

Integral of a vector function

To find the integral of a vector function $r(t) = r(t)_1\mathbf{i} + r(t)_2\mathbf{j} + r(t)_3\mathbf{k}$, we simply replace each coefficient with its integral. In other words, the integral of the vector function is

$$\int r(t) dt = \mathbf{i} \int r(t)_1 dt + \mathbf{j} \int r(t)_2 dt + \mathbf{k} \int r(t)_3 dt$$

If the vector function is given as $r(t) = \langle r(t)_1, r(t)_2, r(t)_3 \rangle$, then its integral is

$$\int r(t) = \left\langle \int r(t)_1 dt, \int r(t)_2 dt, \int r(t)_3 dt \right\rangle$$

Example

Find the integral of the vector function over the interval $[0, \pi]$.

$$r(t) = \sin(2t)\mathbf{i} + 2e^{2t}\mathbf{j} + 4t^3\mathbf{k}$$

Remember that we're only taking the integrals of the coefficients, which means \mathbf{i} , \mathbf{j} and \mathbf{k} will be left alone.

$$\int_0^\pi r(t) dt = \frac{-\cos(2t)}{2} \Big|_0^\pi \mathbf{i} + \frac{2e^{2t}}{2} \Big|_0^\pi \mathbf{j} + \frac{4t^4}{4} \Big|_0^\pi \mathbf{k}$$

$$\int_0^\pi r(t) dt = \frac{-\cos(2t)}{2} \Big|_0^\pi \mathbf{i} + e^{2t} \Big|_0^\pi \mathbf{j} + t^4 \Big|_0^\pi \mathbf{k}$$

Evaluating over the interval $[0, \pi]$, we get



$$\int_0^{\pi} r(t) \, dt = \left[\frac{-\cos(2\pi)}{2} - \frac{-\cos(2(0))}{2} \right] \mathbf{i} + [e^{2\pi} - e^{2(0)}] \mathbf{j} + [\pi^4 - 0^4] \mathbf{k}$$

$$\int_0^{\pi} r(t) \, dt = \left[\frac{-\cos(2\pi)}{2} + \frac{\cos 0}{2} \right] \mathbf{i} + (e^{2\pi} - 1) \mathbf{j} + (\pi^4 - 0) \mathbf{k}$$

$$\int_0^{\pi} r(t) \, dt = \left(\frac{-1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \right) \mathbf{i} + (e^{2\pi} - 1) \mathbf{j} + \pi^4 \mathbf{k}$$

$$\int_0^{\pi} r(t) \, dt = 0\mathbf{i} + (e^{2\pi} - 1) \mathbf{j} + \pi^4 \mathbf{k}$$

$$\int_0^{\pi} r(t) \, dt = (e^{2\pi} - 1) \mathbf{j} + \pi^4 \mathbf{k}$$

This is the integral of the vector function. We could also write it in the form

$$\int_0^{\pi} r(t) \, dt = \langle 0, e^{2\pi} - 1, \pi^4 \rangle$$

