

AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES  
(AIMS RWANDA, KIGALI)

---

Name: Darix SAMANI SIEWE  
Course: Classical Mechanics

Assignment Number: 2  
Date: December 14, 2024

---

## Exercise 1

In this exercise, we study the motion of a point particle of mass  $m$  moving along the axis  $Ox$  and experiencing a force deriving from the potential

$$V(x) = \sigma x^2 + \lambda x^4$$

with  $\sigma$  and  $\lambda$  some real parameters. This is the type of potential that appears, for example, for a pendulum in a magnetic field, with a magnet at its end. Let's begin with the study of the fixed points.

1. Determine the fixed points of the system, depending on the values of  $\sigma$  and  $\lambda$ .

In order to determine the fixed point let's solve the equation  $\frac{dV(x)}{dx} = 0$  and the constraint  $\frac{d^2x}{dx^2} > 0$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dV(x)}{dx} &= 0 \\ 2\sigma x + 4\lambda x^3 &= 0 \\ x(2\sigma + 4\lambda x^2) &= 0 \\ x = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad x^2 &= -\frac{2\lambda}{\sigma}\end{aligned}$$

if  $\sigma$  and  $\lambda$  have different sign, then  $x = 0$  and  $x = \pm \sqrt{\frac{2\lambda}{\sigma}}$  is the fixed point.

2. What is the stability of these fixed points, depending on the values of  $\sigma$  and  $\lambda$ ?  
in order to answer this question let's find the second derivative.

$$\frac{d^2V(x)}{dx^2} = 2\sigma + 8\lambda x = 0$$

for the first fixed point, we have the following:

- $x = 0$  :

$$\frac{dV^2(x)}{dx^2} = 2\sigma$$

if  $\sigma > 0$  then the point  $x = 0$  is the fixed point is unstable, if  $\sigma < 0$  then the fixed point is unstable.

- $x = \pm \sqrt{\frac{2\lambda}{\sigma}}$ , ( $\sigma$  and  $\lambda$  have different sign)

$$\frac{dV^2(x)}{dx^2} = 2\sigma \pm 8\lambda \sqrt{\frac{2\lambda}{\sigma}}$$

if this case if  $\sigma^3 > 32\lambda^3$  then this point is stable

- Sketch the potential  $V(x)$  and describe qualitatively the possible motions of the particle, considering different mechanical energies.
- Show that the equation of motion is of the form

$$\ddot{x} + Ax + Bx^3 = 0,$$

with A and B constants to be determined as functions of m,  $\sigma$ , and  $\lambda$ .

we know that  $F = m \frac{dV(x)}{dt} = m\ddot{x} = -\nabla V(x) = -2\sigma x - 4\lambda x^3$

$\implies$

$$\begin{aligned} m\ddot{x} &= -2\sigma x - 4\lambda x^3 \\ \implies m\ddot{x} + 2\sigma x + 4\lambda x^3 &= 0 \\ \ddot{x} + \frac{2\sigma}{m}x + \frac{4\lambda}{m}x^3 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

by identification,  $A = \frac{2\sigma}{m}$  and  $B = \frac{4\lambda}{m}$

## Exercise 2

A mass is placed on a frictionless horizontal table. The friction coefficient is given by  $\mu$ . A spring which can be stretched or compressed is placed on the table. A mass m is attached to the end of the spring, and the other end is anchored to the wall. The equilibrium position is marked at zero. A student moves the mass out to x and releases it from rest. The mass oscillates as a simple harmonic oscillator.

1. Determine the equation of motion.

by applying the first Newton law:

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum \vec{F}_{ext} &= m\vec{a} \\
\vec{f}_f + \vec{f}_s + \vec{p} &= m\vec{a} \\
&\text{on the x-axis} \\
-\mu mg - kx &= m\ddot{x} \\
m\ddot{x} + kx + \mu mg &= 0 \\
\ddot{x} + \frac{k}{m}x + \mu g &= 0
\end{aligned}$$

The equation of the motion is given by:

$$\ddot{x} + \frac{k}{m}x = -\mu g$$

2. Find the solution of this equation assuming that at  $t = 0$ ,  $x(0) = 0$  and  $v(0) = v_0$ .

the equation characterized of the equation is given:  $r^2 - \frac{k}{m} = 0$

and there are two solutions  $r_1 = -i\sqrt{\frac{k}{2m}}$  and  $r_2 = i\sqrt{\frac{k}{2m}}$

Hence,  $x = A \cos(w_0 t) + B \sin(w_0 t)$  with  $w_0 = \sqrt{\frac{k}{2m}}$  with the initial condition :

$\dot{x} = -Aw_0 \sin(w_0 t) + Bw_0 \cos(w_0 t)$  This is the general solution of homogeneous solution since

the second member is the constant of the particular solution is  $x_p = C$

the equation becomes  $\frac{k}{m}C = -\mu g \implies C = -\frac{\mu gm}{k}$

the general and the particular solution is :

$$x = A \cos(w_0 t) + B \sin(w_0 t) - \frac{\mu gm}{k}$$

$$\begin{cases} x(0) = 0 \\ v(0) = 0 \end{cases} \implies \begin{cases} A = \frac{\mu gm}{k} \\ Bw_0 = v_0 \end{cases}$$

So  $A = \frac{\mu gm}{k}$  and  $B = \frac{v_0}{w_0}$

the equation becomes  $x = \frac{\mu gm}{k} \cos(w_0 t) + \frac{v_0}{w_0} \sin(w_0 t) - \frac{\mu gm}{k}$

3. Give the solution in the case of:

- (a) Damped harmonic oscillator,
- (b) Weak damping,
- (c) Critical damping.

