Answer on Question 51823, Physics, Mechanics | Kinematics | Dynamics

Question:

A man walks 5.0m due east and then $10m N30^{\circ}E$. Find his resultant displacement? **Solution:**



The displacement R is the resultant when the two individual displacements A and B are added. We can find the magnitude of the resultant displacement R from the law of cosines applied to the triangle:

$$\theta = 180^{\circ} - 30^{\circ} = 150^{\circ},$$

$$R = \sqrt{A^2 + B^2 - 2AB\cos\theta} = \sqrt{(5m)^2 + (10m)^2 - 2 \cdot 5m \cdot 10m \cdot \cos 150^{\circ}} = 14.6m.$$

Then, we can find the direction of the resultant displacement R from the law of sines:

$$\frac{\sin\beta}{B} = \frac{\sin\theta}{R},$$

$$\sin\beta = \frac{B}{R}\sin\theta = \frac{10m}{14.6m} \cdot \sin 150^{\circ} = 0.3425,$$

$$\beta = \arcsin(0.3425) = 20^{\circ}.$$

Answer:

The magnitude of the resultant displasement is R = 14.6m, direction is $N20^{\circ}E$.

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