



Pdf SMA 104 Lecture 11(Kinematics)

Project Management (University of Nairobi)

KINEMATICS

VELOCITY AND ACCELERATION

The velocity (v) is instantaneous rate of change of position. The velocity of a moving particle can be positive or a negative, depending on whether the particle is moving in the positive or negative direction along a line of motion.

Suppose a particle moves along a horizontal straight line, with its location at time t given by its position function $s = f(t)$. Think of the time interval from t to $t + \Delta t$. The particle moves from position $f(t)$ to position $f(t + \Delta t)$ during this interval. Then v is given by

$$v = \lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(t + \Delta t) - f(t)}{\Delta t} = \frac{ds}{dt} = f'(t)$$

Example: An object moving in a straight line has its displacement s meters from an origin O at time t seconds given by $s = t(t - 3)^2$.

Determine a) The time when the object is at the origin

b) The time when the object is at rest

c) The distance moved between $t=0$ and $t=2$. Use $s = \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{ds}{dt}\right)^2}$.

Solution:

a) The object will be at the origin when $s=0$

$$0 = t(t - 3)^2; \quad 0 = t(t^2 - 6t + 9); \quad t^3 - 6t^2 + 9t = 0; \quad t(t^2 - 6t + 9) = 0;$$

$$t = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad t^2 - 6t + 9 = 0; \quad (t - 3)^2 = 0 \quad t = 3 \text{ sec.}$$

$$\text{b) } v = \frac{ds}{dt} = (t - 3)^2 + 2(1)(t - 3) \cdot t$$

$$v = \frac{ds}{dt} = t^2 - 6t + 9 + 2t^2 - 6t = 3t^2 - 12t + 9; \quad v = (t - 3)(3t - 3)$$

For max or min $v = 0$; $(t - 3)(3t - 3) = 0$; $t = 3$ or $t = 1$

The object is thus instantaneously at rest at $t = 1$ and $t = 3$ seconds.

(c) By second derivative

$$\frac{d^2v}{dt^2} = 6t - 12; \quad \frac{d^2v}{dt^2} \Big|_{t=3} = 18 - 12 = 6 > 0 \quad \text{minimum point.}$$

$$\frac{d^2v}{dt^2} \Big|_{t=1} = 6 - 12 < 0 \quad \text{maximum point}$$

When $t = 3$, $s = 0$ when $t = 0$, $s = 0$

When $t = 1$, $s = 4$ when $s = 0$, $t = 3$

When $t = 1$, $s = 4$ (distance)

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Between $t=0$, and $t=1$, the velocity is positive and the object moves from position $s=0$ to $s=1(1-3)^2=4$.

Between $t=1$ and $t=3$, the velocity is negative and the object moves from position $s=4$ to position $s=0$.

Therefore the distance moved by the object between $t=0$ and $t=2$ will be given by 4(the positive difference between values of s at time $t=1, t=2$ respectively).

when $t=1, s=4$

\therefore total distance is $(4+2)=6$ metres.

when $t=2, s=2$

Acceleration (a) at a time t is given by $a = \frac{dv}{dt}$.

Hence to determine the acceleration at time t differentiate v with respect to t .

Examples:

1. A particle is moving in a straight line and has its displacement s metres from the origin after t seconds given by $s = e^{-\sqrt{3}t} \sin t$. Determine its displacement, velocity and acceleration

when $t = \frac{\pi}{2}$ and also the smallest positive value t for which the particle is at rest (i.e. $v=0$).

Solution:

$$s = e^{-\sqrt{3}t} \sin t; \quad v = \frac{ds}{dt} = \cos t e^{-\sqrt{3}t} + (-\sqrt{3})e^{-\sqrt{3}t} \sin t$$

$$a = \frac{dv}{dt} = -\sqrt{3}e^{-\sqrt{3}t} \cos t + (-\sin t)e^{-\sqrt{3}t} + (-\sqrt{3})(-\sqrt{3})e^{-\sqrt{3}t} \sin t + \cos t(-\sqrt{3})e^{-\sqrt{3}t}$$

$$= -\sqrt{3}e^{-\sqrt{3}t} \cos t - \sin t e^{-\sqrt{3}t} + 3e^{-\sqrt{3}t} \sin t + \cos t(-\sqrt{3})e^{-\sqrt{3}t}$$

