

Solved selected problems of Lagrangian and Hamiltonian by Mann

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Solution. 2.2 To find the r value that corresponds to the minimum of the potential well of

$$U(r) = \frac{C}{r^\alpha} - \frac{D}{r^\beta}$$

We must derivate $U(r)$ and make it equal to zero as follows

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dU(r)}{dr} &= \frac{\beta Dr^{-\beta} - \alpha Cr^{-\alpha}}{r} = 0 \\ \beta Dr^{-\beta} &= \alpha Cr^{-\alpha} \\ r^{\alpha-\beta} &= \frac{\alpha C}{\beta D} \\ r &= \left(\frac{\alpha C}{\beta D}\right)^{1/(\alpha-\beta)}\end{aligned}$$

□