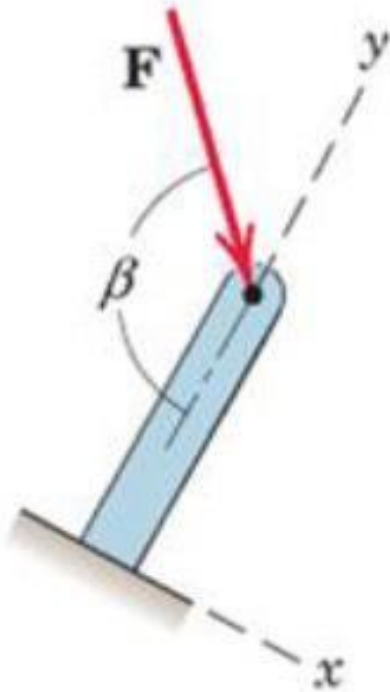
$$F_x = F \sin \beta$$
$$F_y = F \cos \beta$$



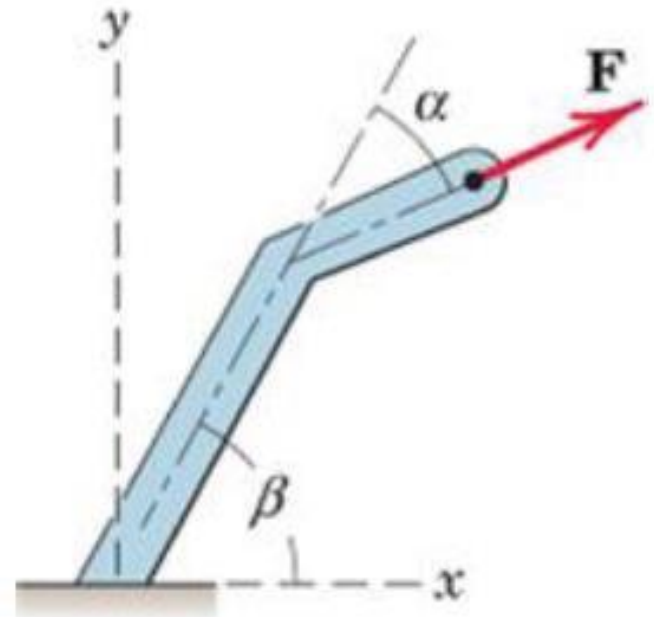
$$F_x = -F \cos \beta$$
$$F_y = -F \sin \beta$$

