

# VECTOR FUNCTIONS: ALGEBRA & LIMITS [SST 10.1]

## • THE FUNCTION LANDSCAPE (SO FAR):

FUNCTION TYPE	PROTOTYPE	MAPPING	MEANING	FIRST SEEN
Scalar Function	$y = f(x)$	$f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$	$f$ maps scalar $\rightarrow$ scalar	Algebra
2D Vector Function	$\mathbf{F}(t) = \langle f_1(t), f_2(t) \rangle$	$\mathbf{F} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$	$\mathbf{F}$ maps scalar $\rightarrow$ 2D vector	Calc III (Ch10)
3D Vector Function	$\mathbf{F}(t) = \langle f_1(t), f_2(t), f_3(t) \rangle$	$\mathbf{F} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$	$\mathbf{F}$ maps scalar $\rightarrow$ 3D vector	Calc III (Ch10)

## • VECTOR FUNCTIONS (DEFINITION):

- 2D Vector Function  $\mathbf{F}(t) := \langle f_1(t), f_2(t) \rangle = f_1(t)\hat{\mathbf{i}} + f_2(t)\hat{\mathbf{j}}$ , where  $f_1, f_2$  are scalar functions.
  - \* In other words: Input: Scalar  $t$   $\rightarrow$   $\mathbf{F}(t)$   $\rightarrow$  Output: 2D Vector  $\langle f_1(t), f_2(t) \rangle$
  - \*  $\text{Dom}(\mathbf{F}) := \text{Dom}(f_1) \cap \text{Dom}(f_2)$
- 3D Vector Function  $\mathbf{F}(t) := \langle f_1(t), f_2(t), f_3(t) \rangle = f_1(t)\hat{\mathbf{i}} + f_2(t)\hat{\mathbf{j}} + f_3(t)\hat{\mathbf{k}}$ , where  $f_1, f_2, f_3$  are scalar functions.
  - \* In other words: Input: Scalar  $t$   $\rightarrow$   $\mathbf{F}(t)$   $\rightarrow$  Output: 3D Vector  $\langle f_1(t), f_2(t), f_3(t) \rangle$
  - \*  $\text{Dom}(\mathbf{F}) := \text{Dom}(f_1) \cap \text{Dom}(f_2) \cap \text{Dom}(f_3)$
- Think of a vector function as a "vector encapsulation" of a **parametric equation**. Recall,  $t$  is called the **parameter**.
- If the **initial point** of vector function  $\mathbf{F}(t)$  is chosen to be the **origin** for all  $t$ , then  $\mathbf{F}(t)$  is called a **position vector**.
  - \* As  $t$  varies, **position vector**  $\mathbf{F}(t)$  traces out a **curve** that is denoted  $\Gamma$ .
- REMARK: The focus will be on 3D vector functions. Remove  $3^{rd}$  component terms to get 2D vector function result.

## • VECTOR FUNCTIONS (ALGEBRA):

- Assume  $\mathbf{F}(t), \mathbf{G}(t), \mathbf{H}(t)$  are vector functions &  $f(t), h(t)$  are scalar functions.

OPERATION	FORMULA	RESULT	REMARKS
Addition/Subtraction	$\mathbf{H}(t) = \mathbf{F}(t) \pm \mathbf{G}(t)$	Vector Function	$\text{Dom}(\mathbf{H}) = \text{Dom}(\mathbf{F}) \cap \text{Dom}(\mathbf{G})$
Scalar Multiplication	$\mathbf{H}(t) = f(t)\mathbf{F}(t)$	Vector Function	$\text{Dom}(\mathbf{H}) = \text{Dom}(f) \cap \text{Dom}(\mathbf{F})$
Dot Product	$h(t) = \mathbf{F}(t) \cdot \mathbf{G}(t)$	<b>Scalar Function</b>	$\text{Dom}(h) = \text{Dom}(\mathbf{F}) \cap \text{Dom}(\mathbf{G})$
Cross Product	$\mathbf{H}(t) = \mathbf{F}(t) \times \mathbf{G}(t)$	Vector Function	$\text{Dom}(\mathbf{H}) = \text{Dom}(\mathbf{F}) \cap \text{Dom}(\mathbf{G})$ $\mathbf{G}(t) \times \mathbf{F}(t) = -\mathbf{F}(t) \times \mathbf{G}(t)$

## • VECTOR FUNCTIONS (LIMITS):

- Suppose  $\lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} f_1(t), \lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} f_2(t), \lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} f_3(t)$  are all finite. Then:  $\lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} \mathbf{F}(t) := \left[ \lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} f_1(t) \right] \hat{\mathbf{i}} + \left[ \lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} f_2(t) \right] \hat{\mathbf{j}} + \left[ \lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} f_3(t) \right] \hat{\mathbf{k}}$
- Otherwise, if any of the above three scalar limits are  $-\infty, +\infty$  or DNE, then  $\lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} \mathbf{F}(t) = \text{DNE}$ .

