

Math 241 Section 12.3: Derivatives and Integrals of VVFs

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1. Define the derivative of $\mathbf{r}(t)$ with a limit (just to make the point) but said that in practice we just take the derivatives of the components.

Example: Make one up.

2. Application: If $\mathbf{r}(t)$ gives position of an object then:

(a) $\mathbf{v}(t) = \mathbf{r}'(t)$ is the velocity (vector) which is tangent to the curve in the direction of the curve.

(b) $s(t) = \|\mathbf{v}(t)\|$ is the speed.

(c) $\mathbf{a}(t) = \mathbf{v}'(t) = \mathbf{r}''(t)$ is the acceleration vector which indicates how $\mathbf{r}(t)$ is changing.

Example: $\mathbf{r}(t) = t \mathbf{i} + t^3 \mathbf{j}$ at $t = 1$ with pictures to help explain.

3. Integrals of VVFs.

(a) Indefinite integrals of VVF: We take the individual integrals and I talked about the $+C$ at the end rather than giving each components its own constant.

Example: An application where $\mathbf{a}(t)$, $\mathbf{v}(0)$ and $\mathbf{r}(1)$ are given and we calculate $\mathbf{r}(t)$ by integrating backwards and finding the constants.

(b) Definite Integrals of VVFs: We just take the individual integrals. We will never do this in practice.

4. Commented on the sum, difference and dot and cross-product rules with derivatives but did not emphasize that much because we don't use them that much.