Question:

Find a vector of magnitude 5 units, and parallel to the resultant of the vectors $\mathbf{a} = 2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} - \hat{k}$ and $\mathbf{b} = \hat{i} - 2\hat{j} + \hat{k}$.

Solution: Let the required vector be ${\bf R}$,

$$\mathbf{R} = k(\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}) \tag{1}$$

Magnitude of Resultant vector is,

$$||R|| = \sqrt{3^2 + 1^2 + 0^2} = \sqrt{9 + 1} = \sqrt{10}$$
 (2)

Let the desired vector be,

$$||k\mathbf{R}|| = 5 \tag{3}$$

$$|k|\sqrt{10} = 5\tag{4}$$

$$\implies k = \frac{5}{\sqrt{10}} \tag{5}$$

$$\mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} 2\\3\\-1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 1\\-2\\1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{6}$$

$$\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \tag{7}$$

$$\mathbf{R} = \frac{5}{\sqrt{10}} \begin{pmatrix} 3\\1\\0 \end{pmatrix} \tag{8}$$

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3D Plot: Vectors a, b, and Resultant Parallel of Mag 5

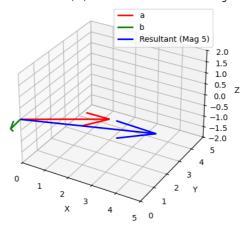


Fig. 0