

AP[®] CALCULUS AB
2006 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 4

t (seconds)	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80
$v(t)$ (feet per second)	5	14	22	29	35	40	44	47	49

Rocket A has positive velocity $v(t)$ after being launched upward from an initial height of 0 feet at time $t = 0$ seconds. The velocity of the rocket is recorded for selected values of t over the interval $0 \leq t \leq 80$ seconds, as shown in the table above.

(a) Find the average acceleration of rocket A over the time interval $0 \leq t \leq 80$ seconds. Indicate units of measure.

(b) Using correct units, explain the meaning of $\int_{10}^{70} v(t) dt$ in terms of the rocket's flight. Use a midpoint Riemann sum with 3 subintervals of equal length to approximate $\int_{10}^{70} v(t) dt$.

(c) Rocket B is launched upward with an acceleration of $a(t) = \frac{3}{\sqrt{t+1}}$ feet per second per second. At time $t = 0$ seconds, the initial height of the rocket is 0 feet, and the initial velocity is 2 feet per second. Which of the two rockets is traveling faster at time $t = 80$ seconds? Explain your answer.

(a) Average acceleration of rocket A is

$$\frac{v(80) - v(0)}{80 - 0} = \frac{49 - 5}{80} = \frac{11}{20} \text{ ft/sec}^2$$

(b) Since the velocity is positive, $\int_{10}^{70} v(t) dt$ represents the distance, in feet, traveled by rocket A from $t = 10$ seconds to $t = 70$ seconds.

A midpoint Riemann sum is

$$20[v(20) + v(40) + v(60)]$$

$$= 20[22 + 35 + 44] = 2020 \text{ ft}$$

(c) Let $v_B(t)$ be the velocity of rocket B at time t .

$$v_B(t) = \int \frac{3}{\sqrt{t+1}} dt = 6\sqrt{t+1} + C$$

$$2 = v_B(0) = 6 + C$$

$$v_B(t) = 6\sqrt{t+1} - 4$$

$$v_B(80) = 50 > 49 = v(80)$$

Rocket B is traveling faster at time $t = 80$ seconds.

Units of ft/sec^2 in (a) and ft in (b)

1 : answer

3 : $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1 : \text{explanation} \\ 1 : \text{uses } v(20), v(40), v(60) \\ 1 : \text{value} \end{array} \right.$

4 : $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1 : 6\sqrt{t+1} \\ 1 : \text{constant of integration} \\ 1 : \text{uses initial condition} \\ 1 : \text{finds } v_B(80), \text{ compares to } v(80), \\ \text{and draws a conclusion} \end{array} \right.$

1 : units in (a) and (b)