Components of a Force

- Examples



$$F_x = F \sin(\pi - \beta)$$
$$F_y = -F \cos(\pi - \beta)$$

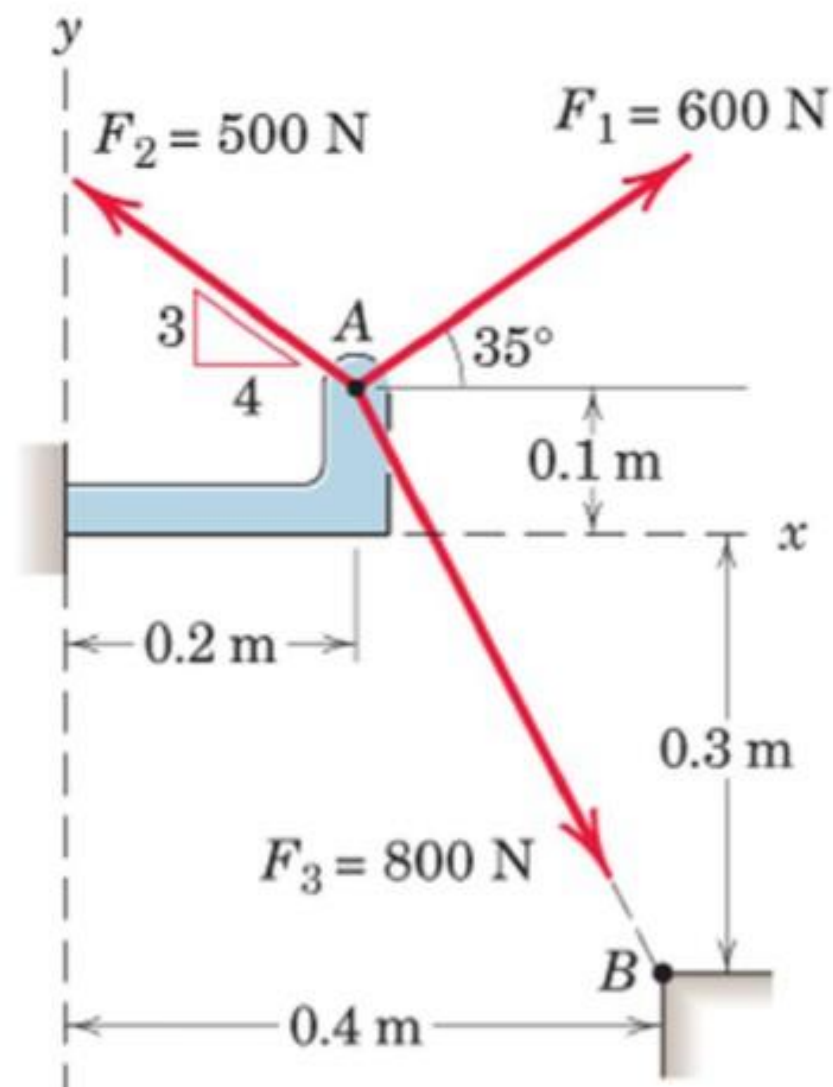


$$F_x = F \cos(\beta - \alpha)$$
$$F_y = F \sin(\beta - \alpha)$$

Components of a Force

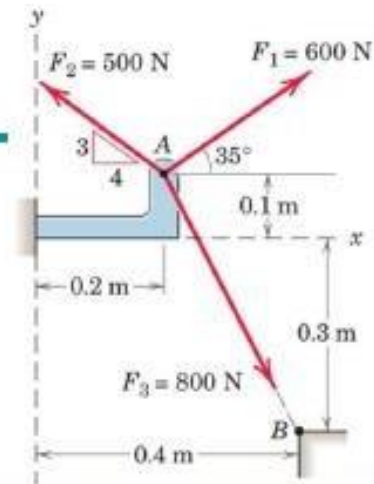
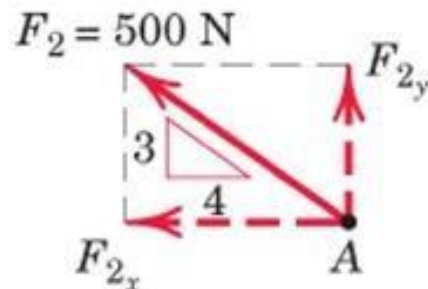
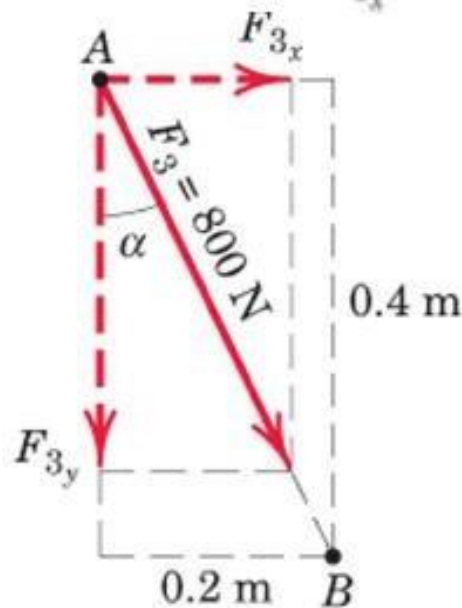
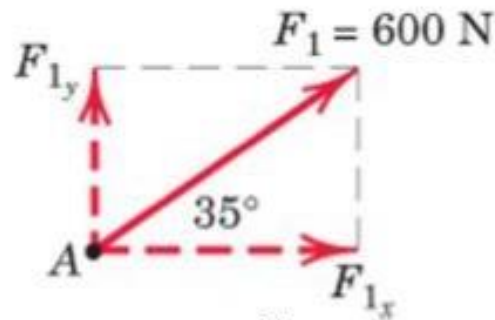
Example 1:

Determine the x and y scalar components of F_1 , F_2 , and F_3 acting at point A of the bracket



