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Imperial College London

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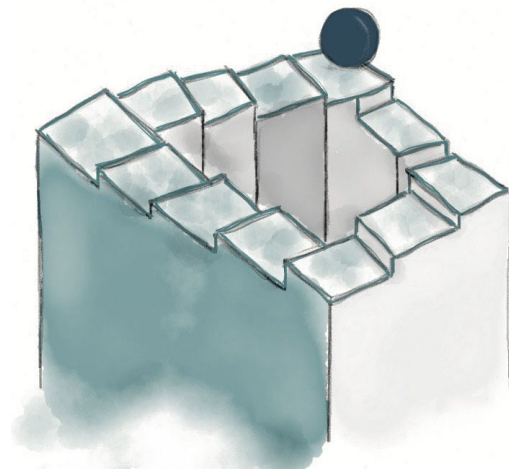
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# Mechanics

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## Syllabus

*This introductory course on Applied Mathematics is centred on Newtonian mechanics - the consequences of Newton's laws. Some of the course overlaps with A-level Applied Mathematics. It includes far-reaching ideas on energy, linear and angular momentum, simple oscillatory systems and motion under central forces such as planetary motion.*

- **Kinematics of point particles:** Vectors and vector algebra; position, velocity, and acceleration in three dimensions; polar coordinates; intrinsic coordinates and path curvature.
- **Kinetics and Newton's laws:** Definition of mass, momentum, inertia, and force; Axioms, or Laws of Motion
- **Forces:** Gravitation; forces that constrain motion: normal force and tension; friction; forces that depend on velocity: drag forces; forces that depend on position: spring forces.
- **Oscillators:** Simple, damped, and forced oscillators; amplitude and phase difference; resonance.
- **Energy:** Kinetic and potential energies; conservative forces; stability of and motion about fixed points; potential wells and escape; energy diagrams.
- **Angular momentum:** Central forces; orbital equation; effective potential.
- **Systems of (interacting) particles:** Two body systems; centre of mass; moment of inertia; total momentum, angular momentum, and energy for systems; variable mass systems; torque;
- **Rigid body motion:** Rigid body kinematics; continuous mass distributions; rigid body dynamics with rotation about a single axis

## Appropriate books

D. Kleppner and R. J. Kolenkow *An Introduction to Mechanics*.

G. R. Fowles and G. L. Cassiday *Analytical Mechanics*.

R. Feynman *The Feynman Lectures*.

T. W. B. Kibble and F. H. Berkshire *Classical Mechanics*.

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# 1 Kinematics

## Lecture 1

What we are after is an *equation of motion* to find the position of an object for all times. Ingredients to an equation of motion:

- 1) Kinematics - Description of motion
- 2) Kinetics - Newton's laws
- 3) Mathematical Description of Forces - Describe forces in terms of kinematic quantities

## Cartesian Coordinates

For a point particle there are three key kinematic quantities.

1. Position:  $\vec{r}(t)$
2. Velocity:  $\vec{v}(t)$
3. Acceleration:  $\vec{a}(t)$

In general,  $\vec{r}(t)$ ,  $\vec{v}(t)$ ,  $\vec{a}(t) \in \mathbb{R}^3$ .

We can use different coordinate systems to describe our quantities:

- (i) Cartesian
- (ii) Polar
- (iii) Intrinsic

Consider the path of a particle through space:

**Definition.** We write the *position* at time  $t$  as

$$\vec{r}(t) = x(t)\hat{i} + y(t)\hat{j} + z(t)\hat{k}$$

We can also write this as

$$[\vec{r}(t)] = \begin{bmatrix} x(t) \\ y(t) \\ z(t) \end{bmatrix} \text{ so, } \hat{i} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \hat{j} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \hat{k} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

*Magnitude of  $\vec{r}$*

$$r = |\vec{r}| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$$

$r$  is the distance from the origin.

