

## Kinematics

The **posi**ton vector for a moving object is the same as the equation of a straight line except that the parameter is time (usually represented by  $t$ ):

### 2 dimensions

$$\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$(-1,3)$  is the position when  $t = 0$

$$\text{Velocity} = \mathbf{v} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{Speed} = |\mathbf{v}| = \sqrt{3^2 + (-2)^2}$$

### 3 dimensions

$$\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix}$$

$(2,-2,5)$  is the position when  $t = 0$

$$\text{Velocity} = \mathbf{v} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{Speed} = |\mathbf{v}| = \sqrt{(-2)^2 + 3^2 + (-5)^2}$$

Questions often require us to see if two objects have collided. It is NOT enough to check that the lines intersect. To collide, they must occupy the **same place** at the **same time**

There are 2 methods for checking if A and B collide

1. Find the time when the when  $x_A=x_B$ . Find  $y_A$  at this time. Find  $y_B$  at this time. Is  $y_A = y_B$  ?
2. Find time,  $t_1$  when  $x_A=x_B$ . Find time,  $t_2$  when  $y_A=y_B$ . Is  $t_1 = t_2$  ?