## POLAR CORDINATES

## and

## CENTRAL FORCES

Created by T. Madas

Question $1 \quad{ }^{(* *)}$
A particle $P$ is moving on a cardioid with polar equation

$$
r=a(1+\sin \theta), 0 \leq \theta<2 \pi
$$

where $a$ is a positive constant.

The radius vector $O P$, where $O$ is the pole, rotates with constant angular speed $\omega$.
Find an expression for the speed of $P$ in terms of $a, \omega$ and $\theta$, and hence determine the maximum speed of the speed of $P$ and the value of $\theta$ when this maximum speed occurs.

Created by T. Madas

Question 2 (**) $^{*}$
A particle $P$ is moving on a plane, and its position in time $t \mathrm{~s}$ is described in plane polar coordinates $(r, \theta)$, by the parametric equations

$$
r=3 \sqrt{5} t^{2}, \quad \theta=t^{2}-6 t, \quad t \geq 0
$$

Determine the speed of $P$ and the magnitude of its acceleration when $t=2$.

$$
|\mathbf{v}|_{t=2}=60 \mathrm{~ms}^{-1}, \quad|\mathbf{a}|_{t=2}=\sqrt{20765} \approx 144 \mathrm{~ms}^{-2}
$$

$\square$

Question 3 (**)
A particle $P$ is moving on a plane, and its position in time $t \mathrm{~s}$ is described in plane polar coordinates $(r, \theta)$, where $O$ is the pole.

The path of $P$ traces the spiral with polar equation

$$
r=a \theta
$$

where $a$ is a positive constant.

The radius vector $O P$ rotates with constant angular speed $\omega$.

Determine a simplified expression for the magnitude of the acceleration of $P$ in terms of $a, \omega$ and $r$.

Created by T. Madas

Question $4 \quad{ }^{(* *)}$
A particle $P$ is moving on a cardioid with polar equation

$$
r=a(1-\sin \theta), 0 \leq \theta<2 \pi
$$

where $a$ is a positive constant.

The radius vector $O P$, where $O$ is the pole, rotates with constant angular speed $\omega$.
The magnitude of the acceleration of $P$ is denoted by $f$.

Find an expression for $f$ in terms of $a, \omega$ and $\theta$, and hence state the greatest value of $f$ and the value of $\theta$ when this greatest value of $f$ occurs.

$$
f=a \omega^{2} \sqrt{5-4 \sin \theta}, f_{\max }=3 a \omega^{2}, \quad \theta=\frac{3 \pi}{2}
$$



Question 5 (**)
A particle $P$ is moving on the curve with polar equation

$$
r=k \mathrm{e}^{\theta}, 0 \leq \theta<2 \pi,
$$

where $k$ is a positive constant.

The radius vector $O P$, where $O$ is the pole, rotates with constant angular speed $\omega$.

Find the magnitude and direction of the acceleration acting on $P$.
$|\mathbf{a}|=2 m k \omega^{2} \mathrm{e}^{\theta}=2 m r \omega^{2}, \quad$ transversly

Question $6 \quad(* *+)$
In a plane polar coordinate system $(r, \theta)$, the base unit vectors are defined as $\hat{\mathbf{r}}$ in the direction of $r$ increasing, and $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$ perpendicular to $\hat{\mathbf{r}}$, in the direction of $\theta$ increasing.
a) Given that the position vector $\mathbf{r}$ of a particle $P$ is given by $\mathbf{r}=r \hat{\mathbf{r}}$, derive expressions for the velocity and acceleration of $P$ in plane polar coordinates.

You may assume standard differentiation results for $\hat{\mathbf{r}}$ and $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$.
b) If $r^{2} \frac{d \theta}{d t}$ is constant state what can be deduced about the force acting on $P$.
$P$ is moving on the curve with polar equation

$$
r=2+\cos \theta, 0 \leq \theta<2 \pi
$$

with constant angular speed $\sqrt{5} \mathrm{rads}^{-1}$.
c) Find the speed and the magnitude of the acceleration of $P$, when $\theta=\frac{\pi}{2}$.


$$
|\mathbf{v}|=5 \mathrm{~ms}^{-1}, \quad \mid=10 \sqrt{2} \mathrm{~ms}^{-2}
$$



Created by T. Madas

Question 7 (***)
A particle $P$ is moving on a plane, and its position in time $t \mathrm{~s}$ is described in plane polar coordinates $(r, \theta)$, where $O$ is the pole.

