

11.

Simple harmonic motion

- Revision of rectilinear motion
- A particular type of rectilinear motion: Simple harmonic motion
- Solving the differential equation $\ddot{x} = -k^2x$
- Miscellaneous exercise eleven

EXAMPLE 2

A particle travels along a straight line with its velocity at time t seconds given by v m/s where $v = 6t^2 - 3$.

The initial displacement of the particle from a point O on the line is 5 metres.
Find the displacement of the particle from O when $t = 5$.

Solution

$$\begin{aligned}x &= \int v \, dt = \int (6t^2 - 3) \, dt \\ &= 2t^3 - 3t + c\end{aligned}$$

We know that initially, i.e. when $t = 0$, $x = 5$.

$$\therefore 5 = 2(0)^3 - 3(0) + c \quad \text{i.e. } c = 5.$$

$$\text{Thus } x = 2t^3 - 3t + 5 \quad \therefore \text{When } t = 5, x = 240.$$

When $t = 5$ the displacement from O is 240 metres.

The previous two examples involved functions given in terms of t , the time. This may not always be the case. We could, for example, be given the velocity, v , in terms of the displacement, x , (as we saw in chapter 8). The next examples involve such situations, but first note the following useful rearrangement.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Acceleration} &= \frac{dv}{dt} \\ &= \frac{dv}{dx} \frac{dx}{dt}. \quad \text{But } \frac{dx}{dt} = v.\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Hence, acceleration} = v \frac{dv}{dx}. \quad \text{This could also be written as } \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{1}{2} v^2 \right).$$

In the examples that follow assume that x m, v m/s and a m/s² represent displacement, velocity and acceleration respectively.

EXAMPLE 3

If $v = 3x$ find the acceleration when $x = 2$.

Solution

$$\begin{aligned}a &= \frac{dv}{dt} = \frac{dv}{dx} \frac{dx}{dt} \\ &= v \frac{dv}{dx} \\ &= (3x)(3) \\ &= 9x\end{aligned}$$

Thus when $x = 2$, $a = 18$. When $x = 2$ the acceleration is 18 m/s².

Repeat the previous example but instead write $\frac{dx}{dt} = 3x$, integrate using separation of variables to find an expression for x and then differentiate twice to find the acceleration.

2 $a = \frac{6t(t+1)^2}{5}$. Find the velocity when $t = 0$ given that when $t = 1$, $v = 2$ m/s.

3 If $x = 5 + 2 \cos t$ find **a** the velocity when $t = \frac{\pi}{6}$, **b** the acceleration when $t = \frac{\pi}{2}$.

4 If $v = 4 \sin 2t$ find **a** the acceleration when $t = \frac{\pi}{6}$,
b the displacement when $t = \frac{\pi}{2}$ given that for $t = 0$, $x = 3$.

5 If $a = 4 \sin t \cos t$ and when $t = 0$, the displacement is 5 m and the velocity is 3 m/s, find
a the velocity when $t = \frac{\pi}{3}$, **b** the displacement when $t = \frac{\pi}{3}$.

6 If $v = 5 + x^2$ find the acceleration when $x = 1$.

7 If $a = 3x^2 + 1$ and when $x = 0$, $v = 2$, find the velocity, $v > 0$, when $x = 3$.

8 If $a = v^2$, $v > 0$, and when $t = 2$, $x = 0$ and $v = 0.1$, find
a v when $t = 10$, **b** v when $x = 2$.

9 The displacement of a body from an origin O, at time t seconds, is x metres, where

$$x = \frac{t+1}{2t+3}, \quad t \geq 0.$$

Find **a** expressions for the velocity and acceleration of the body in terms of t ,
b the displacement, velocity and acceleration of the body when $t = 1$.

10 An object projected vertically upwards from a point above ground level is h metres above ground level t seconds later, where $h = 42 + 29t - 5t^2$ ($t \geq 0$). For what value of t , and at what speed, does the object hit the ground?

11 A particle is initially at an origin O. It is projected away from O and moves in a straight line such that its displacement from O, t seconds later, is x metres, where

$$x = t(16 - t).$$

Find **a** the speed of the particle when $t = 20$,
b the value of t when the particle comes to rest and the distance from the origin at that time,
c the distance the particle travels from $t = 1$ to $t = 5$,
d the distance the particle travels from $t = 5$ to $t = 10$.

