

## Chapter 3: Relative motion

### I- Introduction

Motion is always defined with respect to an observer or reference frame. So, it is necessary to choose a reference frame in order to determine the position, velocity and acceleration of an object at each instant.

The reference frame can be stationary or moving:

- Stationary" or "absolute" referential: is attached to the observer and it is fixe, usually with respect to the earth ( $\mathfrak{R} (O,X,Y,Z)$ ).
- Relative referential: is is itself moving ( $\mathfrak{R}' (O',X',Y',Z')$ ).

The position, velocity and acceleration depend on the frame and they can be transformed to get their equivalents in another frame.

### II- Description of the motion

#### II.1- Motion in absolute referential

The motion is described in the absolute referential  $\mathfrak{R} (O,X,Y,Z)$ :

- The absolute position vector:  $\overrightarrow{OM} = x \vec{i} + y \vec{j} + z \vec{k}$
- The absolute velocity vector:  $\vec{V}_a = \overrightarrow{V_{M/R}} = \left. \frac{d\overrightarrow{OM}}{dt} \right|_R = \dot{x} \vec{i} + \dot{y} \vec{j} + \dot{z} \vec{k}$
- The absolute acceleration vector:  $\vec{a}_a = \overrightarrow{a_{M/R}} = \left. \frac{d^2\overrightarrow{OM}}{dt^2} \right|_R = \left. \frac{d\vec{V}}{dt} \right|_R = \ddot{x} \vec{i} + \ddot{y} \vec{j} + \ddot{z} \vec{k}$

#### II .2- Motion in relative referential

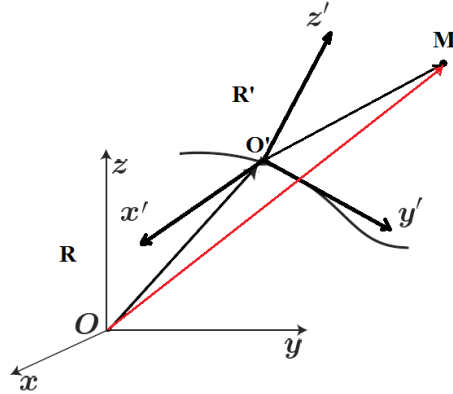
The motion is described in the relative referential  $\mathfrak{R} (\acute{O},\acute{X},\acute{Y},\acute{Z})$ . The base of the relative referential is  $(\vec{i}, \vec{j}, \vec{k})$ . These vectors are fixe in  $\mathfrak{R}$ , but they move with time in R:

- The relative position vector:  $\overrightarrow{\acute{O}M} = \acute{x} \vec{i} + \acute{y} \vec{j} + \acute{z} \vec{k}$

- The relative velocity vector:  $\vec{V}_r = \vec{V}_{M/R} = \left. \frac{d\vec{OM}}{dt} \right|_R = \dot{x} \vec{i} + \dot{y} \vec{j} + \dot{z} \vec{k}$
- The relative acceleration vector:  $\vec{a}_r = \vec{a}_{M/R} = \left. \frac{d\vec{V}_r}{dt} \right|_R = \left. \frac{d^2\vec{OM}}{dt^2} \right|_R = \ddot{x} \vec{i} + \ddot{y} \vec{j} + \ddot{z} \vec{k}$

### III- Basic equations

$$\vec{OM} = \vec{OO'} + \vec{O'M}$$



#### III.1- Velocity vector

$$\vec{V}_a = \vec{V}_{M/R} = \left. \frac{d\vec{OM}}{dt} \right|_R = \left. \frac{d}{dt} (\vec{OO'} + \vec{O'M}) \right|_R$$

$$\vec{O'M} = \dot{x} \vec{i} + \dot{y} \vec{j} + \dot{z} \vec{k}$$

$$\vec{V}_a = \left. \frac{d\vec{OO'}}{dt} \right|_R + \left. \frac{d}{dt} (\dot{x} \vec{i} + \dot{y} \vec{j} + \dot{z} \vec{k}) \right|_R$$

$$\vec{V}_a = \left. \frac{d\vec{OO'}}{dt} \right|_R + \frac{dx}{dt} \vec{i} + \dot{x} \frac{d\vec{i}}{dt} + \frac{dy}{dt} \vec{j} + \dot{y} \frac{d\vec{j}}{dt} + \frac{dz}{dt} \vec{k} + \dot{z} \frac{d\vec{k}}{dt}$$

