

GP1 HW5

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Problem 1 (Kinetic Energy Machine)

If there exists a higher speed than reversible machine, then we can use the rest energy to do work. Then we can use the reversible machine to restore the higher speed. That means we can use this system to get energy forever. That contradicts to the impossibility of perpetual motion machine.

Similarly, if two reversible machines have different speeds, then we can use the difference of the speeds to do work. That also leads to a contradiction.

Problem 2 (Total Energy of a Many-particle System)

Since the interaction only depends on their distance, we can write the force into the form of

$$\mathbf{F}_{ij} = -\nabla_i U(|\mathbf{r}_{ij}|). \quad (2.1)$$

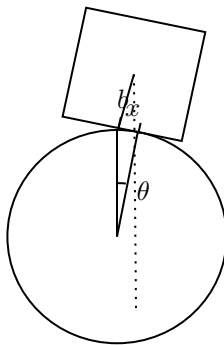
Then, the total energy can be written as

$$E = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{ij} U_{ij} + \sum_i m_i g z_i, \quad (2.2)$$

where z_i is the height of the i th particle.

Problem 3 (Stability of a cube balanced on a cylinder)

Suppose the cube has a displacement.

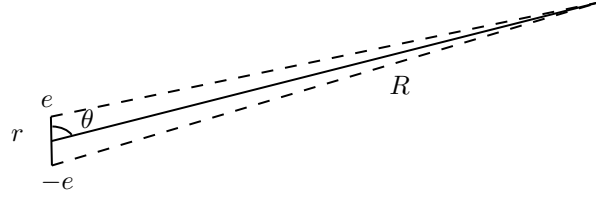


The dotted line needs to be on the left side of the contact point. By observing the picture, we can get: (1) If $b < r$, then it is stable. (2) If $b > r$, then it is unstable.

Problem 4 (The electric potential of an electric dipole)

$$U = \frac{e}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{R^2 + \frac{r^2}{2} - rR\cos(\theta)}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{R^2 + \frac{r^2}{2} + rR\cos(\theta)}} \right). \quad (4.1)$$

$$U \approx \frac{e}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R} \frac{r}{R} \cos\theta = \frac{\vec{p} \cdot \hat{R}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R^2}. \quad (4.2)$$



Problem 5 (The tide potential)

(1) Let

$$U_{\text{tide}}(\mathbf{r}) = -GMm \left(\frac{1}{|\mathbf{d}_0 + \mathbf{r}|} - \frac{1}{|\mathbf{d}_0|} \right), \quad (5.1)$$

then,

$$\mathbf{F}_{\text{tide}}(\mathbf{r}) = -\nabla U_{\text{tide}}(\mathbf{r}). \quad (5.2)$$

(2) (We also consider the centrifugal potential energy). Since $\frac{|\mathbf{r}|}{|\mathbf{d}_0|} \ll 1$,

$$\varphi_{\text{tide}} \approx -\frac{GMr^2}{d_0^3} \frac{3\cos\theta^2 - 1}{2}, \quad (5.3)$$

where r is the distance to the center of the earth. Sea level is a equipotential plain.

$$\Delta h = \frac{3GMr^2}{2d_0^3 g}. \quad (5.4)$$