4. Consider the case of a driven damped oscillator with the external force given by  $F = F_0 e^{i\omega t}$

- (a) Find the amplitude of vibration.
- (b) Suppose that  $m = 5 \text{ kg}$ ,  $\mu = 0.45 \text{ kg/s}$ ,  $K = 10 \text{ N/m}$ ,  $F_0 = 0.5 \text{ N}$ , and  $\omega = \pi \text{ rad/s}$ :
  - Plot the time histories of the system.
  - Plot the frequency resonance curve and comment.

### Exercise 3

A particle of mass  $m$  is moving in the  $xy$ -plane with a position vector described by:  $r = a\cos(wt)e_x + b\sin(wt)e_y$ ,  
where  $a, b > 0$  and  $a > b$ .

1. Draw the motion of the particle and locate the points A and B, where the particle lies along the positive Ox and Oy axes, respectively. Give the name of this geometrical figure.

- when the particle lies along the positive Ox:  $y = b\sin(wt) = 0 \implies wt = n\pi$  with  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$  hence the point  $A = (a, 0)$
- when the particle lies along the positive axes Oy:  $x = a\cos(wt) = 0 \implies \cos(wt) = 0 \implies wt = \frac{\pi}{2} + n\pi$  with  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$

Hence the point  $B = (0, b)$

in order to draw the equation of the motion :  $x = a\cos(wt)$  and  $y = b\sin(wt)$

$$\begin{cases} \frac{x}{a} = \cos(wt) \\ \frac{y}{b} = \sin(wt) \end{cases} \quad \text{Hence } \left(\frac{x}{a}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{y}{b}\right)^2 = 1 \text{ This is equation of ellipse}$$

2. Compute the force  $\vec{F}$  producing this motion, and show that it is directed towards the origin.

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{V}(t) &= \frac{d\vec{r}(t)}{dt} = -aw\sin(wt)\vec{e}_x + bw\cos(wt)\vec{e}_y \\ \vec{a}(t) &= \frac{d\vec{V}(t)}{dt} = -aw^2\cos(wt)\vec{e}_x + -bw^2\sin(wt)\vec{e}_y \end{aligned}$$

$$\vec{F} = m\vec{a} = -mw^2(-a\cos(wt)\vec{e}_x + b\sin(wt)\vec{e}_y)$$

3. Compute the kinetic energy of the particle at any instant of time  $t$ , and give its value at the points A and B.

$$\begin{aligned} K &= \frac{1}{2}mv^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{2}m\sqrt{(aw)^2 + (bw)^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{2}mw\sqrt{a^2 + b^2} \end{aligned}$$

- At the point  $A = (a, 0)$   $v = aw$  and  $K_a = \frac{1}{2}m(aw)^2$
- At the point  $B = (0, b)$   $v = bw$  and  $K_B = \frac{1}{2}m(bw)^2$

4. Compute the work of the force  $\vec{F}$  between the points A and B, and show that it is equal to the difference of kinetic energies at these points.

$$\begin{aligned}
W_{A-B} &= \int_A^B F_x dx + F_y dy \\
&= \int_A^b -mw^2 a \cos(wt) dx - b mw^2 \sin(wt) dy \\
&= \int_a^0 -mw^2 x dx + \int_0^b -mw^2 y dy \\
&= \left[ -\frac{1}{2} mw^2 x^2 \right]_a^0 + \left[ -\frac{1}{2} mw^2 y^2 \right]_0^b \\
&= +\frac{1}{2} mw^2 a^2 - \frac{1}{2} mw^2 b^2 \\
&= \frac{1}{2} mw^2 (a^2 - b^2)
\end{aligned}$$

$$W_{A-B} = K_B - K_A = \frac{1}{2} mw^2 b^2 - \frac{1}{2} mw^2 a^2 = \frac{1}{2} mw^2 (b^2 - a^2)$$

5. Compute the work of the force  $\vec{F}$  during a full period of the motion (i.e., when the particle starts and ends again at A, for example).

when the particle starts and ends again at A,  $W_{A-B} = W_{A-A} = 0$  we just replace  $B = A$  in the previous result.

Conclude from this that the force is conservative, and show that this agrees with the result of the calculation  $\text{rot} \vec{f} = 0$ . Find a potential  $V(x, y)$  which gives rise to this conservative force.

we know that the work done in the full period (from A to A) is equal to zero which means the force is conservative, Hence The  $\text{rot} \vec{f} = 0$

now, let's calculate the potential  $V(x, y)$   $\vec{F} = -\nabla V(x, y)$

$$\begin{cases} F_x = -\frac{\partial V(x, y)}{\partial x} \\ F_y = -\frac{\partial V(x, y)}{\partial y} \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
-amw^2 \cos(wt) &= -\frac{\partial V(x, y)}{\partial x} \\
-mw^2 x &= \frac{\partial V(x, y)}{\partial x} \\
V(x, y) &= \int mw^2 x dx \\
V(x, y) &= \frac{1}{2} mw^2 x^2 + V(y)
\end{aligned}$$

the the second terms we have :

$$\begin{aligned}
-mw^2 y &= -V'(y) \\
v(y) &= \frac{1}{2} mw^2 y^2
\end{aligned}$$

Hence  $V(x, y) = \frac{1}{2}mw^2x^2 + \frac{1}{2}mw^2y^2 = \frac{1}{2}mw^2(x^2 + y^2)$