

1 Closed Kepler Orbits in Cartesian Coordinates

The general solution of the orbital path of the relative position of two particles in polar coordinates (r, θ) can be written as

$$\frac{\alpha}{r} = 1 + \epsilon \cos \theta \quad (1.1)$$

where α and ϵ are constants that depend on initial conditions.

Show that equation 1.1 can be written in Cartesian coordinates, $x = r \cos \theta$ and $y = r \sin \theta$, as

$$\frac{(x + d)^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1. \quad (1.2)$$

So find a , b , and d , as a function of α and ϵ .