

Elementary Dynamics Example #7: (2D Motion, Normal & Tangential Components)

Given: $R = 200$ (ft), $d = 12$ (ft)

car starts from rest at A

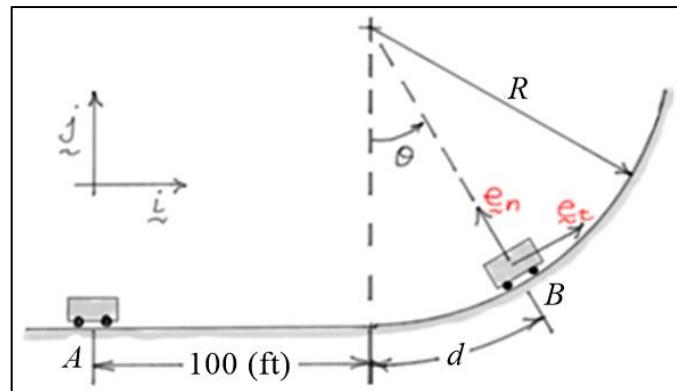
car accelerates at a constant rate of

$$\dot{v} = a_t = 10 \text{ (ft/s}^2\text{)} \text{ from } A \text{ to } B$$

Find: v_B and a_B in ft/s and ft/s² using

normal and **tangential** components.

Solution:



Velocity: (given constant acceleration along the path)

$$v_B = \sqrt{v_A^2 + 2a_t \Delta s} = \sqrt{2(10)(112)} \approx 47.3286 \approx 47.3 \text{ (ft/s)} \Rightarrow v_B = 47.3 e_t \text{ (ft/s)}$$

Acceleration:

$$a_t = \dot{v} = 10 \text{ (ft/s}^2\text{)} \quad a_n = \frac{v^2}{R} = \frac{2(10)(112)}{200} = 11.2 \text{ (ft/s}^2\text{)}$$



$$a_B = 10 e_t + 11.2 e_n \text{ (ft/s}^2\text{)} \Rightarrow |a_B| = \sqrt{a_t^2 + a_n^2} \approx 15.0147 \approx 15.0 \text{ (ft/s}^2\text{)}$$

Aside:

We could also express these results in terms of the unit vectors \hat{i} and \hat{j} . For example,

$$\theta = d/R = (12/200)(180/\pi) \approx 3.43775 \approx 3.44 \text{ (deg)}$$

$$v_B = 47.3 e_t = 47.3 (\cos(\theta) \hat{i} + \sin(\theta) \hat{j}) = 47.2 \hat{i} + 2.84 \hat{j} \text{ (ft/s)}$$

The acceleration could also be expressed in terms of the unit vectors \hat{i} and \hat{j} by noting

that: $e_n = -\sin(\theta) \hat{i} + \cos(\theta) \hat{j}$.