Chapter 13: Vector-Valued Functions and Motion in Space

EXERCISES 13.1

Motion in the \(xy\)-plane
In Exercises 1–4, \(\mathbf{r}(t)\) is the position of a particle in the \(xy\)-plane at time \(t\). Find an equation in \(x\) and \(y\) whose graph is the path of the particle. Then find the particle’s velocity and acceleration vectors at the given value of \(t\).

1. \(\mathbf{r}(t) = (t + 1)\mathbf{i} + (t^2 - 1)\mathbf{j}, \quad t = 1\)
2. \(\mathbf{r}(t) = (t^2 + 1)\mathbf{i} + (2t - 1)\mathbf{j}, \quad t = 1/2\)
3. \(\mathbf{r}(t) = e^t\mathbf{i} + \frac{2}{9}e^{2t}\mathbf{j}, \quad t = \ln 3\)
4. \(\mathbf{r}(t) = (\cos 2t)\mathbf{i} + (3 \sin 2t)\mathbf{j}, \quad t = 0\)

Exercises 5–8 give the position vectors of particles moving along various curves in the \(xy\)-plane. In each case, find the particle’s velocity and acceleration vectors at the stated times and sketch them as vectors on the curve.

5. Motion on the circle \(x^2 + y^2 = 1\)
\(\mathbf{r}(t) = (\sin t)\mathbf{i} + (\cos t)\mathbf{j}; \quad t = \pi/4 \text{ and } \pi/2\)

6. Motion on the circle \(x^2 + y^2 = 16\)
\(\mathbf{r}(t) = \left(4 \cos \frac{t}{2}\right)\mathbf{i} + \left(4 \sin \frac{t}{2}\right)\mathbf{j}; \quad t = \pi \text{ and } 3\pi/2\)

7. Motion on the cycloid \(x = t - \sin t, \quad y = 1 - \cos t\)
\(\mathbf{r}(t) = (t - \sin t)\mathbf{i} + (1 - \cos t)\mathbf{j}; \quad t = \pi \text{ and } 3\pi/2\)

8. Motion on the parabola \(y = x^2 + 1\)
\(\mathbf{r}(t) = t\mathbf{i} + (t^2 + 1)\mathbf{j}; \quad t = -1, 0, \text{ and } 1\)

Velocity and Acceleration in Space
In Exercises 9–14, \(\mathbf{r}(t)\) is the position of a particle in space at time \(t\). Find the particle’s velocity and acceleration vectors. Then find the particle’s speed and direction of motion at the given value of \(t\). Write the particle’s velocity at that time as the product of its speed and direction.

9. \(\mathbf{r}(t) = (t + 1)\mathbf{i} + (t^2 - 1)\mathbf{j} + 2t\mathbf{k}, \quad t = 1\)

10. \(\mathbf{r}(t) = (1 + t)\mathbf{i} + \frac{t^2}{\sqrt{2}}\mathbf{j} + \frac{t^3}{3}\mathbf{k}, \quad t = 1\)

11. \(\mathbf{r}(t) = (2 \cos t)\mathbf{i} + (3 \sin t)\mathbf{j} + 4t\mathbf{k}, \quad t = \pi/2\)

12. \(\mathbf{r}(t) = (\sec t)\mathbf{i} + (\tan t)\mathbf{j} + \frac{4}{3}t\mathbf{k}, \quad t = \pi/6\)

13. \(\mathbf{r}(t) = (2 \ln (t + 1))\mathbf{i} + t^2\mathbf{j} + \frac{t^2}{2}\mathbf{k}, \quad t = 1\)

14. \(\mathbf{r}(t) = (e^{-t})\mathbf{i} + (2 \cos 3t)\mathbf{j} + (2 \sin 3t)\mathbf{k}, \quad t = 0\)
In Exercises 15–18, \( r(t) \) is the position of a particle in space at time \( t \). Find the angle between the velocity and acceleration vectors at time \( t = 0 \).

15. \( r(t) = (3t + 1)i + \sqrt{3}j + t^3k \)
16. \( r(t) = \left( \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} t \right)i + \left( \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} t - 16t^2 \right)j \)
17. \( r(t) = (\ln(t^2 + 1))i + (\tan^{-1} t)j + \sqrt{t^2 + 1} \ k \)
18. \( r(t) = \frac{4}{9} (1 + t)\cos^2 i + \frac{4}{9} (1 - t)^3/2 j + \frac{1}{3} t k \)

In Exercises 19 and 20, \( r(t) \) is the position vector of a particle in space at time \( t \). Find the time or times in the given time interval when the velocity and acceleration vectors are orthogonal.