Components of Force

Solution:



$$F_{1x} = 600 \cos 35^\circ = 491 \text{ N}$$

$$F_{1y} = 600 \sin 35^\circ = 344 \text{ N}$$

$$F_{2x} = -500\left(\frac{4}{5}\right) = -400 \text{ N}$$

$$F_{2y} = 500\left(\frac{3}{5}\right) = 300 \text{ N}$$

$$\alpha = \tan^{-1} \left[\frac{0.2}{0.4} \right] = 26.6^\circ$$

$$F_{3x} = F_3 \sin \alpha = 800 \sin 26.6^\circ = 358 \text{ N}$$

$$F_{3y} = -F_3 \cos \alpha = -800 \cos 26.6^\circ = -716 \text{ N}$$

Components of Force

Alternative Solution: Scalar components of \mathbf{F}_3 can be obtained by writing \mathbf{F}_3 as a magnitude times a unit vector \mathbf{n}_{AB} in the direction of the line segment AB.

Unit vector can be formed by dividing any vector, such as the geometric position vector by its length or magnitude.

$$\mathbf{F}_3 = F_3 \mathbf{n}_{AB} = F_3 \frac{\overrightarrow{AB}}{AB} = 800 \left[\frac{0.2\mathbf{i} - 0.4\mathbf{j}}{\sqrt{(0.2)^2 + (-0.4)^2}} \right]$$

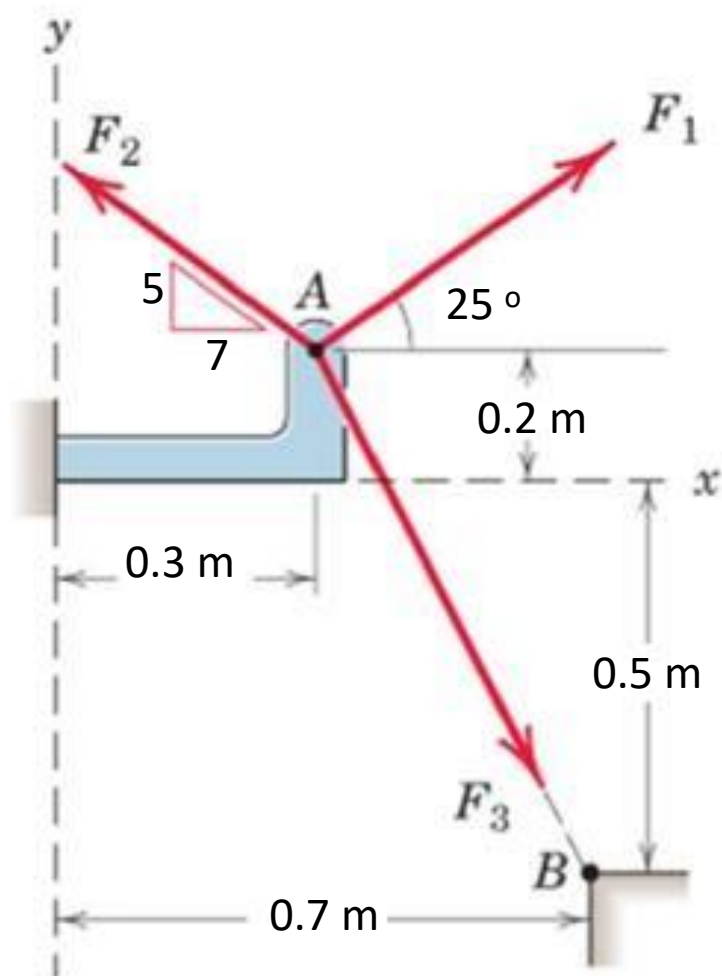
$$= 800[0.447\mathbf{i} - 0.894\mathbf{j}]$$

$$= 358\mathbf{i} - 716\mathbf{j} \text{ N}$$

$$F_{3_x} = 358 \text{ N}$$

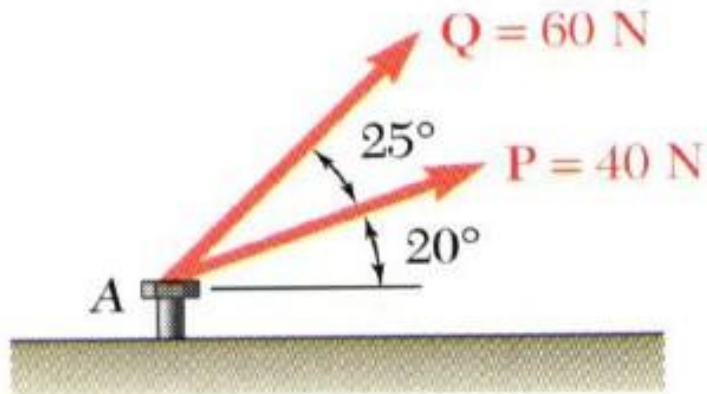
$$F_{3_y} = -716 \text{ N}$$

Determine the components of each force
Evaluate the resultant in x and y directions



