Chapter 3 Relative Velocity

- If a motor boat were to head straight across a river (that is, if the boat were to point its bow straight towards the other side), it would not reach the shore directly across from its starting point.
- The river current influences the motion of the boat and carries it downstream.
- The motor boat may be moving with a velocity of 4 m/s directly across the river, yet the resultant velocity of the boat will be greater than 4 m/s and at an angle in the downstream direction.
- While the speedometer of the boat may read 4 m/s, its speed with respect to an observer on the shore will be greater than 4 m/s.



Question: A motor boat traveling 4 m/s, East encounters a current traveling 3.0 m/s, North.

- a. What is the resultant velocity of the motor boat?
- b. If the width of the river is 80 meters wide, then how much time does it take the boat to travel shore to shore?
- c. What distance downstream does the boat reach the opposite shore?

Practice problem: A motor boat traveling 5 m/s, East encounters a current traveling 2.5 m/s, North.

a. What is the resultant velocity of the motor boat?

b. If the width of the river is 80 meters wide, then how much time does it take the boat to travel shore to shore?

c. What distance downstream does the boat reach the opposite shore?

The Plane

Question: Consider a plane traveling with a velocity of 100 km/hr, South which encounters a side wind of 25 km/hr, West. Now what would the resulting velocity of the plane be?



Directions: Solve the following vectors problems algebraically

Practice Problems

- 1. A motor boat traveling 5 m/s, East encounters a current traveling 2.5 m/s, South.
 - a. What is the resultant velocity of the motor boat?
 - b. If the width of the river is 80 meters wide, then how much time does it take the boat to travel shore to shore?
 - c. What distance downstream does the boat reach the opposite shore?

2. A car moving east at 45 km/hr turns and travels west at 30 km/hr. What are the magnitude and direction of the resultant velocity?

3. You are riding in a bus moving slowly through heavy traffic at 2.0 m/s. You hurry to the front of the bus at 4.0 m/s relative to the bus. What Is your speed relative to the street?

4. A motorboat heads due east at 11 m/s relative to the water across a river that flows due north at 5.0 m/s. What is the velocity of the motorboat with respect to the shore?

5. A boat is rowed directly upriver at a speed of 2.5 m/s relative to the water. Viewers on the shore find that it is moving at only 0.5 m/s relative to the shore. What is the speed of the river? Is it moving with or against the boat?

6. Consider a plane traveling with a velocity of 100 km/hr, South which encounters a side wind of 25 km/hr, West. Now what would the resulting velocity of the plane be?

7. A passenger plane is traveling at a velocity of 100 km/hr with respect to the air and encounters a tailwind with a velocity of 25 km/hr, what is the velocity of the plane relative to an observer on the ground below?