

VECTOR KINEMATICS

AIHL 3.12

Vectors are used to represent forces, acceleration, velocity and momentum and enable the motion of an object to be predicted and described.

CONSTANT VELOCITY

$$\mathbf{r}=\mathbf{a}+\lambda\mathbf{b}$$

\mathbf{a} represents the initial position of the object and vector

\mathbf{b} represents the velocity, which takes into account the direction of motion.

parameter λ represents time

Therefore, the equation can be written as

$$\mathbf{r}=\mathbf{r}_0+\mathbf{v}t$$

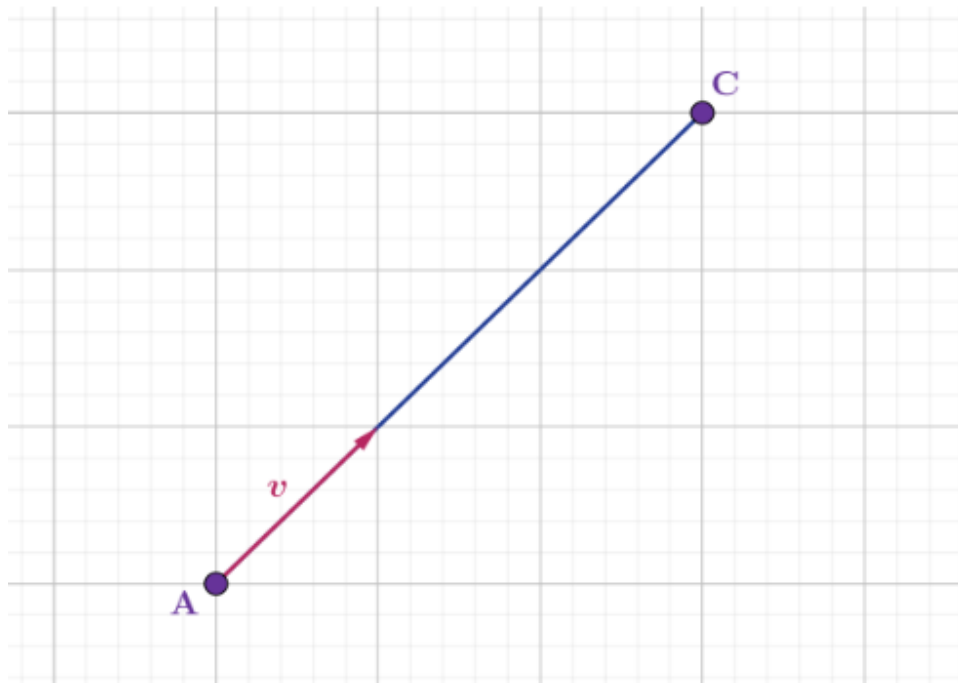
Where

\mathbf{r} is the position vector at time t ,

\mathbf{r}_0 is the initial position vector and

\mathbf{v} is the velocity, which is constant.

Example 1. Consider a ship moving north-east with a speed of 30 km h^{-1} from port A, as shown below. How can you represent its movement using vectors?



$$v = \begin{pmatrix} 30 \cos 45^\circ \\ 30 \sin 45^\circ \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{so } r = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} 15\sqrt{2} \\ 15\sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$v = \begin{pmatrix} 30 \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ 30 \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$v = \begin{pmatrix} 15\sqrt{2} \\ 15\sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix}$$

Example 2. A ship traveling from port A, the origin, travels with $\begin{pmatrix} 30 \\ 40 \end{pmatrix}$ velocity kilometers per hour.
a) How far will the ship be from the port after 10 hours?

$$|v| = \sqrt{30^2 + 40^2}$$

$$|v| = 50 \frac{\text{km}}{\text{h}} \times 10 \text{ h}$$

$$|v| = 500 \text{ km.}$$

b) Write the coordinates of the ship relative to the port.

$$p = 10 \times \begin{pmatrix} 30 \\ 40 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$p = \begin{pmatrix} 300 \\ 400 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$p(300, 400)$$

EAST NORTH
+ +

Example 3. A drone is flying in a straight line starting from point (2, 1, 2) with constant speed in ms^{-1} . After 10s its position is $\begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$. Find its velocity vector and its speed. (All positions are in meters relative to a fixed origin.)

let $v = \begin{pmatrix} v_x \\ v_y \\ v_z \end{pmatrix}$ direction vector

So, $\begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} + 10 \begin{pmatrix} v_x \\ v_y \\ v_z \end{pmatrix}$

$r = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} v_x \\ v_y \\ v_z \end{pmatrix}$

at $t=10$ $\begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$

$4 = 2 + 10v_x$ $3 = 1 + 10v_y$ $3 = 2 + 10v_z$

$v_x = \frac{1}{5}$ $v_y = \frac{1}{5}$ $v_z = \frac{1}{10}$

$v = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{5} \\ \frac{1}{5} \\ \frac{1}{10} \end{pmatrix}$

$$\text{speed} = |v| = \sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{5}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{5}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{10}\right)^2} = \frac{3}{10} \text{ m/s}$$

Example 4. The position vector at time t seconds of a moving object, P, relative to a fixed point, O, is given by

$$\vec{OP} = i + j + k + t(2i - k) \rightarrow \vec{OP} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

a) Find the coordinates of the initial position of the object.

when $t=0$

$$\vec{OP} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + 0 \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

The initial position is at (1, 1, 1)

b) Find the coordinates of the object when $t=2$ seconds.

$$\vec{OP} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + 2 \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\vec{OP} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

→ magnitude of the displacement vector

c) Hence, find the distance the object travelled in 2 seconds if the velocity is given in m/s. Give your answer to 3 significant figures.