19. \( r(t) = (t - \sin t)i + (1 - \cos t)j, \quad 0 \leq t \leq 2\pi \)
20. \( r(t) = (\sin t)i + tj + (\cos t)k, \quad t \geq 0 \)

### Integrating Vector-Valued Functions

Evaluate the integrals in Exercises 21–26.

21. \( \int_0^t (t^2i + 7j + (t + 1)k) \, dt \)
22. \( \int_0^\pi/4 \left[ (6 - 6t)i + 3\sqrt{3}j + \left( \frac{4}{t^2} \right)k \right] \, dt \)
23. \( \int_{-\pi/4}^{\pi/4} [(\sin t)i + (1 + \cos t)j + (\sec^2 t)k] \, dt \)
24. \( \int_0^{\pi/3} [(\sec t \tan t) i + (\tan t)j + (2\sin t \cos t)k] \, dt \)
25. \( \int_1^2 \left[ \frac{1}{t} i + \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - t^2}} j + \frac{1}{2t^2} k \right] \, dt \)
26. \( \int_0^1 \left[ \frac{2}{\sqrt{1 - t^2}} i + \frac{\sqrt{1}}{1 + t^2} k \right] \, dt \)

### Initial Value Problems for Vector-Valued Functions

Solve the initial value problems in Exercises 27–32 for \( r \) as a vector function of \( t \).

27. Differential equation: \( \frac{dr}{dt} = -ti - tj - tk \)  
   Initial condition: \( r(0) = i + 2j + 3k \)
28. Differential equation: \( \frac{dr}{dt} = (180t)i + (180t - 16t^2)j \)  
   Initial condition: \( r(0) = 100j \)
29. Differential equation: \( \frac{dr}{dt} = \frac{3}{2} (t + 1)^{1/2} i + e^{-t}j + \frac{1}{t + 1} k \)  
   Initial condition: \( r(0) = k \)
30. Differential equation: \( \frac{dr}{dt} = (t^3 + 4t)i + tj + 2t^2 k \)  
   Initial condition: \( r(0) = i + j \)

### Exercises

31. Differential equation: \( \frac{d^2r}{dt^2} = -32k \)  
   Initial conditions: \( r(0) = 100k \) and \( \frac{dr}{dt} \bigg|_{t=0} = 8i + 8j \)

32. Differential equation: \( \frac{d^2r}{dt^2} = -(i + j + k) \)  
   Initial conditions: \( r(0) = 10i + 10j + 10k \) and \( \frac{dr}{dt} \bigg|_{t=0} = 0 \)

### Tangent Lines to Smooth Curves

As mentioned in the text, the tangent line to a smooth curve \( r(t) = f(t)i + g(t)j + h(t)k \) at \( t = t_0 \) is the line that passes through the point \( (f(t_0), g(t_0), h(t_0)) \) parallel to \( v(t_0) \), the curve’s velocity vector at \( t_0 \). In Exercises 33–36, find parametric equations for the line that is tangent to the given curve at the given parameter value \( t = t_0 \).

33. \( r(t) = (\sin t)i + (t^2 - \cos t)j + e^t k, \quad t_0 = 0 \)
34. \( r(t) = (2 \sin t)i + (2 \cos t)j + 5tk, \quad t_0 = 4\pi \)
35. \( r(t) = (\sin t)i + (\cos t) j + bt k, \quad t_0 = 2\pi \)
36. \( r(t) = (\cos t)i + (\sin t)j + (\sin 2t)k, \quad t_0 = \frac{\pi}{2} \)

### Motion on Circular Paths

37. Each of the following equations in parts (a)–(e) describes the motion of a particle having the same path, namely the unit circle \( x^2 + y^2 = 1 \). Although the path of each particle in parts (a)–(e) is the same, the behavior, or “dynamics,” of each particle is different. For each particle, answer the following questions.
   i. Does the particle have constant speed? If so, what is its constant speed?
   ii. Is the particle’s acceleration vector always orthogonal to its velocity vector?
   iii. Does the particle rotate counterclockwise around the circle?