$$\vec{V}_a = \left( \left. \frac{d\vec{OO'}}{dt} \right|_R + (\dot{x} \frac{d\vec{i}}{dt} + \dot{y} \frac{d\vec{j}}{dt} + \dot{z} \frac{d\vec{k}}{dt}) \right) + \left( \frac{dx}{dt} \vec{i} + \frac{dy}{dt} \vec{j} + \frac{dz}{dt} \vec{k} \right)$$

$$\vec{V}_e = \left. \frac{d\vec{OO'}}{dt} \right|_R + (\dot{x} \frac{d\vec{i}}{dt} + \dot{y} \frac{d\vec{j}}{dt} + \dot{z} \frac{d\vec{k}}{dt})$$

$$\vec{V}_r = \frac{dx}{dt} \vec{i} + \frac{dy}{dt} \vec{j} + \frac{dz}{dt} \vec{k} = \dot{x} \vec{i} + \dot{y} \vec{j} + \dot{z} \vec{k}$$

$$\vec{V}_a = \vec{V}_e + \vec{V}_r$$

$\vec{V}_e$ : Entrainment velocity, It's the velocity of the moving referential R' relative to the fixed referential R.

### III.2- Acceleration vector

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{V}_a &= \left. \frac{d\vec{O}\vec{O}'}{dt} \right|_R + \left( \dot{x} \frac{d\vec{i}}{dt} + \dot{y} \frac{d\vec{j}}{dt} + \dot{z} \frac{d\vec{k}}{dt} \right) + (\dot{x} \vec{i} + \dot{y} \vec{j} + \dot{z} \vec{k}) \\ \vec{a}_a &= \vec{a}_{M/R} = \left. \frac{d^2\vec{O}\vec{M}}{dt^2} \right|_R = \left. \frac{d\vec{V}}{dt} \right|_R \\ \vec{a}_a &= \left. \frac{d^2\vec{O}\vec{O}'}{dt^2} \right|_R + \left( \dot{x} \frac{d^2\vec{i}}{dt^2} + \dot{x} \frac{d^2\vec{i}}{dt^2} + \dot{y} \frac{d^2\vec{j}}{dt^2} + \dot{y} \frac{d^2\vec{j}}{dt^2} + \dot{z} \frac{d^2\vec{k}}{dt^2} + \dot{z} \frac{d^2\vec{k}}{dt^2} \right) + \\ &\quad (\ddot{x} \vec{i} + \dot{x} \frac{d\vec{i}}{dt} + \ddot{y} \vec{j} + \dot{y} \frac{d\vec{j}}{dt} + \ddot{z} \vec{k} + \dot{z} \frac{d\vec{k}}{dt}) \\ \vec{a}_a &= \left. \frac{d^2\vec{O}\vec{O}'}{dt^2} \right|_R + \left( \dot{x} \frac{d^2\vec{i}}{dt^2} + \dot{y} \frac{d^2\vec{j}}{dt^2} + \dot{z} \frac{d^2\vec{k}}{dt^2} \right) + 2 \left( \dot{x} \frac{d\vec{i}}{dt} + \dot{y} \frac{d\vec{j}}{dt} + \dot{z} \frac{d\vec{k}}{dt} \right) + (\ddot{x} \vec{i} + \ddot{y} \vec{j} + \ddot{z} \vec{k}) \\ \vec{a}_e &= \left. \frac{d^2\vec{O}\vec{O}'}{dt^2} \right|_R + \left( \dot{x} \frac{d^2\vec{i}}{dt^2} + \dot{y} \frac{d^2\vec{j}}{dt^2} + \dot{z} \frac{d^2\vec{k}}{dt^2} \right) \\ \vec{a}_c &= 2 \left( \dot{x} \frac{d\vec{i}}{dt} + \dot{y} \frac{d\vec{j}}{dt} + \dot{z} \frac{d\vec{k}}{dt} \right) \\ \vec{a}_r &= \ddot{x} \vec{i} + \ddot{y} \vec{j} + \ddot{z} \vec{k} \\ \vec{a}_a &= \vec{a}_e + \vec{a}_c + \vec{a}_r \end{aligned}$$

$\vec{a}_e$ : Entrainment acceleration.

$\vec{a}_c$ : Coriolis acceleration or additional acceleration.

