

Problem No 2

In a Centripetal Force Field $\vec{F} = -\frac{k}{r^2} \hat{r}$, there is a Runge-Lenz Vector

$$\vec{A} = \vec{p} \times \vec{L} - mk\hat{r} \quad \text{It is a Kepler laws.}$$

$$\therefore \vec{A} \cdot \vec{r} = (\vec{p} \times \vec{L}) \cdot \vec{r} - mk \vec{r} \cdot \hat{r}$$

$$\therefore \text{Arcos}\theta = \vec{L} \cdot (\vec{r} \times \vec{p}) - mk \vec{r}$$

$$r = \frac{L^2}{mk + A \cos\theta}$$

And the equation of the conic in polar coordinates $r = \frac{ep}{1 + e \cos\theta}$

So we get the eccentricity of the conic curve $e = \frac{A}{mk}$

$$\text{We can make } \vec{e} = \frac{\vec{A}}{mk} = \frac{\vec{p} \times \vec{L}}{mk} - \hat{r}$$

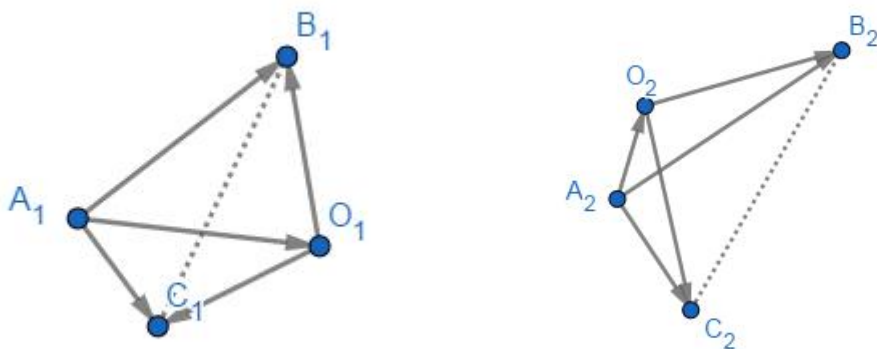
$$\text{So we can write } \vec{e} = \frac{\vec{A}}{mk} = \frac{\vec{p}_1 \times \vec{L}}{mk} - \hat{r}_1 \quad \vec{e} = \frac{\vec{A}}{mk} = \frac{\vec{p}_2 \times \vec{L}}{mk} - \hat{r}_2$$

$$\therefore \vec{v}_1 \perp \vec{v}_2, |\vec{v}_1| = 2|\vec{v}_2| \quad \vec{L} \perp \vec{p}$$

$$\therefore (\vec{p}_1 \times \vec{L}) \perp (\vec{p}_2 \times \vec{L}) \quad |\vec{p}_1 \times \vec{L}| = 2|\vec{p}_2 \times \vec{L}|$$

For any a set of v_1 and v_2 that satisfy this condition, $\frac{\vec{p}_1 \times \vec{L}}{mk}$, $\frac{\vec{p}_2 \times \vec{L}}{mk}$, \hat{r}_1 , \hat{r}_2 , \vec{e}

These four vectors can form a quadrilateral. ($\frac{\vec{p}_1 \times \vec{L}}{mk} = \vec{AB}$, $\frac{\vec{p}_2 \times \vec{L}}{mk} = \vec{AC}$, $\hat{r}_1 = \vec{OB}$, $\hat{r}_2 = \vec{OC}$, $\vec{e} = \vec{AO}$)



(Picture 1)

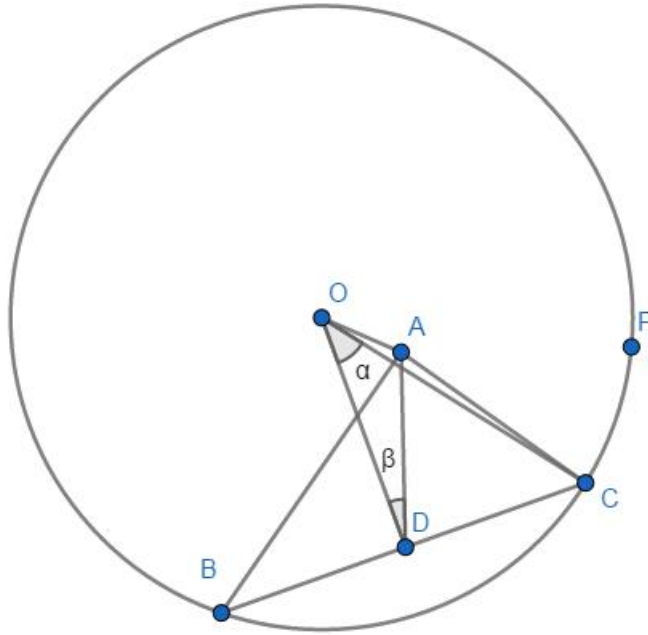
$$|\hat{r}_1| = |\hat{r}_2| = 1 \quad \vec{AB} \perp \vec{AC} \quad |\vec{AB}| = 2|\vec{AC}|$$

First, draw a circle of radius 1 with center O . Second , let's take a chord and define it as BC.

Because we know the angle of triangle ABC, point A only has two points. (Picture 1)

$|\vec{AO}| = e$ Apparently, $|\vec{A_2O_2}| < |\vec{A_1O_1}|$ If I want to get the smallest eccentricity, I should take the point A_2

Third, let's calculate $|\vec{AO}|$. Pass O point to make OD perpendicular to BC at point D. (Picture 2)



(Picture 2)

This is obtained by a simple geometric relationship. $|AD| = |CD| = \sin\alpha$
 $|OD| = \cos\alpha$, $\cos\beta = 4/5$

From the law of cosines,

$$|AO| = \sqrt{|AD|^2 + |OD|^2 - 2|AD||OD|\cos\beta} = \sqrt{1 - \frac{4}{5}\sin 2\alpha}$$

when $2\alpha = \frac{\pi}{2}$ We can get the smallest eccentricity $e_{min} = \frac{\sqrt{5}}{5}$.