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# "Initial value problems"

Ex Suppose  $f'(x) = -x^3 + 3x^2 + 7$  and  $f(1) = 1$

Find  $f$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \int f'(x) dx &= \int -x^3 + 3x^2 + 7 dx = -\frac{x^4}{4} + 3\frac{x^3}{3} + 7x + C \\ &= -\frac{1}{4}x^4 + x^3 + 7x + C. \end{aligned}$$

$$1 = f(1) = -\frac{1}{4} + 1 + 7 + C, \text{ so } C = -6\frac{3}{4}$$

$$\text{So } f(x) = -\frac{1}{4}x^4 + x^3 + 7x - 6\frac{3}{4}$$

Ex Suppose  $f'(\theta) = \cos(\theta) - 3\sin\theta$  and  $f(0) = 2$

$$\text{Find } f(\theta). \quad \int \cos(\theta) - 3\sin(\theta) d\theta = \sin(\theta) + 3\cos(\theta) + C$$

$$\text{So } \sin(0) + 3\cos(0) + C = 2, \quad +3 + C = 2$$

$$\text{So } C = -1; \quad f(\theta) = \sin\theta + 3\cos\theta - 1$$

# Position/velocity/acceleration problems

t time

position  $s(t)$

velocity  $v(t) = \frac{d}{dt} s(t)$

acceleration  $a(t) = \frac{d}{dt} v(t) = \frac{d^2}{(dt)^2} s(t)$

$\therefore v(t) = \int a(t) dt$

$s(t) = \int v(t) dt$

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ex A particle moves on a straight line (the  $x$ -axis)

with acceleration  $a(t) = 12t + 3$  (m/sec<sup>2</sup>)

At time  $t = 0$  the particle is at  $x = 5$  m

moving to the left at 3 m/sec.

Where is it at time  $t = 2$  sec and how fast is it moving?

Given  $a(t) = 12t + 3$ ,  $x(0) = 5$ ,  $v(0) = -3$ .

\* moving to left = negative velocity

So take antiderivatives:

$$v(t) = 12 \frac{t^2}{2} + 3t + C; \quad -3 = v(0) = C.$$

$$v(t) = 6t^2 + 3t - 3.$$

$$x(t) = 6 \frac{t^3}{3} + 3 \frac{t^2}{2} - 3t + C; \quad 5 = x(0) = C.$$

$$x(t) = 2t^3 + \frac{3}{2}t^2 - 3t + 5$$

At  $t = 2$  the particle is at  $x(2) = 16 + 6 - 6 + 5 = 21$  m

moving at  $v(2) = 24 + 6 - 3 = 27$  m/sec (to the right).