

8) Further kinematics

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8.1) Vectors in kinematics

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Worked example

A particle starts from the position vector $(7\mathbf{i} - 2\mathbf{j})$ m and moves with constant velocity $(-3\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j})$ ms⁻¹.

- (a) Find the position vector of the particle 2 seconds later.
- (b) Find the time at which the particle is due north of the origin.

Your turn

A particle starts from the position vector $(3\mathbf{i} + 7\mathbf{j})$ m and moves with constant velocity $(2\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j})$ ms⁻¹.

- (a) Find the position vector of the particle 4 seconds later.
- (b) Find the time at which the particle is due east of the origin.

a) $(11\mathbf{i} + 3\mathbf{j})$ ms⁻¹

b) 7 s

Worked example

A particle P has velocity $(-i + 5j) \text{ ms}^{-1}$. The particle moves with constant acceleration $\mathbf{a} = (4i + 7j) \text{ ms}^{-2}$. Find:

- (a) the speed of the particle at time $t = 6$ seconds.
- (b) the bearing on which it is travelling at time $t = 6$ seconds.

Your turn

A particle P has velocity $(-3i + j) \text{ ms}^{-1}$. The particle moves with constant acceleration $\mathbf{a} = (2i + 3j) \text{ ms}^{-2}$. Find:

- (a) the speed of the particle at time $t = 3$ seconds.
- (b) the bearing on which it is travelling at time $t = 3$ seconds.

a) 10.4 ms^{-1} (3 sf)

b) 017°

Worked example

An ice skater is skating on a large flat ice rink. At time $t = 0$ the skater is at a fixed point O and is travelling with velocity $(-4\mathbf{i} - 9\mathbf{j}) \text{ ms}^{-1}$.

At time $t = 5$ s the skater is travelling with velocity $(-34\mathbf{i} + 29\mathbf{j}) \text{ ms}^{-1}$.

Relative to O , the skater has position vector \mathbf{s} at time t seconds.

Modelling the ice skater as a particle with constant acceleration, find:

- The acceleration of the ice skater
- An expression for \mathbf{s} in terms of t
- The time at which the skater is directly south-west of O .

A second skater travels so that she has position vector $\mathbf{r} = (-132\mathbf{i} + (6 - 22t)\mathbf{j})$ m relative to O at time t .

- (d) Show that the two skaters will meet.

Your turn

An ice skater is skating on a large flat ice rink. At time $t = 0$ the skater is at a fixed point O and is travelling with velocity $(2.4\mathbf{i} - 0.6\mathbf{j}) \text{ ms}^{-1}$.

At time $t = 20$ s the skater is travelling with velocity $(-5.6\mathbf{i} + 3.4\mathbf{j}) \text{ ms}^{-1}$.

Relative to O , the skater has position vector \mathbf{s} at time t seconds.

Modelling the ice skater as a particle with constant acceleration, find:

- The acceleration of the ice skater
- An expression for \mathbf{s} in terms of t
- The time at which the skater is directly north-east of O .

A second skater travels so that she has position vector $\mathbf{r} = (1.1t - 6)\mathbf{j}$ m relative to O at time t .

- (d) Show that the two skaters will meet.

a) $(-0.4\mathbf{i} + 0.2\mathbf{j}) \text{ ms}^{-2}$

b) $((2.4t - 0.2t^2)\mathbf{i} + (-0.6t + 0.1t^2)\mathbf{j}) \text{ m}$

c) $t = 10$ s

d) Shown: Meet when $t = 12$ s

Worked example

A ship S is moving with constant velocity $(2\mathbf{i} + 4\mathbf{j}) \text{ kmh}^{-1}$.

At time $t = 0$, the position vector of S is $(-3\mathbf{i} + 5\mathbf{j}) \text{ km}$.

A ship T is moving with constant velocity $(6\mathbf{i} + n\mathbf{j}) \text{ kmh}^{-1}$

At time $t = 0$, the position vector of T is $(-15\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j}) \text{ km}$.

The two ships meet at point P .

Find the value of n and the distance OP

Your turn

A ship S is moving with constant velocity $(3\mathbf{i} + 3\mathbf{j}) \text{ kmh}^{-1}$.

