

Mechanics and Relativity

Assam University

FYUG · Semester 1 · Credits 3

Unit 1: Fundamentals of Dynamics

Force and linear momentum, Principle of conservation of momentum, Momentum of variable-mass system: motion of rocket, Motion of a projectile in uniform gravitational field, Dynamics of a system of particles, Centre of mass, Impulse, Work–Energy theorem, Conservative and non-conservative forces, Elastic potential energy, Force as a gradient of potential energy, Law of conservation of mechanical energy, Elastic and inelastic collisions in one and two dimensions, Collisions in centre of mass and laboratory frames

Unit 2: Rotational Dynamics

Angular momentum of a particle and system of particles, Torque, Principle of conservation of angular momentum, Moment of inertia, Calculation of moment of inertia for rectangular, cylindrical and spherical bodies, Elasticity, Hooke's law, Poisson's ratio and its limiting values, Relation connecting elastic constants, Twisting torque on a cylinder or wire

Unit 3: Gravitation and Central Force Motion

Law of gravitation, Gravitational potential and potential energy, Potential and field due to spherical shell and solid sphere, Central force: definition and characteristics, Kepler's laws with derivation, Deduction of Newton's law of gravitation from Kepler's law, Satellite in circular orbit, Orbital velocity, Escape velocity, Time period of satellite, Geosynchronous orbits, Weightlessness, Basic idea of global positioning system (GPS)

Unit 4: Oscillations and Non-Inertial Systems

Simple harmonic oscillations, Differential equation of SHM and its solution, Kinetic energy, potential energy and total energy in SHM, Time-average values, Damped oscillations, Forced oscillations, Resonance and sharpness of resonance, Power dissipation, Quality factor, Inertial and non-inertial frames, Fictitious forces, Uniformly rotating frame, Laws of physics in rotating coordinate systems, Coriolis theorem, Centrifugal force, Coriolis force and its applications

Unit 5: Relativity

Galilean transformations, Galilean invariance, Michelson–Morley experiment and its outcome, Postulates of Special Theory of Relativity, Lorentz transformations, Simultaneity and order of events, Lorentz contraction, Time dilation and its experimental verification, Twin paradox, Relativistic addition of velocities, Variation of mass with velocity, Massless particles, Mass–energy equivalence