

Vector Functions and Curves
One variable functions

Question

Find the velocity, speed and acceleration of the particle with position given by $\underline{r}(t)$ at time t . Also determine the particles path.

$$\underline{r} = 3 \cos t \underline{i} + 4 \sin t \underline{j} + t \underline{k}$$

Answer

Position: $\underline{r} = 3 \cos t \underline{i} + 4 \sin t \underline{j} + t \underline{k}$

Velocity: $\underline{v} = -3 \sin t \underline{i} + 4 \cos t \underline{j} + \underline{k}$

Speed: $v = \sqrt{9 \sin^2 t + 16 \cos^2 t + 1} = \sqrt{10 + 7 \cos^2 t}$

Acceleration: $\underline{a} = -3 \cos t \underline{i} - 4 \sin t \underline{j} = t \underline{k} - \underline{r}$

Path: a helix wound around the elliptical cylinder $(x^2/9) + (y^2/16) = 1$.