   a. \( r(t) = (\cos t)i + (\sin t)j, \quad t \geq 0 \)
   b. \( r(t) = (\cos 2t)i + \sin (2t)j, \quad t \geq 0 \)
   c. \( r(t) = (\cos (t - \pi/2))i + (\sin (t - \pi/2))j, \quad t \geq 0 \)
   d. \( r(t) = (\cos t)i - (\sin t)j, \quad t \geq 0 \)
   e. \( r(t) = (\cos t^2)i + (\sin t^2)j, \quad t \geq 0 \)

38. Show that the vector-valued function \( r(t) = (2i + 2j + k) \quad \cos t \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} i - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} j \right) + \sin t \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} i + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} j + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} k \right) \) describes the motion of a particle moving in the circle of radius 1 centered at the point \((2, 2, 1)\) and lying in the plane \( x + y - 2z = 2 \).
Motion Along a Straight Line

39. At time \( t = 0 \), a particle is located at the point (1, 2, 3). It travels in a straight line to the point (4, 1, 4), has speed 2 at (1, 2, 3) and constant acceleration \( 3\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k} \). Find an equation for the position vector \( \mathbf{r}(t) \) of the particle at time \( t \).

40. A particle traveling in a straight line is located at the point \((a, b, c)\) and has speed \( s(t) \) at \( t \). The particle moves toward the point \((d, e, f)\) at a constant speed \( v \). Find its position vector \( \mathbf{r}(t) \) at time \( t \).

Theory and Examples

41. Motion along a parabola A particle moves along the top of the parabola \( y^2 = 2x \) from left to right at a constant speed of 5 units per second. Find the velocity of the particle as it moves through the point \((2, 2)\).

42. Motion along a cycloid A particle moves in the xy-plane in such a way that its position at time \( t \) is
\[ \mathbf{r}(t) = (t - \sin t)\mathbf{i} + (1 - \cos t)\mathbf{j}. \]

a. Graph \( \mathbf{r}(t) \). The resulting curve is a cycloid.

b. Find the maximum and minimum values of \( |\mathbf{v}| \) and \( |\mathbf{a}| \). (Hint: Find the extreme values of \( |\mathbf{v}|^2 \) and \( |\mathbf{a}|^2 \) first and take square roots later.)

c. Motion along an ellipse A particle moves around the ellipse \( (x/2)^2 + (y/3)^2 = 1 \) in the yz-plane in such a way that its position at time \( t \) is
\[ \mathbf{r}(t) = (3 \cos t)\mathbf{j} + (2 \sin t)\mathbf{k}. \]

Find the maximum and minimum values of \( |\mathbf{v}| \) and \( |\mathbf{a}| \). (Hint: Find the extreme values of \( |\mathbf{v}|^2 \) and \( |\mathbf{a}|^2 \) first and take square roots later.)

44. A satellite in circular orbit A satellite of mass \( m \) is revolving at a constant speed \( v \) around a body of mass \( M \) (Earth, for example) in a circular orbit of radius \( r_0 \) (measured from the body's center of mass). Determine the satellite's orbital period \( T \) (the time to complete one full orbit), as follows:

a. Coordinatize the orbital plane by placing the origin at the body's center of mass, with the satellite on the x-axis at \( t = 0 \) and moving counterclockwise, as in the accompanying figure.

Let \( \mathbf{r}(t) \) be the satellite's position vector at time \( t \). Show that
\[ \theta = vt/r_0 \]
and hence that
\[ \mathbf{r}(t) = \left( r_0 \cos \frac{vt}{r_0} \right) \mathbf{i} + \left( r_0 \sin \frac{vt}{r_0} \right) \mathbf{j}. \]

b. Find the acceleration of the satellite.

c. According to Newton's law of gravitation, the gravitational force exerted on the satellite is directed toward \( M \) and is given by
\[ \mathbf{F} = \left( -\frac{GmM}{r_0^2} \right) \mathbf{r}. \]

where \( G \) is the universal constant of gravitation. Using Newton's second law, \( \mathbf{F} = m\mathbf{a} \), show that \( v^2 = GM/r_0 \).

d. Show that the orbital period \( T \) satisfies \( vt = 2\pi r_0 \).

e. From parts (c) and (d), deduce that
\[ T^2 = \frac{4\pi^2 r_0^3}{GM}. \]

That is, the square of the period of a satellite in circular orbit is proportional to the cube of the radius from the orbital center.

