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Simple harmonic motion

This is a periodic motion of a body whose acceleration is directly proportional to the displacement from a fixed point and is directed towards the fixed point.

$$a \propto -x \text{ or;}$$

$$a = -\omega^2 x \text{ where } \omega \text{ is angular velocity, } x, \text{ is displacement from fixed point}$$

The negative sign means that the acceleration and displacement are always in opposite direction

Maximum acceleration

$$a_{max} = -\omega^2 r \text{ where } r \text{ is the maximum displacement or amplitude.}$$

Force F

$$F = ma = m\omega^2 x$$

$$\text{Maximum force, } F_{max} = m\omega^2 r$$

Velocity in terms of displacement

Velocity of a body executing S.H.M can be expressed as a function of displacement x.

$$a = -\omega^2 x$$

$$a = \frac{dv}{dt} = \frac{dv}{dx} \cdot \frac{dx}{dt}$$

$$\text{But } \frac{dx}{dt} = v$$

$$a = v \frac{dv}{dx}$$

$$v \frac{dv}{dx} = -\omega^2 x$$

$$v dv = -\omega^2 x dx$$

Integrating both sides

$$\int v dv = -\omega^2 \int x dx$$
$$\frac{v^2}{2} = -\frac{\omega^2 x^2}{2} + c \dots\dots\dots(i)$$

Where c is a constant of integration

At momentary rest v = 0

x = r (amplitude)

$$\frac{0^2}{2} = -\frac{\omega^2 r^2}{2} + c$$

$$c = \frac{\omega^2 r^2}{2}$$

Substituting c in eqn. (i)

$$\frac{v^2}{2} = -\frac{\omega^2 x^2}{2} + \frac{\omega^2 r^2}{2}$$

$$v^2 = (\omega^2 r^2 - \omega^2 x^2)$$

$$v^2 = \omega^2 (r^2 - x^2)$$

Velocity is maximum when x = 0

$$v^2 = \omega^2 r^2$$

$$v_{max} = \omega r$$

Displacement at any time t

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = v$$

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \omega\sqrt{(r^2 - x^2)}$$

$$\int \frac{dx}{\sqrt{(r^2 - x^2)}} = \int \omega dt$$

$$\sin^{-1} \frac{x}{r} = \omega t + \varepsilon$$

$$x = r \sin(\omega t + \varepsilon)$$

When timing at the centre, $t = 0, x = 0$

$x = r \sin \omega t$ particle moves away from the centre

When timing at the amplitude, $t = 0, x = r$

$x = r \sin \omega t$ particle moves towards from the centre

Period

This is the time taken for one complete oscillation

$$T = \frac{\text{distance}}{\text{speed}} = \frac{2\pi r}{v}$$

But $v = r\omega$

$$T = \frac{2\pi r}{r\omega}$$

$$T = \frac{2\pi}{\omega}$$

Example 1

A particle moves in a straight line with simple harmonic motion about mean position O with a periodic time of $\frac{\pi}{2}$ s. Find the magnitude of acceleration of the particle when 1m from O.

Solution

$$\text{From } a = -\omega^2 x \text{ and } \omega = \frac{2\pi}{T}$$

Negative ignored

$$a = \left(\frac{2\pi}{\pi/2}\right)^2 \times 1 = 16 \text{ms}^{-2}$$

Example 2

A particle moves with S.H.M about a mean position O. When the particle is 25cm from O, its acceleration is 1ms^{-1} towards O. Find the

- (i) Periodic time of motion
- (ii) Magnitude of acceleration of the particle when 20cm from O