The radius vector $O P$ rotates with constant angular speed $\omega$.

The radial component of the acceleration of $P$ has magnitude $r \omega^{2}$, and is directed towards $O$.

Initially, $P$ is at the point with coordinates $(a, 0)$, where $a$ is a positive constant, and has radial velocity $2 a \omega$.

Determine a polar equation for the path of $P$, in terms of $a$.

$$
r=a(2 \theta+1)
$$

$\square$

Question 8 (***)
In a plane polar coordinate system $(r, \theta)$, the base unit vectors are defined as $\hat{\mathbf{r}}$ in the direction of $r$ increasing, and $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$ perpendicular to $\hat{\mathbf{r}}$, in the direction of $\theta$ increasing.
a) Find expressions for $\frac{d}{d \theta}(\hat{\mathbf{r}})$ and $\frac{d}{d \theta}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}})$
b) Given that the position vector $\mathbf{r}$ of a particle $P$ is given by $\mathbf{r}=r \hat{\mathbf{r}}$, derive expressions for the velocity and acceleration of $P$ in plane polar coordinates.
$\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}},-\hat{\mathbf{r}}, \mathbf{v}=\dot{r} \hat{\mathbf{r}}+r \dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}, \mathbf{a}=\left(\ddot{r}-r \dot{\theta}^{2}\right) \hat{\mathbf{r}}+\frac{1}{r} \frac{d}{d t}\left(r^{2} \dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}}\right) \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$


$\Rightarrow \frac{d u}{d t}=\frac{d}{d t}(\hat{r} \hat{)})+\frac{d}{d t}(r \hat{\theta} \hat{\underline{e}})$
$\Rightarrow \underline{a}=\ddot{r} \hat{r}+i \frac{d}{d t} \hat{r}+\dot{r} \underline{\hat{\theta}}+r \ddot{\theta} \hat{\theta}+r \dot{\theta} \frac{d}{d t} \hat{\theta}$
$\Rightarrow \underline{a}=\dot{r} \hat{r}+i \frac{d \hat{r}}{d \theta} d \theta+\dot{\theta} \theta \hat{\theta} \hat{\theta}+r \ddot{\theta} \ddot{\theta}+r \dot{\theta} \frac{d \hat{\theta}}{d \theta} \frac{d \theta}{d t}$ $\Rightarrow \underline{a}=r \dot{r} \hat{\underline{~}}+\dot{r} \dot{\theta} \underline{\hat{\theta}}+\dot{r} \dot{\theta} \underline{\hat{\theta}}+r \ddot{\theta} \hat{\theta}+r \dot{\theta}^{2}(-\hat{\underline{I}})$
$\Rightarrow \underline{a}=\left(\ddot{r}-r \dot{\theta}^{2}\right) \hat{r}+(2 \dot{r} \dot{\theta}+r \ddot{\theta}) \hat{\theta}$
$\Rightarrow \Delta=\left(r^{0}-r \dot{\theta}^{2}\right) \hat{r}+\frac{1}{r} \frac{d}{d t}\left(r^{2} \dot{\theta}\right) \hat{\theta}$

Created by T. Madas


A particle $P$ is moving on a polar plane $(r, \theta)$ so that its velocity vector $\mathbf{v}$ forms a constant angle $\alpha$ with $O P$, where $O$ is the pole, as shown in the figure above.

Given further that $P$ crosses the initial line at $r=1$, show that the polar equation of the path of $P$ is

$$
r=\mathrm{e}^{-\theta \cot \alpha}
$$

You may not use verification in this question.
proof


Created by T. Madas

Question 10 (***)
A particle $P$, of mass $m$, is moving on a path with polar equation

$$
r=a \mathrm{e}^{k \theta}, 0 \leq \theta<2 \pi
$$

where $a$ and $k$ are positive constants.