12 A body is initially at an origin, O. At that instant the velocity of the body is 35 m/s. The acceleration, t seconds later, is $6(t - 4)$ m/s². Find the velocity of the body when it is **next** at O.

13 A particle passes through an origin O at time $t = 0$ and travels along a straight line such that its velocity t seconds later, is v m/s where

$$v = 2 \sin 2t$$

Determine **a** the maximum velocity of the particle during the motion,
b an expression for the acceleration of the particle at time t ,
c the maximum acceleration of the particle during the motion,
d an expression for the displacement of the particle at time t ,
e the maximum displacement of the particle during the motion.

Solving the differential equation $\ddot{x} = -k^2x$

As we have already seen in the previous chapter:

- Any equation that involves one or more derivatives, e.g. $\frac{dy}{dx}$, $\frac{dp}{dt}$, $\frac{d^2x}{dt^2}$, etc, is called a **differential equation**.
- To *solve* a differential equation we must find a relationship between the variables involved, that satisfies the differential equation, but that does not contain any derivatives.

Thus, to solve $\ddot{x} = -k^2x$ we need to find a relationship between x and t , not involving derivatives.

From $\ddot{x} = -k^2x$
it follows that $\frac{dv}{dt} = -k^2x$.

Hence, by the chain rule $\frac{dv}{dx} \frac{dx}{dt} = -k^2x$.

But $\frac{dx}{dt} = v$ and so $v \frac{dv}{dx} = -k^2x$.

Separating the variables $\int v dv = -\int k^2x dx$
 $\frac{v^2}{2} = -\frac{k^2x^2}{2} + c$

But if 'a' is the amplitude then when $x = a$, $v = 0$.

Hence $0 = -\frac{k^2a^2}{2} + c$

i.e. $c = \frac{k^2a^2}{2}$

Thus $v^2 = k^2(a^2 - x^2)$

where a is the amplitude of the motion.

Taking the positive square root $v = k\sqrt{a^2 - x^2}$

i.e. $\frac{dx}{dt} = k\sqrt{a^2 - x^2}$

Separating the variables $\int \frac{dx}{\sqrt{a^2 - x^2}} = \int k dt$

Using the substitution $x = a \sin u$, from which $\frac{dx}{du} = a \cos u$,

$$\int 1 du = \int k dt$$

i.e. $u = kt + \alpha$ (α is the integration const.)

$\therefore x = a \sin(kt + \alpha)$

From earlier work involving trigonometric functions we know that many trigonometrical expressions can be written in other ways.

For example we can write $\sin \theta$ as $\cos\left(\theta - \frac{\pi}{2}\right)$,

we can write $\sin(\theta + \alpha)$ as $\sin \theta \cos \alpha + \cos \theta \sin \alpha$ etc.

Hence it may come as no surprise that $x = a \sin(kt + \alpha)$ is not the only way of expressing the solution to $\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = -k^2x$.

Show that $x = a \cos(kt + \beta)$
 and $x = C \cos kt + D \sin kt$
 each satisfy the equation $\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = -k^2x$.

Note: Earlier, when solving we obtained the equation

$$\ddot{x} = -k^2x$$

$$v^2 = k^2(a^2 - x^2).$$

Then 'taking the positive square root', i.e.

$$v = k\sqrt{a^2 - x^2}$$

we wrote this as

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = k\sqrt{a^2 - x^2}$$

separated the variables and integrated using the substitution

$$x = a \sin u.$$

Repeat this process but instead use the negative square root, separate the variables and integrate using the substitution

$$x = a \cos u.$$

EXAMPLE 6

Determine the period of the simple harmonic motion defined by the equation

$$\ddot{x} = -16x.$$

Solution

Comparing $\ddot{x} = -16x$ with $\ddot{x} = -k^2x$ gives $k = 4$.

Using $T = \frac{2\pi}{k}$ $T = \frac{2\pi}{4}$
 $= \frac{\pi}{2}$.

The period of the simple harmonic motion is $\frac{\pi}{2}$ seconds.

EXAMPLE 8

A body moves with SHM about some mean position O. The amplitude of the motion is 0.5 metres, the period is 2π seconds and when $t = 0$ the body is at O.