Components of Force

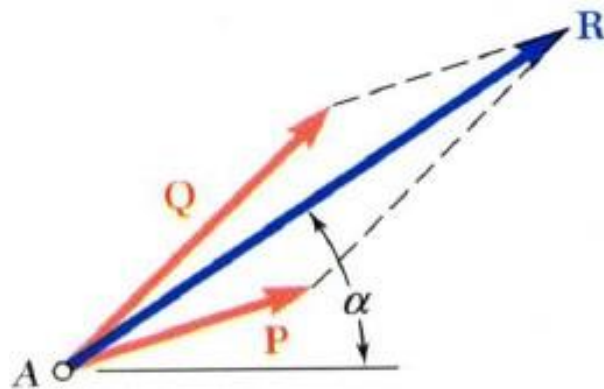
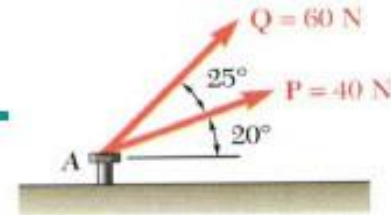
Example 2: The two forces act on a bolt at A. Determine their resultant.



- **Graphical solution –**
- Construct a parallelogram with sides in the same direction as P and Q and lengths in proportion.
- Graphically evaluate the resultant which is equivalent in direction and proportional in magnitude to the diagonal.
- **Trigonometric solution**
- Use the law of cosines and law of sines to find the resultant.

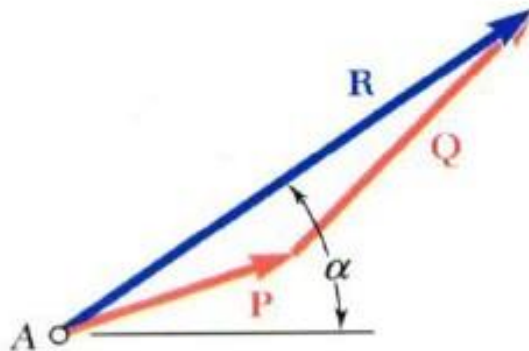
Components of Force

Solution:



- **Graphical solution** - A parallelogram with sides equal to P and Q is drawn to scale. The magnitude and direction of the resultant or of the diagonal to the parallelogram are measured,

$$\mathbf{R = 98\ N \quad \alpha = 35^\circ}$$

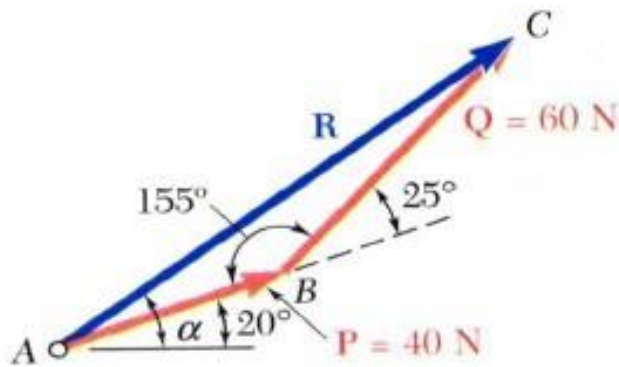
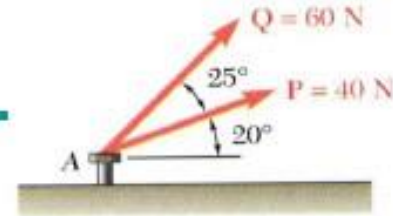