The radius vector $O P$, where $O$ is the pole, rotates with constant angular speed $\omega$.

Show that the magnitude of the resultant force acting on the plane of its polar path is


Created by T. Madas

Question 11 (***)
A particle $P$ rests on a smooth horizontal surface attached to a fixed point $O$ on the surface by a light elastic string of natural length $a$.

When $|O P|=a$ the particle is projected with speed $\sqrt{a g}$ along the surface, in a direction perpendicular to $O P$.

Find the angular speed of $P$ at the instant when $|O P|=2 a$.

Question 12 (***)
A particle $P$ is moving on the curve with equation

$$
r=a \mathrm{e}^{\frac{1}{2} \theta}
$$

where $(r, \theta)$ are plane polar coordinates, and $a$ is a positive constant.

The angle the velocity of $P$ makes with $O P$, where $O$ is the pole, is denoted by $\alpha$. Determine the value of $\tan \alpha$.

Question 13 (***+)
A particle is moving on path whose polar equation is

$$
r=1+2 \cos \theta, 0 \leq \theta<2 \pi
$$

The particle is moving in such a way so that $\theta=2 t$, where $t$ represents the time in s, measured after a given instant. All distances are measure in m .

Determine the speed of the particle and the magnitude of its transverse acceleration when its radial acceleration is $4 \mathrm{~ms}^{-1}$.

$$
\sqrt{12} \mathrm{~ms}^{-1}, 8 \sqrt{3} \mathrm{~ms}^{-2}
$$



Question 14 (***+)
At time $t=0$, a particle is on the initial line of a standard polar coordinate system $(r, \theta)$, and moving on a path with polar equation

$$
r=\frac{1}{4} \mathrm{e}^{k \theta}, \theta \geq 0
$$

where $k$ is a constant.

Relative to the pole $O$, the particle has a constant angular velocity of $2 \mathrm{rads}^{-1}$, throughout the motion.

Given that the initial magnitude of the acceleration of the particle is $1.04 \mathrm{~ms}^{-2}$, determine the possible values of $k$.

Question 15 (***+)
A man is standing at the centre at $O$ of a circular platform, whose radius is 40 m , which is initially at rest.

At time $t=0$ the platform begins to rotate about $O$ with constant angular acceleration of $0.125 \mathrm{rads}^{-1}$, and at the same time the man begins to walk with constant speed $1.25 \mathrm{~ms}^{-1}$, radially outwards relative to the platform.

Let $r$ be the radial distance of the man from $O$ and $\theta$ the angle by which the platform has turned.

Determine a polar equation for the path of the man, relative to the ground, in the form $r=f(\theta)$ and hence show that the platform has completed 10 revolutions by the time the man reaches the edge of the platform.

Question 16 (****)
A particle of mass $m$ is moving with constant angular velocity $\omega$ on a polar plane $(r, \theta)$, with pole at $O$. The only force acting on the particle has magnitude $3 m r \omega^{2}$, which acts radially outwards.

When $t=0$, the particle is at the point $(2 a, 0)$, where $a$ is a positive constant, and has no radial speed.

By forming and solving a suitable differential equation, show that the equation of the path of the particle is

Question 17 (****)
Relative to a fixed origin $O$, a particle $P$ is moving with constant angular velocity $\omega$ on the curve with polar equation

$$
r=k \mathrm{e}^{\theta \cot \alpha}
$$

where $k$ and $\alpha$ are positive constants with $0<\alpha<\frac{1}{4} \pi$.

Show that the magnitude of the acceleration of the particle is $\frac{v^{2}}{r}$, where $v$ is the speed of the particle and $r$ is the distance $O P$.
$\square$
, proof

Question 18 ( $* * * * *)$
A particle $P$, of mass $m$, moves in a plane under the action of a force $F$ which is directed towards a fixed origin $O$.

The magnitude of $F$ is $\frac{m k}{r^{3}}$, where $r=|O P|$ and $k$ is a positive constant.

Initially $r=a$ and the particle has speed $\frac{\sqrt{k}}{a}$ in a direction perpendicular to $O P$.