- Find
- a the two possible expressions of the form $x = a \sin(kt)$ for the displacement of the body from O at time t ,
 - b the speed of the body when $t = \frac{\pi}{3}$.

Solution

- a The amplitude is 0.5 m and when $t = 0$ the body is at O.

Therefore $x = \pm 0.5 \sin kt$

(The \pm is necessary because at $t = 0$ motion may be to the right or to the left. We are not told whether the displacement is positive or negative for small positive t .)

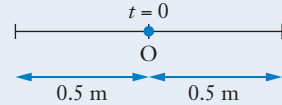
The period is 2π , therefore $\frac{2\pi}{k} = \pi$ giving $k = 1$.

The displacement of the body from O at time t is x m where $x = \pm 0.5 \sin t$.

- b If $x = \pm 0.5 \sin t$ then $\dot{x} = \pm 0.5 \cos t$

When $t = \frac{\pi}{3}$ $\dot{x} = \pm 0.25$

When $t = \frac{\pi}{3}$ the body has speed 0.25 m/s.



EXAMPLE 9

A body moves with SHM about some mean position O. The amplitude of the motion is 2 metres, the period is $\frac{\pi}{5}$ seconds and when $t = 0$ the displacement of the body from O is 1 metre and the velocity is positive.

- Find
- a an expression for the displacement of the body from O at time t , giving your answer in the form $x = a \sin(kt + \alpha)$ for $0 \leq \alpha \leq \pi$,
 - b the greatest speed attained by the body,
 - c the greatest acceleration of the body.

Solution

- a The amplitude is 2 m therefore

$$x = 2 \sin(kt + \alpha).$$

The period is $\frac{\pi}{5}$, therefore

$$\frac{2\pi}{k} = \frac{\pi}{5} \quad \text{i.e. } k = 10$$

Thus

$$x = 2 \sin(10t + \alpha)$$

When $t = 0$, $x = 1$, therefore

$$1 = 2 \sin \alpha$$

giving

$$\alpha = \frac{\pi}{6} \text{ or } \frac{5\pi}{6}$$

If $x = 2 \sin\left(10t + \frac{\pi}{6}\right)$

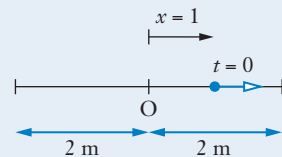
$$v = 20 \cos\left(10t + \frac{\pi}{6}\right)$$

and if $x = 2 \sin\left(10t + \frac{5\pi}{6}\right)$

$$v = 20 \cos\left(10t + \frac{5\pi}{6}\right)$$

Only the first of these velocities is positive when $t = 0$.

The displacement from O at time t is x m where $x = 2 \sin\left(10t + \frac{\pi}{6}\right)$



b If $x = 2 \sin\left(10t + \frac{\pi}{6}\right)$ then $\dot{x} = 20 \cos\left(10t + \frac{\pi}{6}\right)$
 and so $\dot{x}_{\max} = 20$

The maximum speed is 20 m/s.

(Alternatively, obtain this same answer using $v_{\max} = |ka|$.)

c Now $\ddot{x} = -k^2x$ so, in this case, $\ddot{x} = -100x$
 and so $\ddot{x}_{\max} = -100(-2)$
 $= 200$

The greatest acceleration of the body is 200 m/s².

Exercise 11B

- With x metres representing the displacement of a body at time t seconds, determine the amplitude and period of SHM with
 - $x = 5 \sin 2t$,
 - $x = 4 \sin 5t$,
 - $x = 2 \cos 4t$.
- With x metres representing the displacement of a body at time t seconds, determine the period of the simple harmonic motion defined by the equation
 - $\ddot{x} = -4x$,
 - $\ddot{x} = -x$,
 - $\ddot{x} = -25x$.
- A particle moves with simple harmonic motion about some mean position O and when timing commences the particle is at O. Write an equation for x , the displacement of the particle from O in metres, t seconds later, given that the motion has
 - amplitude 1 m, period 4π seconds and an initial positive velocity,
 - amplitude 1 m, period 4π seconds and an initial negative velocity,
 - amplitude 3 m and period π seconds and an initial positive velocity,
 - amplitude 0.5 m and period 2 seconds and an initial negative velocity.
- A particle moves with simple harmonic motion about some mean position O and when timing commences the particle is at its maximum displacement from O. Write an equation for x , the displacement of the particle from O in metres, t seconds later given that the motion has
 - amplitude 2 m and period π seconds,
 - amplitude 1.5 m and period 0.5π seconds,
 - amplitude 0.5 m and period 0.5 seconds.
- A body moves with simple harmonic motion about some mean position O. The amplitude of the motion is 2.5 metres, the period is π seconds and initially (i.e. when $t = 0$) the body is at O. Find
 - the two possible expressions of the form $x = a \sin kt$ for the displacement of the body from O at time t ,
 - the speed of the body when $t = \frac{\pi}{6}$.
- With x metres representing the displacement of a body at time t seconds, determine the amplitude and period of SHM with:
 - $x = 5 \cos 5t + 3 \sin 5t$
 - $x = 3 \cos 2t + 7 \sin 2t$

