

# Lecture 2: Motion of Particles: Normal-Tangential and Polar Coordinates

*Vm240: Introduction to Dynamics and Vibration*

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# Contents

- Describing motion of particles: motion along a curved path
- Main concept: using normal-tangential and polar coordinates
  - Review of some aspects of vectors
  - Circular motion
    - Cartesian Coordinates
    - Normal-Tangential Coordinates
  - Motion along an arbitrary planar path: normal/tangential coordinates
  - Motion along an arbitrary planar path: polar coordinates.



# Vector Operations: A Quick Review

# Quick review of some vector operations

- Dot Product

- Definition:  $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = |\mathbf{a}||\mathbf{b}| \cos \theta$

- Cartesian component form:

- $\mathbf{a} = a_x \mathbf{i} + a_y \mathbf{j} + a_z \mathbf{k}$

- $\mathbf{b} = b_x \mathbf{i} + b_y \mathbf{j} + b_z \mathbf{k}$

- $\Rightarrow \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = a_x b_x + a_y b_y + a_z b_z$

- Useful results:

- Magnitude:  $|\mathbf{a}| = \sqrt{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a}} = \sqrt{a_x^2 + a_y^2 + a_z^2}$

- Unit vector  $\mathbf{n}$  parallel to a vector  $\mathbf{a}$ :  $\mathbf{n} = \frac{\mathbf{a}}{|\mathbf{a}|}$

- Dot products of basis vectors:  $\mathbf{i} \cdot \mathbf{i} = \mathbf{j} \cdot \mathbf{j} = \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{k} = 1 \quad \mathbf{i} \cdot \mathbf{j} = \mathbf{i} \cdot \mathbf{k} = \mathbf{j} \cdot \mathbf{k} = 0$

# Quick review of some vector operations

- Cross Product

- If  $\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}$ , then

- $|\mathbf{c}| = |\mathbf{a}| \times |\mathbf{b}| \sin \theta$

- $\mathbf{c}$  is perpendicular to  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$  with **right hand screw convention**

- Cross products of basis vectors:

- $\mathbf{i} \times \mathbf{i} = \mathbf{j} \times \mathbf{j} = \mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{k} = \mathbf{0}$

- $\mathbf{i} \times \mathbf{j} = -\mathbf{j} \times \mathbf{i} = \mathbf{k}$

- $\mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{i} = -\mathbf{i} \times \mathbf{k} = \mathbf{j}$

- $\mathbf{j} \times \mathbf{k} = -\mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{j} = \mathbf{i}$

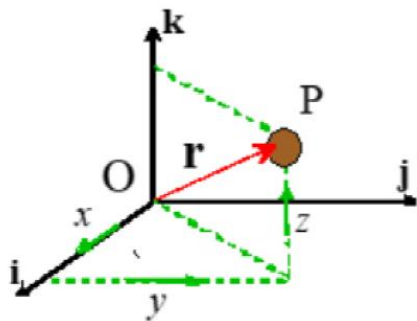
- Cartesian components:

- $\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = (a_y b_z - a_z b_y)\mathbf{i} + (a_z b_x - a_x b_z)\mathbf{j} + (a_x b_y - a_y b_x)\mathbf{k}$

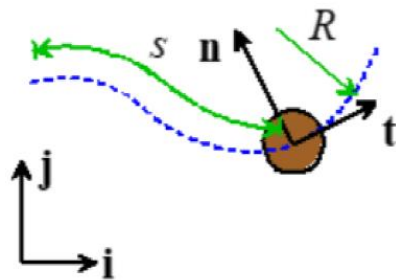
# Basis Vectors and Transformation

# Basis Vectors – Background

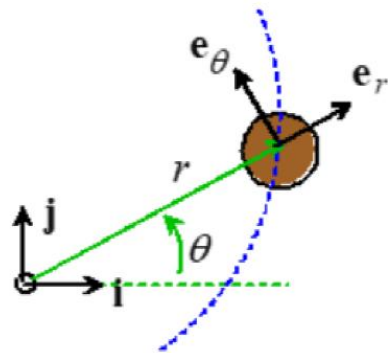
- We use many different coordinate systems in dynamics:



Cartesian





Normal-Tangential



Cylindrical-polar

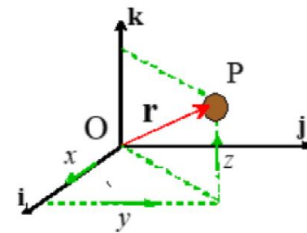
**tangential**  畅通词汇 

英 [tæn'dʒenʃl]   美 [tæn'dʒenʃl]  

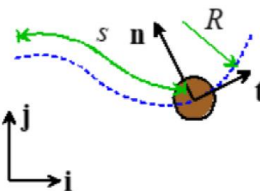
**adj.** 离题的; 肤浅的; 切线的; 相切的

# Basis Vectors – Background

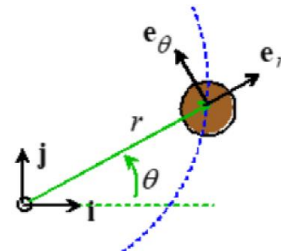
- We need to understand these concepts:
  - Basis vectors
  - Components of a vector in a basis
  - How to transform components from one basis to another?



Cartesian



Normal-Tangential

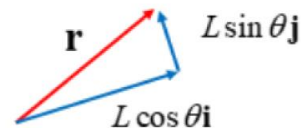
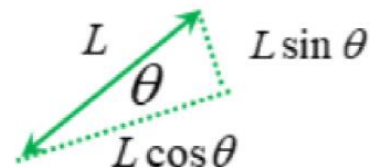
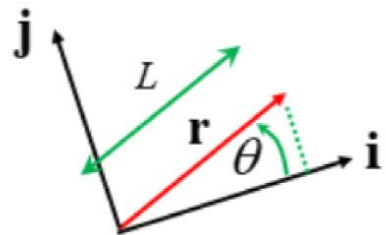


Cylindrical-polar



# Basis Vectors

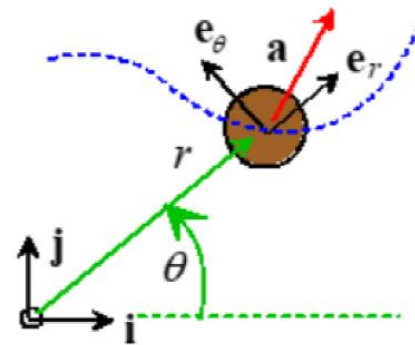
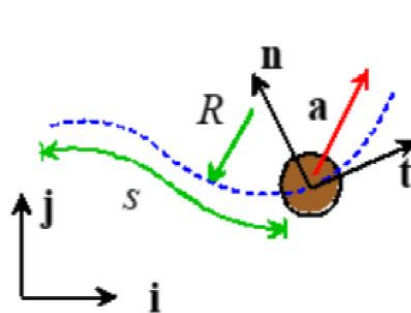
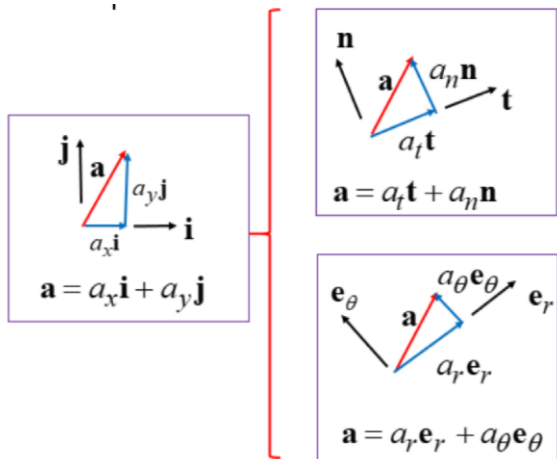
- Definition of a vector basis:
  - Any 3 or (2 in 2D) linearly independent vectors
  - Usually
    - Basis vectors have unit length
    - Basis vectors are mutually perpendicular
    - Example:  $\{\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j}, \mathbf{k}\}$  basis vectors for Cartesian components
  - Vector components (in a basis)
  - Any vector can be created by adding multiples of the basis vectors
  - Example: position vector  $\mathbf{r} = x\mathbf{i} + y\mathbf{j} + z\mathbf{k}$
  - We often do this by projection:



