

MECHANICS

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Lecture: 33

Cartesian and planar polar coordinates: examples

Hello, everyone; welcome to the lecture again. In the last few classes, we find out the expression of the velocity and acceleration in Cartesian coordinate, planar polar coordinate, spherical coordinates and cylindrical coordinates.

Cartesian Coordinate \Rightarrow

$$\vec{v} = \dot{x}\hat{i} + \dot{y}\hat{j} + \dot{z}\hat{k}$$

$$\vec{a} = \ddot{x}\hat{i} + \ddot{y}\hat{j} + \ddot{z}\hat{k}$$

Planar Polar Coordinates \Rightarrow

$$\vec{v} = \dot{r}\hat{r} + r\dot{\theta}\hat{\theta}$$

$$\vec{a} = (\ddot{r} - r\dot{\theta}^2)\hat{r} + (r\ddot{\theta} + 2\dot{r}\dot{\theta})\hat{\theta}$$

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} r = \text{const} \\ \text{Circular Motion} \end{array} \right.$

$$\vec{v} = r\dot{\theta}\hat{\theta}$$

$$\vec{a} = -r\dot{\theta}^2\hat{r} + r\ddot{\theta}\hat{\theta}$$

Spherical coordinate \Rightarrow

$$\vec{v} = \dot{r}\hat{r} + r\dot{\theta}\hat{\theta} + r\sin\theta\dot{\phi}\hat{\phi}$$

$$\vec{a} = a_r\hat{r} + a_\theta\hat{\theta} + a_\phi\hat{\phi}$$

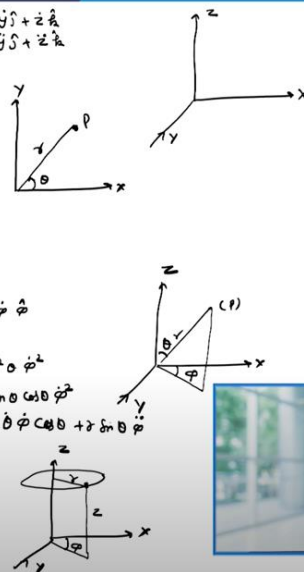

where, $a_r = \ddot{r} - r\dot{\theta}^2 - r\sin^2\theta\dot{\phi}^2$
 $a_\theta = r\ddot{\theta} + 2\dot{r}\dot{\theta} - r\sin\theta\cos\theta\dot{\phi}^2$
 $a_\phi = 2\dot{r}\dot{\phi}\sin\theta + 2r\dot{\theta}\dot{\phi}\cos\theta + r\sin\theta\ddot{\phi}$

Cylindrical coordinate \Rightarrow

$$\vec{v} = \dot{r}\hat{r} + r\dot{\phi}\hat{\phi} + \dot{z}\hat{k}$$

$$\vec{a} = a_r\hat{r} + a_\phi\hat{\phi} + a_z\hat{k}$$

where, $a_r = \ddot{r} - r\dot{\phi}^2$
 $a_\phi = r\ddot{\phi} + 2\dot{r}\dot{\phi}$
 $a_z = \ddot{z}$

So, let me summarize these results first and then we will look at some of the examples. So, we saw that in Cartesian coordinate, the velocity vector which is \vec{v} is $\dot{x}\hat{i} + \dot{y}\hat{j} + \dot{z}\hat{k}$ and the acceleration \vec{a} is $\ddot{x}\hat{i} + \ddot{y}\hat{j} + \ddot{z}\hat{k}$.

And of course, in Cartesian coordinate, we have x-axis, y-axis and z-axis. In planar polar coordinate, we have $\vec{v} = \dot{r}\hat{r} + r\dot{\theta}\hat{\theta}$ and the acceleration \vec{a} was $\ddot{r}\hat{r} - r\dot{\theta}^2\hat{r} + r\ddot{\theta}\hat{\theta} + 2\dot{r}\dot{\theta}\hat{\theta}$, wherein the coefficient of \hat{r} is the velocity and acceleration in the radial direction and the coefficient of $\hat{\theta}$ is the velocity and acceleration in the $\hat{\theta}$ direction. Here, let us say this is x-axis, this one is y-axis, and then we have some point P. So, this is your

r and the angle that it makes from the x -axis is θ . We also saw that if r is constant, then it becomes circular motion. And in this case, because \dot{r} and \ddot{r} will be 0, Therefore, velocity vector v becomes $r \dot{\theta} \hat{\theta}$ and acceleration a becomes $-\dot{\theta}^2 r \hat{r} + r \ddot{\theta} \hat{\theta}$. In spherical coordinates,