*Direction of  $\vec{r}$*

$$\hat{r} = \vec{r}/r = \frac{x}{r}\hat{i} + \frac{y}{r}\hat{j} + \frac{z}{r}\hat{k}$$

So, we can write

$$\vec{r} = r(t)\hat{r}(t)$$

This is the starting point for polar coordinates.

**Last Time:**

Lecture 2

Position:

$$\vec{r}(t) = x(t)\hat{i} + y(t)\hat{j} + z(t)\hat{k}$$

At  $\Delta t$  later

$$\vec{r}(t + \Delta t) = x(t + \Delta t)\hat{i} + y(t + \Delta t)\hat{j} + z(t + \Delta t)\hat{k}$$

**Definition.** Define  $\Delta\vec{r} = \vec{r}(t + \Delta t) - \vec{r}(t)$

Define the *velocity* of the particle at time  $t$

$$\vec{v}(t) = \lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta\vec{r}}{\Delta t} = \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt}$$

Since  $\hat{i}, \hat{j}, \hat{k}$  are constant in time

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{v}(t) &= \frac{d}{dt}(\vec{r}(t)) = \frac{d}{dt}(x\hat{i} + y\hat{j} + z\hat{k}) \\ &= \frac{dx}{dt}\hat{i} + \frac{dy}{dt}\hat{j} + \frac{dz}{dt}\hat{k}\end{aligned}$$

Writing  $\frac{df}{dt} \equiv \dot{f}$ ,

$$\vec{v}(t) = \dot{x}\hat{i} + \dot{y}\hat{j} + \dot{z}\hat{k} = v_x\hat{i} + v_y\hat{j} + v_z\hat{k}$$

**Definition.**

$$v = |\vec{v}| = [v_x^2 + v_y^2 + v_z^2]^{1/2}$$

is the magnitude of the velocity or *speed* of the particle.

Thus, the *direction* of motion is

$$\hat{v} = \vec{v}/v, \quad |\hat{v}| = 1$$

$\hat{v}$  is also the unit tangent to the path.

Define the *acceleration*

$$\vec{a}(t) = \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt} = \frac{d^2\vec{r}}{dt^2} = \ddot{x}\hat{i} + \ddot{y}\hat{j} + \ddot{z}\hat{k}$$

$\vec{a}(t)$  tells us how the velocity is changing at time  $t$ .

Recall that we can write

$$\vec{v} = v(t)\hat{v}(t), \text{ then } \vec{a} =$$

## Polar Coodinates

## Intrinsic Coordinates

Lecture 7

Coordinates that are intrinsic to the path of our particle. We know the path!

Distance travelled between  $t$  and  $t + \Delta t$  :

$$\Delta s = |\Delta \vec{r}| = \left| [x(t + \Delta t) - x(t)]\hat{i} + [y(t + \Delta t) - y(t)]\hat{j} + [z(t + \Delta t) - z(t)]\hat{k} \right|$$

For  $\Delta t \ll 1$ :

$$x(t + \Delta t) = x(t) + \Delta t \frac{dx}{dt} + \mathcal{O}(\Delta t^2)$$

Doing the same for our other components:

$$\Delta s = \underbrace{\left[ \frac{dx}{dt}\hat{i} + \frac{dy}{dt}\hat{j} + \frac{dz}{dt}\hat{k} \right]}_{\vec{v}} \Delta t + \mathcal{O}(\Delta t^2)$$

Thus,

$$\frac{\Delta s}{\Delta t} = v + \mathcal{O}(\Delta t)$$

Taking  $\lim \Delta t \rightarrow 0$

$$\boxed{\frac{ds}{dt} = v = \dot{s} \implies s(t) = \int_0^t v(t') dt'}$$

Both  $t$  and  $s$  are ways of parametrizing our curve (path). Instead of writing  $\vec{r}(t)$ , we can write  $\vec{r}(s)$ .

