

13.2, number 21: At time $t = 0$, a particle is located at the point $(1, 2, 3)$. It travels in a straight line to the point $(4, 1, 4)$, has speed 2 at $(1, 2, 3)$ and has constant acceleration $3\vec{i} - \vec{j} + \vec{k}$. Find an equation for the position vector $\vec{r}(t)$ of the particle at time t .

Answer: We are told $\vec{r}(0) = \vec{i} + 2\vec{j} + 3\vec{k}$, $\vec{r}'(0)$ has length 2 and points in the direction of $(1, 2, 3)$, and $\vec{r}''(t) = 3\vec{i} - \vec{j} + \vec{k}$.

Observe that $\vec{r}'(0) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{3^2+1+1}}(3\vec{i} - \vec{j} + \vec{k}) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{11}}(3\vec{i} - \vec{j} + \vec{k})$.

We integrate $\vec{r}''(t)$ to find $\vec{r}'(t)$ and then use the value of $\vec{r}'(0)$ to evaluate the constant. Then we integrate $\vec{r}'(t)$ to find $\vec{r}(t)$ and then use the value of $\vec{r}(0)$ to evaluate the constant.

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{r}'(t) &= \int \vec{r}''(t) dt \\ &= \int (3\vec{i} - \vec{j} + \vec{k}) dt \\ &= 3t\vec{i} - t\vec{j} + t\vec{k} + \vec{c}_1\end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{2}{\sqrt{11}}(3\vec{i} - \vec{j} + \vec{k}) = \vec{r}'(0) = 3(0)\vec{i} - (0)\vec{j} + (0)\vec{k} + \vec{c}_1$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{r}'(t) &= 3t\vec{i} - t\vec{j} + t\vec{k} + \frac{2}{\sqrt{11}}(3\vec{i} - \vec{j} + \vec{k}) \\ \vec{r}'(t) &= \left(t + \frac{2}{\sqrt{11}}\right)(3\vec{i} - \vec{j} + \vec{k})\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{r}(t) &= \int \vec{r}'(t) dt \\ &= \left(\frac{t^2}{2} + \frac{2t}{\sqrt{11}}\right)(3\vec{i} - \vec{j} + \vec{k}) + \vec{c}_2 \\ \vec{i} + 2\vec{j} + 3\vec{k} &= \vec{r}(0) = \vec{c}_2\end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\boxed{\vec{r}(t) = \left(\frac{t^2}{2} + \frac{2t}{\sqrt{11}}\right)(3\vec{i} - \vec{j} + \vec{k}) + \vec{i} + 2\vec{j} + 3\vec{k}}$$