Related Rates

Questions in past papers often come up combined with other topics.
Topic tags have been given for each question to enable you to know if you can do the question or whether you need to wait to cover the additional topic(s).

Scan the QR code(s) or click the link for instant detailed model solutions!

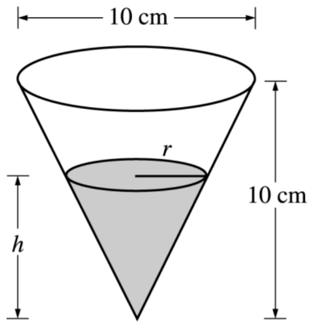
Question 1

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Differential Equations, Applications of Differentiation

Subtopics: Rates of Change (Instantaneous), Modelling Situations, Related Rates

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / Series: 2002 / Difficulty: Somewhat Challenging / Question Number: 5



5. A container has the shape of an open right circular cone, as shown in the figure above. The height of the container is 10 cm and the diameter of the opening is 10 cm. Water in the container is evaporating so that its depth h is changing at the constant rate of $\frac{-3}{10}$ cm/hr.

(Note: The volume of a cone of height h and radius r is given by $V = \frac{1}{3}\pi r^2 h$.)

(a) Find the volume V of water in the container when $h = 5$ cm. Indicate units of measure.

(b) Find the rate of change of the volume of water in the container, with respect to time, when $h = 5$ cm. Indicate units of measure.

(c) Show that the rate of change of the volume of water in the container due to evaporation is directly proportional to the exposed surface area of the water. What is the constant of proportionality?

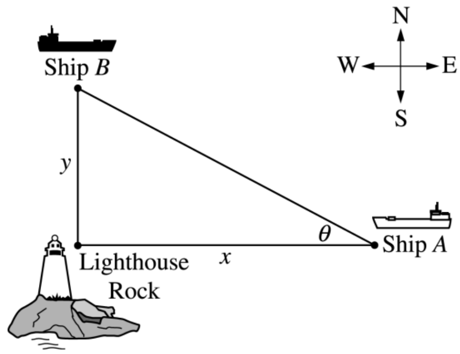
Question 2

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Applications of Differentiation, Differentiation

Subtopics: Rates of Change (Instantaneous), Related Rates, Implicit Differentiation, Modelling Situations, Differentiation Technique – Standard Functions, Differentiation Technique – Trigonometry, Differentiation Technique - Quotient Rule

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / Series: 2002-Form-B / Difficulty: Hard / Question Number: 6



6. Ship A is traveling due west toward Lighthouse Rock at a speed of 15 kilometers per hour (km/hr). Ship B is traveling due north away from Lighthouse Rock at a speed of 10 km/hr. Let x be the distance between Ship A and Lighthouse Rock at time t, and let y be the distance between Ship B and Lighthouse Rock at time t, as shown in the figure above.

(a) Find the distance, in kilometers, between Ship A and Ship B when $x = 4$ km and $y = 3$ km.

(b) Find the rate of change, in km/hr, of the distance between the two ships when $x = 4$ km and $y = 3$ km.

(c) Let θ be the angle shown in the figure. Find the rate of change of θ, in radians per hour, when $x = 4$ km and $y = 3$ km.

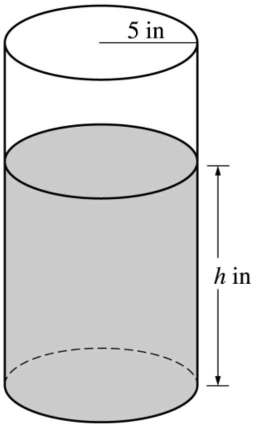
Question 3

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Differential Equations, Applications of Integration

Subtopics: Related Rates, Particular Solution of Differential Equation, Integration Technique - Harder Powers, Separation of Variables in Differential Equation

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / Series: 2003 / Difficulty: Medium / Question Number: 5



5. A coffeepot has the shape of a cylinder with radius 5 inches, as shown in the figure above. Let h be the depth of the coffee in the pot, measured in inches, where h is a function of time t, measured in seconds. The volume V of coffee in the pot is changing at the rate of $-5\pi\sqrt{h}$ cubic inches per second. (The volume V of a cylinder with radius r and height h is $V = \pi r^2 h$.)

(a) Show that $\frac{dh}{dt} = -\frac{\sqrt{h}}{5}$.

(b) Given that $h = 17$ at time $t = 0$, solve the differential equation $\frac{dh}{dt} = -\frac{\sqrt{h}}{5}$ for h as a function of t.

(c) At what time t is the coffeepot empty?

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Question 4

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Applications of Differentiation, Differentiation

Subtopics: Rates of Change (Instantaneous), Implicit Differentiation, Modelling Situations, Global or Absolute Minima and Maxima, Related Rates

Paper: Part A-Calc / Series: 2008 / Difficulty: Medium / Question Number: 3

3. Oil is leaking from a pipeline on the surface of a lake and forms an oil slick whose volume increases at a constant rate of 2000 cubic centimeters per minute. The oil slick takes the form of a right circular cylinder with both its radius and height changing with time. (Note: The volume V of a right circular cylinder with radius r and height h is given by $V = \pi r^2 h$.)