Use polar coordinates to describe the motion and path of $P$

|  |  |
| :--- | :--- |

Question 19 (****)
A particle $P$ of mass $m$ is moving on a polar plane $(r, \theta)$, with pole at $O$.

The path of $P$ traces the spiral with polar equation

$$
r=a \mathrm{e}^{k \theta}
$$

where $a$ and $k$ are positive constants.

A variable force acts on $P$, acting in the radial direction with magnitude $F$.

Initially $\theta=0$, and at that instant the transverse speed of $P$ is $U$.

Show that

$$
F=\frac{m a^{2} U^{2}}{r^{3}}\left(k^{2}+1\right)
$$

Question 20 (****)
A particle of mass 0.1 kg is attached to one end of a light elastic string and the other end is attached to a fixed point $O$ on a smooth horizontal surface. The string has natural length 0.8 m and modulus of elasticity 61.74 N .

The string is then extended to 3.2 m and the particle is projected with speed $u \mathrm{~ms}^{-1}$ at right angles to the string. In the subsequent motion, the polar coordinates of the particle relative to $O$ are $(r, \theta)$.
a) Express $r^{2} \dot{\theta}$ in terms of $u$.

During the motion the maximum value of $r$ is 4 m and at that position the particle has speed $v \mathrm{~ms}^{-1}$.
b) Show clearly that

$$
v=\frac{4}{5} u .
$$

c) By considering energies in two suitable positions, show that $v=98$


## Created by T. Madas

## Question 21 (****)

A particle $P$ is moving on a plane, and its position in time $t \mathrm{~s}$ is described in plane polar coordinates $(r, \theta)$, where $O$ is the pole.

The radius vector $O P$ rotates with constant angular speed $\omega$.

The radial component of the acceleration of $P$ has magnitude $2 r \omega^{2}$, and is directed towards $O$.

Initially, $P$ is at the point with coordinates $(a, 0)$, where $a$ is a positive constant, and has radial velocity $\sqrt{3} a \omega$.

Determine, in terms of $a$, a polar equation for the path of $P$.

Question 22 (****)
A particle $P$ of mass $m$ is attached to one end of a light elastic string of natural length $a$ and modulus of elasticity mg . The other end of the string is attached to a fixed point $O$ on a smooth horizontal surface. The particle is held in contact with the horizontal table so that $|O P|=2 a$ and projected with horizontal speed $u$ in a direction perpendicular to $O P$.

Show that when $r=a$ and the radial speed of $P$ is $\sqrt{3 u^{2}+2 a g}$.
$\square$
Accaketion in panirs $\ddot{r}=\left(\ddot{r}-r \dot{\theta}^{2}\right) \hat{\tilde{r}}+\frac{1}{r} \frac{d}{d}\left(r^{2} \dot{\theta}^{2}\right) \hat{\underline{\theta}}$ Mosocus $\lambda=m g$
NATVuth Chory a

(3) Trasuiresy there 18 no furce
$\begin{aligned} r \times \frac{d}{d t}(r \theta) & =0 \\ r^{2} \hat{\theta} & =h \quad \text { (Cosestmin) }\end{aligned}$

- INTAAuy $\begin{aligned} r=2 a & \\ w r=u & \Rightarrow w(2 a)=u \\ & \Rightarrow w=\frac{u}{2 a}\end{aligned}$
$\begin{aligned} h & =(2 a)^{2}\left(\frac{u}{2 a}\right) \\ h & =2 a 4\end{aligned}$
$\therefore r^{2}{ }^{-}=2 a u$
(2) RADIALY we haut rife Thwion of the strina
$\Rightarrow m\left(\dot{r}-r \dot{\theta}^{2}\right)=-T$
$\Rightarrow m\left(\ddot{r}-r\left(\frac{2 a a}{r^{2}}\right)^{2}\right)=\frac{\lambda}{l} x$
$\Rightarrow m\left(\ddot{r}-\frac{4 a^{2} u^{2}}{r^{3}}\right)=\frac{m g}{a}(r-a)$
$\Rightarrow \ddot{r}-\frac{4 a^{2} u^{2}}{r^{2}}=\frac{3}{a}(r-a)$
$\Rightarrow$
0
$=$