We have velocity vector v is equal to $\dot{r} \hat{r} + r \dot{\theta} \hat{\theta} + r \sin \theta \dot{\phi} \hat{\phi}$. And the acceleration a can be written as $a_r \hat{r} + a_\theta \hat{\theta} + a_\phi \hat{\phi}$ where again a_r , a_θ and a_ϕ are the acceleration along r , θ and ϕ direction. Here a_r was $\ddot{r} - r \dot{\theta}^2 - r \sin^2 \theta \dot{\phi}^2$ and a_θ was $r \ddot{\theta} + 2 \dot{r} \dot{\theta} - r \sin \theta \cos \theta \dot{\phi}^2$ and a_ϕ was $2 \dot{r} \dot{\phi} \sin \theta + 2r \dot{\theta} \dot{\phi} \cos \theta + r \sin \theta \ddot{\phi}$. And again, here you have x axis, y axis and let us say z axis.

Then r is the, you know, position vector of this point P and the angle that it makes from the z axis is θ . So, this is the z axis, this one is the y axis and its projection on the xy plane, whatever angle it makes from the x axis is your ϕ . Now, in cylindrical coordinates, we have velocity v equal to $\dot{r} \hat{r} + r \dot{\phi} \hat{\phi} + z \dot{k} \hat{k}$ and again the acceleration a is let us say $a_r \hat{r} + a_\phi \hat{\phi} + a_z \hat{k}$ where this A_r is $\ddot{r} - r \dot{\phi}^2$. A_ϕ is $r \ddot{\phi} + 2 \dot{r} \dot{\phi}$ and a_z is just \ddot{z} . All these expressions we have derived in the previous classes. Let me again say that in cylindrical coordinate system, you have let us say a point P that you want to represent. So, you draw a cylinder of radius r and its projection, the projection of r on

the x and y plane, whatever angle it makes from the x axis was ϕ and the height of the cylinder was z.

Q1: The curvilinear motion of a particle is defined by $v_x = 50 - 16t$ and $y = 100 - 4t^2$, where v_x is in m/sec, y is in meter & t is in sec. It is also known that $x = 0$ when $t = 0$. Determine its velocity & acceleration when $y = 0$.

Ans: $v_x = 50 - 16t$
 $x = \int v_x dt = \int (50 - 16t) dt = 50t - 8t^2 \text{ m}$
 $\therefore a_x = \frac{d}{dt} v_x = \frac{d}{dt} (50 - 16t) = -16 \text{ m/sec}^2$
 $y = 100 - 4t^2$ ———— (1)
 $\therefore v_y = \frac{d}{dt} (100 - 4t^2) = -8t \text{ m/sec}$
 $a_y = \frac{d}{dt} v_y = \frac{d}{dt} (-8t) = -8 \text{ m/sec}^2$
 when $y = 0$ then $0 = 100 - 4t^2$
 $\therefore t^2 = 25$ or $t = 5 \text{ sec}$
 $\therefore v_x = 50 - 16 \times 5 = -30 \text{ m/sec}$
 $v_y = -8 \times 5 = -40 \text{ m/sec}$
 $\therefore v = -30\hat{i} - 40\hat{j}$, $|v| = 50 \text{ m/sec}$
 $a = -16\hat{i} - 8\hat{j}$, $|a| = 17.9 \text{ m/sec}^2$ } Ans



Now, with this background, let us look at some of the examples. So, the first problem statement is following. The curvy linear motion of a particle is defined by $v_x = 50 - 16t$ and $y = 100 - 4t^2$. v_x is in m/s, y is in meters, and t is in seconds.

It is also known that $x = 0$. When $t = 0$ and we have asked to determine its velocity and acceleration when $y = 0$. Now, the first thing that we have to identify is the right coordinate in which this problem can be solved. Now, you can see that v_x is given and y is given. Therefore, the natural choice is the Cartesian coordinate.

So, let us look at v_x is given. It is $50 - 16t$. Therefore, from this, I can find out what is the x and what is the acceleration along the x direction. I can find out by integrating this v_x with respect to t . So, we have $50 - 16t dt$, that is equal to $50t - 8t^2 \text{ m}$. And the acceleration a_x , we can find out by differentiating v_x with respect to t .

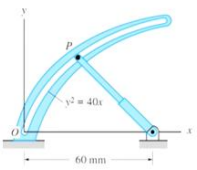
So, that will be d/dt , v_x is $50 - 16t$ and this comes out to be -16 m/s^2 . So, now we know x and a_x . Let us now find out v_y and a_y . For that, y is given. y is $100 - 4t^2$.