   (a) At the instant when the radius of the oil slick is 100 centimeters and the height is 0.5 centimeter, the radius is increasing at the rate of 2.5 centimeters per minute. At this instant, what is the rate of change of the height of the oil slick with respect to time, in centimeters per minute?

   (b) A recovery device arrives on the scene and begins removing oil. The rate at which oil is removed is $R(t) = 400\sqrt{t}$ cubic centimeters per minute, where t is the time in minutes since the device began working. Oil continues to leak at the rate of 2000 cubic centimeters per minute. Find the time t when the oil slick reaches its maximum volume. Justify your answer.

   (c) By the time the recovery device began removing oil, 60,000 cubic centimeters of oil had already leaked. Write, but do not evaluate, an expression involving an integral that gives the volume of oil at the time found in part (b).

Question 5

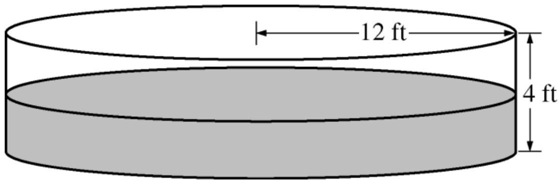
Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Applications of Integration, Integration

Subtopics: Riemann Sums – Midpoint, Total Amount, Modelling Situations, Rates of Change (Instantaneous), Related Rates, Accumulation of Change

Paper: Part A-Calc / Series: 2010-Form-B / Difficulty: Easy / Question Number: 3

t	0	2	4	6	8	10	12
$P(t)$	0	46	53	57	60	62	63



3. The figure above shows an aboveground swimming pool in the shape of a cylinder with a radius of 12 feet and a height of 4 feet. The pool contains 1000 cubic feet of water at time $t = 0$. During the time interval $0 \le t \le 12$ hours, water is pumped into the pool at the rate $P(t)$ cubic feet per hour. The table above gives values of $P(t)$ for selected values of t. During the same time interval, water is leaking from the pool at the rate $R(t)$ cubic feet per hour, where $R(t) = 25e^{-0.05t}$. (Note: The volume V of a cylinder with radius r and height h is given by $V = \pi r^2 h$.)

   (a) Use a midpoint Riemann sum with three subintervals of equal length to approximate the total amount of water that was pumped into the pool during the time interval $0 \le t \le 12$ hours. Show the computations that lead to your answer.

   (b) Calculate the total amount of water that leaked out of the pool during the time interval $0 \le t \le 12$ hours.

   (c) Use the results from parts (a) and (b) to approximate the volume of water in the pool at time $t = 12$ hours. Round your answer to the nearest cubic foot.

   (d) Find the rate at which the volume of water in the pool is increasing at time $t = 8$ hours. How fast is the water level in the pool rising at $t = 8$ hours? Indicate units of measure in both answers.

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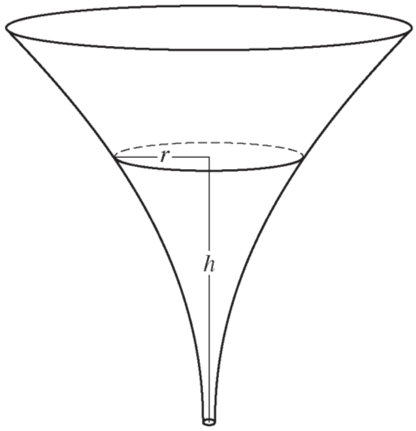
Question 6

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Applications of Integration

Subtopics: Average Value of a Function, Volume of Revolution – Disc Method, Rates of Change (Instantaneous), Integration Technique – Standard Functions, Modelling Situations, Related Rates

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / Series: 2016 / Difficulty: Medium / Question Number: 5



5. The inside of a funnel of height 10 inches has circular cross sections, as shown in the figure above. At height h, the radius of the funnel is given by $r = \frac{1}{20}\left(3 + h^2\right)$, where $0 \leq h \leq 10$. The units of r and h are inches.

(a) Find the average value of the radius of the funnel.

(b) Find the volume of the funnel.

(c) The funnel contains liquid that is draining from the bottom. At the instant when the height of the liquid is $h = 3$ inches, the radius of the surface of the liquid is decreasing at a rate of $\frac{1}{5}$ inch per second. At this instant, what is the rate of change of the height of the liquid with respect to time?

Question 7

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Applications of Integration, Integration

Subtopics: Riemann Sums – Left , Increasing/Decreasing , Modelling Situations, Differentiation Technique – Chain Rule, Related Rates

Paper: Part A-Calc / Series: 2017 / Difficulty: Medium / Question Number: 1

h (feet)	0	2	5	10
$A(h)$ (square feet)	50.3	14.4	6.5	2.9

1. A tank has a height of 10 feet. The area of the horizontal cross section of the tank at height h feet is given by the function A, where $A(h)$ is measured in square feet. The function A is continuous and decreases as h increases. Selected values for $A(h)$ are given in the table above.