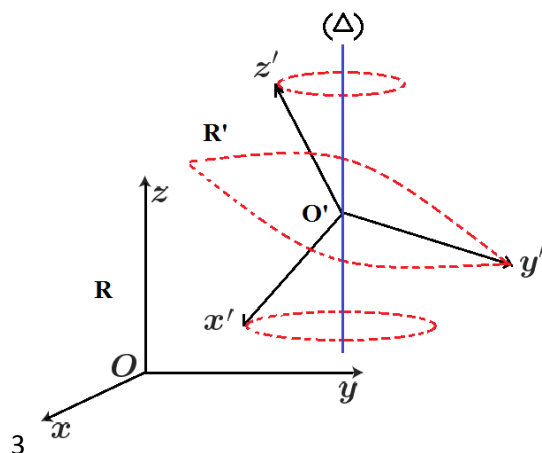
$\vec{a}_r$ : Relative acceleration.

The Coriolis acceleration is the result of the rotation of the Earth on itself.

### IV- Special cases of motion of R' relative to R

#### IV.1- Translation and rotation motion

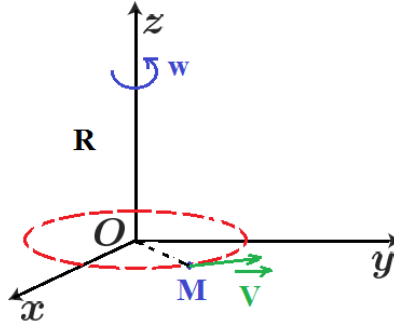
$R|R'$  : Rotation & translation



### IV.1.1- Velocity vector

R' rotates around a fixed axis ( $\Delta$ ) and the distance between o and o' is not fixed.

In the previous chapter, we showed that if an object M is rotating about (OZ):



$$\vec{V} = \frac{d\vec{OM}}{dt} = \vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{OM}$$

So, we can write:  $\frac{d\vec{i}}{dt} = \vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{i}$ ,  $\frac{d\vec{j}}{dt} = \vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{j}$ ,  $\frac{d\vec{k}}{dt} = \vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{k}$

$$\vec{V}_e = \left. \frac{d\vec{OO}}{dt} \right|_R + \left( \dot{x} \frac{d\vec{i}}{dt} + \dot{y} \frac{d\vec{j}}{dt} + \dot{z} \frac{d\vec{k}}{dt} \right)$$

$$\vec{V}_e = \left. \frac{d\vec{OO}}{dt} \right|_R + \left( \dot{x} \vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{i} + \dot{y} \vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{j} + \dot{z} \vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{k} \right)$$

$$\vec{V}_e = \left. \frac{d\vec{OO}}{dt} \right|_R + \left( \vec{\omega} \wedge \dot{x} \vec{i} + \vec{\omega} \wedge \dot{y} \vec{j} + \vec{\omega} \wedge \dot{z} \vec{k} \right)$$

$$\vec{V}_e = \left. \frac{d\vec{OO}}{dt} \right|_R + \vec{\omega} \wedge (\dot{x} \vec{i} + \dot{y} \vec{j} + \dot{z} \vec{k})$$

$$\vec{V}_e = \left. \frac{d\vec{OO}}{dt} \right|_R + \vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{OM}$$

$$\vec{V}_a = \vec{V}_r + \left. \frac{d\vec{OO}}{dt} \right|_R + \vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{OM}$$

### IV.1.2- Acceleration vector

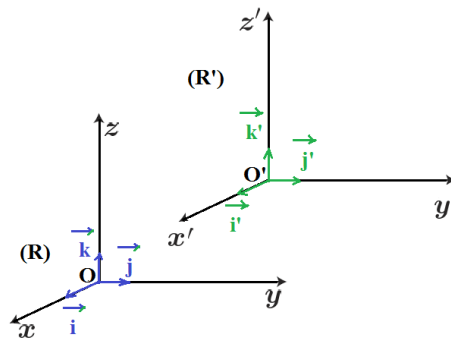
$$\vec{a}_e = \left. \frac{d^2\vec{OO}}{dt^2} \right|_R + \left( \dot{x} \frac{d^2\vec{i}}{dt^2} + \dot{y} \frac{d^2\vec{j}}{dt^2} + \dot{z} \frac{d^2\vec{k}}{dt^2} \right)$$