Solution

$$a = -\omega^2 x$$

$$1 = \omega^2(0.25)$$

$$\omega^2 = 4$$

$$\omega = 2 \text{rads}^{-1}$$

$$T = \frac{2\pi}{\omega} = \frac{2\pi}{2} = \pi \text{s}$$

$$(ii) a = -\omega^2 x$$

$$a = 2^2(0.2) = 0.8 \text{ms}^{-2}$$

Example 3

A particle move with S.H.M of the periodic time $\frac{\pi}{2}$ s and has a maximum speed of 3ms^{-1} . Find the maximum acceleration experienced by the particle

$$v_{max} = \omega r$$

$$3 = \left(\frac{2\pi}{\pi/2}\right)r; r = 0.75\text{m}$$

$$a_{max} = -\omega^2 r$$

$$a_{max} = \left(\frac{2\pi}{\pi/2}\right)^2 \times 0.75 = 12\text{ms}^{-2}$$

Example 4

A particle moves with S.H.M about a mean position O. the amplitude of the motion is 5m and the period is 8π s. Find the

- (i) maximum speed of the particle (ii) speed of the particle when 3m from O

Solution

$$(i) \quad v_{max} = \omega r = \frac{2\pi}{8\pi} \times 5 = 1.25\text{ms}^{-1}$$

$$(ii) \quad v^2 = \omega^2(r^2 - x^2)$$

$$v = \sqrt{\left(\frac{2\pi}{8\pi}\right)^2 (5^2 - 3^2)} = 1\text{ms}^{-1}$$

Example 5

A body of mass 200g executes S.H.M with amplitude of 20mm. The maximum force which acts on it is 0.064N, calculate (a) its maximum velocity (ii) its period of oscillation

Solution

$$F_{max} = m\omega^2 r$$

$$0.064 = 0.2 \times \omega^2 \times 0.02$$

$$\omega = 4\text{rads}^{-1}$$

$$v_{max} = \omega r = 4 \times 0.02 = 0.08\text{ms}^{-1}$$

$$(ii) \quad T = \frac{2\pi}{\omega} = \frac{2\pi}{4} = \frac{\pi}{2} \text{ s}$$

Example 6

A particle moves with S.H.M about O with a period of 2π seconds. It passes a point A with a velocity of 4ms^{-1} away from O. Given that OA = 4m, find

- (i) The amplitude
(ii) The speed at B where OB = 3m

Solution

$$\omega = \frac{2\pi}{T} = \frac{2\pi}{2\pi} = 1\text{rads}^{-1}$$

$$\text{From } v^2 = \omega^2(r^2 - x^2)$$

$$4^2 = 1^2(r^2 - 4^2)$$

$$r = 5.66\text{m}$$

$$\text{Amplitude} = 5.66\text{m}$$

$$(ii) \quad v = \omega\sqrt{r^2 - x^2}$$

$$v = \omega\sqrt{5.66^2 - 3^2} = 4.8\text{ms}^{-1}$$

Example 7

A particle moving with S.H.M has velocities of 4ms^{-1} and 3ms^{-1} at distance of 3m and 4m respectively from equilibrium position. Find

- (a) amplitude (b) period

$$v^2 = \omega^2(r^2 - x^2)$$

$$4^2 = \omega^2(r^2 - 3^2)$$

$$16 = \omega^2(r^2 - 9) \dots\dots (i)$$

Also,

$$3^2 = \omega^2(r^2 - 4^2)$$

$$9 = \omega^2(r^2 - 16) \dots\dots(ii)$$

$$(i) \div (ii) \frac{16}{9} = \frac{\omega^2(r^2-9)}{\omega^2(r^2-16)}$$

$$r = 5m$$

Amplitude = 5m

(b) eqn. (i)

$$16 = \omega^2(5^2 - 9)$$

$$\omega = 1 \text{ rads}^{-1}$$

$$\text{Period, } T = \frac{2\pi}{\omega} = \frac{2\pi}{1} = 2\pi s$$

Example 8

A particle moves with S.H.M about a mean position O. the particle is initially projected from O with speed $\frac{\pi}{6} \text{ ms}^{-1}$ and just reaches a point A, 2m from O.

