

Properties of Vectors

Raise My
MA **rks**

RaiseMyMarks.com

2021

Properties of Vectors

For non-zero vectors \vec{w} , \vec{v} and \vec{u} and scalars $k, m, n \in \mathbb{R}$ we have the following properties:

1. $\vec{u} + \vec{v} = \vec{v} + \vec{u}$ (Commutative Property)
2. $(\vec{u} + \vec{v}) + \vec{w} = \vec{u} + (\vec{v} + \vec{w})$ (Associative Property)
3. $k(\vec{u} + \vec{v}) = k\vec{u} + k\vec{v}$ (Distributive Property)
4. $\vec{0} + \vec{v} = \vec{v} + \vec{0} = \vec{v}$
5. $m(n\vec{v}) = (mn)\vec{v} = mn\vec{v}$
6. $(m + n)\vec{v} = m\vec{v} + n\vec{v}$

Exercises

- Write the following vector in simplified form: $3(\vec{a} - 2\vec{b} - 5\vec{c}) - 3(2\vec{a} - 4\vec{b} + 2\vec{c}) - (\vec{a} - 3\vec{b} + 3\vec{c})$
- If $\vec{a} = 3\vec{i} - 4\vec{j} + \vec{k}$ and $\vec{b} = -2\vec{i} + 3\vec{j} - \vec{k}$, express each of the following in terms of \vec{i} , \vec{j} and \vec{k} .
- If $2\vec{x} + 3\vec{y} = \vec{a}$ and $-\vec{x} + 5\vec{y} = 6\vec{b}$, express \vec{x} and \vec{y} in terms of \vec{a} and \vec{b} .
- If $\vec{x} = \frac{2}{3}\vec{y} + \frac{1}{3}\vec{z}$, $\vec{x} - \vec{y} = \vec{a}$ and $\vec{y} - \vec{z} = \vec{b}$, show that $\vec{a} = -\frac{1}{3}\vec{b}$.
- Two vectors \vec{a} and \vec{b} have a common starting point with an angle of 12° between them. The vectors are such that $|\vec{a}| = 3$ and $|\vec{b}| = 4$.
 - Calculate $|\vec{a} + \vec{b}|$.
 - Calculate the angle between \vec{a} and $\vec{a} + \vec{b}$.
- Determine all possible values for t if the length of the vector $\vec{x} = t\vec{y}$ is $4|\vec{y}|$.
- PQRS is a quadrilateral with $\vec{PQ} = 2\vec{a}$, $\vec{QR} = 3\vec{b}$ and $\vec{QS} = 3\vec{b} - 3\vec{a}$. Express \vec{PS} and \vec{RS} in terms of \vec{a} and \vec{b} .
- An airplane is heading due south at a speed of 500km/h when it encounters a head wind from the south at 40km/h. What is the resultant ground velocity of the airplane?
- If A, B and C are three collinear points with B at the midpoint of AC and O is any point not on the line AC, prove that $\vec{OA} + \vec{OC} = 2\vec{OB}$. (Hint: $\vec{AB} = \vec{BC}$)

10. ABCD is a parallelogram. If $\overrightarrow{AB} = \vec{x}$ and $\overrightarrow{DA} = \vec{y}$, express \overrightarrow{BC} , \overrightarrow{DC} , \overrightarrow{BD} and \overrightarrow{AC} in terms of \vec{x} and \vec{y} .
11. The vector \vec{m} is collinear (parallel) to \vec{b} but in the opposite direction. Express the magnitude of $\vec{m} + \vec{n}$ in terms of the magnitudes of \vec{m} and \vec{n} .
12. The vectors \vec{p} and \vec{q} are distinct unit vectors that are placed in a tail-to-tail position. If these two vectors have an angle of 60° between them, determine $|2\vec{p} - \vec{q}|$.
13. Given that $|\vec{u}| = 8$ and $|\vec{v}| = 10$ and the angle between vectors \vec{u} and \vec{v} is 60° determine:
- $|\vec{u} - \vec{v}|$
 - the direction of $\vec{u} - \vec{v}$ relative to \vec{u}
 - the unit vector in the direction of $\vec{u} + \vec{v}$
 - $|5\vec{u} + 2\vec{v}|$