Therefore, v_y will be d/dt of y , which is $100 - 4t^2$. Therefore, this becomes $-8t \text{ m/s}$. And acceleration a_y we can get by differentiating v_y with respect to t . So, it will be $\frac{d}{dt} (-8t) = -8 \text{ m/s}^2$. Now, in the problem statement, we have been asked to find out

the velocity and acceleration when $y = 0$. Therefore, let us see the value of velocity when $y = 0$.

So, when velocity $y = 0$, then you can see from equation number 1, let us call this equation number 1, that t comes out to be 5 second. So, let us put $y = 0$ equal to $100 - 4t^2$. Therefore, $t^2 = 25$ or $t = 5s$.

Now, I can find out what is v_x when $t = 5s$ or when $y = 0$. So, that will be $50 - 16 \times 5$. So, that is $-30 m/s$ and v_y will be $-8t$. So, -8×5 which is $-45 m/sec$. Therefore, v which is $v_x i + v_y j$ becomes $-30i - 40j$ or its magnitude is $\sqrt{30^2 + 40^2}$ which is $50 m/s$. Now, the acceleration a will be a_x which is $-16i$ plus a_y , which is $-8j$ and you can find out its magnitude. It will be $\sqrt{16^2 + 8^2}$, which will be $17.9 m/s^2$.



Q2 ⇒ Pin P at the end of the telescopic rod slides along the fixed parabolic path $y^2 = 40x$, where x & y are measured in mm. The y coordinate of P varies with t (measured in sec) acc. to $y = 4t^2 + 6t$ mm. when $y = 30$ mm, compute.


(i) ⇒ The velocity vector of P and.
(ii) ⇒ The acceleration vector of P.

Ans ⇒ $\vec{v} = \dot{x}\hat{i} + \dot{y}\hat{j}$
 $\vec{a} = \ddot{x}\hat{i} + \ddot{y}\hat{j}$ } $\dot{x} \quad \dot{y} \quad \ddot{x} \quad \ddot{y}$ } = ?

$y = 4t^2 + 6t$ ——— ①
 $y^2 = 40x$
 $\therefore x = \frac{1}{40} [4t^2 + 6t]^2$
 $\therefore x = \frac{1}{40} [16t^4 + 48t^3 + 36t^2]$ ——— ②

put $y = 30$ mm eqn ①
 $30 = 4t^2 + 6t$
 $\Rightarrow t = 2.09$ sec.

$\dot{x} = 1.6t^3 + 3.6t^2 + 1.8t$ mm/sec. = 34.1 mm/sec
 $\ddot{x} = 4.8t^2 + 7.2t + 1.8$ mm/sec² ⇒ 37.8 mm/sec²
 $\dot{y} = 8t + 6$ mm/sec = 22.7 mm/sec.
 $\ddot{y} = 8$ mm/sec²
 $v = 34.1\hat{i} + 22.7\hat{j}$ mm/sec } **Ans**
 $a = 37.8\hat{i} + 8\hat{j}$ mm/sec²



Now, let us look at another problem. Here, the problem statement is pin P at the end of the telescopic rod slides along the fixed parabolic path $y^2 = 40x$, where x and y are measured in mm. The y coordinate of t varies with t which is measured in second. According to $y = 4t^2 + 6t$ mm. When $y = 30$ mm, compute number 1, the velocity vector of t .

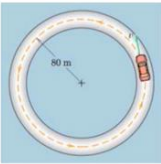
And the acceleration vector of P. So, again in this problem, you can identify that the problem can be solved easily in the Cartesian coordinate because the relation between x and y is given. So, we know that In Cartesian coordinate, the velocity v is $\dot{x}i + \dot{y}j$ and the acceleration a is $\ddot{x}i + \ddot{y}j$. Therefore, to find out the velocity and acceleration, we should know what is \dot{x} , \ddot{x} , \dot{y} and \ddot{y} . Okay. So, let us see the information that is given in the question.

It is given that y varies as $4t^2 + 6t$ and the relation between y^2 and x is $y^2 = 40x$. Therefore, I can find out how x depend upon t . So, x will be $1/40$ and y^2 . So, y^2 will be $(4t^2 + 6t)^2$. Let me call this equation number 1. Therefore, x becomes $0.4t^4 + 1.2t^3 + 0.9t^2$.

So, now we know what is x and what is y in terms of t . So, I can easily find out the \dot{x} is $1.6t^3 + 3.6t^2 + 1.8t$ mm/sec. Now, to find out the value of \dot{x} , I should also know what is t at what instant I am calculating the \dot{x} . So, to find out the t , it is given that you have to find out when $y = 30$.