45. Let \( \mathbf{v} \) be a differentiable vector function of \( t \). Show that if \( \mathbf{v} \cdot (d\mathbf{v}/dt) = 0 \) for all \( t \), then \( |\mathbf{v}| \) is constant.

46. Derivatives of triple scalar products

a. Show that if \( \mathbf{u} \), \( \mathbf{v} \), and \( \mathbf{w} \) are differentiable vector functions of \( t \), then
\[ \frac{d}{dt} (\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{w}) = \frac{d\mathbf{u}}{dt} \cdot \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} \times \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} \times \frac{d\mathbf{w}}{dt}. \] (7)

b. Show that Equation (7) is equivalent to
\[ \frac{d}{dt} \begin{vmatrix} u_1 & u_2 & u_3 \\ v_1 & v_2 & v_3 \\ w_1 & w_2 & w_3 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} \frac{du_1}{dt} & \frac{du_2}{dt} & \frac{du_3}{dt} \\ \frac{dv_1}{dt} & \frac{dv_2}{dt} & \frac{dv_3}{dt} \\ \frac{dw_1}{dt} & \frac{dw_2}{dt} & \frac{dw_3}{dt} \end{vmatrix} + \begin{vmatrix} u_1 & u_2 & u_3 \\ v_1 & v_2 & v_3 \\ w_1 & w_2 & w_3 \end{vmatrix}. \] (8)

Equation (8) says that the derivative of a 3 by 3 determinant of differentiable functions is the sum of the three determinants obtained from the original by differentiating one row at a time. The result extends to determinants of any order.
47. (Continuation of Exercise 46.) Suppose that \( \mathbf{r}(t) = f(t)\mathbf{i} + g(t)\mathbf{j} + h(t)\mathbf{k} \) and that \( f, g, \) and \( h \) have derivatives through order three. Use Equation (7) or (8) to show that
\[
\frac{d}{dt} \left( \mathbf{r} \cdot \frac{d\mathbf{r}}{dt} \times \frac{d^2\mathbf{r}}{dt^2} \right) = \mathbf{r} \cdot \left( \frac{d\mathbf{r}}{dt} \times \frac{d^3\mathbf{r}}{dt^3} \right).
\]  
(Hint: Differentiate on the left and look for vectors whose products are zero.)

48. Constant Function Rule Prove that if \( u \) is the vector function with the constant value \( C \), then \( du/dt = 0 \).

49. Scalar Multiple Rules
a. Prove that if \( u \) is a differentiable function of \( t \) and \( c \) is any real number, then
\[
\frac{d(cu)}{dt} = c \frac{du}{dt}.
\]

b. Prove that if \( u \) is a differentiable function of \( t \) and \( f \) is a differentiable scalar function of \( t \), then
\[
\frac{d}{dt} (fu) = \frac{df}{dt} u + f \frac{du}{dt}.
\]

50. Sum and Difference Rules Prove that if \( u \) and \( v \) are differentiable functions of \( t \), then
\[
\frac{d}{dt} (u + v) = \frac{du}{dt} + \frac{dv}{dt}
\]
and
\[
\frac{d}{dt} (u - v) = \frac{du}{dt} - \frac{dv}{dt}.
\]

51. Component Test for Continuity at a Point Show that the vector function \( \mathbf{r} \) defined by \( \mathbf{r}(t) = f(t)\mathbf{i} + g(t)\mathbf{j} + h(t)\mathbf{k} \) is continuous at \( t = t_0 \) if and only if \( f, g, \) and \( h \) are continuous at \( t_0 \).

52. Limits of cross products of vector functions Suppose that \( \mathbf{r}_1(t) = f_1(t)\mathbf{i} + f_2(t)\mathbf{j} + f_3(t)\mathbf{k} \), \( \mathbf{r}_2(t) = g_1(t)\mathbf{i} + g_2(t)\mathbf{j} + g_3(t)\mathbf{k} \), \( \lim_{t \to t_0} \mathbf{r}_1(t) = \mathbf{A} \), and \( \lim_{t \to t_0} \mathbf{r}_2(t) = \mathbf{B} \). Use the determinant formula for cross products and the Limit Product Rule for scalar functions to show that
\[
\lim_{t \to t_0} (\mathbf{r}_1(t) \times \mathbf{r}_2(t)) = \mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B}
\]

53. Differentiable vector functions are continuous Show that if \( \mathbf{r}(t) = f(t)\mathbf{i} + g(t)\mathbf{j} + h(t)\mathbf{k} \) is differentiable at \( t = t_0 \), then it is continuous at \( t_0 \) as well.

