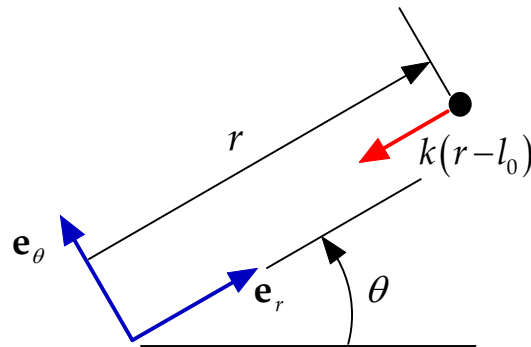
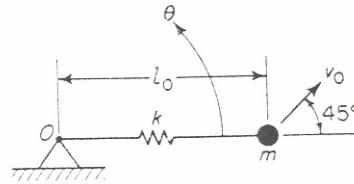


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**Example 8.4**

Initially the spring is unstretched with length  $l_0$  and the particle of mass  $m$  is given a velocity  $v_0$  in the direction shown. In the motion that follows the spring stretches to a maximum length of  $4l_0/3$ . Assuming no gravity solve for the spring stiffness  $k$  as a function of  $m$ ,  $l_0$ , and  $v_0$ .

**Solution:**

Using polar coordinates the velocity of the particle is given by:

$$\mathbf{v} = \dot{r}\mathbf{e}_r + r\dot{\theta}\mathbf{e}_\theta$$

The angular momentum of the particle about  $O$  is given by:

$$\mathbf{H}_O = \mathbf{r} \times m\mathbf{v} = r\mathbf{e}_r \times m(\dot{r}\mathbf{e}_r + r\dot{\theta}\mathbf{e}_\theta) = mr^2\dot{\theta}\mathbf{e}_z$$

From the free-body diagram it is clear that the line of action of the only force acting on the particle passes through  $O$  and therefore has no moment about  $O$ . Thus  $\mathbf{M}_O = \mathbf{0}$  which means  $\mathbf{H}_O$  is constant.

Thus we can write:

$$mr^2\dot{\theta} = mr_0^2\dot{\theta}_0$$

From the given initial conditions it is evident that  $r_0 = l_0$  and  $\dot{\theta}_0 = \frac{v_0}{\sqrt{2}l_0}$ . Thus:

$$\dot{\theta} = \frac{v_0 l_0}{\sqrt{2}r^2} = \frac{h}{r^2} \quad (\text{i})$$

where  $h = \frac{v_0 l_0}{\sqrt{2}}$ , a constant.

From the free-body diagram it is clear that the only force acting on the particle is a conservative force. Thus the principle of conservation of energy applies:

$$T + V = T_0 + V_0$$

From the velocity expression the kinetic energy at any time is obtained as:

$$T = \frac{1}{2}m\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{v} = \frac{1}{2}m(\dot{r}^2 + r^2\dot{\theta}^2)$$

and the potential energy at any time is:

$$V = \frac{1}{2}k(r - l_0)^2$$

From the initial conditions it is evident that  $T_0 = \frac{1}{2}mv_0^2$  and  $V_0 = 0$ . The principle of conservation of energy yields:

$$\frac{1}{2}m(\dot{r}^2 + r\dot{\theta}^2) + \frac{1}{2}k(r - l_0)^2 = \frac{1}{2}mv_0^2$$

Substituting the relation described by (ii) and simplifying we obtain a relationship between  $r$  and  $\dot{r}$ :

$$m\left(\dot{r}^2 + \frac{h^2}{r^3}\right) + k(r - l_0)^2 = mv_0^2 \quad (\text{ii})$$

When  $r = r_{\max} = \frac{4l_0}{3}$   $\dot{r} = 0$ . Substituting these values in (ii) we can solve for  $k$  in terms of the remaining given variables:

$$k = \frac{207}{32} \frac{mv_0^2}{l_0^2}$$