So, let us put $y = 30$ in equation number 1 to find out the t when this happens. So, we have $30 = 4t + 60t$ and this gives you $t = 2.09$ sec. I can put this value over here and you will get $\dot{x} = 34.1$ mm/sec. Now, let us look at \ddot{x} will be $4.8t^2 + 7.2t + 1.8$ mm/s² and you can put $t = 2.09$, you will get $\ddot{x} = 37.8$ mm/s².

Similarly, \dot{y} will be, you can use equation number 1, it will be $8t + 6$ mm/sec and put $t = 2.09$, you will get 22.7 mm/sec and $\ddot{y} = 8$ mm/s². Let us put that in this equation. So, you get $v = 34.1i + 22.7j$ mm/sec and acceleration $a = 37.8i + 8j$ mm/s².



Q3 ⇒ A test car starts from rest on a horizontal circular track of 80-m radius and increases its speed at a uniform rate to reach 100 km/h in 10 sec. Determine the magnitude a of the total acceleration of the car 8 sec after the start.

Ans ⇒ $a_t = \text{const.}$
 $v = u + a_t t$
 \downarrow
 $\therefore a_t = \frac{v}{t} = \frac{100 \times 1000}{3600 \times 10} = 2.78 \text{ m/sec}^2$ ✓
 $v_{\text{at } 8 \text{ sec}} = 2.78 \text{ m/sec}^2 \times 8 = 22.2 \text{ m/sec}$
 $a_n = a_r = r\omega^2 = r\frac{v^2}{r^2} = \frac{v^2}{r}$
 $a_n = \frac{(22.2)^2}{80} = 6.17 \text{ m/sec}^2$ ✓
 $\therefore a = \sqrt{a_t^2 + a_n^2} = \sqrt{(2.78)^2 + (6.17)^2} = 6.77 \text{ m/sec}^2$ Ans

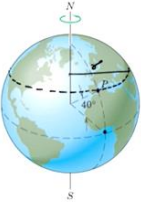


Now, let us look at another problem statement. Question number 3. A test car starts from rest on a horizontal circular track of 80 m radius increases its speed at a uniform rate to reach 100 km/hour in 10 seconds. And we have asked to determine the magnitude a of the total acceleration of the car 8 seconds after the start. So, first of all, it is clear that the

motion is circular and it is also given that the transverse acceleration is constant. So, it is given that a_t is constant. Therefore, we can use the simple equation $v = u + a_t t$, and it is also given that initially, the car is at rest. Therefore, a_t will be v/t and v is given.

It is 100 km/hour . So, 100×1000 to convert it into meter and hour let us convert it into second multiplied by t . So, it attains this in 10 sec . So, therefore, 10 and you get the transverse acceleration which is 2.78 m/s^2 . Now, the tangential velocity at 8 sec will be $2.78 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}^2} \times 8$ which is 22.2 m/sec .

And now, I can calculate what is the normal acceleration or acceleration along r . It is $r\dot{\theta}^2$ or we can write down $r\omega^2$ or v^2/r . Now, v is known, r is also known. Therefore, a_n will be $\frac{22.2^2}{80}$ which is 6.17 m/s^2 . So, Therefore, I know the acceleration in the tangential direction. I have calculated the acceleration in the normal direction. Therefore, a total will be $\sqrt{a_t^2 + a_n^2}$ which is equal to $\sqrt{2.78^2 + 6.17^2}$ and it comes out to be 6.77 m/s^2 .



Q 4 ⇒ Consider the polar axis of the earth to be fixed in space and compute the magnitude of the velocity & acceleration of a point P on the earth's surface at latitude 40° north. The mean diameter of the earth is 12742 km and its angular velocity is $0.7292 \times 10^{-4} \text{ rad/sec}$.

Ans ⇒ $v = r\dot{\theta}$ $a_r = r\dot{\theta}^2$

$= R \cos 40^\circ \dot{\theta}$

$= \frac{12742 \times 10^3}{2} \times \cos 40^\circ \times (0.7292 \times 10^{-4})$ $r = R \cos 40^\circ$


$= 356 \text{ m/sec}$

$a_r = \dot{\theta}^2$

$= R \cos 40^\circ \dot{\theta}^2$

$= \frac{12742}{2} \times 10^3 \cdot \cos 40^\circ \cdot (0.7292 \times 10^{-4})^2$

$= 0.26 \text{ m/sec}^2$



Now, let us look at another problem statement. Question number 4, consider the polar axis of the earth to be fixed in space and compute the magnitude of the velocity and acceleration of a point P on the earth's surface at latitude 40° north, the mean diameter of the earth is 12742 km . Its angular velocity is $0.7292 \times 10^{-4} \text{ rad/sec}$.

