

Exercise walk-through

Integrating Vector-Valued Functions ■ 9.5

eXercise

You must be able to

- integrate a vector function **component by component**
- use an **initial condition** to find each constant
- recover velocity from acceleration, or position from velocity

Method — Integrate each component

$\int \vec{r}(t) dt$ integrates each component separately, giving a **vector** of constants $\vec{C}$:

$$\int \langle f(t), g(t) \rangle dt = \left\langle \int f dt, \int g dt \right\rangle + \vec{C}.$$

Method — From acceleration to velocity

Given $\vec{a}(t) = \langle 2, -6t \rangle$ and $\vec{v}(0) = \langle 1, 0 \rangle$: integrate, $\vec{v}(t) = \langle 2t + C_1, -3t^2 + C_2 \rangle$. Apply $\vec{v}(0) = \langle 1, 0 \rangle$: $C_1 = 1$, $C_2 = 0$, so $\vec{v}(t) = \langle 2t + 1, -3t^2 \rangle$.

Method — From velocity to position

Integrate $\vec{v}$ and use $\vec{r}(0)$ to fix the constants. Each component is a separate initial-value problem.

Method — Definite integral of a vector

$\int_a^b \vec{v}(t) dt$ gives the **displacement** vector over $[a, b]$ — integrate each component between the limits.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

Find $\int \langle 2t, 3 \rangle dt$ (include the constant vector).

Solution 2.1

Method: Integrate each component

Worked steps

$$\langle t^2, 3t \rangle + \vec{C} \quad \text{M1} \quad \text{A1}.$$

Practice 2.2 ■ 3 marks

Given $\vec{a}(t) = \langle 0, -10 \rangle$ and $\vec{v}(0) = \langle 5, 0 \rangle$, find $\vec{v}(t)$.

Solution 2.2

Method: From acceleration to velocity

Worked steps

$$\vec{v}(t) = \langle C_1, -10t + C_2 \rangle; \vec{v}(0) = \langle 5, 0 \rangle \Rightarrow C_1 = 5, C_2 = 0; \vec{v}(t) = \langle 5, -10t \rangle$$

M1 M1 A1.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

Evaluate $\int_0^2 \langle 1, 2t \rangle dt$.

Solution 2.3

Method: Integrate each component

Worked steps

$$\langle [t]_0^2, [t^2]_0^2 \rangle = \langle 2, 4 \rangle \quad \text{M1 A1}.$$

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

To integrate a vector-valued function you

- A** integrate each component separately
- B** take the magnitude first
- C** differentiate it
- D** add the components then integrate

Solution 3.1

A integrate each component separately



B take the magnitude first

C differentiate it

D add the components then integrate

Worked steps

A — integrate each component separately.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 3 marks

A particle has acceleration $\vec{a}(t) = \langle 6t, 2 \rangle$, with $\vec{v}(0) = \langle 0, 1 \rangle$.

(a) Find $\vec{v}(t)$.

(b) Find $\vec{v}(1)$.

Solution 3.2

Method: From acceleration to velocity

Worked steps

(a) $\vec{v}(t) = \langle 3t^2 + C_1, 2t + C_2 \rangle$; $\vec{v}(0) = \langle 0, 1 \rangle \Rightarrow C_1 = 0, C_2 = 1$; $\vec{v}(t) = \langle 3t^2, 2t + 1 \rangle$

M1 **M1** **A1**. (b) $\vec{v}(1) = \langle 3, 3 \rangle$ **B1**.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 4 marks

A particle has velocity $\vec{v}(t) = \langle 2t, \cos t \rangle$ and starts at $\vec{r}(0) = \langle 1, 0 \rangle$. Find the position $\vec{r}(t)$.

Solution 3.3

Method: From acceleration to velocity

Worked steps

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{r}(t) &= \langle t^2 + C_1, \sin t + C_2 \rangle \quad \text{M1}; \quad \vec{r}(0) = \langle 1, 0 \rangle \Rightarrow C_1 = 1, C_2 = 0 \quad \text{M1} \text{ M1}; \\ \vec{r}(t) &= \langle t^2 + 1, \sin t \rangle \quad \text{A1}.\end{aligned}$$