$$\mathbf{r} = L \cos \theta \mathbf{i} + L \sin \theta \mathbf{j}$$

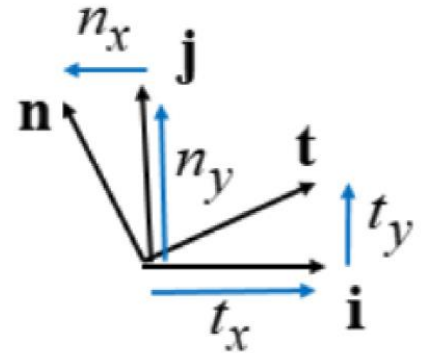
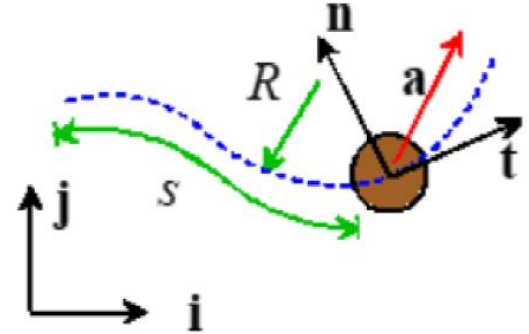
# Basis Transformations

- Using more than one basis:
  - We can express the same vector as components in more than one basis
  - Example:



# Basis transformations

- Converting from one basis to another:
  - Use any trick you can find
  - You can often do the projection directly (use trigonometric)
  - For a formal approach, use this:
  - To convert  $\mathbf{a}$  from  $\{\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j}\}$  to  $\{\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{t}\}$ 
    - **Step 1:** Write  $\{\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{t}\}$  in  $\{\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j}\}$  components
    - $\mathbf{n} = n_x \mathbf{i} + n_y \mathbf{j}$  and  $\mathbf{t} = t_x \mathbf{i} + t_y \mathbf{j}$
    - **Step 2:**  $a_n = \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{a} = n_x a_x + n_y a_y$
    - $a_t = \mathbf{t} \cdot \mathbf{a} = t_x a_x + t_y a_y$



# Basis Transformations- Proof

- Proof:

- $\mathbf{a} = a_n \mathbf{n} + a_t \mathbf{t} = a_x \mathbf{i} + a_y \mathbf{j}$

- $\Rightarrow \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{a} = a_n \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{n} + a_t \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{t} = (n_x \mathbf{i} + n_y \mathbf{j}) \cdot (a_x \mathbf{i} + a_y \mathbf{j})$

- $\Rightarrow a_n = n_x a_x + n_y a_y$

- $\mathbf{t} \cdot \mathbf{a} = a_n \mathbf{t} \cdot \mathbf{n} + a_t \mathbf{t} \cdot \mathbf{t} = (t_x \mathbf{i} + t_y \mathbf{j}) \cdot (a_x \mathbf{i} + a_y \mathbf{j})$

- $\Rightarrow a_t = t_x a_x + t_y a_y$

# Vector Operations in Other Bases

- Use all the usual formulas for magnitude, dot and cross products.

$$\mathbf{a} = a_t \mathbf{t} + a_n \mathbf{n} + a_z \mathbf{k} \quad \mathbf{b} = b_t \mathbf{t} + b_n \mathbf{n} + b_z \mathbf{k}$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = a_t b_t + a_n b_n + a_z b_z$$

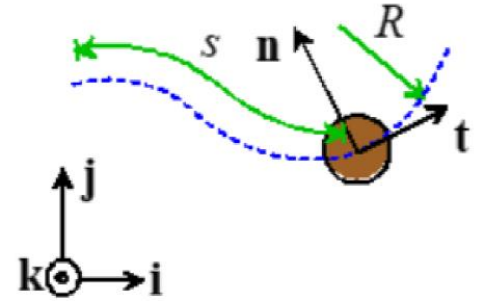
$$|\mathbf{a}| = \sqrt{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a}} = \sqrt{a_t^2 + a_n^2 + a_z^2}$$

$$\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = \pm [(a_n b_z - a_z b_n) \mathbf{t} + (a_z b_t - a_t b_z) \mathbf{n} + (a_t b_n - a_n b_t) \mathbf{k}]$$

$$\mathbf{t} \times \mathbf{t} = \mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{n} = \mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{k} = 0$$

$$\mathbf{t} \times \mathbf{n} = -\mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{t} = \pm \mathbf{k} \quad \mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{t} = -\mathbf{t} \times \mathbf{k} = \pm \mathbf{n} \quad \mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{k} = -\mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{n} = \pm \mathbf{t}$$

Use + if  $\mathbf{n}$  points to left of  $\mathbf{t}$ , use - if  $\mathbf{n}$  points to right of  $\mathbf{t}$



Normal-Tangential

# Vector Operations in Cylindrical-Polar Bases

$$\mathbf{a} = a_r \mathbf{e}_r + a_\theta \mathbf{e}_\theta + a_z \mathbf{k} \quad \mathbf{b} = b_r \mathbf{e}_r + b_\theta \mathbf{e}_\theta + b_z \mathbf{k}$$

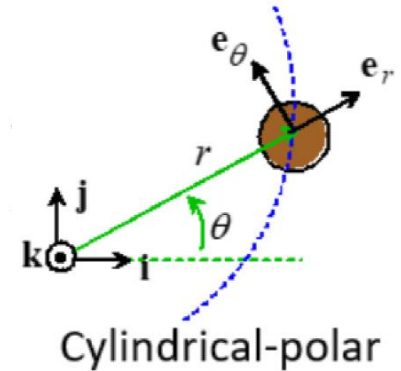
$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = a_r b_r + a_\theta b_\theta + a_z b_z$$

$$|\mathbf{a}| = \sqrt{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a}} = \sqrt{a_r^2 + a_\theta^2 + a_z^2}$$

$$\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = (a_\theta b_z - a_z b_\theta) \mathbf{e}_r + (a_z b_r - a_r b_z) \mathbf{e}_\theta + (a_r b_\theta - a_\theta b_r) \mathbf{k}$$

$$\mathbf{e}_r \times \mathbf{e}_r = \mathbf{e}_\theta \times \mathbf{e}_\theta = \mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{k} = 0$$

