

Theorem: If p_1, p_2 are points in \mathbb{R}^2 and $\vec{p_1 p_2}$ is a vector in \mathbb{R}^2 with initial point

$p_1(x_1, y_1)$ and terminal point $p_2(x_2, y_2)$ then

$$\vec{p_1 p_2} = (x_2 - x_1, y_2 - y_1)$$

Similarly, if we are talking in \mathbb{R}^3 i.e.

$$\vec{p_1 p_2} = (x_2 - x_1, y_2 - y_1, z_2 - z_1) \text{ where}$$

$p_1(x_1, y_1, z_1)$ & $p_2(x_2, y_2, z_2)$ are two points in \mathbb{R}^3

Example: a) In \mathbb{R}^2 find the components of the vector from $p_1(1, 3)$ to $p_2(4, -2)$

Sol
$$\vec{p_1 p_2} = (4 - 1, -2 - 3) = (3, -5)$$

b) And in \mathbb{R}^3 find the coordinates of the vector starts in $a(0, -2, 5)$ and ends in $b(3, 4, -1)$

Sol
$$\vec{ab} = (3 - 0, 4 - (-2), -1 - 5) = (3, 6, -6)$$

Theorem: For any vectors \vec{u}, \vec{v} and \vec{w} and any scalars λ and m in \mathbb{R} , the following are true:

1.
$$\vec{u} + \vec{v} = \vec{v} + \vec{u} \quad \text{commutative law}$$

2.
$$(\vec{u} + \vec{v}) + \vec{w} = \vec{u} + (\vec{v} + \vec{w}) \quad \text{associative law}$$