physics helpline

Learn basic concepts of physics through problem solving

Q- A Particle M executes simple harmonic motion along x axis. The reference particle for this SHM moves on a circular path of radius R = 40 cm with a constant speed of 80 cm/s.

(a) Find the angular frequency, frequency and the time period for this SHM.

(b) If at t = 0, the reference particle makes an angle 60° with + x axis, write equation of motion for it.

(a) The linear speed of the reference particle is v = 80 cm/s = 0.8 m/s and the radius is R = 40 cm = 0.4 m, hence the angular frequency is given by

 $\omega = v/R = 0.8/0.4 = 2 \text{ rad/s}.$

The frequency is given by

$$n = \omega/(2\pi) = 1/\pi = 0.318 \text{ Hz}$$

and the time-period is inverse of the frequency hence given by

$$T = 1/n = \pi = 3.14 s$$

(b)

For the particle M to be at equilibrium position x = 0 at t = 0 and moving in +x direction the reference particle should be at the lower most point at t = 0.

And the equation in that situation will be

 $X = A \sin \omega t$

But here at t = 0, the reference particle is at point A and the phase angle corresponding to this is $90^{0}+60^{0} = 150^{0}$ which will be the initial phase ϕ_{0} and hence the equation for the motion of the x component is given by

 $X = A \sin(\omega t + \phi_0)$

Or x = (0.4m) sin [(2 rad/s) t + 150⁰]

- Or $x = (0.4m) \cos [(2 \text{ rad/s}) t + 60^{\circ}]$
- Or $x = (0.4m) \cos [(2 \text{ rad/s}) t + \pi/3]$