54. Establish the following properties of integrable vector functions.
a. The Constant Scalar Multiple Rule:
\[
\int_a^b k \mathbf{r}(t) \, dt = k \int_a^b \mathbf{r}(t) \, dt \quad \text{(any scalar} \, k)\]

The Rule for Negatives,
\[
\int_a^b (-\mathbf{r}(t)) \, dt = -\int_a^b \mathbf{r}(t) \, dt,
\]
is obtained by taking \( k = -1 \).

b. The Sum and Difference Rules:
\[
\int_a^b (\mathbf{r}_1(t) \pm \mathbf{r}_2(t)) \, dt = \int_a^b \mathbf{r}_1(t) \, dt \pm \int_a^b \mathbf{r}_2(t) \, dt.
\]

c. The Constant Vector Multiple Rules:
\[
\int_a^b C \cdot \mathbf{r}(t) \, dt = C \int_a^b \mathbf{r}(t) \, dt \quad \text{(any constant vector} \, C)\]
and
\[
\int_a^b C \times \mathbf{r}(t) \, dt = C \times \int_a^b \mathbf{r}(t) \, dt \quad \text{(any constant vector} \, C)\]

55. Products of scalar and vector functions Suppose that the scalar function \( u(t) \) and the vector function \( \mathbf{r}(t) \) are both defined for \( a \leq t \leq b \).

a. Show that \( u \mathbf{r} \) is continuous on \([a, b]\) if \( u \) and \( \mathbf{r} \) are continuous on \([a, b]\).

b. If \( u \) and \( \mathbf{r} \) are both differentiable on \([a, b]\), show that \( u \mathbf{r} \) is differentiable on \([a, b]\) and that
\[
\frac{d}{dt} (u \mathbf{r}) = u \frac{d\mathbf{r}}{dt} + \mathbf{r} \frac{du}{dt}.
\]

56. Antiderivatives of vector functions

a. Use Corollary 2 of the Mean Value Theorem for scalar functions to show that if two vector functions \( \mathbf{R}_1(t) \) and \( \mathbf{R}_2(t) \) have identical derivatives on an interval \( I \), then the functions differ by a constant vector value throughout \( I \).

b. Use the result in part (a) to show that if \( \mathbf{R}(t) \) is any antiderivative of \( \mathbf{r}(t) \) on \( I \), then any other antiderivative of \( \mathbf{r} \) on \( I \) equals \( \mathbf{R}(t) + \mathbf{C} \) for some constant vector \( \mathbf{C} \).

57. The Fundamental Theorem of Calculus The Fundamental Theorem of Calculus for scalar functions of a real variable holds for vector functions of a real variable as well. Prove this by using the theorem for scalar functions to show first that if a vector function \( \mathbf{r}(t) \) is continuous for \( a \leq t \leq b \), then
\[
\frac{d}{dt} \int_a^t \mathbf{r}(\tau) \, d\tau = \mathbf{r}(t)
\]
at every point \( t \) of \((a, b)\). Then use the conclusion in part (b) of Exercise 56 to show that if \( \mathbf{R} \) is any antiderivative of \( \mathbf{r} \) on \([a, b]\) then
\[
\int_a^b \mathbf{r}(t) \, dt = \mathbf{R}(b) - \mathbf{R}(a).
\]
In Exercises 62 and 63, you will explore graphically the behavior of the helix
\[ r(t) = (\cos at)i + (\sin at)j + btk. \]
as you change the values of the constants \( a \) and \( b \). Use a CAS to perform the steps in each exercise.

62. Set \( b = 1 \). Plot the helix \( r(t) \) together with the tangent line to the curve at \( t = 3\pi/2 \) for \( a = 1, 2, 4, \) and 6 over the interval \( 0 \leq t \leq 4\pi \). Describe in your own words what happens to the graph of the helix and the position of the tangent line as \( a \) increases through these positive values.

63. Set \( a = 1 \). Plot the helix \( r(t) \) together with the tangent line to the curve at \( t = 3\pi/2 \) for \( b = 1/4, 1/2, 2, \) and 4 over the interval \( 0 \leq t \leq 4\pi \). Describe in your own words what happens to the graph of the helix and the position of the tangent line as \( b \) increases through these positive values.