

Answer on Question #47625-Physics-Other

Given that $\vec{A} + \vec{B} + \vec{C} = 0$. Out of three vectors, two are equal in magnitude and the magnitude of the third vector is $\sqrt{2}$ times that of either vector having equal magnitudes. Then the angle between the vectors is

(1) 30, 60, 90 (2) 45, 45, 90 (3) 45, 60, 90 (4) 90, 135, 135

Solution

If $|\vec{A}| = |\vec{B}| = x$, then $|\vec{C}| = \sqrt{2}x$. Now $\vec{A} + \vec{B} = -\vec{C}$ or

$$(\vec{A} + \vec{B})(\vec{A} + \vec{B}) = (-\vec{C})(-\vec{C})$$

or

$$x^2 + x^2 + 2x^2 \cos \theta_1 = 2x^2$$

or

$$\cos \theta_1 = 0 \rightarrow \theta_1 = 90.$$

Now, $\vec{A} + \vec{C} = -\vec{B}$ or

$$(\vec{A} + \vec{C})(\vec{A} + \vec{C}) = (-\vec{B})(-\vec{B})$$

or

$$x^2 + 2x^2 + 2\sqrt{2}x^2 \cos \theta_2 = x^2$$

or

$$\cos \theta_2 = -\frac{2x^2}{2\sqrt{2}x^2} = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \rightarrow \cos(180 - \theta_2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \rightarrow 180 - \theta_2 = 45 \rightarrow \theta_2 = 135.$$

Again, $\vec{B} + \vec{C} = -\vec{A}$ or

$$(\vec{B} + \vec{C})(\vec{B} + \vec{C}) = (-\vec{A})(-\vec{A})$$

or

$$x^2 + 2x^2 + 2\sqrt{2}x^2 \cos \theta_3 = x^2$$

or

$$\cos \theta_3 = -\frac{2x^2}{2\sqrt{2}x^2} = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \rightarrow \cos(180 - \theta_3) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \rightarrow 180 - \theta_3 = 45 \rightarrow \theta_3 = 135.$$

Answer: (4) 90, 135, 135.

