

4 Types of Questions to expect :

- ① Derive  $\vec{v}$  and  $\vec{a}$  in polar coordinates
  - ② "Inverse Newton's Laws"  $\longrightarrow$  From the motion, find the force (or torque, etc.)
  - ③ Work and potential energy for radial forces
  - ④ Conservation of angular momentum
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## ① $\vec{v}$ and $\vec{a}$ in polar coordinates

Can start by assuming only 3 things :

①  $\vec{r} = r \hat{c}_r$

②  $\hat{c}_r = \cos\theta \hat{c}_x + \sin\theta \hat{c}_y$

③  $\hat{c}_\theta = -\sin\theta \hat{c}_x + \cos\theta \hat{c}_y$

Must derive  $\frac{d}{dt}(\hat{c}_r) = \frac{d\theta}{dt} \hat{c}_\theta$  and

$$\frac{d}{dt}(\hat{c}_\theta) = -\frac{d\theta}{dt} \hat{c}_r$$

using the derivative chain rule.

From those two relations, calculate

(2)

$$\vec{v} = \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt}(r\hat{i}_r) = \dots \quad \text{and}$$

$$\vec{a} = \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt}\left(\frac{dr}{dt}\hat{i}_r + r\frac{d\theta}{dt}\hat{i}_\theta\right) = \dots$$

using the derivative product rule.

⊛ Be sure not to skip steps!

## ② "Inverse Newton's Laws"

Ask yourself: "Am I given the motion?"

This means either  $\{r(t), \theta(t)\}$  or  
 $\{r(t), \omega(t)\}$  or  
 $\{r(t), \alpha(t)\}$ .

From any one of those combinations, you can compute everything that enters into the definitions of

$$\vec{v} = \frac{dr}{dt}\hat{i}_r + r\frac{d\theta}{dt}\hat{i}_\theta \quad \text{and}$$

$$\vec{a} = \left(\frac{d^2r}{dt^2} - r\omega^2\right)\hat{i}_r + \left(r\alpha + 2\omega\frac{dr}{dt}\right)\hat{i}_\theta.$$

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You might need to use

$$\omega(t) = \int \alpha(t) dt \text{ and}$$

$$\theta(t) = \int \omega(t) dt.$$

Once  $\vec{v}$  and  $\vec{a}$  are known, you can compute many quantities:

$$\vec{F}_{\text{total}} = m\vec{a}$$

$$\vec{\tau} = \vec{r} \times \vec{F} = \vec{r} \times (m\vec{a})$$

$$= m(r\hat{r}) \times (a_r\hat{r} + a_\theta\hat{\theta}) = mr a_\theta [\hat{r} \times \hat{\theta}]$$

$$\vec{L} = \vec{r} \times \vec{p} = \vec{r} \times (m\vec{v})$$

$$= m(r\hat{r}) \times (v_r\hat{r} + v_\theta\hat{\theta}) = mr v_\theta [\hat{r} \times \hat{\theta}]$$

$$= mr^2 \omega [\hat{r} \times \hat{\theta}]$$

⊛ In many cases, you will need to relate the total force you get from  $\vec{F}_{\text{total}} = m\vec{a}$  to an underlying fundamental force (e.g., gravity, friction, etc.).

(4)

(i) Friction is responsible for cars making turns, for boxes staying on conveyor belts, etc.

(ii) Tension in a string might be responsible for the motion of a swinging object.

(iii) Gravity underlying cause of a satellite's motion, moon's orbit around Earth, etc.

Once you have identified physical force causing an object's motion, just equate it to

$$\vec{F}_{\text{total}} = m\vec{a} = m \left( \frac{d^2r}{dt^2} - r\omega^2 \right) \hat{i}_r + m \left( r\alpha + 2\omega \frac{dr}{dt} \right) \hat{i}_\theta.$$

(\*) Important point: If you are given  $r(t)$

but **nothing about  $\omega(t)$** , you might need to use angular momentum conservation (see below) to determine  $\omega(t)$ .

### ③ Work and potential energy

Compute work done by a force as

$$W = \int \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = \int \vec{F} \cdot (dr \hat{i}_r + r d\theta \hat{i}_\theta)$$

If  $\vec{F}(r) = F(r) \hat{i}_r$ , then  $\vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} = F(r) dr$

(since  $\hat{i}_r \cdot \hat{i}_\theta = 0$ )

and 
$$W = \int_{r_1}^{r_2} F(r) dr$$

Likewise, the potential energy is

$$U = - \int F(r) dr$$

### ④ Conservation of angular momentum

Two types of angular momentum:

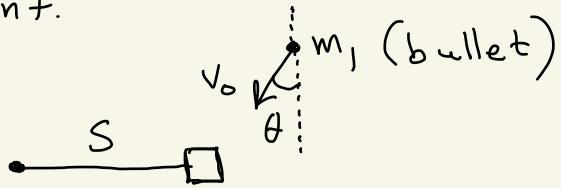
(i) point particle :  $\vec{L} = \vec{r} \times \vec{p}$

object's position vector

object's momentum vector

(\*) Note that a freely-moving particle has constant  $\vec{L}$ , so calculate  $\vec{r} \times \vec{p}$  anywhere it is most convenient. (6)

Example:



$\vec{L}_1 = \vec{r} \times \vec{p}$  just before impact is

$\vec{L}_1 = s(m_1 v_0) \sin(90^\circ + \theta) \otimes$  into page

(ii) Rigid body angular momentum:

$\vec{L} = I \omega$  (curl fingers in direction of  $\omega$ , then thumb points in direction of  $\vec{L}$ )

Note that for a point mass,  $I = mr^2$

If you have multiple objects, the total moment of inertia is just the sum

$$I = I_1 + I_2 + \dots$$

Conservation of angular momentum is  
often used to find  $\omega(t)$  :

⑦

$$I_0 \omega_0 = I(t) \omega(t)$$

↑  
Changing moment of inertia causes  
changing angular velocity  
(figure skater).