

13.1, number 37e: The position vector of a particle at time t is given by $\vec{r}(t) = \cos(t^2) \vec{i} + \sin(t^2) \vec{j}$, for $0 \leq t$. (Of course the particle moves on the circle $x^2 + y^2 = 1$.)

- i) Does the particle have a constant speed? If so, what is it?
- ii) Is the particle's acceleration always orthogonal to its velocity vector?
- iii) Does the particle move clock-wise or counterclockwise around the circle?
- iv) Is the particle initially located at the point $(1, 0)$?

Answer:

We calculate

$$\vec{v}(t) = -2t \sin(t^2) \vec{i} + 2t \cos(t^2) \vec{j}$$

$$\vec{a}(t) = (-4t^2 \cos(t^2) - 2 \sin(t^2)) \vec{i} + (-4t^2 \sin(t^2) + 2 \cos(t^2)) \vec{j}$$

The speed of the object is

$$\begin{aligned} |\vec{v}(t)| &= | -2t \sin(t^2) \vec{i} + 2t \cos(t^2) \vec{j} | = \sqrt{4t^2 \sin^2(t^2) + 4t^2 \cos^2(t^2)} \\ &= 2t \sqrt{\sin^2(t^2) + \cos^2(t^2)} = 2t. \end{aligned}$$

(a) The object does NOT have constant speed.

The dot product of acceleration and velocity is

$$\begin{aligned} &((-4t^2 \cos(t^2) - 2 \sin(t^2)) \vec{i} + (-4t^2 \sin(t^2) + 2 \cos(t^2)) \vec{j}) \cdot (-2t \sin(t^2) \vec{i} + 2t \cos(t^2) \vec{j}) \\ &= (-4t^2 \cos(t^2) - 2 \sin(t^2))(-2t \sin(t^2)) + (-4t^2 \sin(t^2) + 2 \cos(t^2))2t \cos(t^2) \\ &= 8t^3 \cos(t^2) \sin(t^2) + 4t \sin^2(t^2) - 8t^3 \sin(t^2) \cos(t^2) + 4t \cos^2(t^2) \\ &= 4t \sin^2(t^2) + 4t \cos^2(t^2) = 4t(\sin^2 t + \cos^2 t) = 4t. \end{aligned}$$

Observe that $4t$ is not zero, Conclude that

(b) acceleration and velocity are NOT perpendicular.

(d) The position of the object at $t = 0$ is $(1, 0)$.

The velocity at time 0 of the object is $\vec{v}(0) = 2\vec{j}$. The object starts at $(1, 0)$ and is moving straight up.

(c) The object is moving ccw.