

INTEGRALS OF VECTOR VALUED FUNCTIONS



Let $\vec{r}(t) = x(t)\hat{i} + y(t)\hat{j} + z(t)\hat{k}$

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Then,

$$\begin{aligned}\int_a^b \vec{r}(t) dt &= \lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \sum \vec{r}(t) \Delta t \\ &= \lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \left[\left(\sum x(t) \Delta t \right) \hat{i} + \left(\sum y(t) \Delta t \right) \hat{j} + \left(\sum z(t) \Delta t \right) \hat{k} \right] \\ &= \left(\int_a^b x(t) dt \right) \hat{i} + \left(\int_a^b y(t) dt \right) \hat{j} + \left(\int_a^b z(t) dt \right) \hat{k}\end{aligned}$$

In particular, if $R(t)$ is an antiderivative of $r(t)$, then:

$$\int_a^b \vec{r}(t) dt = \vec{R}(t) \Big|_a^b = \vec{R}(b) - \vec{R}(a)$$

Also,

$$\int \vec{r}(t) dt = \left(\int x(t) dt \right) \hat{i} + \left(\int y(t) dt \right) \hat{j} + \left(\int z(t) dt \right) \hat{k} = \vec{R}(t) + \vec{C}$$