Variable Acceleration in One Dimension



Example

A particle is moving in a straight line with acceleration at time t seconds given by

$$a = \cos 2\pi t \, \mathrm{ms}^{-2}, \quad t \ge 0$$

The velocity of the particle at time t = 0 is $\frac{1}{2\pi}$ ms⁻¹. Find:

a) an expression for the velocity at time t seconds

b) the maximum speed

c) the distance travelled in the first 3 seconds.

Test Your Understanding (Textbook p168 Example 6)

A particle of mass 6kg is moving on the positive x-axis. At time t seconds the displacement, s, of the particle from the origin is given by

$$s = 2t^{\frac{3}{2}} + \frac{e^{-2t}}{3}$$
 m, $t \ge 0$

- a) Find the velocity of the particle when t = 1.5.
- b) Given that the particle is acted on by a single force of variable magnitude F N which acts in the direction of the positive x-axis,
- c) Find the value of F when t = 2

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