At time $t = 0$, the position vector of S is $(-4\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j}) \text{ km}$.

A ship T is moving with constant velocity $(-2\mathbf{i} +$

$$n = 3.5, OP = 8.25 \text{ km (3 sf)}$$

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Worked example

A ball is struck by a racket from a point A which has position vector $40j$ m relative to a fixed origin O . Immediately after being struck, the ball has velocity $(7i + 10j)$ ms^{-1} , where i and j are unit vectors horizontally and vertically respectively. After being struck, the ball travels freely under gravity until it strikes the ground at point B .

- Find the speed of the ball 3 seconds after being struck.
- Find an expression for the position vector, r , of the ball relative to O at time t seconds.
- Hence determine the distance OB .

Your turn

A ball is struck by a racket from a point A which has position vector $20j$ m relative to a fixed origin O . Immediately after being struck, the ball has velocity $(5i + 8j)$ ms^{-1} , where i and j are unit vectors horizontally and vertically respectively. After being struck, the ball travels freely under gravity until it strikes the ground at point B .

- Find the speed of the ball 1.5 seconds after being struck.
- Find an expression for the position vector, r , of the ball relative to O at time t seconds.
- Hence determine the distance OB .

a) 8.4 ms^{-1} (2 sf)

b) $((5t)\mathbf{i} + (8t - 4.9t^2 + 20)\mathbf{j}) \text{ m}$

c) 15 m (2 sf)

Worked example

The point O is a fixed point on a horizontal plane.

A ball is projected from O with velocity $(4\mathbf{i} + 8\mathbf{j}) \text{ ms}^{-1}$.

The ball passes through a point A at time t seconds after projection. The point B is on the horizontal plane vertically below A . It is given that $OB = 4AB$. Find:

- The value of t
- The speed of the ball at the instant it passes through A

Your turn

The point O is a fixed point on a horizontal plane.

A ball is projected from O with velocity $(6\mathbf{i} + 12\mathbf{j}) \text{ ms}^{-1}$.

The ball passes through a point A at time t seconds after projection. The point B is on the horizontal plane vertically below A . It is given that $OB = 2AB$. Find:

- The value of t
- The speed of the ball at the instant it passes through A

a) $t = 1.8$ (2 sf)

b) 8.5 ms^{-1} (2 sf)

8.3) Variable acceleration in one dimension

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Worked example

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

$$a = \cos 5\pi t \text{ ms}^{-2}, \quad t \geq 0$$

The velocity of the particle at time $t = 0$ is $\frac{1}{5\pi} \text{ ms}^{-1}$. Find:

- (a) an expression for the velocity at time t seconds
- (b) the maximum speed
- (c) the distance travelled in the first 6 seconds.

Your turn

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

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

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

- (a) an expression for the velocity at time t seconds
- (b) the maximum speed
- (c) the distance travelled in the first 3 seconds.

a) $v = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sin 2\pi t + \frac{1}{2\pi} \text{ ms}^{-1}$

b) $\frac{1}{\pi} = 0.32 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ (2 sf)

c) 0.48 m (2 sf)

Worked example

A particle of mass 12kg is moving on the positive x -axis. At time t seconds the displacement, s , of the particle from the origin is given by

$$s = 3t^{\frac{5}{2}} + \frac{e^{-3t}}{4} \text{ m}, \quad t \geq 0$$

(a) Find the velocity of the particle when $t = 2.5$.

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,

(b) Find the value of F when $t = 4$

Your turn

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

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

(a) Find the velocity of the particle when $t = 1.5$.

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,

(b) Find the value of F when $t = 2$

a) 3.6 ms^{-1} (2 sf)

b) 6.5 N (2 sf)

8.4) Differentiating vectors

Worked example

A particle P of mass 1.6kg is acted on by a single force \mathbf{F} N. Relative to a fixed origin O , the position vector of P at time t seconds is \mathbf{r} metres, where

$$\mathbf{r} = 5t^3\mathbf{i} + 20t^{-\frac{1}{5}}\mathbf{j}, \quad t \geq 0$$

Find:

- (a) the speed of P when $t = 2$
- (b) the acceleration of P as a vector when $t = 4$
- (c) \mathbf{F} when $t = 4$.