- **Graphical solution** - A triangle is drawn with P and Q head-to-tail and to scale. The magnitude and direction of the resultant or of the third side of the triangle are measured,

$$\mathbf{R = 98\ N \quad \alpha = 35^\circ}$$

Components of Force

Trigonometric Solution:



$$\begin{aligned} R^2 &= P^2 + Q^2 - 2PQ \cos B \\ &= (40\text{N})^2 + (60\text{N})^2 - 2(40\text{N})(60\text{N})\cos 155^\circ \end{aligned}$$

$$\boxed{R = 97.73\text{N}}$$

$$\frac{\sin A}{Q} = \frac{\sin B}{R}$$

$$\sin A = \sin B \frac{Q}{R}$$

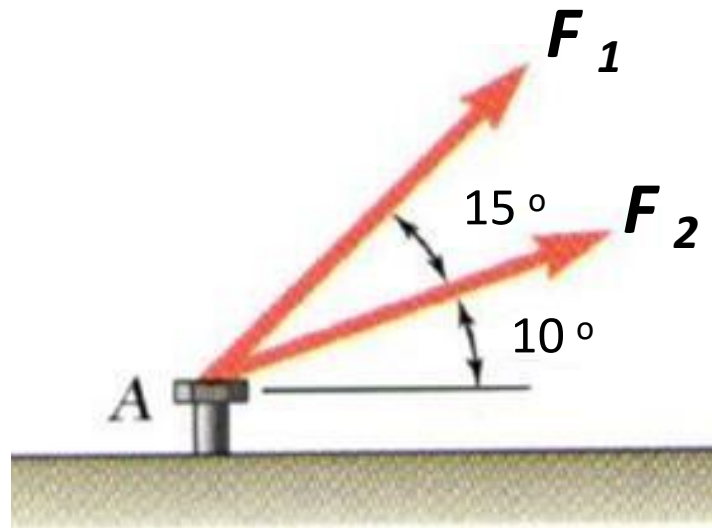
$$= \sin 155^\circ \frac{60\text{N}}{97.73\text{N}}$$

$$A = 15.04^\circ$$

$$\alpha = 20^\circ + A$$

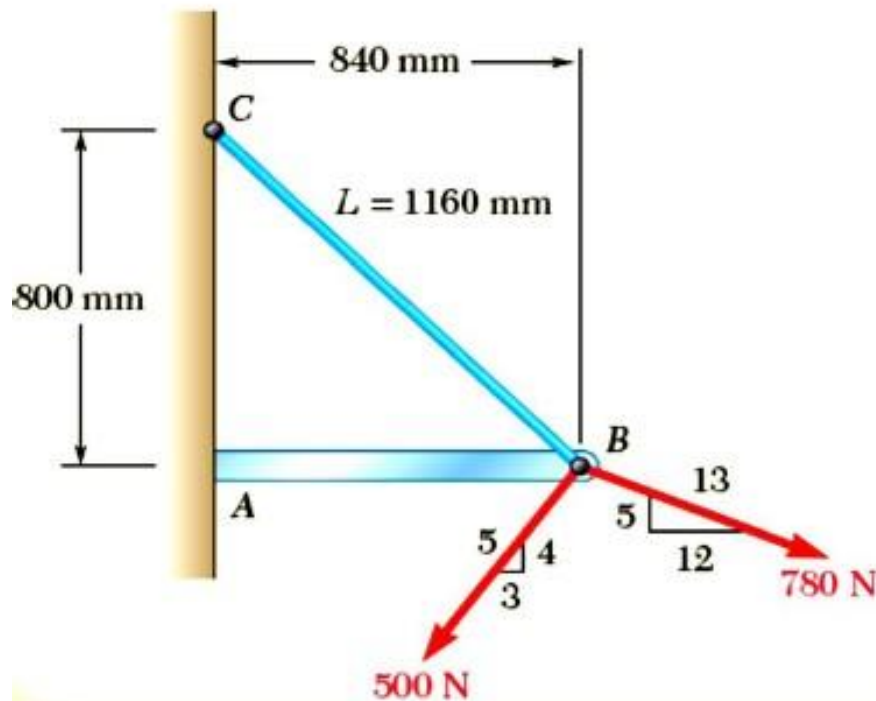
$$\boxed{\alpha = 35.04^\circ}$$

Determine the resultant force if $F_1 = F_2 = 200\text{ N}$.



Components of Force

Example 3: Tension in cable BC is 725 N; determine the resultant of the three forces exerted at point B of beam AB .