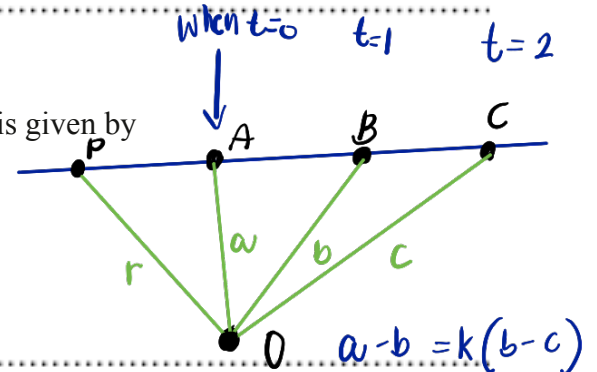
$$d = \sqrt{(5-1)^2 + (1-1)^2 + (-1-1)^2} \quad d = 4.47$$

$$= 2\sqrt{5}$$

Example 5. The position vector at time t seconds of a moving object is given by

Prove it as
a straight line

$$\vec{OP} = \mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} -t^2 \\ 1 \\ 2t \end{pmatrix}$$



Show that the path of the object is not a straight line.

> assume it follows a line, with three more collinear points

$$t=0 \text{ then } \mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b} = k(\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{c})$$

$$t=1 \text{ then } \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = k \left(\begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \right)$$

$$t=2 \text{ then } \mathbf{c} = \begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} = k \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Solve for k :

$$1 = 3k$$

$$0 = 0k$$

$$-2 = -2k$$

$$\frac{1}{3} = k$$

$$1 = k$$

k are inconsistent

so the points are not on the same line.

Example 6. Aircraft A has an initial position vector at 0900 given by $\vec{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$ km relative to an airport

and is moving with velocity $\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$ kmh⁻¹. A second aircraft, B, has an initial position vector at 0900

given by $\begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$ km and is moving with velocity $\begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$ kmh⁻¹. Show that the two aircraft will collide at a point P

and write down the coordinates of P.

$$\vec{A} = \vec{B}$$

$$\vec{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} \quad \vec{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$0 + 3t = 4 - t \Rightarrow 4t = 4 \Rightarrow t = 1$$

$$2 + 4t = 5 + t \Rightarrow 3t = 3 \Rightarrow t = 1$$

$$3 + 5t = 5 + 3t \Rightarrow t = 1$$

When $t = 1$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + (1) \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix}$$

The two aircraft will collide at (3, 6, 8) at 1000.

Example 7. Two objects are moving with a constant velocity in a straight line.

Initially, object A is at a point with coordinates (1, 3, 0) m, relative to a fixed origin, and is

moving with velocity $\begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 4 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \text{ ms}^{-1}$.

Object B is initially at a point with coordinates (-1, 2, -2)m, relative to the fixed origin, and is moving with

velocity $\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \text{ ms}^{-1}$.

a) Show that these objects do not collide.

b) Find an equation in terms of t for the distance, d , between the objects.

c) Find their ^{→ minimum} closest approach.

d) Find the velocity vector that the object B must have so that the two objects will collide after 3s.

$$\text{a. } \vec{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 4 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad \vec{B} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$1 - 3t = -1 + 2t \quad 3 + 4t = 2 - t \quad 2t = -2 + 3t$$

$$5t = -2$$

$$5t = -1$$

$$2 = t$$

$$t = -\frac{2}{5}$$

$$t = -\frac{1}{5}$$

\therefore inconsistent, so they don't collide

$$\text{b. } \vec{r}_A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 - 3t \\ 3 + 4t \\ 2t \end{pmatrix} \quad \vec{r}_B = \begin{pmatrix} -1 + 2t \\ 2 - t \\ -2 + 3t \end{pmatrix}$$

$$d = \sqrt{\left[(-1 + 2t) - (1 - 3t)\right]^2 + \left[(2 - t) - (3 + 4t)\right]^2 + \left[(-2 + 3t) - (2t)\right]^2}$$

$$d = \sqrt{(-2+5t)^2 + (-1-5t)^2 + (-2+t)^2}$$

$$d = \sqrt{4 - 20t + 25t^2 + 1 + 10t + 25t^2 + 4 - 4t + t^2}$$

$$d = \sqrt{9 - 14t + 51t^2}$$

c. $d = \sqrt{9 - 14t + 51t^2}$

Their closest

approach is at

2.835 km at 0.137 s



$L_1(0.137, 2.835)$

d. $t = 3$

$$r_A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 4 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad r_B = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{pmatrix}$$

$$1 - 3(3) = -1 + 3a \Rightarrow -7 = 3a \Rightarrow a = -\frac{7}{3}$$

$$3 + 4(3) = 2 + 3b \Rightarrow 13 = 3b \Rightarrow b = \frac{13}{3}$$

$$2(3) = -2 + 3c \Rightarrow 8 = 3c \Rightarrow c = \frac{8}{3}$$

The new velocity vector for B to collide with after 3 sec is

$$\begin{pmatrix} -\frac{7}{3} \\ \frac{13}{3} \\ \frac{8}{3} \end{pmatrix} \text{ m/s .}$$