$$a = -2\sqrt{3}e^{-\sqrt{3}t} \cos t + 2e^{-\sqrt{3}t} \sin t$$

$$\therefore \text{ at } t = \frac{\pi}{2}, \quad v = \frac{ds}{dt} \bigg|_{t=\frac{\pi}{2}} = -\sqrt{3}e^{-\sqrt{3}\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin \frac{\pi}{2} + e^{-\sqrt{3}\frac{\pi}{2}} \cos \frac{\pi}{2} = -\sqrt{3}e^{-\sqrt{3}\frac{\pi}{2}}$$

$$a = \frac{dv}{dt} \bigg|_{t=\frac{\pi}{2}} = 2e^{-\sqrt{3}\frac{\pi}{2}} - 2\sqrt{3}e^{-\sqrt{3}\frac{\pi}{2}} \cdot 0 = 2e^{-\sqrt{3}\frac{\pi}{2}}$$

The displacement at $t = \frac{\pi}{2}$ is given by $s = e^{-\sqrt{3}t} \sin t$; $s = e^{-\sqrt{3}\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin \frac{\pi}{2}$; $s = e^{-\sqrt{3}\frac{\pi}{2}}$ metres.

When the particle at rest $v=0$; $\therefore v = -\sqrt{3}e^{-\sqrt{3}t} \sin t + e^{-\sqrt{3}t} \cos t = 0$

$$v = e^{-\sqrt{3}t} (-\sqrt{3} \sin t + \cos t) = 0; \quad e^{-\sqrt{3}t} > 0 \text{ for all } t$$

$$-\sqrt{3} \sin t + \cos t = 0; \quad -\sqrt{3} \sin t = -\cos t$$

$$\frac{\sin t}{\cos t} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}; \quad \tan t = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}; \quad t = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \right) = 30^\circ, 210^\circ; \quad \therefore \text{ the smallest is } t = 30^\circ.$$

2. A distance time graph is represented by the equation $s = 2t^3 - 2t^2 - 3t$.

Evaluate (a) The velocity at time t

(b) The acceleration at time t

(c) Show that the minimum distance over attained occurs when $t = \frac{2 + \sqrt{22}}{6}$

Solution:

(a) $v = \frac{ds}{dt} = 6t^2 - 4t - 3$

(b) $a = \frac{dv}{dt} = 12t - 4$

(c) for minimum and maximum distance $v=0$

$$v = 6t^2 - 4t - 3 = 0; \quad t = \frac{4 \pm \sqrt{16 + 72}}{12} = \frac{4 \pm \sqrt{88}}{12} = \frac{4 \pm 2\sqrt{22}}{12}; \quad t = \frac{2 \pm \sqrt{22}}{6}$$

$$\therefore t = \frac{2 + \sqrt{22}}{6} \text{ or } t = \frac{2 - \sqrt{22}}{6}$$

Using the second derivation test

$$a = \frac{dv}{dt} = 12t - 4; \quad \left. \frac{dv}{dt} \right|_{t = \frac{2 - \sqrt{22}}{6}} = 12 \left(\frac{2 - \sqrt{22}}{6} \right) - 4 = -9.4 < 0 \text{ maximum}$$

$$\left. \frac{dv}{dt} \right|_{t = \frac{2 + \sqrt{22}}{6}} = 12 \left(\frac{2 + \sqrt{22}}{6} \right) - 4 = 9.4 > 0 \text{ minimum}$$

Exercise

1. A particle moves along a straight line in such a way that after t seconds, its velocity is vms^{-1} , where $v = t^2 - t + 2$. Find the acceleration the particle (a) after 2 seconds (b) after $\frac{1}{2}$ seconds.
2. The distance s metres that a particle has gone in t seconds is given by $s = 5t + 15t^2 - t^3$. Find the velocity and acceleration after (a) 3 seconds (b) 6 seconds. When is the acceleration zero?
3. After t seconds a particle has gone s metres where $s = t^3 - 6t^2 + 9t + 5$.
 - (a) After how many seconds is its velocity zero?
 - (b) When is its acceleration zero?
 - (c) Find its velocity and acceleration (i) initially (ii) after 4 seconds

In summary, the motion of a particle p along a straight line is completely described by the equations $s = f(t)$, where $t > 0$ is the time and s is the distance of p from a fixed point 0 in its path.

The velocity of p at time t is $v = \frac{ds}{dt}$.

If $v=0$, p is instantaneously at rest. Acceleration of p at time t is $a = \frac{dv}{dt} = \frac{d^2s}{dt^2}$