**Definition.**  $s$  is what we call the *arc length*.

$\vec{v} = \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} = \frac{d\vec{r}}{ds} \frac{ds}{dt}$ . But  $\frac{ds}{dt} = v$ . So,  $\frac{d\vec{r}}{ds} = \hat{v}$ , the unit tangent at every point  $s$ . Thus

$$\vec{v}(s) = \dot{s} \hat{v}$$

Also

$$\vec{a} = \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt} \left( \dot{s} \frac{d\vec{r}}{ds} \right) = \ddot{s} \frac{d\vec{r}}{ds} + \dot{s} \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{d\vec{r}}{ds} \right) = \ddot{s} \hat{v} + \dot{s} \frac{d^2 \vec{r}}{ds^2} \frac{ds}{dt}$$

So

$$\vec{a}(s) = \ddot{s} \hat{v} + \dot{s}^2 \frac{d^2 \vec{r}}{ds^2} = \ddot{s} \hat{v} + \kappa \dot{s}^2 \hat{n}$$

Writing  $\frac{d^2 \vec{r}}{ds^2} = \kappa \hat{n}$ , where  $\kappa = \left| \frac{d^2 \vec{r}}{ds^2} \right|$ ,  $\hat{n} = \frac{1}{\kappa} \frac{d^2 \vec{r}}{ds^2}$ .

It turns out that  $\kappa$  is the curvature of the path. What about  $\hat{n}$ ?

Recall:  $|\hat{v}| = 1$ . So  $\frac{d}{ds}(\hat{v} \cdot \hat{v} = 1) \implies 2\hat{v} \cdot \frac{d\hat{v}}{ds} = 0 \implies 2\kappa(\hat{v} \cdot \hat{n}) = 0$

So, if  $\kappa \neq 0$ , then  $\hat{v} \cdot \hat{n} = 0$ . Thus  $\hat{n}$  is the unit normal to the path.

Tangential component of the acceleration  $a_t = \vec{a} \cdot \hat{v} = \ddot{s}$

Normal component of the acceleration  $a_n = \vec{a} \cdot \hat{n} = \kappa \dot{s}^2$ , where  $\kappa \approx 1/R$

Key things to note:  $\hat{v}, \hat{n}, \kappa$  depend only on the path. Knowing  $\vec{r}(s)$ , we can find these quantities.

$\dot{s}$  and  $\ddot{s}$  depend on how the particle is moving along the path.

**Example 1.1** (Circular Motion).

**Cartesian:**  $\vec{r}(t) = R \sin(\omega t) \hat{i} + R \cos(\omega t) \hat{j}$ . Differentiating finds  $\vec{v}(t)$  and  $\vec{a}(t)$ .

**Polars:**  $r = R$  and  $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2} \omega t \implies \dot{r} = \ddot{r} = 0$  and  $\dot{\theta} = -\omega$ ,  $\ddot{\theta} = 0$ . So

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{r} &= R\hat{r} \\ \vec{v} &= \dot{r}\hat{r} + r\dot{\theta}\hat{\theta} = -R\omega\hat{\theta} \\ \vec{a} &= (\ddot{r} - r\dot{\theta}^2)\hat{r} + (2\dot{r}\dot{\theta} + r\ddot{\theta})\hat{\theta} = -R\omega^2\hat{r}\end{aligned}$$

**Intrinsic:** ( $s(0) = 0$ ) The speed is given by  $v = R\omega = \dot{s} \implies \ddot{s} = 0$ . Integrate to find  $s$

$$s = R\omega t \implies t = \frac{s}{R\omega}$$

Substitute this into our expression for  $\vec{r}(t)$

$$\vec{r}(s) = R \sin(s/R) \hat{i} + R \cos(s/R) \hat{j}$$

$$\implies \hat{v} = \frac{d\vec{r}}{ds} = \cos(s/R) \hat{i} - \sin(s/R) \hat{j}, \quad \frac{d^2\vec{r}}{ds^2} = -\frac{1}{R} [\sin(s/R) \hat{i} + \cos(s/R) \hat{j}]$$

