Things to know about vectors . . .

vector—a directed line segment that has an initial point and a terminal point

component form: $\vec{v}$ or **v** = $< a, b >$

linear combination form: **v** = $ai + bj$

magnitude = the length of a vector = |**v**| = $||\vec{v}|| = \sqrt{(horizontal\ component)^2 + (vertical\ component)^2}$

speed = |v(t)| = the magnitude of the velocity components

direction (a unit vector) = $\frac{velocity\ vector}{speed} = \frac{v(t)}{|v(t)|}$

note: vector/parametric free response questions are usually calculator-active

Example 1

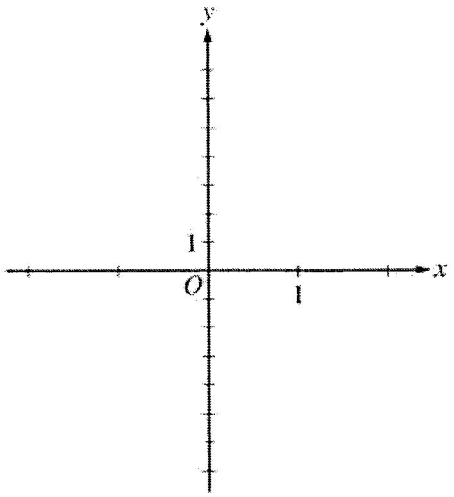
A particle moves in the xy-plane so that its position at any time t, for $-\pi \le t \le \pi$, is given by $x(t) = \sin(3t)$ and $y(t) = 2t$.

(a) Sketch the path of the particle in the xy-plane provided. Indicate the direction of motion along the path.

(b) Find the range of $x(t)$ and the range of $y(t)$.

(c) Find the smallest positive value of t for which the x-coordinate of the particle is a local maximum. What is the speed of the particle at this time?

(d) Is the distance traveled by the particle from $t = -\pi$ to $t = \pi$ greater than 5π? Justify your answer.



Example 2

A moving particle has position $(x(t), y(t))$ at time t. The position of the particle at time $t = 1$ is (2,6) and the velocity vector at any time $t > 0$ is given by $\left(1 - \frac{1}{t^2}, 2 + \frac{1}{t^2}\right)$.

(a) Find the acceleration vector at time $t = 3$.

(b) Find the position of the particle at time $t = 3$.

(c) For what time $t > 0$ does the line tangent to the path of the particle at $(x(t), y(t))$ have a slope of 8?

(d) The particle approaches a line as $t \to \infty$. Find the slope of this line. Show the work that leads to your conclusion.

Practice 4.3: Parametric Free Response Questions

Complete each free response question on your own paper.

#1 An object moving along a curve in the xy-plane has position $(x(t), y(t))$ at time $t \geq 0$ with $\frac{dx}{dt} = 3 + \cos(t^2)$. The derivative $\frac{dy}{dt}$ is not explicitly given. At time $t = 2$, the object is at position $(1, 8)$.

(a) Find the x-coordinate of the position of the object at time $t = 4$.

(b) At time $t = 2$, the value of $\frac{dy}{dt}$ is -7. Write an equation for the line tangent to the curve at the point $(x(2), y(2))$.

(c) Find the speed of the object at time $t = 2$.

(d) For $t \geq 3$, the line tangent to the curve at $(x(t), y(t))$ has a slope of $2t + 1$. Find the acceleration vector of the object at time $t = 4$.

#2 A particle moving along a curve in the plane has position $(x(t), y(t))$ at time t, where

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \sqrt{t^4 + 9} \text{ and } \frac{dy}{dt} = 2e^t + 5e^{-t}$$

for all real values of t. At time $t = 0$, the particle is at the point $(4, 1)$.

(a) Find the speed of the particle and its acceleration vector at time $t = 0$.

(b) Find an equation of the line tangent to the path of the particle at time $t = 0$.

(c) Find the total distance traveled by the particle over the time interval $0 \leq t \leq 3$.

(d) Find the x-coordinate of the position of the particle at time $t = 3$.

#3 An object moving along a curve in the xy-plane has position $(x(t), y(t))$ at time $t \geq 0$ with

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = 12t - 3t^2 \text{ and } \frac{dy}{dt} = \ln\left(1 + (t-4)^4\right).$$

At time $t = 0$, the object is at position $(-13, 5)$. At time $t = 2$, the object is at point P with x-coordinate 3.

(a) Find the acceleration vector at time $t = 2$ and the speed at time $t = 2$.

(b) Find the y-coordinate of P.

(c) Write an equation for the line tangent to the curve at P.

(d) For what value of t, if any, is the object at rest? Explain your reasoning.

#4 An object moving along a curve in the xy-plane is at position $(x(t), y(t))$ at time t, where

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \tan\left(e^{-t}\right) \text{ and } \frac{dy}{dt} = \sec\left(e^{-t}\right)$$

for $t \geq 0$. At time $t = 1$, the object is at position $(2, -3)$.

(a) Write an equation for the line tangent to the curve at position $(2, -3)$.

(b) Find the acceleration vector and the speed of the object at time $t = 1$.

(c) Find the total distance traveled by the object over the time interval $1 \leq t \leq 2$.

(d) Is there a time $t \geq 0$ at which the object is on the y-axis? Explain why or why not.

#5 An object moving along a curve in the xy-plane is at position $(x(t), y(t))$ at time t, where

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \sin^{-1}\left(1 - 2e^{-t}\right) \text{ and } \frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{4t}{1+t^3}$$

for $t \geq 0$. At time $t = 2$, the object is at the point $(6, -3)$. (Note: $\sin^{-1} x = \arcsin x$)

(a) Find the acceleration vector and the speed of the object at time $t = 2$.

(b) The curve has a vertical tangent line at one point. At what time t is the object at this point?

(c) Let $m(t)$ denote the slope of the line tangent to the curve at the point $(x(t), y(t))$. Write an expression for $m(t)$ in terms of t and use it to evaluate $\lim_{t \to \infty} m(t)$.

(d) The graph of the curve has a horizontal asymptote $y = c$. Write, but do not evaluate, an expression involving an improper integral that represents this value c.

#6 An object moving along a curve in the xy-plane is at position $(x(t), y(t))$ at time t with

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \arctan\left(\frac{t}{1+t}\right) \text{ and } \frac{dy}{dt} = \ln\left(t^2 + 1\right)$$

for $t \geq 0$. At time $t = 0$, the object is at position $(-3, -4)$. (Note: $\tan^{-1} x = \arctan x$)

(a) Find the speed of the object at time $t = 4$.

(b) Find the total distance traveled by the object over the time interval $0 \leq t \leq 4$.

(c) Find $x(4)$.

(d) For $t > 0$, there is a point on the curve where the line tangent to the curve has slope 2. At what time t is the object at this point? Find the acceleration vector at this point.

#7 A particle moving along a curve in the xy-plane has position $(x(t), y(t))$ at time $t \geq 0$ with

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \sqrt{3t} \text{ and } \frac{dy}{dt} = 3\cos\left(\frac{t^2}{2}\right).$$

The particle is at position $(1, 5)$ at time $t = 4$.

(a) Find the acceleration vector at time $t = 4$.

(b) Find the y-coordinate of the position of the particle at time $t = 0$.

(c) On the interval $0 \leq t \leq 4$, at what time does the speed of the particle first reach 3.5 ?

(d) Find the total distance traveled by the particle over the time interval $0 \leq t \leq 4$.