So, in this problem, first of all, you have to realize that point P is making a motion in circle and for circular motion, we have velocity $v = r\dot{\theta}$ and acceleration $a_r = r\dot{\theta}^2$, wherein this r is the radius of the circle. And from the geometry, you can see that small r is $R \cos 40^\circ$.

So, let us put it over here. You get $v = R\cos 40^\circ \dot{\theta}$ and this will be 12742. This is kilometer. So, let us convert it into meter multiplied by 10^3 divided by 2 because 12742 was the diameter and multiply by $\cos 40^\circ$ and then $\dot{\theta}$. $\dot{\theta}$ Is given in the question.

Angular velocity is 0.7292×10^{-4} . So, let us multiply it by 0.7292×10^{-4} and this comes out to be 356 m/sec. Now, let us see a_r is $r\dot{\theta}^2$. So, r is capital $R\cos 40^\circ \dot{\theta}^2$.

This will be $\frac{12742}{2} 10^3$ and then we have $\cos 40^\circ$ and then $\dot{\theta}$ which is $(0.7292 \times 10^{-4})^2$ and this comes out to be 0.026 m/s^2 .

Q5 ⇒ The plane motion of a particle is described in polar coordinates at $R = (1+t^2)$ meter & $\theta = \frac{t^2}{2}$ rad, where the t is measured in sec. Find the magnitude of the acceleration when $t = 2$ sec.

Ans


$$v = \dot{R}\hat{r} + R\dot{\theta}\hat{\theta}$$

$$a = (\ddot{R} - R\dot{\theta}^2)\hat{r} + (2\dot{R}\dot{\theta} + R\ddot{\theta})\hat{\theta}$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} R = 1+t^2 \\ \dot{R} = 2t \\ \ddot{R} = 2 \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} = 5 \\ \rightarrow 4 \\ \end{array} \text{ at } t = 2 \text{ sec}$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \theta = \frac{t^2}{2} \\ \dot{\theta} = t \\ \ddot{\theta} = 1 \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} = 2 \\ \rightarrow 2 \\ \end{array}$$

$$v = 4\hat{r} + 5 \times 2\hat{\theta} = 4\hat{r} + 10\hat{\theta}, \quad |v| = \sqrt{4^2 + 10^2} = 10.77 \text{ m/sec}$$

$$a = (-5 \times 4)\hat{r} + (5 \times 1 + 2 \times 4 \times 2)\hat{\theta} = -18\hat{r} + 21\hat{\theta}, \quad |a| = \sqrt{18^2 + 21^2} = 27.66 \text{ m/sec}^2$$


Now, let us look at one more problem and the problem statement here is following. The plane motion of a particle is described in polar coordinates at $r = 1 + t^2$ meter and $\theta = \frac{t^2}{2}$ rad where the t is measured in seconds and we have asked to find the magnitude of the acceleration when $t = 2$ sec. In this question, it is already given that the motion is happening in planar polar coordinates. And in planar polar coordinate, the velocity v is $\dot{r}\hat{r} + r\dot{\theta}\hat{\theta}$. And the acceleration a is $\ddot{r} - r\dot{\theta}^2\hat{r} + r\ddot{\theta} + 2\dot{r}\dot{\theta}\hat{\theta}$.

So, we have to find out what is $\dot{r}\hat{r}$ and $\dot{\theta}$. It is given that $r = 1 + t^2$ and all this thing we have to find out at $t = 2$ sec. So, therefore, this becomes 5, \dot{r} becomes $2t$, which is 4 and \ddot{r} becomes 2. Now, θ is $t^2/2$.

Therefore, this becomes 2. $\dot{\theta}$ becomes t . Therefore, let us put $t = 2$. So, this again becomes 2 and $\ddot{\theta}$ becomes 1. Let us put them above.

So, we get $v = 4\hat{r} + 5 \times 2\hat{\theta}$. So, we have $4\hat{r} + 10\hat{\theta}$. This is the velocity and its magnitude will be $\sqrt{4^2 + 10^2}$ which is $10.77m/sec$ and acceleration a becomes $\ddot{r} - r\dot{\theta}^2$. So, this is $2 - 5 \times 4\hat{r} + (5 \times 1 + 2 \times 4 \times 2)\hat{\theta}$, which is nothing but $-18\hat{r} + 21\hat{\theta}$.

Therefore, the magnitude of a is $\sqrt{18^2 + 21^2}$, which is $27.66 m/s^2$. With this let me stop here see you in the next class. Thank you.