$=$
$\Rightarrow \ddot{r}-\frac{4 a^{2} u^{2}}{r^{3}}=\frac{2 r}{a}-8$
MUCTIPY THE O.D.E BY $2 i$ a INIfCATE $\Rightarrow 2 r^{0} \dot{r}-\frac{8 a^{2} u^{2}}{r^{3}} i=\frac{2 g r}{a} i-g \dot{r}$ $\left.\Rightarrow \frac{d}{d t}\left(t^{2}\right)+\frac{d}{d t}\left(\frac{4 a^{2} u^{2}}{r^{2}}\right)=\frac{d g r^{2}}{d t t^{a}}\right)-\frac{d}{d t}(8 r)+C$ $\Rightarrow r^{2}+\frac{4 a^{2} u^{2}}{r^{2}}=\frac{g r^{2}}{a}-g r+C$
$\qquad$
$\Rightarrow \dot{r}^{2}+\frac{4 a^{2} u^{2}}{r^{2}}=\frac{क r}{a}(r-a)+u^{2}-2 a y$ ( withow $r=a$
$\dot{r}^{2}+4 u^{2}=u^{2}-2 a g$ $\Rightarrow \dot{r}^{2}=3 u^{2}+2 a g$. $\Rightarrow|r|=\sqrt{3 a^{2}+2 a y}$

Question 23 (****)
A particle $P$ of mass 0.45 kg is attached to another particle $Q$ of mass 2 kg by a light inextensible string of length 1.2 m .

The string passes through a small smooth hole $O$ on a smooth large table, so and $P$ lies on the table and $Q$ is hanging vertically below $O$.

When $|O P|=0.3 \mathrm{~m}, P$ is projected with horizontal speed $7 \mathrm{~ms}^{-1}$ at right angles to the taut string.

Show that when $|O P|=r \mathrm{~m}$, the tension in the string $T$ satisfies

$$
T=\frac{9}{50}\left[20-\frac{9}{r^{3}}\right]
$$

Question 24 (****+)
A particle $P$ of mass 0.5 kg is moving on the circle with equation

$$
(x-1)^{2}+y^{2}=1
$$

The particle is subject to a force of magnitude $F$, which always acts in the direction $P O$, where $O$ is the origin.

The particle is observed passing through the point $(2,0)$ with speed $0.125 \mathrm{~ms}^{-1}$, tangential to the circle and parallel to the $y$ axis.

Show that if $|O P|=r \mathrm{~m}$, then

$$
F=\frac{1}{4 r^{5}}
$$

Question 25 (****+)
A particle of mass $m$ is placed inside a smooth tube $O A$ of length $\frac{17}{8} a$. Initially the particle is at rest at a distance $a$ from $O$

The tube is made to rotate with constant angular velocity $\omega$, in a horizontal plane through a vertical axis passing through $O$. The particle reaches $A$ in time $T$.

Show that $T=\ln 2$.

Question 26 (****+)
A particle $P$, of mass $m$, is moving on a plane passing though a fixed origin $O$ under the action of a force $F$, which acts radially in the direction $P O$.

The distance $P O$ at time $t \mathrm{~s}$ is denoted by $r$. At time $t=0, r=a$ and the speed of $P$ is $U$, pointing in a direction perpendicular to $P O$.

Given that $F=\frac{2 m a U^{2}}{r^{2}}$ determine the least value of $r$ in the subsequent motion.

$$
r_{\min }=\frac{1}{3} a
$$

$\square$



Created by T. Madas

Question 27 (****+)
A particle $P$, of mass $m$, is moving on a plane passing though a fixed origin $O$ under the action of a force $F$, which acts radially in the direction $P O$. The distance $P O$ at time $t \mathrm{~s}$ is denoted by $r$. The path of $P$ has polar equation

$$
r=a(2+\cos \theta)
$$

where $a$ is a positive constant.
At time $t=0, \theta=0$ and the speed of $P$ is $U$.