$$\vec{a}_e = \left. \frac{d^2\vec{OO}}{dt^2} \right|_R + \left( \dot{x} \frac{d}{dt} \frac{d\vec{i}}{dt} + \dot{y} \frac{d}{dt} \frac{d\vec{j}}{dt} + \dot{z} \frac{d}{dt} \frac{d\vec{k}}{dt} \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\vec{a}_e &= \left. \frac{d^2 \vec{O}\vec{O}}{dt^2} \right|_R + \dot{x} \frac{d}{dt} (\vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{i}) + \dot{y} \frac{d}{dt} (\vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{j}) + \dot{z} \frac{d}{dt} (\vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{k}) \\
\vec{a}_e &= \left. \frac{d^2 \vec{O}\vec{O}}{dt^2} \right|_R + \dot{x} \left( \frac{d\vec{\omega}}{dt} \wedge \vec{i} + \vec{\omega} \wedge \frac{d\vec{i}}{dt} \right) + \dot{y} \left( \frac{d\vec{\omega}}{dt} \wedge \vec{j} + \vec{\omega} \wedge \frac{d\vec{j}}{dt} \right) + \dot{z} \left( \frac{d\vec{\omega}}{dt} \wedge \vec{k} + \vec{\omega} \wedge \frac{d\vec{k}}{dt} \right) \\
\vec{a}_e &= \left. \frac{d^2 \vec{O}\vec{O}}{dt^2} \right|_R + \dot{x} \left[ \frac{d\vec{\omega}}{dt} \wedge \vec{i} + \vec{\omega} \wedge (\vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{i}) \right] + \dot{y} \left[ \frac{d\vec{\omega}}{dt} \wedge \vec{j} + \vec{\omega} \wedge (\vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{j}) \right] \\
&\quad + \dot{z} \left[ \frac{d\vec{\omega}}{dt} \wedge \vec{k} + \vec{\omega} \wedge (\vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{k}) \right] \\
\vec{a}_e &= \left. \frac{d^2 \vec{O}\vec{O}}{dt^2} \right|_R + \left[ \frac{d\vec{\omega}}{dt} \wedge \dot{x} \vec{i} + \vec{\omega} \wedge (\vec{\omega} \wedge \dot{x} \vec{i}) \right] + \left[ \frac{d\vec{\omega}}{dt} \wedge \dot{y} \vec{j} + \vec{\omega} \wedge (\vec{\omega} \wedge \dot{y} \vec{j}) \right] \\
&\quad + \left[ \frac{d\vec{\omega}}{dt} \wedge \dot{z} \vec{k} + \vec{\omega} \wedge (\vec{\omega} \wedge \dot{z} \vec{k}) \right] \\
\vec{a}_e &= \left. \frac{d^2 \vec{O}\vec{O}}{dt^2} \right|_R + \left[ \frac{d\vec{\omega}}{dt} \wedge \dot{x} \vec{i} + \frac{d\vec{\omega}}{dt} \wedge \dot{y} \vec{j} + \frac{d\vec{\omega}}{dt} \wedge \dot{z} \vec{k} \right] \\
&\quad + \left[ \vec{\omega} \wedge (\vec{\omega} \wedge \dot{x} \vec{i}) + \vec{\omega} \wedge (\vec{\omega} \wedge \dot{y} \vec{j}) + \vec{\omega} \wedge (\vec{\omega} \wedge \dot{z} \vec{k}) \right] \\
\vec{a}_e &= \left. \frac{d^2 \vec{O}\vec{O}}{dt^2} \right|_R + \frac{d\vec{\omega}}{dt} \wedge \left[ \dot{x} \vec{i} + \dot{y} \vec{j} + \dot{z} \vec{k} \right] + \vec{\omega} \wedge \left[ (\vec{\omega} \wedge \dot{x} \vec{i}) + (\vec{\omega} \wedge \dot{y} \vec{j}) + (\vec{\omega} \wedge \dot{z} \vec{k}) \right] \\
\vec{a}_e &= \left. \frac{d^2 \vec{O}\vec{O}}{dt^2} \right|_R + \frac{d\vec{\omega}}{dt} \wedge \left[ \dot{x} \vec{i} + \dot{y} \vec{j} + \dot{z} \vec{k} \right] + \vec{\omega} \wedge \left[ \vec{\omega} \wedge (\dot{x} \vec{i} + \dot{y} \vec{j} + \dot{z} \vec{k}) \right] \\
\vec{a}_e &= \left. \frac{d^2 \vec{O}\vec{O}}{dt^2} \right|_R + \frac{d\vec{\omega}}{dt} \wedge \left[ \vec{O}\vec{M} \right] + \vec{\omega} \wedge \left[ \vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{O}\vec{M} \right] \\
\vec{a}_e &= \left. \frac{d^2 \vec{O}\vec{O}}{dt^2} \right|_R + \vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{O}\vec{M} + \vec{\omega} \wedge (\vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{O}\vec{M}) \\
\vec{a}_c &= 2 \left( \dot{x} \frac{d\vec{i}}{dt} + \dot{y} \frac{d\vec{j}}{dt} + \dot{z} \frac{d\vec{k}}{dt} \right) \\
\vec{a}_c &= 2 \left( \dot{x} (\vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{i}) + \dot{y} (\vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{j}) + \dot{z} (\vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{k}) \right) \\
\vec{a}_c &= 2 \left( (\vec{\omega} \wedge \dot{x} \vec{i}) + (\vec{\omega} \wedge \dot{y} \vec{j}) + (\vec{\omega} \wedge \dot{z} \vec{k}) \right) \\
\vec{a}_c &= 2 \left( \vec{\omega} \wedge (\dot{x} \vec{i} + \dot{y} \vec{j} + \dot{z} \vec{k}) \right) \\
\vec{a}_c &= 2 (\vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{V}_r) \\
\vec{a}_a &= \vec{a}_r + \left. \frac{d^2 \vec{O}\vec{O}}{dt^2} \right|_R + \vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{O}\vec{M} + \vec{\omega} \wedge (\vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{O}\vec{M}) + 2 (\vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{V}_r)
\end{aligned}$$