   (a) Use a left Riemann sum with the three subintervals indicated by the data in the table to approximate the volume of the tank. Indicate units of measure.

   (b) Does the approximation in part (a) overestimate or underestimate the volume of the tank? Explain your reasoning.

   (c) The area, in square feet, of the horizontal cross section at height h feet is modeled by the function f given by $f(h) = \dfrac{50.3}{e^{0.2h} + h}$. Based on this model, find the volume of the tank. Indicate units of measure.

   (d) Water is pumped into the tank. When the height of the water is 5 feet, the height is increasing at the rate of 0.26 foot per minute. Using the model from part (c), find the rate at which the volume of water is changing with respect to time when the height of the water is 5 feet. Indicate units of measure.

Question 8

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Applications of Differentiation, Applications of Integration

Subtopics: Rates of Change (Average), Mean Value Theorem, Average Value of a Function, Riemann Sums – Trapezoidal Rule, Modelling Situations, Rates of Change (Instantaneous), Related Rates

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / Series: 2018 / Difficulty: Medium / Question Number: 4

t (years)	2	3	5	7	10
$H(t)$ (meters)	1.5	2	6	11	15

4. The height of a tree at time t is given by a twice-differentiable function H, where $H(t)$ is measured in meters and t is measured in years. Selected values of $H(t)$ are given in the table above.

(a) Use the data in the table to estimate $H'(6)$. Using correct units, interpret the meaning of $H'(6)$ in the context of the problem.

(b) Explain why there must be at least one time t, for $2 < t < 10$, such that $H'(t) = 2$.

(c) Use a trapezoidal sum with the four subintervals indicated by the data in the table to approximate the average height of the tree over the time interval $2 \le t \le 10$.

(d) The height of the tree, in meters, can also be modeled by the function G, given by $G(x) = \dfrac{100x}{1+x}$, where x is the diameter of the base of the tree, in meters. When the tree is 50 meters tall, the diameter of the base of the tree is increasing at a rate of 0.03 meter per year. According to this model, what is the rate of change of the height of the tree with respect to time, in meters per year, at the time when the tree is 50 meters tall?

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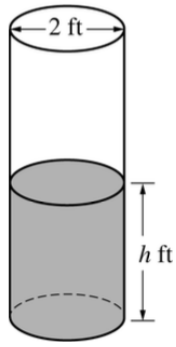
Question 9

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Differential Equations, Applications of Differentiation

Subtopics: Rates of Change (Instantaneous), Increasing/Decreasing , Separation of Variables in Differential Equation, Initial Conditions in Differential Equation, Particular Solution of Differential Equation, Integration Technique - Harder Powers, Related Rates

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / Series: 2019 / Difficulty: Somewhat Challenging / Question Number: 4



4. A cylindrical barrel with a diameter of 2 feet contains collected rainwater, as shown in the figure above. The water drains out through a valve (not shown) at the bottom of the barrel. The rate of change of the height h of the water in the barrel with respect to time t is modeled by $\frac{dh}{dt} = -\frac{1}{10}\sqrt{h}$, where h is measured in feet and t is measured in seconds. (The volume V of a cylinder with radius r and height h is $V = \pi r^2 h$.)

(a) Find the rate of change of the volume of water in the barrel with respect to time when the height of the water is 4 feet. Indicate units of measure.

(b) When the height of the water is 3 feet, is the rate of change of the height of the water with respect to time increasing or decreasing? Explain your reasoning.

(c) At time $t = 0$ seconds, the height of the water is 5 feet. Use separation of variables to find an expression for h in terms of t.

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Question 10

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Applications of Differentiation, Differentiation, Integration

Subtopics: Rates of Change (Average), Intermediate Value Theorem, Riemann Sums – Right, Implicit Differentiation, Rates of Change (Instantaneous), Differentiation Technique – Chain Rule, Related Rates

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / Series: 2022 / Difficulty: Medium / Question Number: 4

t (days)	0	3	7	10	12
$r'(t)$ (centimeters per day)	-6.1	-5.0	-4.4	-3.8	-3.5

4. An ice sculpture melts in such a way that it can be modeled as a cone that maintains a conical shape as it decreases in size. The radius of the base of the cone is given by a twice-differentiable function r, where $r(t)$ is measured in centimeters and t is measured in days. The table above gives selected values of $r'(t)$, the rate of change of the radius, over the time interval $0 \le t \le 12$.

(a) Approximate $r''(8.5)$ using the average rate of change of r' over the interval $7 \le t \le 10$. Show the computations that lead to your answer, and indicate units of measure.

(b) Is there a time t, $0 \le t \le 3$, for which $r'(t) = -6$? Justify your answer.

(c) Use a right Riemann sum with the four subintervals indicated in the table to approximate the value of $\int_0^{12} r'(t)\,dt$.

(d) The height of the cone decreases at a rate of 2 centimeters per day. At time $t = 3$ days, the radius is 100 centimeters and the height is 50 centimeters. Find the rate of change of the volume of the cone with respect to time, in cubic centimeters per day, at time $t = 3$ days. (The volume V of a cone with radius r and height h is $V = \frac{1}{3}\pi r^2 h$.)

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