

# Calculus: Velocity & Tangent Line

## VELOCITY

$S(t)$  is a position function. It describes where an object is positioned at time  $t$ .

For average velocity, find the total change in position over a time interval.  $[a, b]$  represents a ~~total~~ time interval.

$$V_{\text{avg}} = \frac{S(b) - S(a)}{b - a}$$

- The numerator is the displacement (Change in position).
- The denominator is the amount of time that has ~~to~~ elapsed.
- The Slope of the secant line between  $a$  and  $b$  is between the <sup>points</sup> ~~parts~~  $(a, S(a))$  and  $(b, S(b))$ .

For instantaneous velocity, find the velocity of an object at a single instance in time.

$$V(t) = S'(t) = \lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \frac{S(t + \Delta t) - S(t)}{\Delta t}$$

- Instantaneous velocity is the derivative of the position function.
- $V(t) = \text{Slope of Tangent Line}$

1. A particle's position is given by  $S(t) = 2t^2 + 3t$ ,  $t$  as seconds. What is the average velocity on the interval  $[1, 4]$ ?

$$V_{\text{avg}} = \frac{S(b) - S(a)}{b - a}$$

$$S(b) = S(4) = 2(4)^2 + 3(4) = 32 + 12 = 44$$

$$S(a) = S(1) = 2(1)^2 + 3(1) = 2 + 3 = 5$$

$$\begin{array}{l} b = 4 \quad a = 1 \\ \frac{44 - 5}{4 - 1} = \frac{39}{3} = 13 \end{array}$$



2. A particle moves according to  $S(t) = \sqrt{t+1}$ . Find the average velocity on  $[3, 7]$ .

$$V_{avg} = \frac{S(b) - S(a)}{b - a}$$

$$S(b) = S(7) = \sqrt{7+1} = \sqrt{8}$$

$$S(a) = S(3) = \sqrt{3+1} = \sqrt{4} = 2$$

$$b = 7, a = 3$$

$$\frac{\sqrt{8} - 2}{7 - 3} = \frac{\sqrt{8} - 2}{4} \text{ or } \frac{2\sqrt{2} - 2}{4}$$

3. The position of an object is  $S(t) = \ln(t+2)$ . Find the average velocity between  $t=1$  and  $t=4$ .

$$V_{avg} = \frac{S(b) - S(a)}{b - a}$$

$$S(b) = S(4) = \ln(4+2) = \ln(6)$$

$$S(a) = S(1) = \ln(1+2) = \ln(3)$$

$$\frac{\ln(6) - \ln(3)}{4 - 1}$$

$$= \frac{\ln(6) - \ln(3)}{3} \text{ or } \frac{\ln(2)}{3}$$

quotient rule of natural log

4. A particle's position is  $S(t) = \frac{1}{t}$ ,  $t > 0$ . Find the instantaneous velocity at  $t=2$ .

$$V(t) = S'(t)$$

quotient rule for derivatives

$$\frac{d}{dx} \frac{1}{t} = \frac{f'g - g'f}{g^2}, f=1, f'=0, g=t, g'=1 \approx \frac{0(t) - 1(1)}{t^2} = \frac{-1}{t^2} \approx -1/2^2 = -1/4$$

5. For  $S(t) = \sin(t)$ , find the instantaneous velocity at  $t = \pi$ .

$$V(t) = S'(t)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \sin(t) = \cos(t)$$

$$\cos(\pi) = -1$$

Trig. Function  
rules of Derivatives

6. For  $S(t) = t^2 e^t$ , find the Inst. velocity at  $t=1$ .

$$V(t) = S'(t)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} t^2 e^t = f'g + g'f, f=t^2, f'=2t, g=e^t, g'=e^t$$

product rule of derivatives

$$2t(e^t) + e^t(t^2) = e^t(2t + t^2)$$

$$e^t(2(1) + (1)^2)$$

$$= 3e$$

7. Find the Inst. velocity for #3 at  $t=3$ .

$$V(t) = S'(t)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \ln(t+2) = \frac{1}{t+2}$$

$$\frac{1}{(3)+2} = \frac{1}{5}$$

chain rule & derivative rule for natural log