

## Answer on Question #69880 Physics / Other

Two vectors of equal magnitude 5 units have an angle  $\alpha = 60$  degree between them. Find the magnitude of the sum of the vectors and difference of the vectors.

### Solution:

Let us denote vectors as **a** and **b**. Thus

$$|\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}|^2 = (\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b})^2 = a^2 + 2ab \cos \alpha + b^2 = 5^2 + 2 \times 5 \times 5 \times \frac{1}{2} + 5^2 = 75.$$

$$|\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}| = \sqrt{75} = 5\sqrt{3}.$$

$$|\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b}|^2 = (\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b})^2 = a^2 - 2ab \cos \alpha + b^2 = 5^2 - 2 \times 5 \times 5 \times \frac{1}{2} + 5^2 = 25.$$

$$|\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b}| = \sqrt{25} = 5.$$

**Answers:**  $|\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}| = \sqrt{75} = 5\sqrt{3}$ ,

$$|\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b}| = \sqrt{25} = 5.$$

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