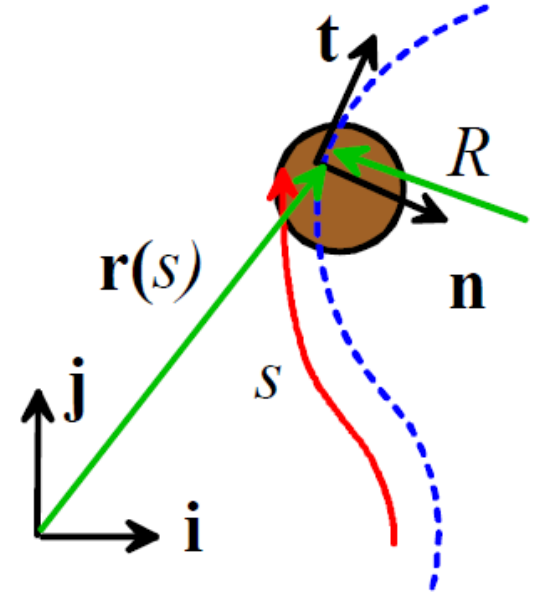
$$\mathbf{e}_r \times \mathbf{e}_\theta = -\mathbf{e}_\theta \times \mathbf{e}_r = \mathbf{k} \quad \mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{e}_r = -\mathbf{e}_r \times \mathbf{k} = \mathbf{e}_\theta \quad \mathbf{e}_\theta \times \mathbf{k} = -\mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{e}_\theta = \mathbf{e}_r$$



# Normal-tangential Coordinates for Particles

# Definition of Normal-Tangential coordinates

- Position vector of a point on the path in terms of the distance  $s$  travelled along the path
  - $\mathbf{r}(s) = x(s)\mathbf{i} + y(s)\mathbf{j}$
- Introducing two unit vectors  $\mathbf{n}$  and  $\mathbf{t}$ , with  $\mathbf{n}$  pointing normal to the path.
- Introduce the radius of curvature of the path  $R$  (given in most cases).





# Deriving the Velocity and Acceleration in n-t Coordinates

- Use the following formulas to calculate speed, velocity and acceleration:

- $\mathbf{v} = V\mathbf{t}$

- $\mathbf{a} = \frac{dV}{dt}\mathbf{t} + \frac{V^2}{R}\mathbf{n} = a_t\mathbf{t} + a_n\mathbf{n}$

Tangential  
acceleration

Normal  
acceleration

- Alternatively, we use formula  $V = \frac{ds}{dt}$  to write velocity and acceleration in terms of distance:

- $\mathbf{v} = \frac{ds}{dt}\mathbf{t}$

- $\mathbf{a} = \frac{dV}{dt}\mathbf{t} + \frac{1}{R}\left(\frac{ds}{dt}\right)^2\mathbf{n}$

# Deriving the n-t Coordinate Formulas

- Formula for the path:

Distance travelled  $s(t)$ ,  $\mathbf{r} = x(s)\mathbf{i} + y(s)\mathbf{j}$

Speed  $V = \frac{ds}{dt}$

Definitions of  $\{\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{t}\}$   $\mathbf{t} = \frac{d\mathbf{r}}{ds}$   $\mathbf{n} = R \frac{d\mathbf{t}}{ds} = R \frac{d^2\mathbf{r}}{ds^2}$

Velocity  $\mathbf{v} = \frac{d\mathbf{r}}{dt} = \frac{d\mathbf{r}}{ds} \frac{ds}{dt} \Rightarrow \mathbf{v} = V\mathbf{t}$

Acceleration  $\mathbf{a} = \frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} = \frac{d(V\mathbf{t})}{dt} = \frac{dV}{dt}\mathbf{t} + V \frac{d\mathbf{t}}{dt} = \frac{dV}{dt}\mathbf{t} + V \frac{d\mathbf{t}}{ds} \frac{ds}{dt}$   
 $\Rightarrow \mathbf{a} = \frac{dV}{dt}\mathbf{t} + \frac{V^2}{R}\mathbf{n}$

## Radius of curvature

$$\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{n} = 1 \Rightarrow R^2 \frac{d^2\mathbf{r}}{ds^2} \cdot \frac{d^2\mathbf{r}}{ds^2} = 1$$

Note:  $\frac{d^2\mathbf{r}}{ds^2} = \frac{d^2x}{ds^2}\mathbf{i} + \frac{d^2y}{ds^2}\mathbf{j}$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{R^2} = \left( \frac{d^2x}{ds^2} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{d^2y}{ds^2} \right)^2$$

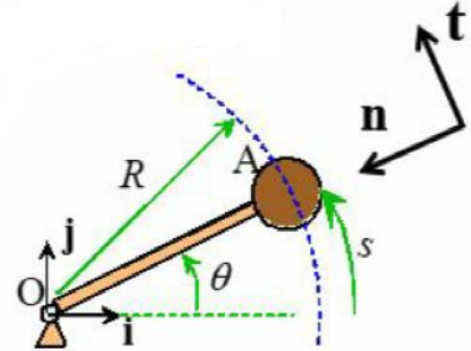
# Example: Circular Motion at Constant Speed

The bar OA rotates with constant angular speed  $\omega$   
Find the speed, velocity and acceleration vectors of A  
(give vectors in both  $\{\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j}\}$  and  $\{\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{t}\}$  bases)

$\mathbf{t}$ : Tangent to path

$\mathbf{n}$ : Normal to path, towards  
center of circle

$\{\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{t}\}$  both unit vectors



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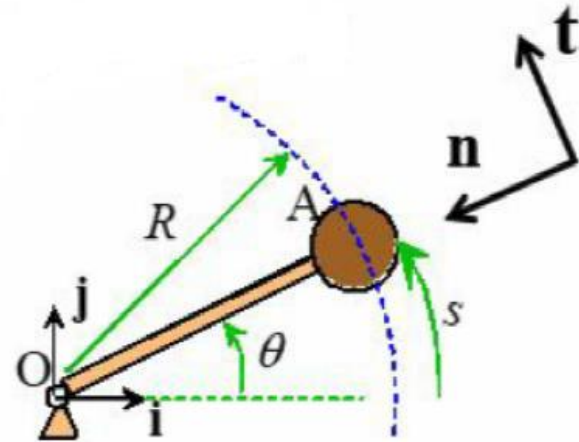
$\{\underline{n}, \underline{t}\}$  both unit vectors

Preliminaries  $\theta = \omega t$   $\omega = \text{constant}$

Geometry  $s = R\theta \Rightarrow s = R\omega t$

Speed  $V = \frac{ds}{dt} = R \frac{d\theta}{dt} \Rightarrow V = R\omega$

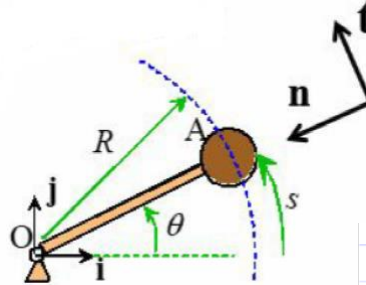
Position  $\underline{r} = R \cos \omega t \underline{i} + R \sin \omega t \underline{j}$