## IV.2- Translation motion

### IV.2.1- Velocity vector



$R'$  is in translation with respect to  $R$ , the directions related to  $R'$  ( $(\vec{i}, \vec{j}, \vec{k})$ ) are fixed in  $R$  ( $\vec{\omega} = \vec{0}$ ).

$\frac{d\vec{i}}{dt} = \frac{d\vec{j}}{dt} = \frac{d\vec{k}}{dt} = \vec{0}$ , donc:

$$\vec{V}_e = \left. \frac{d\vec{O}\vec{O}'}{dt} \right|_R + \left( \dot{x} \frac{d\vec{i}}{dt} + \dot{y} \frac{d\vec{j}}{dt} + \dot{z} \frac{d\vec{k}}{dt} \right)$$

$$\vec{V}_e = \left. \frac{d\vec{O}\vec{O}'}{dt} \right|_R$$

$$\vec{V}_a = \vec{V}_r + \left. \frac{d\vec{O}\vec{O}'}{dt} \right|_R$$

### IV.2.2- Acceleration vector

$$\vec{a}_e = \left. \frac{d^2\vec{O}\vec{O}'}{dt^2} \right|_R + \left( \dot{x} \frac{d^2\vec{i}}{dt^2} + \dot{y} \frac{d^2\vec{j}}{dt^2} + \dot{z} \frac{d^2\vec{k}}{dt^2} \right)$$

$$\vec{a}_e = \left. \frac{d^2\vec{O}\vec{O}'}{dt^2} \right|_R$$

$$\vec{a}_c = 2 \left( \dot{x} \frac{d\vec{i}}{dt} + \dot{y} \frac{d\vec{j}}{dt} + \dot{z} \frac{d\vec{k}}{dt} \right)$$

$$\vec{a}_c = \vec{0}$$

$$\vec{a}_a = \vec{a}_r + \left. \frac{d^2\vec{O}\vec{O}'}{dt^2} \right|_R$$

## Remark

If the motion of  $\hat{R}/R$  is a uniform rectilinear motion:

$$\left. \frac{d\vec{O}\hat{O}}{dt} \right|_R = \vec{V}_0 \quad (V_0 = \text{cte})$$

$$\vec{V}_e = \vec{V}_0$$

$$\vec{O}\hat{O} = \vec{V}_0 t$$

$$\vec{V}_a = \vec{V}_r + \vec{V}_0$$

$$\vec{a}_e = \left. \frac{d^2\vec{O}\hat{O}}{dt^2} \right|_R$$

$$\vec{a}_e = \left. \frac{d\vec{V}_0}{dt} \right|_R$$

$$\vec{a}_e = \vec{0}$$

$$\vec{a}_a = \vec{a}_r$$

## IV.3- Rotational motion about a fixed axis

### IV.3.1- Velocity vector

In this case:  $\left. \frac{d\vec{O}\hat{O}}{dt} \right|_R = \vec{0}$

$$\vec{V}_e = \left. \frac{d\vec{O}\hat{O}}{dt} \right|_R + \vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{O}\hat{M}$$