$$\implies \kappa = \left| \frac{d^2\vec{r}}{ds^2} \right| = \frac{1}{R}, \quad \hat{n} = -\sin(s/R) \hat{i} - \cos(s/R) \hat{j}$$

$$\vec{v}(s) = R\omega \hat{v}$$

$$\vec{a}(s) = \ddot{s} \hat{v} + \kappa \dot{s}^2 \hat{n} = \frac{1}{R} (R\omega)^2 \hat{n} = R\omega^2 \hat{n}$$



**Example 1.2** (Helical Path).

$$\vec{r}(s) = b \cos(ks) \hat{i} + b \sin(ks) \hat{j} + s \sqrt{1 - b^2 k^2} \hat{k}$$

Tangent:

$$\vec{v} = \frac{d\vec{r}}{ds} = -bk \sin(ks) \hat{i} + bk \cos(ks) \hat{j} + \sqrt{1 - b^2 k^2} \hat{k}$$

Curvature and Normal:

$$\frac{d^2 \vec{r}}{ds^2} = -bk^2 \cos(ks) \hat{i} - bk^2 \sin(ks) \hat{j}$$

$$\kappa = \left| \frac{d^2 \vec{r}}{ds^2} \right| = bk^2, \quad \hat{n} = -\cos(ks) \hat{i} - \sin(ks) \hat{j}$$

Take  $s = ct$  ( $c > 0$ )  $\implies \dot{s} = c, \ddot{s} = 0$ . Thus

$$\vec{v} = c\hat{v}, \quad \vec{a} = c^2 bk^2 \hat{n}$$

Take the case where our path lies in the  $xy$ -plane and we know  $y(x)$

Then  $ds^2 = dx^2 + dy^2$ . Since  $dy = \frac{dy}{dx} dx \implies ds^2 = (1 + (\frac{dy}{dx})^2) dx^2$

$$\implies \frac{ds}{dx} = \sqrt{1 + y'^2}$$

$$s(x) = \int_{x_0}^x (1 + y'^2)^{1/2} dx$$

Highlights that  $s$  just depends on the path.

Position  $\vec{r}(x) = x\hat{i} + y(x)\hat{j}$

Tangent to the path

$$\hat{v} = \frac{d\vec{r}}{ds} = \frac{d\vec{r}}{dx} \frac{dx}{ds} = \frac{d\vec{r}}{dx} \left( \frac{ds}{dx} \right)^{-1}$$

$$\frac{d\vec{r}}{dx} = \hat{i} + y' \hat{j}, \quad \left( \frac{ds}{dx} \right)^{-1} = [1 + y'^2]^{-1/2}$$

$$\implies \hat{v} = [1 + y'^2]^{-1/2} [\hat{i} + y' \hat{j}]$$

Curvature and Normal

$$\frac{d^2 \vec{r}}{ds^2} = \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{d\vec{r}}{ds} \right) \left( \frac{ds}{dx} \right)^{-1} = \left( \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{d\vec{r}}{ds} \right) \frac{dx}{ds} \right)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \frac{d\vec{r}}{ds} = \frac{d\hat{v}}{dx} = -\frac{1}{2}[1 + y'^2]^{-3/2} \times (2y'y'') \times [\hat{i} + y'\hat{j}] + [1 + y'^2]^{-1/2} y''\hat{j}$$

**Example 1.3.**  $y = x^2$ ,  $y' = 2x$ ,  $y'' = 2$

$$\frac{ds}{dx} = [1 + y'^2]^{1/2}$$

## 2 Kinetics and Newtons Laws

### Newton's Laws

Lecture 9

#### Definition.

- *Mass,  $m$*  - “Quantity of Matter”, measured in kg (scalar)
- *Momentum,  $\vec{p} = m\vec{v}$*  - “Quantity of Motion” (vector)
- *Inertia* - “Vis Insita” (innate force of matter). The resistance of an object to change its state of motion.
- *Force* - An action that changes an objects state of motion

#### Theorem 2.1: Newton's First Law

Every body has inertia.

