

A particle P of mass 2 kg moving on a horizontal straight line has displacement $x\text{ m}$ from a fixed point O on the line and velocity $v\text{ m s}^{-1}$ at time $t\text{ s}$. The only horizontal force acting on P is a variable force $F\text{ N}$ which can be expressed as a function of t . It is given that

$$\frac{v}{x} = \frac{3-t}{1+t}$$

and when $t = 0$, $x = 5$.

(a) Find an expression for x in terms of t . [4]

(b) Find the magnitude of F when $t = 3$. [3]