

2. [10 points] The velocity, in cm per second, of an inchworm moving in a straight line can be modeled by a **sinusoidal** function,  $v(t)$ , where  $t$  is the number of seconds since the inchworm started moving. Suppose the inchworm reaches its maximum velocity of 0.1 cm/sec one second after it starts moving and its minimum velocity of 0 cm/sec two seconds after it starts moving.

- a. [5 points] Find a formula for  $v(t)$  which is consistent with the information above.

Solution: The period is 2 (because the distance from the  $x$ -coordinate of a max to the  $x$ -coordinate of a min is 1), the amplitude is .05, and the midline is .05. The graph starts at a min, so it is a negative cosine function with no horizontal shift.

$$v(t) = -.05 \cos(\pi t) + .05$$

- b. [2 points] Based on your answer from (a), find a formula for  $a(t)$ , the acceleration of the inchworm  $t$  seconds after it started moving.

Solution: Acceleration is the derivative of velocity, so

$$a(t) = .05\pi \sin(\pi t)$$

- c. [3 points] Based on your answers above, find a time when the inchworm's acceleration attains its largest positive value.

Solution: The maximum values of  $\sin(x)$  are attained when  $x = \dots -3\pi/2, \pi/2, 5\pi/2, \dots$ , so (since we are looking at  $\sin(\pi t)$ ) we can take  $t = \frac{1}{2}$  (or many other answers). Alternatively, we could compute the derivative of  $a(t)$  and set that equal to zero; if you did it this way, be sure that you wrote down a max and not a min.