

Section 2.1: Vectors and Scalars

- Scalars are quantities that have only magnitude (and units).

They are represented by numbers.

- E.g. 10 km, 14 seconds.

- Vectors are quantities that have both direction and magnitude (and units).

They are represented by number and direction or by arrow.

- E.g. 3 m/s North or 

\*if you were to take away "North", would be scalar

Adding Numbers:

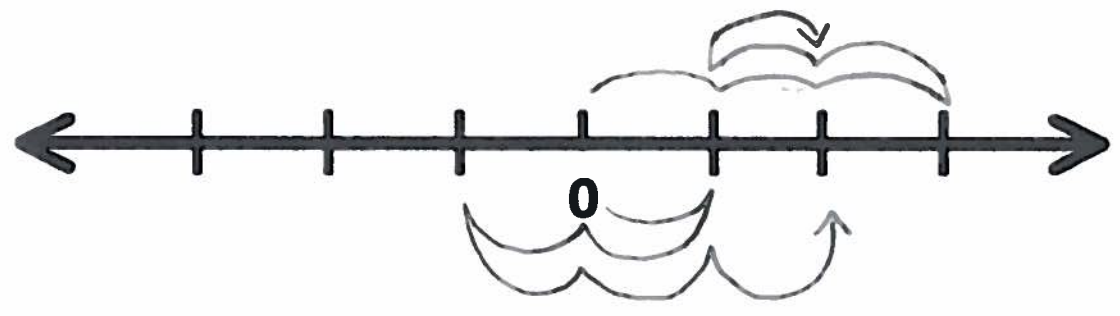
- Adding numbers is easy. The basic rules are:

- We can put them in any order.

- Each time we add a new number, we start where the last one left us.

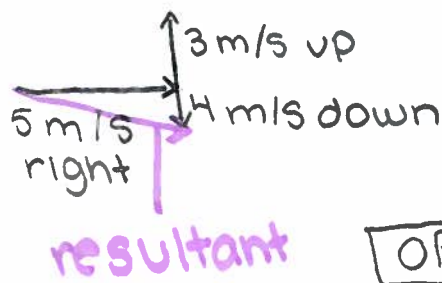
- The answer (result) is counted from start to finish

- E.g.  $3 + (-2) + 1$  vs.  $1 + (-2) + 3$



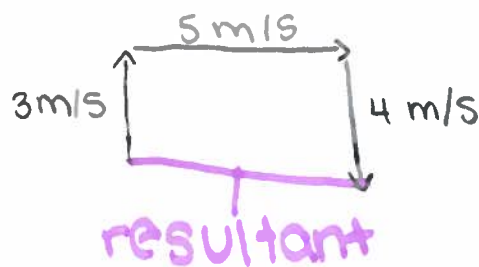
## Adding Vectors:

- We use the same three rules for adding vectors:
  - We can put them in any order.
  - Each time we add a new vector, we start where the last one left us.
  - The answer (resultant) goes from start to finish
    - 5 m/s right + 3 m/s up + 4 m/s down



OR

- \* these resultants are the same
- same magnitude (length)
  - same direction



## Distance vs. Displacement:

	Vector or Scalar?	Description
Distance	scalar	How far something traveled <b>along the path it took</b> .
Displacement	vector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Change in position.</li><li>• Straight <u>arrow</u> from start to finish.</li></ul>