

Exercise 3.67

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We have a general position vector:

$$\vec{r} = x\hat{x} + y\hat{y} = r \cos \theta \hat{x} + r \sin \theta \hat{y}$$

Differentiating once,

$$\dot{\vec{r}} = (\dot{r} \cos \theta - r\dot{\theta} \sin \theta) \hat{x} + (\dot{r} \sin \theta + r\dot{\theta} \cos \theta) \hat{y}$$

Differentiating again,

$$\begin{aligned} \ddot{\vec{r}} &= (\ddot{r} \cos \theta - \dot{r}\dot{\theta} \sin \theta - \dot{r}\dot{\theta} \sin \theta - r\ddot{\theta} \sin \theta - r\dot{\theta}^2 \cos \theta) \hat{x} \\ &\quad + (\ddot{r} \sin \theta + \dot{r}\dot{\theta} \cos \theta + \dot{r}\dot{\theta} \cos \theta + r\ddot{\theta} \cos \theta - r\dot{\theta}^2 \sin \theta) \hat{y} \end{aligned}$$

Simplifying,

$$\begin{aligned} \ddot{\vec{r}} &= (\ddot{r} \cos \theta - 2\dot{r}\dot{\theta} \sin \theta - r\ddot{\theta} \sin \theta - r\dot{\theta}^2 \cos \theta) \hat{x} \\ &\quad + (\ddot{r} \sin \theta + 2\dot{r}\dot{\theta} \cos \theta + r\ddot{\theta} \cos \theta - r\dot{\theta}^2 \sin \theta) \hat{y} \end{aligned}$$

Recall

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{r} &= \cos \theta \hat{x} + \sin \theta \hat{y} \\ \hat{\theta} &= -\sin \theta \hat{x} + \cos \theta \hat{y} \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} \ddot{\vec{r}} &= (\ddot{r} - r\dot{\theta}^2)(\cos \theta \hat{x} + \sin \theta \hat{y}) + (r\ddot{\theta} + 2\dot{r}\dot{\theta})(-\sin \theta \hat{x} + \cos \theta \hat{y}) \\ \ddot{\vec{r}} &= (\ddot{r} - r\dot{\theta}^2)\hat{r} + (r\ddot{\theta} + 2\dot{r}\dot{\theta})\hat{\theta} \end{aligned}$$

Because $\vec{F} = F_r \hat{r} + F_\theta \hat{\theta} = m\ddot{\vec{r}}$,

$$\begin{aligned} F_r &= m(\ddot{r} - r\dot{\theta}^2) \\ F_\theta &= m(r\ddot{\theta} + 2\dot{r}\dot{\theta}) \end{aligned}$$