$$\vec{V}_e = \vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{O}\hat{M}$$

$$\vec{V}_a = \vec{V}_r + \vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{O}\hat{M}$$

$$\vec{a}_e = \left. \frac{d^2\vec{O}\hat{O}}{dt^2} \right|_R + \vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{O}\hat{M} + \vec{\omega} \wedge (\vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{O}\hat{M})$$

$$\vec{a}_e = \vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{OM} + \vec{\omega} \wedge (\vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{OM})$$

$$\vec{a}_c = 2(\vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{V}_r)$$

$$\vec{a}_a = \vec{a}_r + \vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{OM} + \vec{\omega} \wedge (\vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{OM}) + 2(\vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{V}_r)$$

### Remark

If the angular velocity is constant (uniform rotation):

$$\|\vec{\omega}\| = 0$$

$$\vec{a}_e = \vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{OM} + \vec{\omega} \wedge (\vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{OM})$$

$$\vec{a}_e = \vec{\omega} \wedge (\vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{OM})$$

$$\vec{a}_a = \vec{a}_r + \vec{\omega} \wedge (\vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{OM}) + 2(\vec{\omega} \wedge \vec{V}_r)$$

### Exercise

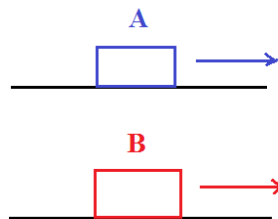
Consider two cars A and B moving on two lines at speeds of 70 km/h and 90 km/h respectively.

Calculate the velocity of B relative to A when the two cars are moving:

- On two parallel lines in the same direction and in the opposite direction.
- On two lines forming an angle of  $60^\circ$  (in the opposite direction).

### Solution

- A and B are on two parallel lines in the same direction:



$$\vec{V}_{B/R} = 90 \vec{i} \quad , \quad \vec{V}_{A/R} = 70 \vec{i}$$

$$\vec{V}_a = \vec{V}_r + \vec{V}_e$$

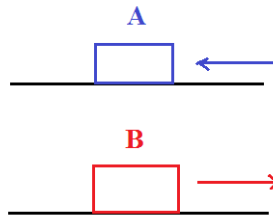


$$\vec{V}_{B/R} = \vec{V}_{B/A} + \vec{V}_{A/R}$$

$$\vec{V}_{B/A} = \vec{V}_{B/R} - \vec{V}_{A/R} = 90 \vec{i} - 70 \vec{i}$$

$$\vec{V}_{B/A} = 20 \vec{i}$$

- A and B are on two parallel lines in the opposite direction:

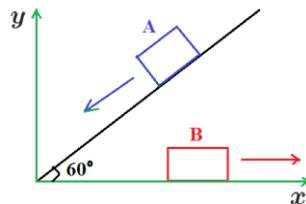


$$\vec{V}_{B/R} = 90 \vec{i} \quad , \quad \vec{V}_{A/R} = -70 \vec{i}$$

$$\vec{V}_{B/A} = \vec{V}_{B/R} - \vec{V}_{A/R} = 90 \vec{i} + 70 \vec{i}$$

$$\vec{V}_{B/A} = 160 \vec{i}$$

- On two lines forming an angle of  $60^\circ$  (in the opposite direction).



$$\vec{V}_{B/R} = 90 \vec{i} \quad , \quad \vec{V}_{A/R} = -70 \cos 60 \vec{i} - 70 \sin 60 \vec{j}$$

$$\vec{V}_{A/R} = -70 \frac{1}{2} \vec{i} - 70 \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \vec{j}$$

$$\vec{V}_{A/R} = -35 \vec{i} - 35 \sqrt{3} \vec{j}$$

$$\vec{V}_{B/A} = \vec{V}_{B/R} - \vec{V}_{A/R}$$

$$\vec{V}_{B/A} = 90 \vec{i} - (-35 \vec{i} - 35 \sqrt{3} \vec{j})$$

$$\vec{V}_{B/A} = 125 \vec{i} + 35 \sqrt{3} \vec{j}$$

$$V_{B/A} = 138.9 \text{ km/h}$$