- (a) Find how far the particle from O, 3 seconds after projection
- (b) How many second after projection is the particle a distance of 1m from O
 - (i) For the first time, (ii) second time (iii) third time

Solution

(a) At equilibrium position, $v_{max} = \omega r$

$$\frac{\pi}{6} = \omega \times 2; \omega = \frac{\pi}{12} \text{ rads}^{-1}$$

$x = r \sin \omega t$ since particle moves away from O

$$x = 2 \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{12} \times 3\right) = 1.414m$$

$$x = r \sin \omega t$$

$$1 = r \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{12}\right)t$$

$$\left(\frac{\pi}{12}\right)t = \sin^{-1} 0.2 = 30^\circ, 150^\circ, 210^\circ$$

$$T = 2s, 10s, 14s$$

Example 9

A particle is released from rest at point A. 1m from a second point O. the particle accelerates towards O and moves with S.H.M of period 12s and O is the centre of oscillation

- (a) Find how far the particle is from O, 1s after release
- (b) How many seconds after release is the particle at the midpoint of OA
 - (i) For the first time (ii) second time

Solution

(a) $x = r \cos \omega t$ since particles moves towards centre

$$\omega = \frac{2\pi}{12} = \frac{\pi}{6} \text{ rads}^{-1}$$

$$x = 1 \cos \frac{\pi}{6} \times 1 = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} m$$

(b) $x = r \cos \omega t$

$$0.5 = 1 \cos \frac{\pi}{6} \times t$$

$$\frac{\pi}{6} t = \cos^{-1} 0.5 = 60^\circ, 300^\circ$$

$$t = 2s, 10s$$

Example 10

A particle of mass 2kg moving with S.H.M along the x-axis, is attracted towards the origin O by a force of $32x$ newton. Initially the particle is at $x = 20$. Find

- (a) amplitude and period of oscillation
- (b) velocity of the particle at any time $t > 0$
- (c) speed when $t = \frac{\pi}{4}$ s

Solution

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(a) } F &= m\omega^2x \\ 32x &= 2\omega^2x \\ \omega &= 4\text{rads}^{-1} \\ T &= \frac{2\pi}{\omega} = \frac{2\pi}{4} = 1.571\text{s} \\ v^2 &= \omega^2(r^2 - x^2) \\ 0^2 &= 4^2(r^2 - 20^2) \\ r &= 20\text{m} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(b) } x &= r\cos\omega t \\ v &= \frac{d}{dt}(r\cos\omega t) \\ v &= -r\omega\sin\omega t = -20 \times 4\sin 4t \\ v &= -80\sin 4t \\ \text{(c) speed} &= -80\sin\left(4 \times \frac{\pi}{4}\right) = 0\text{ms}^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

Example 11

A particle is initially released from rest at point A and performs S.H.M about mean position B. The particle just returns to A during each oscillation and $AB = 2\sqrt{2}m$. If the particle passes through B with speed $\pi\sqrt{2}ms^{-1}$, find

- (i) The time when the particle is first travelling with speed of πms^{-1}
- (ii) How far from B the particle during this time

Solution

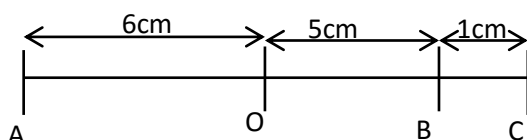
(i) At equilibrium position (B)

$$\begin{aligned} v_{\max} &= \omega r \\ \pi\sqrt{2} &= \omega \times 2\sqrt{2} \\ \omega &= \frac{\pi}{2}\text{rads}^{-1} \\ v^2 &= \omega^2(r^2 - x^2) \\ \pi^2 &= \left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right)^2 \left((2\sqrt{2})^2 - x^2\right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x &= 2\text{m} \\ \text{(ii) } x &= r\cos\omega t \\ 2 &= 2\sqrt{2}\cos\frac{\pi}{2}t \\ \frac{\pi}{2}t &= \cos^{-1}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} = 45^\circ \\ t &= 0.5\text{s} \end{aligned}$$