#### Theorem 2.2: Newton's Second Law

The net force on an object is equal to the rate of change of momentum:

$$\vec{F} = \frac{d\vec{p}}{dt} = \frac{d(m\vec{v})}{dt}$$

#### Theorem 2.3: Newton's Third Law

If  $\vec{F}_{AB}$  is the force on object  $A$  due to object  $B$ . Then  $\vec{F}_{BA} = -\vec{F}_{AB}$ .

### 3 Forces

#### Gravity

#### Constraint Forces

#### Friction

#### Drag Force

Lecture 15

Example of a force that depends on the velocity of an object.

Motion of bodies through fluid.

Fluid has:  $\rho$ : density and  $\eta$ : viscosity

To move through the fluid, the body exerts a force on the fluid:  $\vec{F}_{FB}$

By Newton's III Law

$$\vec{F}_{BF} = -\vec{F}_{FB}$$

The drag force

$$\vec{F}_D = (\vec{F}_{BF} \cdot \hat{v})\hat{v}$$

In general to find  $\vec{F}_D$  is a challenging problem!

To find  $\vec{u}$  we need to solve the Navier-Stokes Equations. From  $\vec{u}$  we can obtain  $\vec{F}_D$ .

Fortunately this calculation can be done for two limiting cases; at low and at high speeds:

#### Low Speeds

At low speeds  $|\vec{v}| \ll 1$ , then

$$\vec{F}_D = -C_D \vec{v}$$

Where  $C_D$  is the *drag co-efficient*

- This depends linearly on  $\vec{v}$ .
- Always opposite the direction of motion
- For a sphere  $C_D = 6\pi R\eta$
- $C_D$  depends on (i) the size of the object, (ii) the viscosity of the fluid

If  $\vec{u} \neq 0$  meaning there is a background flow:

$$\vec{F}_D = -C_D(\vec{v} - \vec{u})$$

only a drag force if there's relative motion to the fluid.

## High Speeds

$$\vec{F}_D = -C_D |\vec{v}| \vec{v}$$

- Opposes the motion
- Depends quadratically on the speed
- Changes  $C_D = \frac{1}{2} \rho R^2 K$
- Drag Force is not all of  $\vec{F}_{BF}$

### Example 3.1.

$$\vec{F}_D = -C_D \vec{v}$$

Force Diagram:

Newton's Second Law:

$$m \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt} = \vec{F}_D + \vec{F}_g = -C_D \vec{v} - mg \hat{j}$$

First, seek the solution,  $\vec{v}_\infty$ , where  $\frac{d\vec{v}}{dt} = 0$ , the *steady state solution*

$$\begin{aligned} \implies 0 &= -C_D \vec{v} - mg \\ \implies \vec{v}_\infty &= -\frac{mg}{C_D} \hat{j} \end{aligned}$$

Using linearity of the equation

$$\vec{v} = \vec{v}_\infty + \vec{w}$$

Substitute this into Newton's Second Law:

$$m \frac{d}{dt}(\vec{v}_\infty + \vec{w}) = -C_D(\vec{v}_\infty + \vec{w}) - mg \hat{j}$$

$$m \frac{d\vec{w}}{dt} = mg \hat{j} - C_D \vec{w} - mg \hat{j}$$

$$\implies \frac{d\vec{w}}{dt} = -\frac{C_D}{m} \vec{w}$$

$$\implies \vec{w} = \vec{w}_0 e^{-C_D t/m}$$

Thus

$$\vec{v} = -\frac{mg}{C_D}\hat{j} + \vec{w}_0 e^{-C_D t/m}$$

Initial condition:  $t = 0, \vec{v} = \vec{v}_0 \implies \vec{w}_0 = \vec{v}_0 + \frac{mg}{C_D}\hat{j}$ . So

$$\vec{v} = \vec{v}_0 e^{-C_D t/m} - \frac{mg}{C_D}\hat{j}[1 - e^{-C_D t/m}]$$

As  $t \rightarrow \infty, \vec{v} \rightarrow -\frac{mg}{C_D}\hat{j} = \vec{v}_\infty$  as expected.

