

Same Direction Different Length (Solution)

26. Find a vector that has the same direction as $\langle -2, 4, 2 \rangle$ but has length 6.

Let's check what the length of the vector is:

$$|\vec{v}| = \sqrt{(-2)^2 + (4)^2 + (2)^2} = \sqrt{4 + 16 + 4} = \sqrt{24} = 2\sqrt{6} \approx 4.9$$

(1) Find the unit vector \hat{v} :

$$\hat{v} = \frac{\vec{v}}{|\vec{v}|} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{6}} \langle -2, 4, 2 \rangle$$

(2) New vector has the same direction but magnitude of 6

$$\vec{u} = 6\hat{v} = \frac{6}{2\sqrt{6}} \langle -2, 4, 2 \rangle = \langle -\sqrt{6}, 2\sqrt{6}, \sqrt{6} \rangle$$
$$\vec{u} = \langle -\sqrt{6}, 2\sqrt{6}, \sqrt{6} \rangle$$

Q12.2-26 from Calculus: Early Transcendentals 7e by Stewart

Why: Need a vector in the same direction but a different length.

Steps:

1. Calculate the unit vector (same direction, magnitude 1).
2. Multiply by a scalar multiple of 6.