Activity 8 Component vector basics

1. From Geometry,

Length = 5 units Direction $\approx 36.87^{\circ}$ from the positive *x*-axis.

Given r = xi + yj, we can draw the right triangle below and use Pythagoras to determine the magnitude and basic trigonometry to determine the direction. (Note that care must be taken when finding direction outside the first quadrant)

$$\left|\mathbf{r}\right| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$$
$$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{y}{x}\right)$$

Г





x



4. To convert from magnitude and direction form into component form, use

 $x = |\mathbf{r}| \cos \theta$

$$y = |\mathbf{r}|\sin\theta$$

Note that the angle θ is measured anticlockwise from the positive *x*-axis.

. . .



5.

- a) ~10.39**i**+6**j**
- b) ~3.61 units on an angle of $\approx 33.69^{\circ}$ clockwise from the positive *x*-axis.



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