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## Vectors and Scalars

- A scalar quantity is completely specified by a single value with an appropriate unit and has no direction.
- A vector quantity is completely described by a number and appropriate units plus a direction.
- A particle travels from $A$ to $B$ along the path shown by the dotted red line
- This is the distance traveled and is a scala
- The displacement is the solid line from $A$ to $B$
- The displacement is
independent of the path taken between the two points
- Displacement is a vector

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Cartesian Coordinate System

- Also called rectangular
coordinate system
- $x$ - and $y$ - axes intersect at the origin
- Points are labeled $(x, y)$


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Polar to Cartesian Coordinates

- Based on forming a right triangle from $r$ and $\theta$
- $x=r \cos \theta$
- $y=r \sin \theta$

(b)

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Adding Vectors, Rules cont.

- When adding three or more vectors, their sum is independent of the way in which the individual vectors are grouped
- This is called the Associative Property of Addition


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Components of a Vector

The $x$-component of a vector is
the projection along the $x$-axis

$$
A_{x}=A \cos \theta
$$

The $y$-component of a vector is the projection along the $y$-axis

(b)

$$
A_{y}=A \sin \theta
$$

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Adding Vectors with Unit Vectors

- Note the relationships among the components of the resultant and the components of the original vectors
- $R_{x}=A_{x}+B_{x}$
- $R_{y}=A_{y}+B_{y}$


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