

**Vector Functions and Curves**  
***One variable functions***

**Question**

An object travels on the curve given by the parameterization  $\underline{r} = 3u\underline{i} + 3u^2\underline{j} + 2u^3\underline{k}$ . Given that the object has a constant speed of 6 and that  $u$  is increasing, find the velocity and acceleration of the object at the point  $(3, 3, 2)$ .

**Answer**

$$\begin{aligned}\underline{r} &= 3u\underline{i} + 3u^2\underline{j} + 2u^3\underline{k} \\ \underline{v} &= \frac{du}{dt}(3\underline{i} + 6u\underline{j} + 6u^2\underline{k}) \\ \underline{a} &= \frac{d^2u}{dt^2}(3\underline{i} + 6u\underline{j} + 6u^2\underline{k}) \\ &\quad + \left(\frac{du}{dt}\right)^2(6\underline{j} + 12u\underline{k})\end{aligned}$$

As the speed of the object of 6 and  $u$  is increasing,

$$\begin{aligned}6 = |\underline{v}| &= 3\frac{du}{dt}\sqrt{1 + 4u^2 + 4u^4} \\ &= 3(1 + 2u^2)\frac{du}{dt}\end{aligned}$$

$\Rightarrow$

$$\frac{du}{dt} = \frac{2}{1 + 2u^2}, \text{ and}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d^2u}{dt^2} &= \frac{-2}{(1 + 2u^2)^2}4u\frac{du}{dt} \\ &= \frac{-16u}{(1 + 2u^2)^3}\end{aligned}$$

It can be seen that the object is at  $(3, 3, 2)$  when  $u = 1$ .

At this point  $\frac{du}{dt} = 2/3$  and  $\frac{d^2u}{dt^2} = -16/27$ .

$\Rightarrow$

$$\begin{aligned}\underline{v} &= \frac{2}{3}(3\underline{i} + 6u\underline{j} + 6u^2\underline{k}) \\ &= 2\underline{i} + 4\underline{j} + 4\underline{k} \\ \underline{a} &= -\frac{16}{27}(3\underline{i} + 6\underline{j} + 6\underline{k}) + \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^2(6\underline{j} + 12\underline{k}) \\ &= \frac{8}{9}(-2\underline{i} - \underline{j} + 2\underline{k})\end{aligned}$$