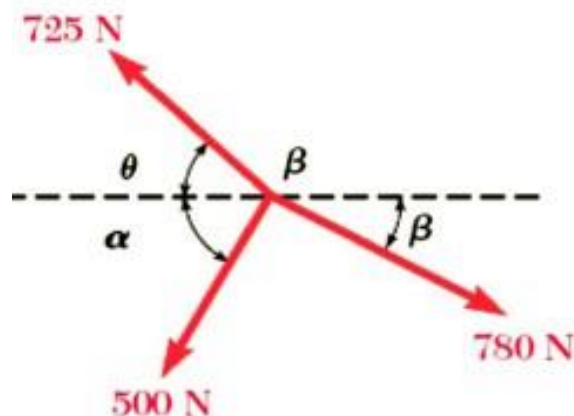


Solution:

- Resolve each force into rectangular components.
- Determine the components of the resultant by adding the corresponding force components.
- Calculate the magnitude and direction of the resultant.

Components of Force

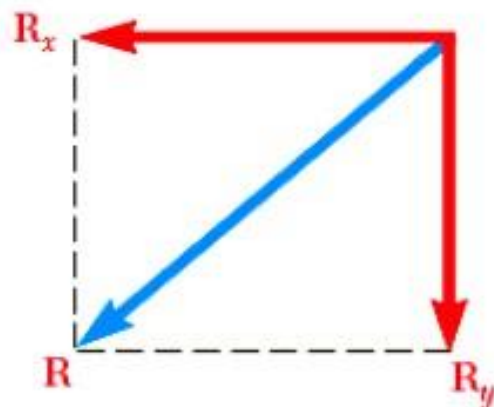
Solution



- Resolve each force into rectangular components.

Magnitude, N	x Component, N	y Component, N
725	-525	500
500	-300	-400
780	720	-300
	$R_x = -105$	$R_y = -200$

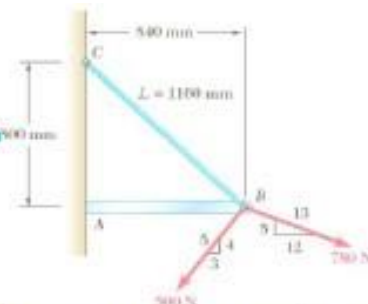
$$\mathbf{R} = R_x \mathbf{i} + R_y \mathbf{j} \quad \mathbf{R} = (-105 \text{ N})\mathbf{i} + (-200 \text{ N})\mathbf{j}$$



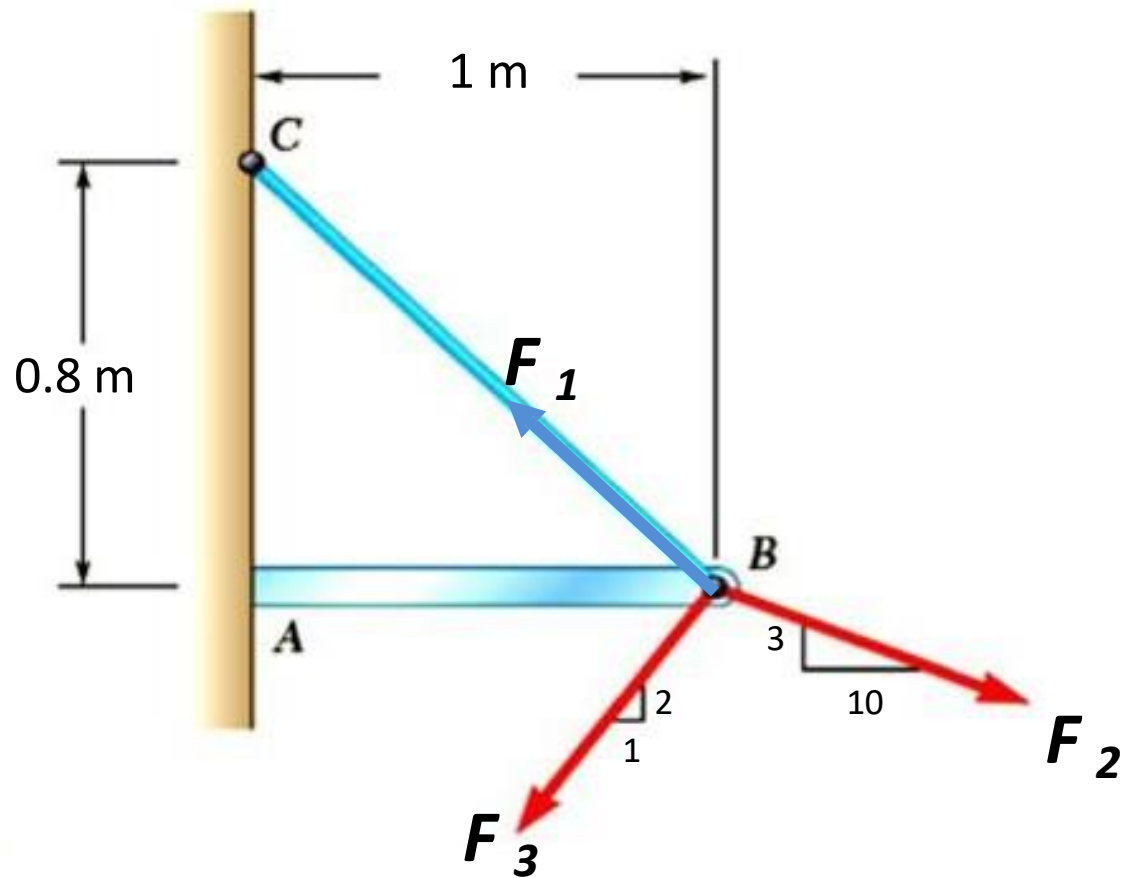
- Calculate the magnitude and direction.

