

Vectors in a Garden

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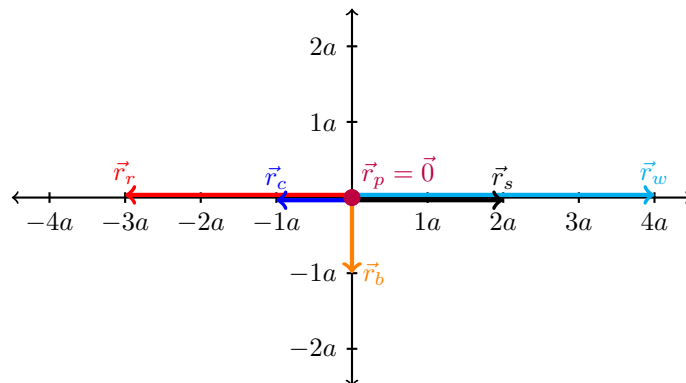
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XX-1: Vectors in a Garden

You visit a garden with a trail that includes the following landmarks.

- Red roses at $\vec{r}_r = -3a\hat{x}$
- White roses at $\vec{r}_w = +4a\hat{x}$
- A pond at $\vec{r}_p = 0\hat{x}$
- A bench at $\vec{r}_b = -a\hat{y}$
- A bridge over a creek at $\vec{r}_c = -a\hat{x}$
- A statue at $\vec{r}_s = +2a\hat{x}$

(1) Sketch and label the garden and its landmarks.



(2) Find the following displacement vectors using both symbols and diagrams.

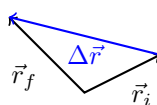
A displacement vector, $\Delta\vec{r}$, can be thought of as the difference of the final position vector, \vec{r}_f , and the initial position vector, \vec{r}_i :

$$\Delta\vec{r} = \vec{r}_f - \vec{r}_i.$$

It can also be thought of as the vector that, when added to \vec{r}_i , gives you \vec{r}_f :

$$\Delta\vec{r} = \vec{r}_f - \vec{r}_i.$$

As such, $\Delta\vec{r}$ points from the tip of \vec{r}_i to the tip of \vec{r}_f :



(a) From the red roses to the white roses

$$\vec{r}_r = -3a\hat{x} \quad \vec{r}_w = 4a\hat{x}$$

$$\Delta \vec{r}_{r \rightarrow w} = \vec{r}_w - \vec{r}_r = 4a\hat{x} - (-3a\hat{x}) = 7a\hat{x}$$

(b) From the pond to the red roses

$$\vec{r}_r = -3a\hat{x} \quad \vec{r}_p = \vec{0}$$

$$\Delta \vec{r}_{p \rightarrow r} = \vec{r}_r - \vec{r}_p = \vec{r}_r = -3a\hat{x}$$

(c) From the bench to the statue

$$\vec{r}_s = 2a\hat{x} \quad \vec{r}_b = -a\hat{y}$$

$$\Delta \vec{r}_{b \rightarrow s} = \vec{r}_s - \vec{r}_b = 2a\hat{x} - (-a\hat{y}) = 2a\hat{x} + a\hat{y}$$

$$|\Delta \vec{r}_{b \rightarrow s}| = \sqrt{(2a)^2 + a^2} = \sqrt{5}a$$