

Trajectories

Question 1 (2005 paper.) The Cartesian coordinates of a particle on the plane are given by

$$x = t \cos t, \quad y = -t \sin t, \quad t : 0 \rightarrow \pi.$$

Find the velocity and acceleration of the particle, and sketch its trajectory (show as much detail as possible).

Question 2 (2005 paper.) Sketch the trajectory of a particle with polar coordinates, given by

$$r = 1 + t, \quad \theta = -2t, \quad t : 0 \rightarrow \pi.$$

Question 3 (2006 paper.) The trajectory of a particle is given by $x = 3 \cos t$, $y = \sin t$ for $0 < t < \frac{3}{4}\pi$. Sketch the trajectory of the particle. Another particle has polar coordinates $r = 2\pi - t$, $\theta = t$ for $0 < t < 2\pi$. Sketch the trajectory of this particle.

Question 4 (2007 paper.)

(a) The trajectory of a particle is given by

$$x = \sin t, \quad y = 2 \cos t, \quad t : 0 \rightarrow \frac{3}{2}\pi.$$

Sketch the trajectory of the particle.

(b) The same as in part (a) but for a particle with polar coordinates given by

$$r = 2\pi - t, \quad \theta = t, \quad t : 0 \rightarrow 2\pi.$$

Question 5 (2008 paper.) The trajectory of a particle is given by $x = t \cos t$, $y = \sin t$ for $0 < t < 3\pi$. Sketch the trajectory of the particle. Another particle has polar coordinates $r = \frac{1}{\cos t}$, $\theta = t$ for $0 < t < \frac{\pi}{2}$. Sketch the trajectory of this particle.