Answer on Question #56114 – Math – Vector Calculus

1. Let $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j} - 3\mathbf{k}$, $\mathbf{B} = 2\mathbf{i} + 3\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}$ and $\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{i} + 3\mathbf{j} - 2\mathbf{k}$; compute $\mathbf{A} \cdot (\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{C})$.

Solution

Vector (cross) product can be rewritten in matrix form and computed:

$$B \times C = \begin{vmatrix} i & j & k \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 3 & -2 \end{vmatrix} = i \begin{vmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 3 & -2 \end{vmatrix} - j \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & -2 \end{vmatrix} + k \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 \end{vmatrix} = (-6 - 3)i + (4 + 1)j + (6 - 3)k = -9i + 5j + 3k.$$

Now we can compute:

 $A \cdot (B \times C) = (i - 2j - 3k) \cdot (-9i + 5j + 3k) = 1 \cdot (-9) - 2 \cdot 5 - 3 \cdot 3 = -9 - 10 - -9 = -28.$

Answer: $A \cdot (B \times C) = -28$.