Example 12

The points A, O, B, C lie in the that order on a straight line $AO = OOC = 6\text{cm}$ and $OB = 5\text{cm}$. A particle perform S.H.M of period 3s and amplitude 6cm between A and C. find the time taken for the particle from A to B



Time for AO is half the period = 1.5s

B is 5cm from O

$$x = r \cos \omega t$$

$$5 = 6 \cos \frac{2\pi}{3} t$$

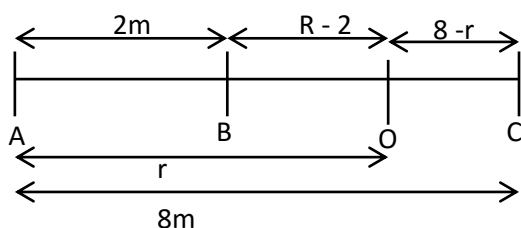
$$\frac{2\pi}{3} t = \cos^{-1} \frac{5}{6} = 33.6^\circ$$

$$t = 0.28$$

$$\text{Time for AB} = 1.5 + 0.28 = 1.78\text{s}$$

Example 13

A particle passes through 3 points A, B and C in that order with velocity 0ms^{-1} , 2ms^{-1} and -1ms^{-1} respectively. The particle is moving with S.H.M in a straight line. What is the amplitude and period of the motion if $AB = 2\text{m}$ and $AC = 8\text{m}$.



At B: $v = 2\text{ms}^{-1}$, $x = r - 2$

Using $v^2 = \omega^2(r^2 - x^2)$

$$2^2 = \omega^2(r^2 - (r - 2)^2)$$

$$1 = \omega^2(r - 1) \dots\dots\dots (i)$$

At C: $v = -1\text{ms}^{-1}$, $x = 8 - r$

$$(-1)^2 = \omega^2(r^2 - (8 - r)^2)$$

$$1 = \omega^2(16r - 64) \dots\dots\dots (ii)$$

$$(i) \div (ii) \frac{1}{1} = \frac{\omega^2(r-1)}{\omega^2(16r-64)}$$

$$r = 4.2$$

Amplitude = 4.2m

Using equation (i)

$$1 = \omega^2(4.2 - 1)$$

$$\omega = 0.56\text{rads}^{-1}$$

$$T = \frac{2\pi}{\omega} = \frac{2\pi}{0.56} = 11.22\text{s}$$

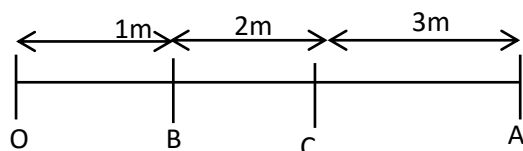
Example 14

A particle is performing S.H.M with centre O, amplitude 6m and period 2π . Points B and C are between O and A with $OB = 1\text{m}$, $OC = 3\text{m}$ and $OA = 6\text{m}$. find the least time taken while travelling from

(a) A to B

(ii) A to C

Solution



$$\omega = \frac{2\pi}{T} = \frac{2\pi}{2\pi} = 1$$

$$x = r \cos \omega t$$

$$1 = 6 \cos (1 \times t)$$

$$t = 1.403\text{s}$$

(ii)

$$x = r \cos \omega t$$

$$3 = 6 \cos (1 \times t)$$

$$t = 1.047\text{s}$$

Example 15

The velocity of a particle at any time is given by $v(t) = -a\omega\sin\omega t + b\omega\cos\omega t$.