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Position  $\underline{r} = R \cos \omega t \underline{i} + R \sin \omega t \underline{j}$

page 11 Velocity / Accel in Cartesian coords

Given:  $\underline{r} = R \cos \omega t \underline{i} + R \sin \omega t \underline{j}$

Velocity  $\underline{v} = \frac{d\underline{r}}{dt} = -R\omega \sin \omega t \underline{i} + R\omega \cos \omega t \underline{j}$   
 $\Rightarrow \underline{v} = R\omega (-\sin \omega t \underline{i} + \cos \omega t \underline{j})$

Recall  $V = R\omega$

$\Rightarrow \underline{v} = \underbrace{V}_{\text{magnitude}} \underbrace{(-\sin \omega t \underline{i} + \cos \omega t \underline{j})}_{\text{Direction}}$

# Example: Circular Motion at Constant Speed

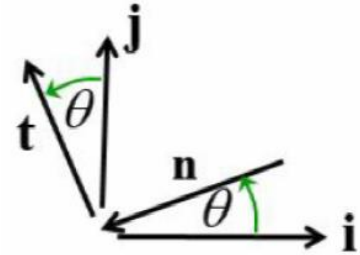
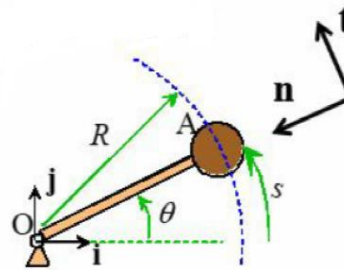
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 $\{\underline{\mathbf{n}}, \underline{\mathbf{t}}\}$  both unit vectors

Velocity/Accel in  $\{\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{t}\}$  coords.

Express  $\{\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{t}\}$  in  $\{\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j}\}$  basis.

Note:  $\{\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{t}\}$  both have unit length.



Substitute in  $\{\underline{\mathbf{i}}, \underline{\mathbf{j}}\}$  component formulas

$$\underline{\mathbf{v}} = R\omega \underline{\mathbf{t}}$$

$$\underline{\mathbf{v}} = V \underline{\mathbf{t}}$$

$$\underline{\mathbf{a}} = R\omega^2 \underline{\mathbf{n}}$$

$$\underline{\mathbf{a}} = V\omega \underline{\mathbf{n}}$$

$$\underline{\mathbf{a}} = (V^2/R) \underline{\mathbf{n}}$$

NB:  $V$  is constant in these formulas

$$\mathbf{a} = \frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} = R\omega \left( -\frac{d\theta}{dt} \cos\theta \mathbf{i} - \frac{d\theta}{dt} \sin\theta \mathbf{j} \right) = -R\omega^2 (\cos\theta \mathbf{i} + \sin\theta \mathbf{j})$$

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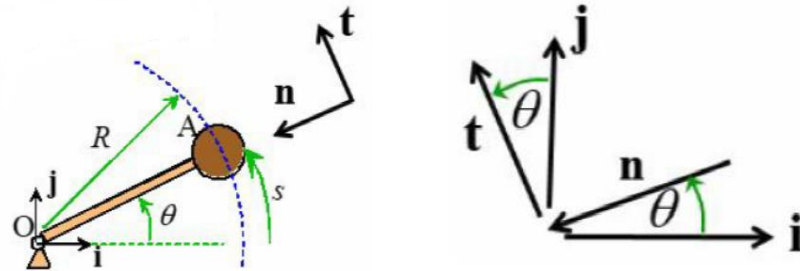
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Velocity/Accel in  $\{\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{t}\}$  coords.

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Interpreting the velocity/accel formulas:

$$\underline{\mathbf{v}} = V \underline{\mathbf{t}}$$

Magnitude of velocity = speed  
Direction is tangent to path

$$\underline{\mathbf{a}} = \frac{V^2}{R} \underline{\mathbf{n}}$$

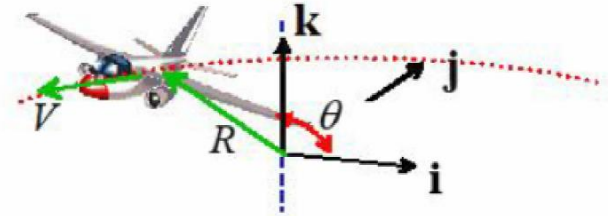
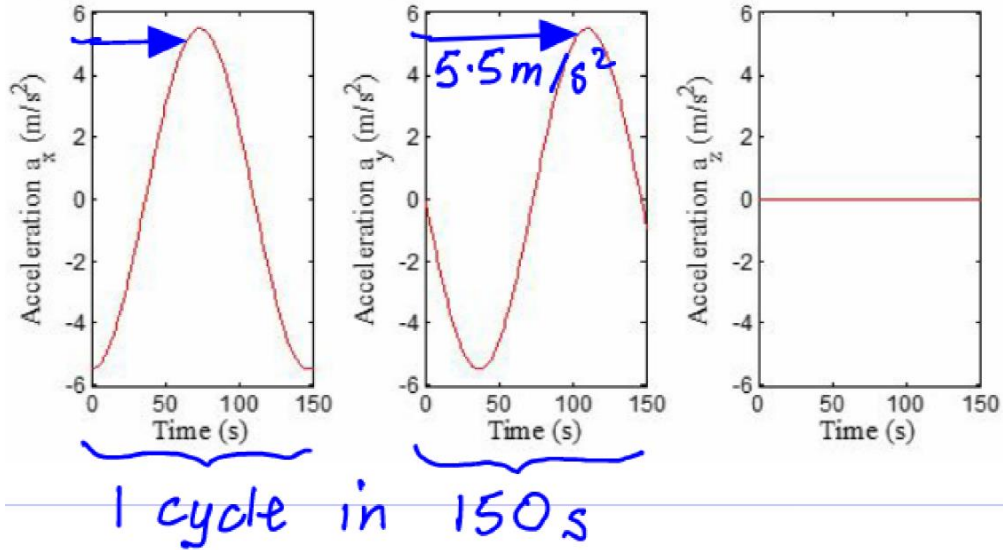
Magnitude of acceleration is  $V^2/R$   
Direction is normal to path, towards  
center of circle

Note:  $\mathbf{a} \neq 0$   
since direction  
of  $\mathbf{v}$  changes



# Example: Interpreting Acceleration Data from an Inertial Platform

An inertial platform (with fixed orientation) records the accelerations shown. Determine:  
(a) The radius of the path; and (b) The aircrafts speed

