

# 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 ~~half~~ time interval.

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

- The numerator is the displacement (change in position).
- The denominator is the amount of time that has ~~has~~ elapsed.
- The slope of the secant line between  $a$  and  $b$  is between the points  $(a, s(a))$  and  $(b, s(b))$ .

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

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

- 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  $[1, 4]$ ?

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

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

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

$$b = 4 \quad a = 1$$

$$\frac{44 - 5}{4 - 1} = \frac{39}{3} = 13$$

2. A particle moves according to  $s(t) = \sqrt{t+1}$ .

Find the average velocity on  $[3, 7]$ .

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

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

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

$$b = 7, a = 3$$

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

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

$$V_{\text{avg}} = \frac{s(b) - s(a)}{b - a} \quad s(4) = \ln(4+2) = \ln(6)$$

$$s(1) = \ln(1+2) = \ln(3)$$

$$\frac{\ln(6) - \ln(3)}{4 - 1} = \frac{\ln(6/3)}{3} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{\ln(2)}{3}$$

quotient rule  
of natural  
log

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

$$v(t) = s'(t) = \frac{d}{dt} s(t)$$

quotient rule  
for derivatives

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

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

$$v(t) = s'(t) \quad \frac{d}{dx} \sin(t) = \cos(t) \quad \cos(\pi) = -1$$

↑ Trig. Function  
Rate of Derivatives  
←

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

$$v(t) = s'(t) \quad \frac{d}{dt} t^2 e^t = t^2 f' + f t^2, \quad f = e^t, f' = e^t \quad 2t(e^t) + e^t(t^2) = e^t(2t + t^2)$$

t product rule of derivatives

$$e^t(2(1) + (1)^2) = 3e$$

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

$$v(t) = s'(t) \quad \frac{d}{dt} \ln(t+2) = \frac{1}{t+2} \quad \frac{1}{(3)+2} = \frac{1}{5}$$

Chain rule & Derivative rule for natural log