- (a) Find the expression for displacement x at any time that $x = 0$ when time $t = 0$

$$v(t) = -a\omega\sin\omega t + b\omega\cos\omega t.$$

$$\text{But } v(t) = \frac{dx}{dt}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dx}{dt} = -a\omega\sin\omega t + b\omega\cos\omega t.$$

$$\int dx = \int (-a\omega\sin\omega t + b\omega\cos\omega t) dt$$

$$x = \frac{a\omega}{\omega} \cos\omega t + \frac{b\omega}{\omega} \sin\omega t + c$$

Since a and b are expressed in terms of amplitude and phase angle ϵ

If at $t = 0$, $x = 0$, this means that $A = 0$, hence

$$a = b = 0$$

By substituting, $0 = 0 + 0 + c$

$$c = 0$$

hence : $x = a\cos\omega t + b\sin\omega t$

- (b) Show that the motion of the particle is simple harmonic [x

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = -a\omega\sin\omega t + b\omega\cos\omega t.$$

$$\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = -a\omega^2\cos\omega t - b\omega^2\sin\omega t$$

$$= -\omega^2(a\cos\omega t + b\sin\omega t)$$

But $x = a\cos\omega t + b\sin\omega t$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = -\omega^2x, \text{ hence S.H.M}$$

Example 16

A particle is moving with simple harmonic motion (SHM). When the particle is 15m from the equilibrium, its speed is 6ms^{-1} . When the particle is 13 m from equilibrium, its speed is 9ms^{-1} . Find the amplitude of the motion (05marks)

$$v^2 = \omega^2(A^2 - x^2)$$

$$6^2 = \omega^2(A^2 - 15^2) \dots\dots (i)$$

$$9^2 = \omega^2(A^2 - 13^2) \dots\dots (ii)$$

Dividing (i) by (ii)

$$\frac{36}{81} = \frac{A^2 - 225}{A^2 - 169}$$

$$\text{Amplitude } A = 16.4256\text{m}$$

Revision exercise 1

- A particle moving with S.H.M about a mean position O has velocities of 5ms^{-1} and 8ms^{-1} at distances of 16m and 12m respectively from O.
 - Amplitude [18.1m]
 - Period [10.63s]
- A particle is describing S.H.M in a straight line directly towards a fixed point O. when it is a distance from O is 3m, its velocity is 25ms^{-1} and acceleration is 75ms^{-2} . Determine the
 - Period [$\frac{2\pi}{5}$] and amplitude [5.83m]
 - Time taken by the particle to reach O [$\frac{\pi}{10}$]
 - Velocity of the particle as it passes through O [29.15ms^{-1}]
- A particle moving with simple harmonic motion about a mean position O has velocities of $3\sqrt{3}\text{ms}^{-1}$ and 3ms^{-1} at distances of 1m and 0.268m respectively. Find the amplitude of motion [2m]
- A mass oscillates with S.H.M of period 1second and amplitude of oscillation is 5cm. Given that the particle begins from the centre of the motion, state the relationship between displacement x of the mass at any time t . Hence find the first two times when the is 3cm from its end position [$x = r\sin\omega t$, 0.066s, 0.434s]
- A particle moves in a straight line with S.H.M of period 5s. the greatest speed is 4ms^{-1} , find the