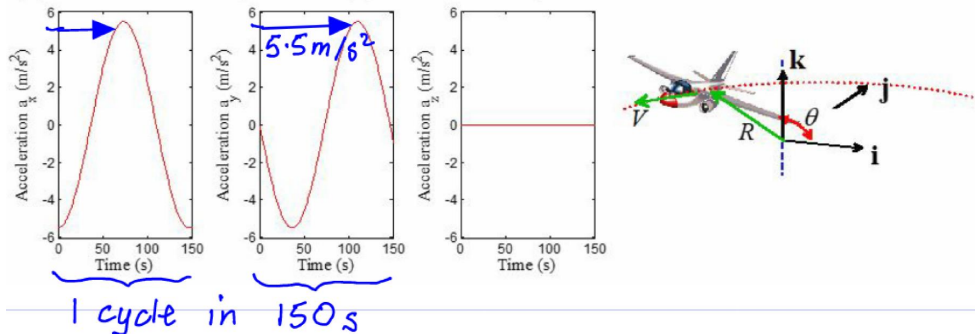




# Example: Interpreting Acceleration Data from an Inertial Platform

An inertial platform (with fixed orientation) records the accelerations shown. Determine:

(a) The radius of the path; and (b) The aircraft's speed



Measurement:  $\underline{a} = -5.5 \cos \frac{2\pi t}{150} \underline{i} - 5.5 \sin \frac{2\pi t}{150} \underline{j}$

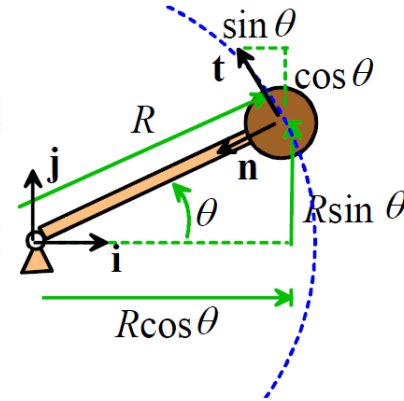
Formula  $\underline{a} = -R\omega^2 \cos \omega t \underline{i} - R\omega^2 \sin \omega t \underline{j}$   $\underline{a} = -R\omega^2 (\cos \theta \underline{i} + \sin \theta \underline{j}) = R\omega^2 \underline{n}$

Compare:  $R\omega^2 = 5.5$   $\omega = 2\pi/150 \Rightarrow R = 5.5 \left( \frac{150}{2\pi} \right)^2$   
 $\Rightarrow R = 3.1 \text{ km}$   $V = R\omega = 129 \text{ m/s}$

# Example Circular Motion at Arbitrary Speed

The angle  $\theta(t)$  is an arbitrary function of time  
Find the speed, velocity and acceleration vectors of A  
(give vectors in both  $\{\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j}\}$  and  $\{\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{t}\}$  bases)

$$\mathbf{t} = -\sin \theta \mathbf{i} + \cos \theta \mathbf{j} \quad \mathbf{n} = -\cos \theta \mathbf{i} - \sin \theta \mathbf{j}$$



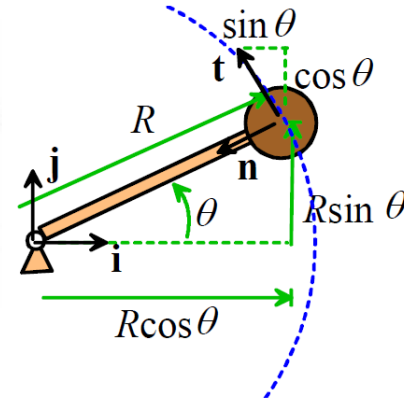
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$$\mathbf{t} = -\sin \theta \mathbf{i} + \cos \theta \mathbf{j} \quad \mathbf{n} = -\cos \theta \mathbf{i} - \sin \theta \mathbf{j}$$

We can write down some useful scalar relations:

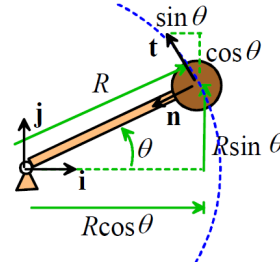
- Angular rate:  $\omega = \frac{d\theta}{dt}$
- Angular acceleration  $\alpha = \frac{d\omega}{dt} = \frac{d^2\theta}{dt^2}$
- Speed  $V = R \frac{d\theta}{dt} = R\omega$
- Rate of change of speed  $\frac{dV}{dt} = R \frac{d^2\theta}{dt^2} = R \frac{d\omega}{dt} = R\alpha$



# Example Circular Motion at Arbitrary Speed

The angle  $\theta(t)$  is an arbitrary function of time  
Find the speed, velocity and acceleration vectors of A  
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We can now calculate vector velocities and accelerations

$$\mathbf{r} = R \cos \theta \mathbf{i} + R \sin \theta \mathbf{j}$$

The velocity can be calculated by differentiating the position vector.

$$\mathbf{v} = \frac{d\mathbf{r}}{dt} = -R \frac{d\theta}{dt} \sin \theta \mathbf{i} + R \frac{d\theta}{dt} \cos \theta \mathbf{j} = R\omega(-\sin \theta \mathbf{i} + \cos \theta \mathbf{j})$$

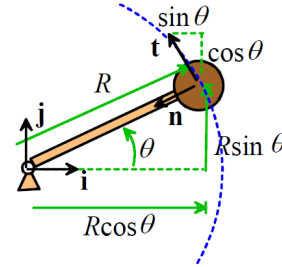
The acceleration vector follows as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{a} &= \frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} = R \frac{d\omega}{dt} (-\sin \theta \mathbf{i} + \cos \theta \mathbf{j}) + R\omega(-\frac{d\theta}{dt} \cos \theta \mathbf{i} - \frac{d\theta}{dt} \sin \theta \mathbf{j}) \\ &= R\alpha(-\sin \theta \mathbf{i} + \cos \theta \mathbf{j}) - R\omega^2(\cos \theta \mathbf{i} + \sin \theta \mathbf{j}) \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbf{v} = R\omega \mathbf{t} = V\mathbf{t} \quad \mathbf{a} = R\alpha \mathbf{t} + R\omega^2 \mathbf{n} = \frac{dV}{dt} \mathbf{t} + \frac{V^2}{R} \mathbf{n}$$

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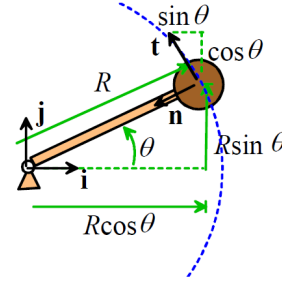
**Velocity and  
Acceleration in  
“n-t” basis**

$$\mathbf{v} = R\omega \mathbf{t} = V \mathbf{t}$$

$$\mathbf{a} = R\alpha \mathbf{t} + R\omega^2 \mathbf{n} = \frac{dV}{dt} \mathbf{t} + \frac{V^2}{R} \mathbf{n}$$

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Define

$$a_t = \frac{dV}{dt} \quad \text{"tangential accel"}$$

$$a_n = \frac{V^2}{R} \quad \text{"normal accel"}$$

$$\text{Then } \underline{a} = \underline{a_t t} + \underline{a_n n}$$

Component  
parallel to  
motion

Component  
perpendicular  
to motion

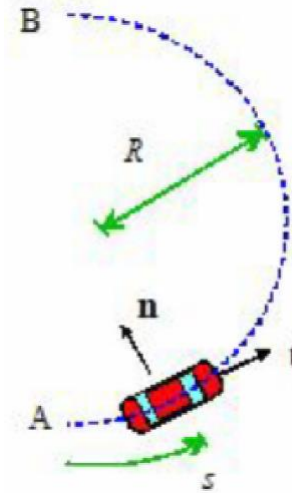
$a_t$ : Represent change in speed

$a_n$ : Represent change in direction

# Example: Vehicle Accelerating Around a Curve

The vehicle starts at rest at A and travels with constant tangential acceleration  $a_t$