LIMIT RULE	FORMULA
Sum/Diff Rule	$\lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} [\mathbf{F}(t) \pm \mathbf{G}(t)] = \left[ \lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} \mathbf{F}(t) \right] \pm \left[ \lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} \mathbf{G}(t) \right]$
Scalar Multiple Rule	$\lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} [f(t)\mathbf{F}(t)] = \left[ \lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} f(t) \right] \left[ \lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} \mathbf{F}(t) \right]$
Dot Product Rule	$\lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} [\mathbf{F}(t) \cdot \mathbf{G}(t)] = \left[ \lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} \mathbf{F}(t) \right] \cdot \left[ \lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} \mathbf{G}(t) \right]$
Cross Product Rule	$\lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} [\mathbf{F}(t) \times \mathbf{G}(t)] = \left[ \lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} \mathbf{F}(t) \right] \times \left[ \lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} \mathbf{G}(t) \right]$

## • VECTOR FUNCTIONS (CONTINUITY):

- Vector function  $\mathbf{F}(t)$  is **continuous at point**  $t_0 \iff \mathbf{F} \in C(\{t_0\}) \iff (t_0 \in \text{Dom}(\mathbf{F}) \text{ AND } \lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} \mathbf{F}(t) = \mathbf{F}(t_0))$
- Vector function  $\mathbf{F}(t)$  is **continuous on a set**  $S \iff \mathbf{F} \in C(S) \iff \text{scalar functions } f_1, f_2, f_3 \in C(S)$

**EX 10.1.1:**

Encapsulate the parametric equation into the position vector  $\mathbf{R}(t)$ :

$$\begin{cases} x = t^2 \\ y = e^{3t} \\ z = 1 - \cos 4t \\ t \in \mathbb{R} \end{cases}$$

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**EX 10.1.2:**

Find the position vector  $\mathbf{R}(t)$  that traces the curve  $\Gamma$ ,

where  $\Gamma$  is the intersection of the plane  $x + y + z - 2 = 0$  with the parabolic cylinder  $z = 3x^2$ .

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**EX 10.1.3:**

Find the position vector  $\mathbf{R}(t)$  that traces the curve  $\Gamma$ ,

where  $\Gamma$  is the intersection of the planes  $\mathbb{P}_1 : x + y + z - 2 = 0$  and  $\mathbb{P}_2 : 2x - y + 3z + 4 = 0$ .

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**EX 10.1.4:**

Find the position vector  $\mathbf{R}(t)$  that traces the curve  $\Gamma$ ,

where  $\Gamma$  is the intersection of the elliptic paraboloid  $z = x^2 + y^2$  with the elliptic cylinder  $\frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{y^2}{9} = 1$ .

**EX 10.1.5:** Find the domain of the vector function  $\mathbf{F}(t) = \langle e^t, 5t - 7, \sin t \cos(3t) \rangle$

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**EX 10.1.6:** Find the domain of the vector function  $\mathbf{F}(t) = \sqrt{t+6} \hat{\mathbf{i}} - \left( \frac{19}{t-100} \right) \hat{\mathbf{j}} + (\ln t) \hat{\mathbf{k}}$

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**EX 10.1.7:** Let  $\mathbf{F}(t) = \langle 1, t, t^2 \rangle$  and  $\mathbf{G}(t) = (e^t) \hat{\mathbf{i}} - (\cos t) \hat{\mathbf{k}}$ .

Compute: (a)  $3\mathbf{F}(t) - 2t^2\mathbf{G}(t)$       (b)  $\mathbf{F}(t) \cdot \mathbf{G}(t)$       (c)  $\mathbf{F}(t) \times \mathbf{G}(t)$       (d)  $\mathbf{G}(t) \times \mathbf{F}(t)$

**EX 10.1.8:** Let  $\mathbf{F}(t) = \langle 1, t, t^2 \rangle$ .

Evaluate limits: (a)  $\lim_{t \rightarrow 2} \mathbf{F}(t)$  (b)  $\lim_{t \rightarrow 2^-} \mathbf{F}(t)$  (c)  $\lim_{t \rightarrow 2^+} \mathbf{F}(t)$

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**EX 10.1.9:** Let  $\mathbf{G}(t) = (t^{-2})\hat{\mathbf{i}} + \left(\frac{1}{t}\right)\hat{\mathbf{j}} - (e^{8t})\hat{\mathbf{k}}$ .

Evaluate limits: (a)  $\lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} \mathbf{G}(t)$  (b)  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{G}(t)$  (c)  $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^-} \mathbf{G}(t)$  (d)  $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \mathbf{G}(t)$  (e)  $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \mathbf{G}(t)$