- (a) amplitude $\left[\frac{10}{2\pi} m\right]$.
- (b) Speed when it is $\frac{6}{\pi} m$ from the centre. $[3.2\text{ms}^{-1}]$
6. A particle moves with S.H.M about mean position O with a periodic time $\frac{2\pi}{3} s$. When the particle is 0.8m from one extreme end, its speed is 3.6ms^{-1} . Find the amplitude of motion $[1.3\text{m}]$
7. A body of mass 0.30kg executes S.H.M with a period 2.5s and amplitude 0.04m. Determine
- Maximum velocity of the body $[0.101\text{ms}^{-1}]$
 - The maximum acceleration of the body $[0.25\text{ms}^{-2}]$
8. A particle moving with S.H.M about a mean position O has velocities of 1.6ms^{-1} and 1.2ms^{-1} at distances of 60cm and 80cm respectively from O. find
- Amplitude $[1\text{m}]$
 - Period $[\pi\text{s}]$
9. A particle moves with S.H.M in a straight line with amplitude 0.05m and period 12s. find
- speed as it passes equilibrium position $[0.026\text{ms}^{-1}]$
 - maximum acceleration of the particle $[0.014\text{ms}^{-2}]$
10. A particle moves in straight line with S.H.M about mean position with periodic time $\frac{\pi}{2} s$ and amplitude 2m. Find the maximum speed of the particle $[8\text{ms}^{-1}]$
11. A body of mass 500g moves horizontally with S.H.M of periodic time $\frac{\pi}{2} s$ and amplitude 1m. Determine the magnitude of the greatest horizontal force experienced by the body during the motion. $[8\text{N}]$
12. A body of mass 100g moves horizontally with S.H.M about a mean position O. When the body is 50cm from O, the horizontal force on the body is of magnitude 5N, find the period of motion $\left[\frac{\pi}{2} s\right]$
13. A particle moves in a straight line with S.H.M about a mean position O with a periodic time $\frac{\pi}{4} s$ and amplitude 65cm. find how far the particle from O when its speed is 2ms^{-1} $[60\text{cm}]$
14. A particle moves in a straight line with S.H.M about a mean position O. The particle has zero velocity at a point which is 50cm from O and speed of 3ms^{-1} at O. Find
- The maximum speed of the particle $[3\text{ms}^{-1}]$
 - The amplitude of motion $[50\text{cm}]$
 - The periodic time of motion $\left[\frac{\pi}{2} s\right]$
15. A particle moving with S.H.M about a mean position O has velocities 3ms^{-1} and 1.4ms^{-1} at distances of 2m and 2.4m respectively from point O. Find the
- Amplitude of motion $[2.5\text{m}]$
 - Greatest speed attained by the particle $[5\text{ms}^{-1}]$
16. A particle is initially projected from a point A performs S.H.M about mean position A with periodic time of 3s and amplitude 50cm. find the
- Maximum speed of projection $[1.047\text{ms}^{-1}]$
 - Speed of the particle 2s after projection $[0.524\text{ms}^{-1}]$
 - Distance of the particle from A 2s after projection $[0.433\text{m}]$
17. The head of piston moves with S.H.M of amplitude $\frac{\sqrt{3}}{10} m$ about mean position O. How far from O the head of the piston when travelling with a speed equal to half of its maximum speed $[15\text{cm}]$
18. A particle is fastened to the midpoint of a stretched spring lying on a smooth horizontal surface. The particle is set in motion so that it moves with S.H.M about a mean position O. If one metre is the greatest distance the particle is from O during the motion. Find how far from O the particle is when it is travelling with speed equal to four fifth of its greatest speed. $[60\text{cm}]$

19. A particle performs S.H.M about mean position O with a periodic time of 3s and amplitude 6cm. Find time it takes the particle to travel from O to a point P, a distance of 3cm from O [0.25s]
20. A particle performs S.H.M about mean position O with a periodic time of 4s and amplitude 2cm. Find the time it takes the particle to travel from O to a point P, a distance of $\sqrt{2}$ cm from O [0.5s]
21. A particle performs S.H.M about mean position O with a periodic time of 10s and amplitude 8cm. After passing through O, the particle moves through a point A which is 1cm from to a point B which is 2cm from O. find the time it takes the particle to move from A to B [0.186s]
22. A particle performs S.H.M about mean position O with a periodic time of 4.5s and amplitude 6cm. After passing through O, the particle moves through point P which is 3cm from O. Find the time that elapse before the particle passes through P [1.5s]
23. The points A, O, B, C lie in that order on a straight line with AO = OC = 4cm and OB = 2cm. A particle perform S.H.M of period 6s and amplitude 4cm between A and C. Find the time taken for the particle to travel from A to B [2s]

Thank you

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