Find, in terms of $\pi, a$ and $U$, the time it takes $P$ to return to its starting position.

$$
t=\frac{3 \pi a}{U}
$$



Created by T. Madas

Question 28 (****+)
When a particle is on the initial line of a standard polar coordinate system $(r, \theta)$, it has transverse velocity $a$, where $a$ is a positive constant.

The particle is moving on a path with polar equation

$$
r=\frac{a}{1+\sin \theta},-\pi<\theta<\pi
$$



If the particle experiences a force, which directed towards the pole at all times, show that the radial acceleration of the particle is $-\frac{4 a^{3}}{r^{2}}$. $\square$ , proof

Question 29 (****+)
A circular rough wire of radius $a$ and centre $O$ is fixed with the plane of the wire in a horizontal position. A particle of mass $m$ is threaded on the wire. The system lies in a field which exerts a vertical force on the particle in such a way so that the particle is weightless whilst inside the field. The coefficient of friction between the particle and the wire is $\mu$.

When $t=0$, the particle is at the point with polar coordinates $(r, \theta)=(a, 0)$, and is given an initial angular speed $\omega$.
a) By forming and solving a suitable differential equation, show that the angular speed of the particle $\frac{d \theta}{d t}$, in time $t$ satisfies

$$
\frac{d \theta}{d t}=\frac{\omega}{\mu \omega t+1} .
$$

b) Show further that the time $T$ it takes the particle to complete its first revolution is given by

$$
T=\frac{\mathrm{e}^{2 \mu \pi}-1}{\mu \omega}
$$




Created by T. Madas

Question 30 (****+)
A particle $P$, of mass $m$, is moving around a fixed origin $O$ under the action of a single force of magnitude $\frac{m k}{r^{2}}$, where $k$ is a positive constant.

This force is always directed along $P O$ towards $O$.

At time $t$ the length $O P$ is $r$ and the angular velocity of $P$ around $O$ is $\frac{d \theta}{d t}$.
a) Show that if $h$ is a positive constant

$$
\frac{d^{2} r}{d t^{2}}-\frac{h^{2}}{r^{3}}=-\frac{k}{r^{2}} .
$$

b) By using the substitution $u=\frac{1}{r}$ show further that

$$
r=\frac{1}{A \cos \theta+B \sin \theta+C}
$$

proof

|  | ACCEGATON in Pones $\underline{a}=\left(\vec{r}-r \theta^{2}\right) \hat{\underline{r}}+\frac{1}{r} d\left(r^{2} \dot{\theta}\right) \hat{\theta}$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| - Tennucorscy ( $\hat{\theta}$ ) | (1) Rtolaly ( $\hat{\underline{I}})$ |
| $\Rightarrow m\left(\frac{1}{r d t}\left(r^{*} \theta\right)\right)=0$ | $\Rightarrow m\left(r-r \dot{\theta}^{2}\right)=-\frac{m k}{r^{2}}$ |
| $\Rightarrow \frac{d}{\frac{d}{x}}\left(r^{\circ} \theta^{\circ}\right)=0$ | $\Rightarrow \ddot{r}-r \dot{\theta}^{2}=-\frac{k}{r^{2}}$ |
| $\Rightarrow r^{2} \dot{\theta}=h \leftarrow$ constixis | $\Rightarrow \ddot{r}-r\left(\frac{h}{r 2}\right)^{2}=-\frac{k}{r^{2}}$ |
| (4nantemountions PreantMAs) | $\Rightarrow \ddot{r}-\frac{h^{2}}{r^{3}}=-\frac{k}{r^{2}}$ |



## Created by T. Madas

## Question 31 (*****)

A particle of mass $m$ is free to move on a smooth horizontal surface. The particle is attached to one end of a light elastic spring of natural length $l$ and modulus of elasticity $\lambda$. The other end of the spring is attached to a fixed point $O$, on the surface.

The particle is held on the surface with the spring at its natural length and then is projected with speed $U$ at right angles to the spring.

Ignoring air resistance and assuming that in standard S.I. units $m=1, l=1,9 \lambda=8$ and $U=2$, determine the range of values of the length of the spring in the subsequent motion.