$$\tan \alpha = \frac{-R_y}{-R_x} = \frac{200 \text{ N}}{105 \text{ N}} \quad \alpha = 62.3^\circ$$

$$R = \sqrt{R_x^2 + R_y^2} = 225.9 \text{ N} \quad \angle 62.3^\circ$$

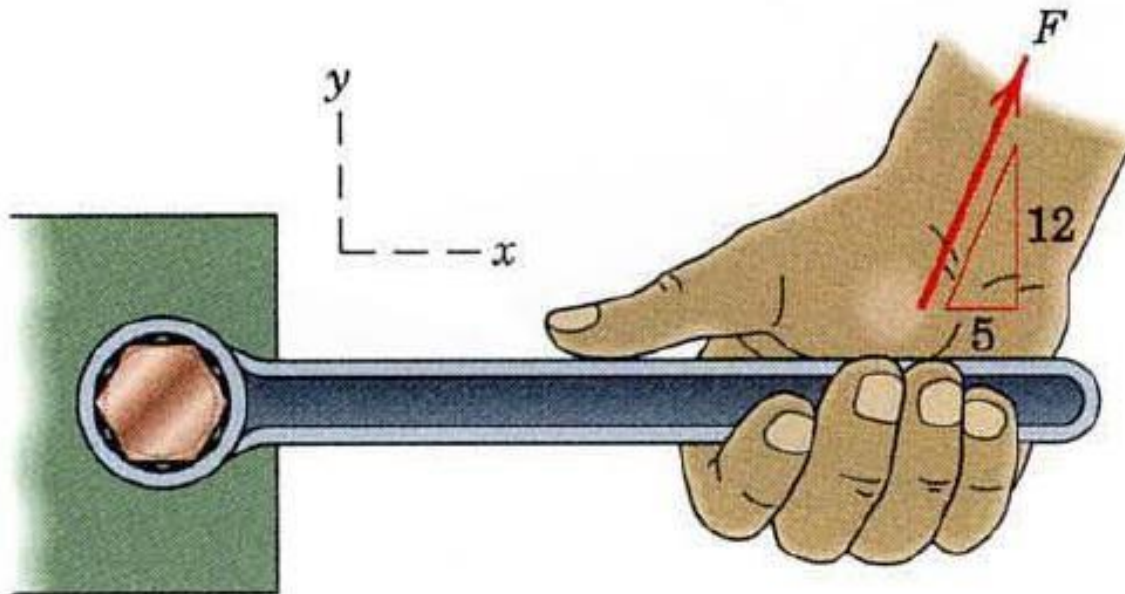


If $F_1 = 1 \text{ kN}$, $F_2 = 900 \text{ N}$, $F_3 = 1.2 \text{ kN}$, compute the resultant force acting on point B.