- 7** A body moves such that its displacement from an origin O at time t seconds is x m, where $x = 4 \sin \frac{\pi t}{10}$.
- Prove that the motion is simple harmonic.
 - Determine the period and amplitude of the motion.
 - How far does the body move in the first two seconds (to the nearest cm)?
- 8** A body moves such that its displacement from an origin O at time t seconds is x m, where $x = 2 \sin \frac{\pi t}{3}$.
- Prove that the motion is simple harmonic.
 - Determine the period and amplitude of the motion.
 - Exactly how far does the body move in the first two seconds?
- 9** A body moves such that its displacement from an origin O at time t seconds is x m, where $x = 3 \sin \left(2t + \frac{\pi}{6} \right)$.
- Prove that the motion is simple harmonic.
 - Determine the period and amplitude of the motion.
 - How far does the body move in the first second (to the nearest cm)?
- 10** A body moves with simple harmonic motion about some mean position O. The amplitude of the motion is 4 metres, the period is 2 seconds and initially (i.e. when $t = 0$) the displacement of the body from O is 2 metres and the velocity is negative.
- Find
- an expression for the displacement of the body from O at time t seconds giving your answer in the form $x = a \sin (kt + \alpha)$ for $0 \leq \alpha \leq \pi$.
 - the speed of the body when $t = \frac{1}{6}$.
- 11** A body moves with simple harmonic motion about some mean position O.
- The amplitude of the motion is 2 metres, the period $\frac{2\pi}{5}$ seconds and when $t = 0$ (i.e. initially) the displacement of the body from O is $\sqrt{2}$ m and the velocity is positive.
- Find
- an expression for the displacement of the body from O at time t sec giving your answer in the form $x = a \sin (kt + \alpha)$ for $0 \leq \alpha \leq \pi$,
 - the greatest speed attained by the body,
 - the greatest acceleration of the body.
- 12** A body moves with SHM with equation $\ddot{x} = -4x$, where x m is the displacement of the body from a fixed point O at time t seconds. Initially, i.e. when $t = 0$, the body is at O and has a positive velocity. If the amplitude of the motion is 0.6 m determine
- the displacement of the body from O when $t = \frac{\pi}{6}$,
 - the displacement of the body from O when $t = \frac{\pi}{3}$,
 - the value of t ($t \geq 0$) when the body is a distance of 0.3 m from O for
 - the first time,
 - the second time,
 - the third time.

- 18** An object moves such that its displacement, x metres, from some fixed point O, at time t seconds, is given by $x = -4\sqrt{3} \sin 2t - 4 \cos 2t$.
- How far is the object from O when $t = 0$?
 - Prove that for this motion $\ddot{x} = -k^2x$ and determine the value of k .
 - How far does the object move in the first 1.5 seconds (to the nearest cm)?

- 19** A particle moves such that its displacement, x m, from some fixed point O at time t seconds is given by

$$x = 3 + 4 \sin \pi t$$

- Show that this satisfies $\ddot{p} = -k^2p$ where $p = x - 3$ and k is a constant.
- By completing part **a** you have shown that the motion is simple harmonic. What is the period and amplitude of the motion?
- If point B is the mean position of the SHM, how far is B from O?
- What is the greatest distance that the particle is from O during the SHM?

- 20** A particle moves such that its displacement, x m, from some fixed point O at time t seconds is given by

$$x = 5 - 3 \cos 2t$$

- Show that this satisfies $\ddot{s} = -k^2s$ where $s = x - 5$ and k is a constant.
- By completing part **a** you have shown that the motion is simple harmonic. What is the period and amplitude of the motion?
- If point P is the mean position of the SHM, how far is P from O?
- What is the least distance that the particle is from O during the SHM?