Find a formula for the magnitude of the acceleration at B, in terms of  $a_t$



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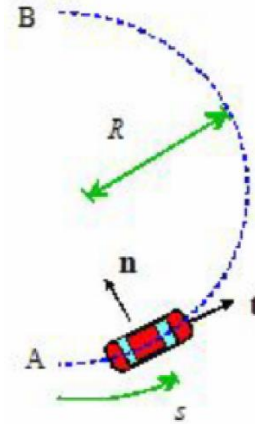
$$\text{Formula: } \underline{a} = a_t \underline{t} + \frac{V^2}{R} \underline{n} \Rightarrow |\underline{a}| = \sqrt{a_t^2 + \left(\frac{V^2}{R}\right)^2}$$

Need to find  $V$ .

$$\text{Recall } a_t = V \frac{dV}{ds} \quad \text{At B } s = \pi R$$

Separate variables

$$\int_0^{V_B} V dV = \int_0^{\pi R} a_t ds \Rightarrow \frac{1}{2} V_B^2 = \pi R a_t$$

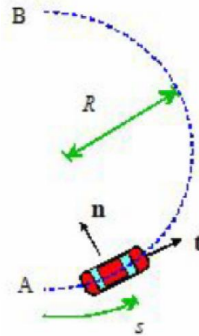




# Example: Vehicle Accelerating Around a Curve

The vehicle starts at rest at A and travels with constant tangential acceleration  $a_t$

Find a formula for the magnitude of the acceleration at B, in terms of  $a_t$



$$\text{Hence } \vec{V}_B = \sqrt{2\pi R a_t} \hat{t}$$

Substitute into formula for  $|\underline{a}|$

$$|\underline{a}| = \sqrt{a_t^2 + \left(\frac{V_B^2}{R}\right)^2} = \sqrt{a_t^2 + \frac{(2\pi R a_t)^2}{R^2}}$$

$$\Rightarrow |\underline{a}| = a_t \sqrt{1 + 4\pi^2}$$

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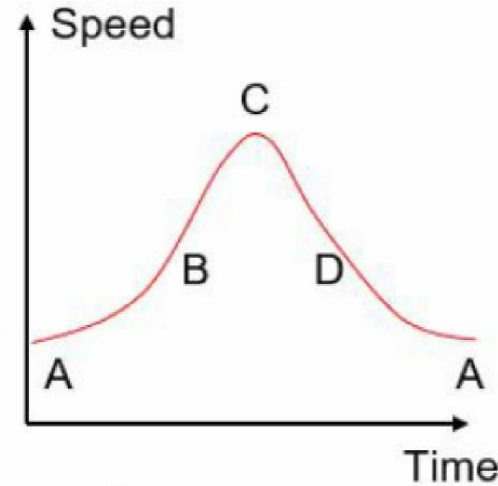
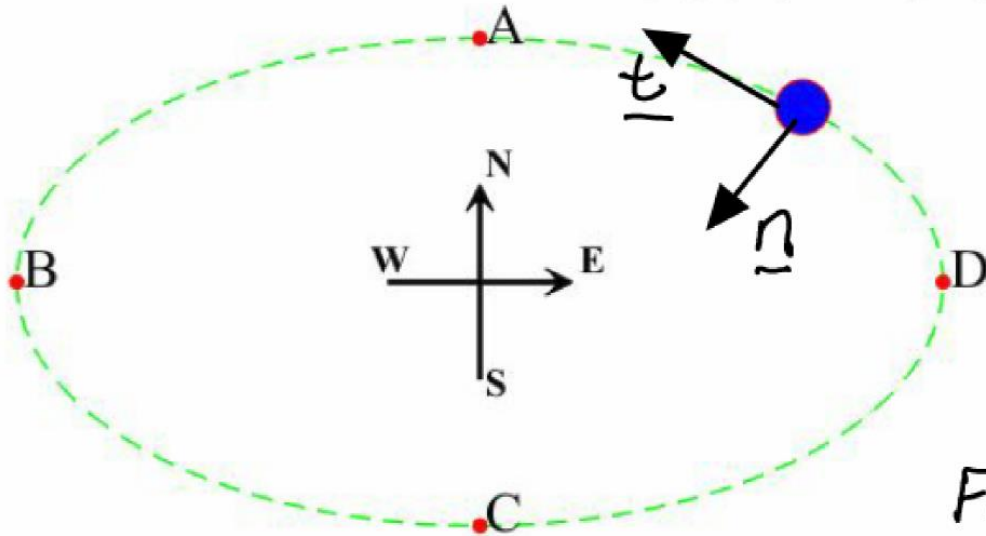
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# Example: Motion Along an Arbitrary Planar Path using n-t Coordinates

## Concept question

Give the direction of the acceleration at A,B,C,D (on compass)

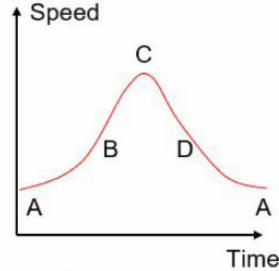
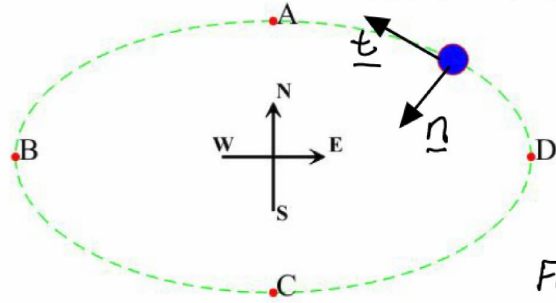


$$\text{Formula } \underline{a} = \frac{dV}{dt} \underline{t} + \frac{V^2}{R} \underline{n}$$

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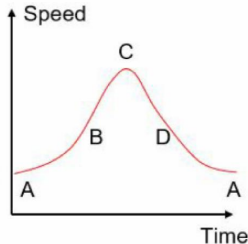
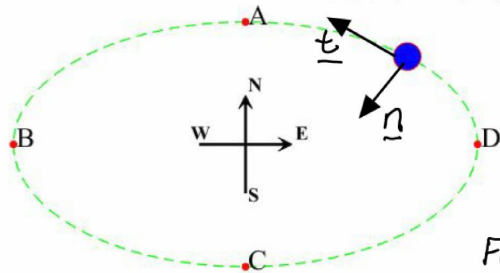
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At A:  $\dot{V}$  is min  $\Rightarrow dV/dt = 0$   
 $\Rightarrow \underline{a}$  is South

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Give the direction of the acceleration at A,B,C,D (on compass)



Formula  $\underline{a} = \frac{dV}{dt} \underline{t} + \frac{V^2}{R} \underline{n}$

