

Classical Mechanics (I): Final
6:30PM-9:00PM, January 5, 2017

Total grade = 110: No grade will be given to answers without any reasoning, but questions starting with "Which ..." or "Write down ..." do not require you to give reasons.

Problem 1

(a) 16% Explain briefly the following terms: (i) tidal force (ii) Noether theorem (related to symmetry) (iii) principle of virtual work (iv) Hohmann transfer

(b) 4% Which of the following equations may become chaotic?

(i) $\ddot{x} + b\dot{x} + \omega^2 x = A \cos \omega t$. Here b is a positive constant.

(ii) $\ddot{x} + c\dot{x} + \sin x = A \cos \omega t$. Here c is positive.

(iii) $\ddot{x} + c\dot{x}^2 = g$. Here c and g are positive.

(iv) $\ddot{\theta} + (g - a \cos \omega t) \sin \theta = 0$. Here θ is an angle variable and both g and a are positive.

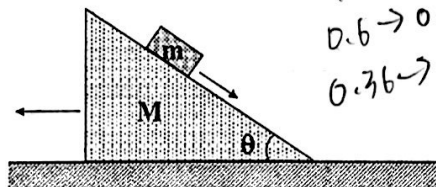
(c) 5% Consider a tent map that is given by

$$x_{n+1} = 0.6x_n \quad \text{for } 0 < x \leq 1/2$$

$$x_{n+1} = 0.6(1 - x_n) \quad \text{for } 1/2 < x < 1$$

Find fixed points and indicate whether the fixed points are stable or not.

★ **Problem 2 (a) 10%** A wedge of mass M and angle θ (as shown in the following figure) slides freely on a horizontal plane. A particle of mass m moves freely on the wedge. By using the principle of virtual work, determine equations of motion for the particle as well as that of the wedge.



$1 \rightarrow 0.6$
 $0.6 \rightarrow 0.36$
 $0.36 \rightarrow 0.216$

$$\lambda = \left(1 + \frac{4r^2}{a^2}\right)^{-2} \frac{d}{dt}$$

(b) 10% By using the method of Lagrangian multiplier, determine the constraint force that acts on the particle in terms of g , m , θ , and M .

Problem 4

A bead of mass m is constrained to move (without friction) on a hoop of radius a . The hoop rotates with constant angular speed ω about a vertical axis that coincides with a diameter of the hoop.

(a) 5% Set up the Lagrangian and obtain the equation of motion.

(b) 10% Find the equilibrium positions of the particle. Calculate the frequency of small oscillations around stable positions. Find a critical angular velocity $\omega = \omega_c$ that divides the particle's motion into two distinct types.

(c) 10% Find the Hamiltonian (H) and the energy (E) of the bead. Which one is conserved? Sketch the phase diagram for $\omega > \omega_c$ and $\omega < \omega_c$ and indicate equations of

contours in the phase diagram.

Problem 5

A particle of mass m slides on the inside of a smooth (without friction) vertical paraboloid of revolution $r^2 = az$.

(a) 10% By using the method of Lagrangian multiplier, determine the direction of the constraint force and show that the magnitude of the constraint force is proportional to $(1 + \frac{4r^2}{a^2})^{-3/2}$.

(b) 5% If the particle is moving in a circular orbit at height $z = z_0$, find its energy and angular momentum in terms of a , m and the gravitational acceleration g .

(c) 5% Following (b), if the particle is pulled downwards slightly, find the frequency of oscillation about the unperturbed circular orbit for small oscillation amplitude.

Problem 6

Consider a planet of mass m in orbit around a sun of mass M ($M \gg m$). In addition to the central inverse-square-law force field, a correction to the force is superimposed. Assuming the gravitational constant is G , answer the following questions.

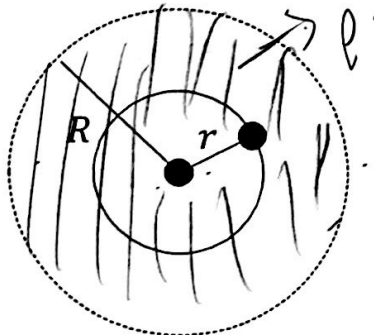
(a) 10% It is known that quantum fluctuations can modify the inverse-square-law. In this case, the superimposed force, f , is also a central force and its magnitude is $f(r) = -\lambda/r^3$, with $\lambda > 0$ and r being the distance between the planet and the sun. However, λ is typically small. Assuming that $\lambda \frac{mM}{l^2} < 1$ with l being the angular momentum of the system is satisfied, show explicitly how the original trajectory $\alpha/r = 1 + \epsilon \cos \theta$ with θ being the azimuthal angle is modified. Express all coefficients in terms of λ , l and energy E .

(b) 10% Another possible correction to the inverse-square-law is due to the perturbation from other planets. If the planet of mass m moves much faster than speeds of other planets, we may model the contribution from other planets as a linear mass density ρ located at a radius R (as shown in the following figure). Assuming $R \gg r$, the superimposed force is proportional to r , i.e. $f = kr$. (i) Find k .

(ii) Consider a circular orbit for the planet corresponding to the angular momentum l . Find the equation that the radius r_0 of the orbit satisfies (you do not need to solve it).

(iii) f is generally much less than the central inverse-square-law force field. Consider a small deviation from the circular orbit, find the frequency for the radial motion in terms of l , m , r_0 and k .

(iv) Show that the orbit is a precessing ellipse. Find the angular frequency of precession.



$$z = \frac{r^2}{a}$$

$$\dot{z} =$$

$$6m \int \frac{4\pi r^2}{r^3} dr$$