Answer on Question 63938, Physics, Other

Question:

Suppose that $\vec{a} = 2\hat{\imath} + \hat{\jmath}$, $\vec{b} = 5\hat{\imath} - 4\hat{\jmath} + \hat{k}$, $\vec{c} = 3\hat{\imath} + 4\hat{\jmath} + \hat{k}$. What is the magnitude of the vector $2\vec{a} - \vec{b} + \vec{c}$?

Solution:

Let's first call the new vector $\vec{d} = 2\vec{a} - \vec{b} + \vec{c}$ and find it:

$$\vec{d} = 2(2\hat{\imath} + \hat{\jmath}) - (5\hat{\imath} - 4\hat{\jmath} + \hat{k}) + (3\hat{\imath} + 4\hat{\jmath} + \hat{k}) =$$

$$= (4\hat{\imath} + 2\hat{\jmath} + 0\hat{k}) - (5\hat{\imath} - 4\hat{\jmath} + \hat{k}) + (3\hat{\imath} + 4\hat{\jmath} + \hat{k}) =$$

$$= (4\hat{\imath} - 5\hat{\imath} + 3\hat{\imath}) + (2\hat{\jmath} + 4\hat{\jmath} + 4\hat{\jmath}) + (0\hat{k} - \hat{k} + \hat{k}) = 2\hat{\imath} + 10\hat{\jmath}.$$

So,
$$\vec{d} = 2\hat{\imath} + 10\hat{\jmath}$$
.

The magnitude of the vector \vec{d} can be found using the Pythagorean theorem:

$$|\vec{d}| = \sqrt{d_x^2 + d_y^2} = \sqrt{2^2 + 10^2} = 10.2.$$

Answer:

$$|\vec{d}| = 10.2.$$

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