Your turn

A particle P of mass 0.8kg is acted on by a single force \mathbf{F} N. Relative to a fixed origin O , the position vector of P at time t seconds is \mathbf{r} metres, where

$$\mathbf{r} = 2t^3\mathbf{i} + 50t^{-\frac{1}{2}}\mathbf{j}, \quad t \geq 0$$

Find:

- (a) the speed of P when $t = 4$
- (b) the acceleration of P as a vector when $t = 2$
- (c) \mathbf{F} when $t = 2$.

a) 96 ms^{-1} (2 sf)

b) $(24\mathbf{i} + 6.6\mathbf{j}) \text{ ms}^{-2}$ (2 sf)

c) $(19\mathbf{i} + 5.3\mathbf{j}) \text{ N}$ (2 sf)

8.5) Integrating vectors

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Worked example

A particle P is moving in a plane. At time t seconds, its velocity \mathbf{v} ms^{-1} is given by

$$\mathbf{v} = 2t\mathbf{i} + \frac{1}{3}t^2\mathbf{j}, \quad t \geq 0$$

When $t = 0$, the position vector of P with respect to a fixed O is $(5\mathbf{i} - 4\mathbf{j})$ m.

Find the position vector of P at time t seconds.

Your turn

A particle P is moving in a plane. At time t seconds, its velocity \mathbf{v} ms^{-1} is given by

$$\mathbf{v} = 3t\mathbf{i} + \frac{1}{2}t^2\mathbf{j}, \quad t \geq 0$$

When $t = 0$, the position vector of P with respect to a fixed O is $(2\mathbf{i} - 3\mathbf{j})$ m.

Find the position vector of P at time t seconds.

$$\left(\left(\frac{3t^2}{2} + 2 \right) \mathbf{i} + \left(\frac{t^3}{6} - 3 \right) \mathbf{j} \right) \text{m}$$

Worked example

A particle P is moving in a plane so that, at time t seconds, its acceleration is $(3\mathbf{i} - 4t\mathbf{j}) \text{ ms}^{-2}$.

When $t = 2$, the velocity of P is $-3\mathbf{j} \text{ ms}^{-1}$ and the position vector of P is $(20\mathbf{i} + 3\mathbf{j}) \text{ m}$ with respect to a fixed origin O . Find:

- (a) the angle between the direction of motion of P and \mathbf{j} when $t = 3$
- (b) the distance of P from O when $t = 0$.

Your turn

A particle P is moving in a plane so that, at time t seconds, its acceleration is $(4\mathbf{i} - 2t\mathbf{j}) \text{ ms}^{-2}$.

When $t = 3$, the velocity of P is $6\mathbf{i} \text{ ms}^{-1}$ and the position vector of P is $(20\mathbf{i} + 3\mathbf{j}) \text{ m}$ with respect to a fixed origin O . Find:

- (a) the angle between the direction of motion of P and \mathbf{i} when $t = 2$
- (b) the distance of P from O when $t = 0$.

a) 68.2° (1 dp)

b) 25 m

Worked example

The velocity of a particle P at time t seconds is $((6t^2 - 4)\mathbf{i} + 10\mathbf{j}) \text{ ms}^{-1}$.

When $t = 0$, the position vector of P with respect to a fixed origin O is $(5\mathbf{i} - 3\mathbf{j}) \text{ m}$.

A second particle Q moves with constant velocity $(3\mathbf{i} + 5\mathbf{j}) \text{ ms}^{-1}$.

When $t = 0$, the position vector of Q with respect to the fixed origin O is $2\mathbf{j} \text{ m}$.

Prove that P and Q collide.

Your turn

The velocity of a particle P at time t seconds is $((3t^2 - 8)\mathbf{i} + 5\mathbf{j}) \text{ ms}^{-1}$.

When $t = 0$, the position vector of P with respect to a fixed origin O is $(2\mathbf{i} - 4\mathbf{j}) \text{ m}$.

A second particle Q moves with constant velocity $(8\mathbf{i} + 4\mathbf{j}) \text{ ms}^{-1}$.

When $t = 0$, the position vector of Q with respect to the fixed origin O is $2\mathbf{i} \text{ m}$.

Prove that P and Q collide.

Proof