

$$A = 2X + Y + 3Z$$

$$B = 3X - 2Z$$

Find a vector C whose magnitude is 6 and whose direction is perpendicular to A and B

Solution

Let $c = (a, b, c)$

$$6 = (a^2 + b^2 + c^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

since direction(d) of c is perpendicular to both A and B

then

$$A \cdot d = 1 \rightarrow 2a + b + 3c = 1$$

$$B \cdot d = 1 \rightarrow 3a - 2c = 1 \Rightarrow a = \frac{1+2c}{3} \Rightarrow 2 \frac{1+2c}{3} + b + 3c = 1 \Rightarrow 13c + 3b = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow b = \frac{1 - 13c}{3}$$

then

$$36 = \left(\left(\frac{1+2c}{3} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{1-13c}{3} \right)^2 + c^2 \right) \Rightarrow 182c^2 - 22c - 322 = 0 \Rightarrow c_1 = 1.4, c_2 = -1.3$$

$$a_1 = \frac{1 + 2 * 1.4}{3} = 1.3, a_2 = \frac{1 + 2 * (-1.3)}{3} = -0.5$$

$$b_1 = \frac{1 - 13 * 1.4}{3} = -5.7, b_2 = \frac{1 + 13 * 1.3}{3} = 6$$

Answer: $(1.3, -5.7, 1.4), (-0.5, 6, -1.3)$.