At B  $dV/dt > 0$   $\underline{a}_t$   $\Rightarrow \underline{a}$  is SE

At C  $dV/dt = 0$   $\Rightarrow \underline{a}$  is North

At D  $dV/dt < 0$   $\underline{a}_n$   $\Rightarrow \underline{a}$  is SW

page 23

At A:  $\dot{V}$  is min  $\Rightarrow dV/dt = 0$   
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# Analyzing Motion using Polar and Cylindrical Coordinates

# Analyzing motion using polar coords

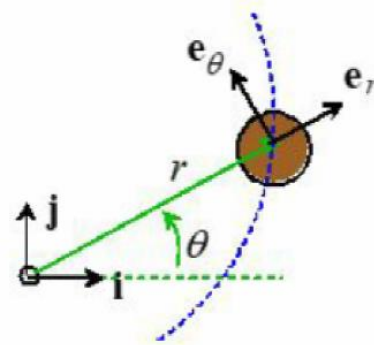
Problem: Given  $r(t)$ ,  $\theta(t)$   
Find  $\underline{r}$ ,  $\underline{v}$ ,  $\underline{a}$   
in  $\{\underline{e}_r, \underline{e}_\theta, \underline{k}\}$

Position  $\underline{r} = r(t) \underline{e}_r$

Velocity  $\underline{v} = \frac{dr}{dt} \underline{e}_r + r \frac{d\theta}{dt} \underline{e}_\theta$

Acceleration

$$\underline{a} = \left\{ \frac{d^2r}{dt^2} - r \left( \frac{d\theta}{dt} \right)^2 \right\} \underline{e}_r + \left\{ r \frac{d^2\theta}{dt^2} + 2 \frac{dr}{dt} \frac{d\theta}{dt} \right\} \underline{e}_\theta$$



$$r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$$
$$\theta = \tan^{-1}(y/x)$$

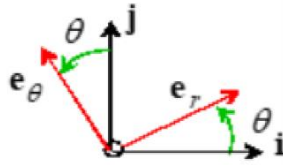
$$x = r \cos \theta$$
$$y = r \sin \theta$$

# Deriving the Polar Coordinate Formulas

## Time derivatives of $\{\mathbf{e}_r, \mathbf{e}_\theta\}$

$$\mathbf{e}_r = \cos \theta \mathbf{i} + \sin \theta \mathbf{j}$$

$$\mathbf{e}_\theta = -\sin \theta \mathbf{i} + \cos \theta \mathbf{j}$$



$$\frac{d\mathbf{e}_r}{dt} = -\frac{d\theta}{dt} \sin \theta \mathbf{i} + \frac{d\theta}{dt} \cos \theta \mathbf{j} = \frac{d\theta}{dt} \mathbf{e}_\theta$$

$$\frac{d\mathbf{e}_\theta}{dt} = -\frac{d\theta}{dt} \cos \theta \mathbf{i} - \frac{d\theta}{dt} \sin \theta \mathbf{j} = -\frac{d\theta}{dt} \mathbf{e}_r$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{a} = \frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} &= \frac{d^2 r}{dt^2} \mathbf{e}_r + \frac{dr}{dt} \frac{d\mathbf{e}_r}{dt} + \frac{dr}{dt} \frac{d\theta}{dt} \mathbf{e}_\theta + r \frac{d^2 \theta}{dt^2} \mathbf{e}_\theta + r \frac{d\theta}{dt} \frac{d\mathbf{e}_\theta}{dt} \\ &= \frac{d^2 r}{dt^2} \mathbf{e}_r + \frac{dr}{dt} \frac{d\theta}{dt} \mathbf{e}_\theta + \frac{dr}{dt} \frac{d\theta}{dt} \mathbf{e}_\theta + r \frac{d^2 \theta}{dt^2} \mathbf{e}_\theta - r \left( \frac{d\theta}{dt} \right)^2 \mathbf{e}_r \\ &= \left\{ \frac{d^2 r}{dt^2} - r \left( \frac{d\theta}{dt} \right)^2 \right\} \mathbf{e}_r + \left\{ r \frac{d^2 \theta}{dt^2} + 2 \frac{dr}{dt} \frac{d\theta}{dt} \right\} \mathbf{e}_\theta \end{aligned}$$

## Position

$$\mathbf{r} = r(t) \mathbf{e}_r(t)$$

## Velocity

$$\mathbf{v} = \frac{d\mathbf{r}}{dt} = \frac{dr}{dt} \mathbf{e}_r + r \frac{d\mathbf{e}_r}{dt} = \frac{dr}{dt} \mathbf{e}_r + r \frac{d\theta}{dt} \mathbf{e}_\theta$$

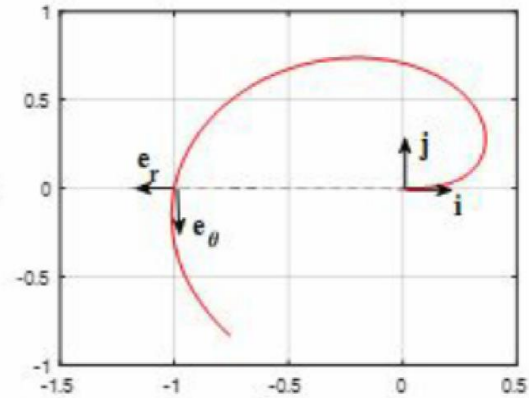
# Example:

**2.16 Example:** The particle has polar coordinates

$$\theta = t^2 \quad r = t / \sqrt{\pi}$$

At the instant when  $\theta = \pi$  calculate

- (i) the position, velocity and acceleration vectors in the polar basis  $\mathbf{e}_r, \mathbf{e}_\theta$
- (ii) The normal and tangential components of acceleration





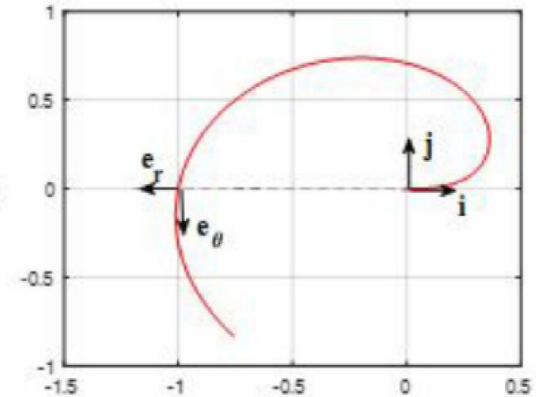
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Preliminaries: Note  $t = \sqrt{\theta} \Rightarrow$  when  $\theta = \pi$   $t = \sqrt{\pi}$

$$dr/dt = 1/\sqrt{\pi} \quad d^2r/dt^2 = 0 \quad d\theta/dt = 2t \quad d^2\theta/dt^2 = 2$$

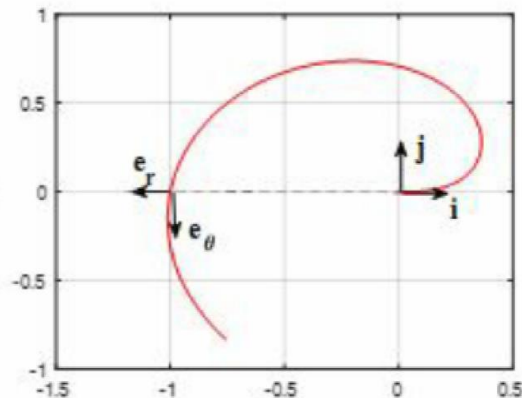
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Velocity  $\underline{V} = dr/dt \underline{e}_r + r d\theta/dt \underline{e}_\theta$

