

Answer on Question #77241, Physics / Mechanics | Relativity | for completion

$\vec{a} = 2\hat{i} + 4\hat{j} + 6\hat{k}$ ,  $\vec{b} = 2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} + m\hat{k}$  find the value of  $m$

Solution:

$$\vec{a} = 2\hat{i} + 4\hat{j} + 6\hat{k}, \vec{b} = 2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} + m\hat{k}.$$

As well as we have no connection between vectors  $\vec{a}$  and  $\vec{b}$  we can take  $m$  arbitrary:  $m \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Let us suppose  $\vec{a}$  and  $\vec{b}$  are perpendicular. If so their dot-product is zero:

$$\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = 2 * 2 + 4 * 3 + 6 * m = 0. m = -\frac{8}{3}.$$

Answer:  $m \in \mathbb{R}$ ; in case  $\vec{a}$  is perpendicular to  $\vec{b}$ :  $m = -\frac{8}{3}$ .

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