

Example 7 Find all vectors of magnitude $10\sqrt{3}$ that are perpendicular to the plane of $\hat{i}+2\hat{j}+\hat{k}$ and $-\hat{i}+3\hat{j}+4\hat{k}$.

Solution Let $\vec{a} = \hat{i}+2\hat{j}+\hat{k}$ and $\vec{b} = -\hat{i}+3\hat{j}+4\hat{k}$. Then

$$\vec{a} \times \vec{b} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ -1 & 3 & 4 \end{vmatrix} = \hat{i}(8-3) - \hat{j}(4+1) + \hat{k}(3+2) = 5\hat{i} - 5\hat{j} + 5\hat{k}$$

$$\Rightarrow |\vec{a} \times \vec{b}| = \sqrt{(5)^2 + (-5)^2 + (5)^2} = \sqrt{3(5)^2} = 5\sqrt{3}.$$