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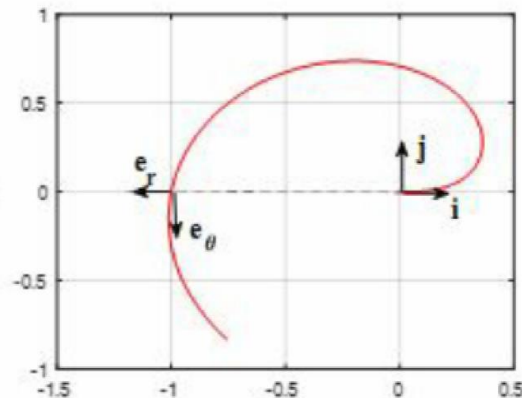
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page 32

Acceleration

$$\underline{a} = \left\{ \frac{d^2r}{dt^2} - r \left( \frac{d\theta}{dt} \right)^2 \right\} \underline{e}_r + \left\{ r \frac{d^2\theta}{dt^2} + 2 \frac{dr}{dt} \frac{d\theta}{dt} \right\} \underline{e}_\theta$$

$$\underline{a} = (0 - 1 \times (2\sqrt{\pi})^2) \underline{e}_r + (1 \times 2 + 2 \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} 2\sqrt{\pi}) \underline{e}_\theta$$

$$\underline{a} = 4\pi \underline{e}_r + 6 \underline{e}_\theta$$

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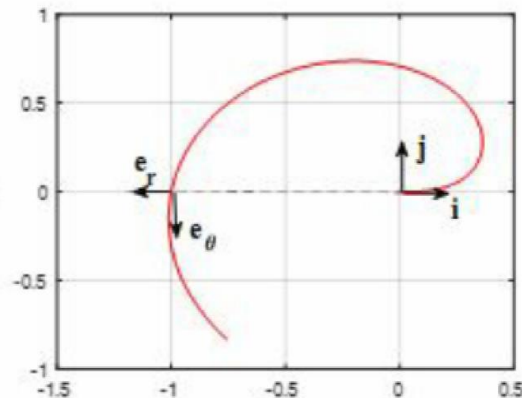
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n, t components

(1) Find  $\{\underline{n}, \underline{t}\}$  in  $\{\underline{e}_r, \underline{e}_\theta\}$

(2) Use  $a_t = \underline{t} \cdot \underline{a}$      $a_n = \underline{n} \cdot \underline{a}$



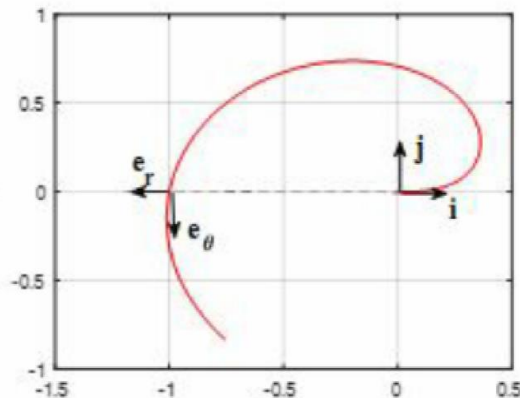
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$\underline{n}, \underline{t}$  components

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(2) Use  $\underline{a}_t = \underline{t} \cdot \underline{a}$      $\underline{a}_n = \underline{n} \cdot \underline{a}$

Recall  $\underline{v} = V \underline{t} \Rightarrow \underline{t} = \underline{v} / V$   
and  $V = \text{speed} = |\underline{v}|$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \underline{t} &= \frac{(\frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}})\underline{e}_r + 2\sqrt{\pi}\underline{e}_\theta}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{\pi} + 4\pi}} \\ &= (\underline{e}_r + 2\pi\underline{e}_\theta) / \sqrt{1 + 4\pi^2} \end{aligned}$$

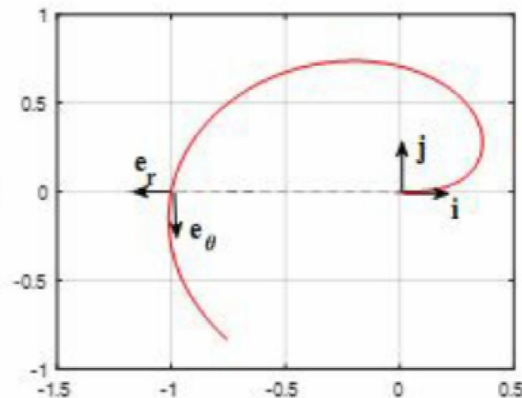
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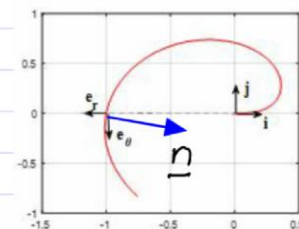
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$$= (\underline{e}_r + 2\pi\underline{e}_\theta) / \sqrt{1 + 4\pi^2}$$

$\underline{n}$  is perpendicular to  $\underline{t}$  and  $\underline{k}$   
 $\Rightarrow \underline{n} = \pm \underline{k} \times \underline{t}$

Choose sign so  $\underline{n}$  has negative  $\underline{e}_r$  component



page 33

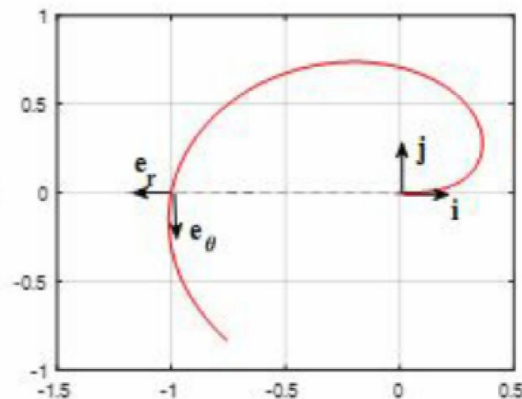
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$$\text{Finally } \underline{a}_t = \underline{a} \cdot \underline{t} = (-4\pi \underline{e}_r + 6\underline{e}_\theta) \cdot \frac{(\underline{e}_r + 2\pi \underline{e}_\theta)}{\sqrt{1+4\pi^2}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{a}_t = \frac{(-4\pi + 12\pi)}{\sqrt{1+4\pi^2}} = \frac{8\pi}{\sqrt{1+4\pi^2}}$$

$$\underline{a}_n = \underline{a} \cdot \underline{n} = \frac{(8\pi^2 + 6)}{\sqrt{1+4\pi^2}}$$

# Summary

- Describing motion of particles: motion along a curved path
- Main concept: using normal-tangential and polar coordinates
  - Review of some aspects of vectors
  - Circular motion
    - Cartesian Coordinates
    - Normal-Tangential Coordinates
  - Motion along an arbitrary planar path: normal/tangential coordinates
  - Motion along an arbitrary planar path: polar coordinates