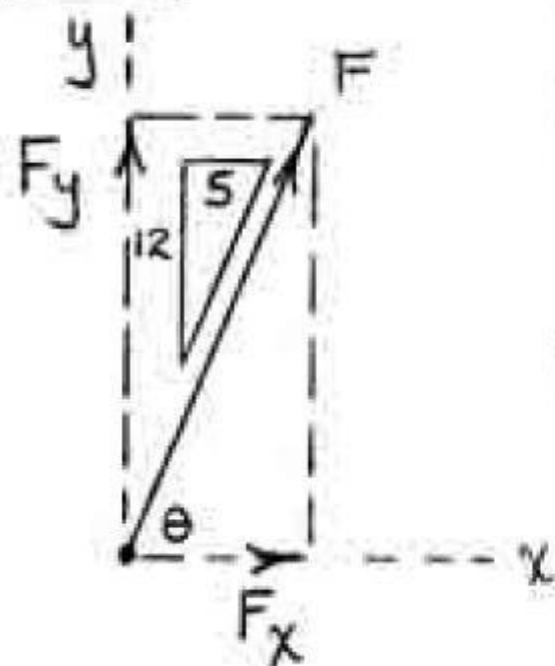


2/7 The y -component of the force \mathbf{F} which a person exerts on the handle of the box wrench is known to be 70 lb. Determine the x -component and the magnitude of \mathbf{F} .

Ans. $F_x = 29.2$ lb, $F = 75.8$ lb



2/7



$$\cos \theta = \frac{5}{13}, \quad \sin \theta = \frac{12}{13}$$

$$F_y = F \sin \theta = F \frac{12}{13} = 70$$

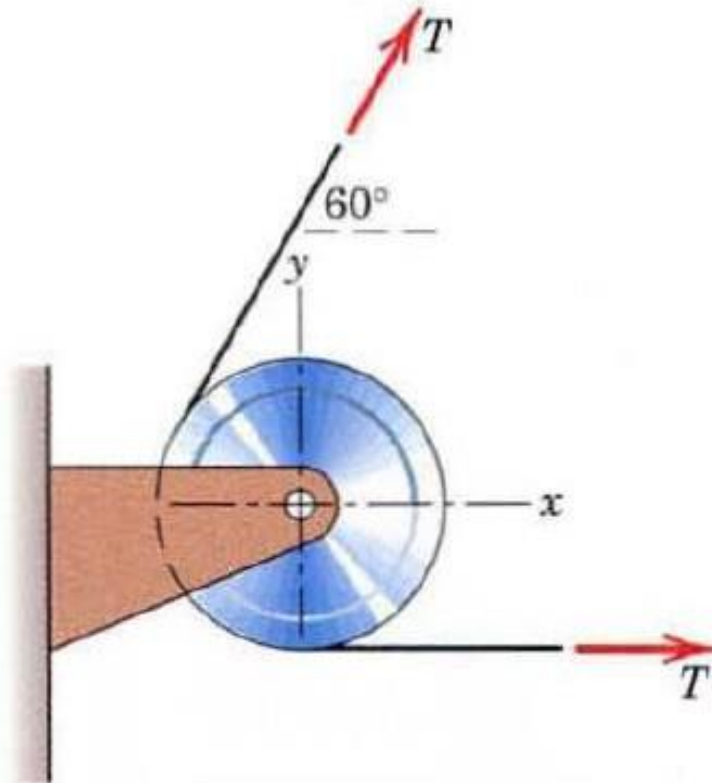
$$F = 75.8 \text{ lb}$$

$$F_x = F \cos \theta = 75.8 \left(\frac{5}{13} \right)$$

$$= \underline{29.2 \text{ lb}}$$

2/13 If the equal tensions T in the pulley cable are 400 N, express in vector notation the force \mathbf{R} exerted on the pulley by the two tensions. Determine the magnitude of \mathbf{R} .

Ans. $\mathbf{R} = 600\mathbf{i} + 346\mathbf{j}$ N, $R = 693$ N



$$\underline{2/13} \quad R_x = \sum F_x = 400 + 400 \cos 60^\circ = 600 \text{ N}$$

$$R_y = \sum F_y = 400 \sin 60^\circ = 346 \text{ N}$$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{\underline{R}} = \underline{600 \underline{i} + 346 \underline{j} \text{ N}}$$

$$R = \sqrt{600^2 + 346^2} = \underline{\underline{693 \text{ N}}}$$