- 21** An object moves along the x -axis with its velocity, v m/s, at time t seconds given by:

$$v = \frac{1}{4} \cos t.$$

- Determine
- the distance travelled by the object from $t = 0$ to $t = 1$, giving your answer to the nearest centimetre.
 - the distance travelled by the object from $t = 0$ to $t = 2$, giving your answer to the nearest centimetre.

- 22** A particle moves with SHM about some mean position O with its displacement from O at time t seconds being x m and its velocity at that instant being v m/s.

If $x = 20$ when $v = 30$ and $x = 24$ when $v = 14$ find the period and amplitude of the motion.

- 23** A particle moves with SHM about some mean position O with its displacement from O at time t seconds being x m and its velocity at that instant being v m/s.

If $x = 0.6$ when $v = 0.75$ and $x = 0.39$ when $v = 1.56$ find the period and amplitude of the motion.

7 Find the volume of the solid formed by rotating the area enclosed between the curve $y = 4\sqrt{x}$ and the x -axis from $x = 3$ to $x = 5$ through one revolution about the x -axis.

8 Find the area bounded by $y = \cos^3 x$ and the x -axis from $x = 0$ to $x = \frac{\pi}{2}$.

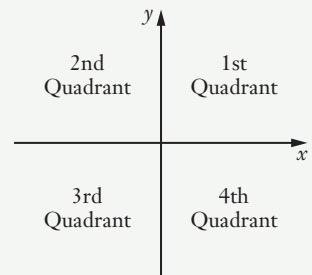
9 a Find, exactly, the area of the region lying in the first quadrant and enclosed by:

$$\text{the curve } y = 2(x^2 + 1),$$

the x -axis, the y -axis and the line $x = 2$.

b Find, exactly, the volume of the solid of revolution formed by rotating the region described in part **a** through 360° about the x -axis.

c Find, exactly, the volume of the solid of revolution formed by rotating the region described in part **a** through 360° about the y -axis.



10 A particle travels along a straight line with its acceleration at time t seconds equal to $(6t + 4) \text{ m/s}^2$. The particle has an initial positive velocity and travels 32 m in the third second. Find the velocity of the body when $t = 1$.

11 In each of the following x m is the displacement of an object from some fixed origin O at time t seconds. Prove that each object is executing simple harmonic motion, and in each case find the period of the motion, the value of x when $t = 0$ and the distance from the mean position to the point O.

a $x = 2 \sin 4t,$

b $x = 5 \cos 3t,$

c $x = 2 \cos 2t + 4 \sin 2t,$

d $x = 1 + 3 \sin 5t.$

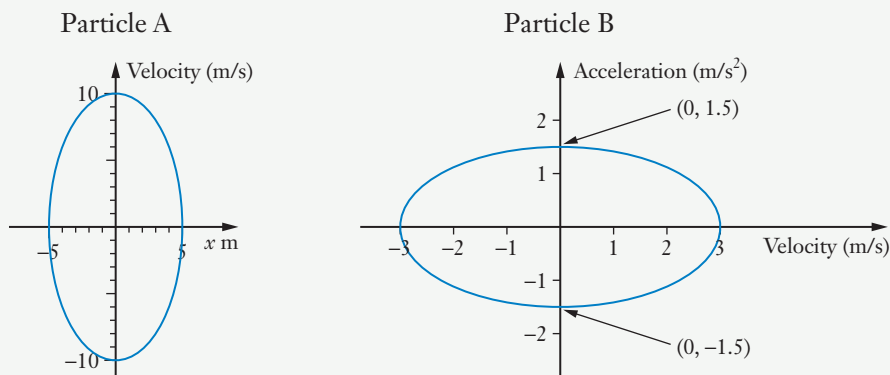
12 Particles A and B are each executing simple harmonic motion.

The displacement, x metres, from the respective mean positions, at time t seconds is given by

$$x = c \sin k_1 t \quad \text{for particle A}$$

and $x = d \sin k_2 t$ for particle B, (c, k_1, d and k_2 all positive constants).

A graph for each motion is shown below.



Find c, d, k_1, k_2 and the time period for each particle.

