

SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY



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DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

UNIT II ORDINARY DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS

Four dogs are positioned at the corners of a square (d=1m), chase each other in clockwise direction with the same constant speed .

As their target is moving, they will follow a curved path, eventually colliding in the center of the square.



(a) Why is the total length of the path just 1m?

(b) Find and solve a differential equation for the radius $r(\theta)$ in polar coordinates.

Solution:

 $r(\theta) = a + b\theta$ or $r(\theta) = a\theta^{\frac{1}{n}}$

If Dog 1 is positioned at $(r, heta) \implies$ Dog 2 is positioned at $(r, heta+rac{\pi}{2})$

Picture:





$$egin{aligned} x_1 &= r\cos(heta) \ y_1 &= r\sin(heta) \ x_2 &= r\cos(heta+rac{\pi}{2}) = -r\sin(heta) \ y_2 &= r\sin(heta+rac{\pi}{2}) = r\cos(heta) \end{aligned}$$

If these are the two position vectors then the vector joining the two points is my velocity vector.

$$\implies \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} = \frac{r\sin(\theta + \frac{\pi}{2}) - r\sin(\theta)}{r\cos(\theta + \frac{\pi}{2}) - r\cos(\theta)} = \frac{\sin(\theta + \frac{\pi}{2}) - \sin(\theta)}{\cos(\theta + \frac{\pi}{2}) - \cos(\theta)}$$
$$= \frac{\cos(\theta) - \sin(\theta)}{-\sin(\theta) - \cos(\theta)}$$