Answer on Question #46580 – Physics - Mechanics | Kinematics | Dynamics

A person walks 34 m East and then walks 36 m at an angle 34° North of East. What is the magnitude of the total dis- placement? Answer in units of m

Solution:

We have two displacements: r_1 (when person walks 34 m East), r_2 (when person walks 36 m at an angle 34°) ant total displacement r.

Displacement along the X-axis:

 $\begin{aligned} r_{1x} &= 34 \text{ m} \\ r_{2x} &= 36 \text{m} \cdot \cos(34^\circ) = 29.9 \text{ m} \\ r_x &= r_{1x} + r_{2x} = 34 \text{ m} + 29.9 \text{ m} = 63.9 \text{ m} \end{aligned}$

Displacement along the Y-axis:

$$\begin{split} r_{1y} &= 0 \\ r_{2y} &= 36m \cdot \sin(34^\circ) = 20.13 \ m \\ r_y &= r_{1y} + r_{2y} = 0 + 20.13 \ m = 20.13 \ m \\ \text{Using the Pythagorean Theorem:} \end{split}$$

$$r^2 = r_y^2 + r_x^2$$

 $D = \sqrt{r_y^2 + r_x^2} = \sqrt{(63.9 \text{ m})^2 + (20.13 \text{ m})^2} = 67 \text{ m}$

Answer: the magnitude of total displacement is equal to 67 m.

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