

Trigonometric Method of Vector Addition

- Vector Components – two vectors can be added to make one using their X and Y components.
- These are usually parallel and perpendicular components (i.e. vector components on an incline plane).
- Use $A^2 + B^2 = R^2$ to solve for a right angle.
- Use $R^2 = A^2 + B^2 - 2AB\cos$ for non rt. triangles (where $[-2AB\cos$] “converts” it to a rt. triangle) Also known as the law of cosines.
- Direction – use tangent function $O/A = \tan$ that will give you the resultant angle so you may need to reference that with 0° North.