The ratio  $C_D/m$  controls how quickly this limit is reached.

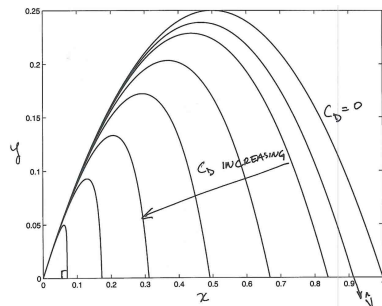
Taking  $\vec{v}_0 = 0$

$$\vec{v} = -\frac{mg}{C_D}\hat{j}[1 - e^{-C_D t/m}]$$

Integrating our general expression to find the position:

$$\vec{r}(t) = \vec{r}_0 - \frac{mgt}{C_D}\hat{j} + \frac{m}{C_D}[\vec{v}_0 + \frac{mg}{C_D}\hat{j}] \times (1 - e^{-C_D t/m})$$

**Projectiles:**  $\vec{r}_0 = 0, \vec{v}_0 = v_0 \cos \alpha \hat{i} + v_0 \sin \alpha \hat{j}$



## 4 Oscillators

## 5 Energy

### Lecture 19

Energy gives us another viewpoint on mechanical systems.

1D: From Newton's 2nd Law

$$m\ddot{x} = F(x, \dot{x}, t) \implies m\dot{x}\ddot{x} = F\dot{x}$$

Since  $\dot{x}\ddot{x} = \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{1}{2}\dot{x}^2 \right)$

$$\boxed{\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2 \right) = F\dot{x}} \quad (5.1)$$

Call  $T = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2$  and integrate (5.1) with respect to time

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \frac{d}{dt} T \, dt &= \int_{t_1}^{t_2} F\dot{x} \, dt \\ \implies T(t_2) - T(t_1) &= \int_{x(t_1)}^{x(t_2)} F \, dx \end{aligned}$$

**Definition.** We call  $T = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2$  the *kinetic energy*,  $F\dot{x}$  the *rate of work*.

$W_{12} = \int_{x(t_1)}^{x(t_2)} F \, dx$  is the *work done* on  $m$  by  $F$ .

Define  $V(x) = -\int F \, dx + C$  is *potential energy*.  $T + V = E$ , the *total energy*.

A force that can be written in terms of a potential ( $\vec{F} = -\vec{\nabla}V$ ) is *conservative*.

### Theorem 5.2: Conservation of Energy

Under conservative forces, the total energy of a system is constant.

*Proof.* Suppose that  $F = F(x)$ ,  $V(x) = -\int F \, dx + C$  or  $F = -\frac{dV}{dx}$

$$\int_{x(t_1)}^{x(t_2)} F \, dx = \int_{x(t_1)}^{x(t_2)} -\frac{dV}{dx} \, dx$$

$$\implies T(t_2) + V(t_2) = T(t_1) + V(t_1) = E$$

More generally, from (5.1)

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2 \right) - F\dot{x} = 0$$

Since  $F\dot{x} = \frac{dV}{dx} \frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{dV}{dt}$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2 - V \right) = 0$$

$$\implies T + V = E, \text{ a constant} \quad \blacksquare$$



Not all forces are conservative!

**Example 5.3.**  $F_D = -C_D \dot{x}$  is not conservative.

Suppose that

Newton's Second Law:

$$\begin{aligned} m\ddot{x} &= F_{CON} + F_D \\ \implies m\ddot{x} + \frac{dV}{dx} &= -C_D \dot{x} \end{aligned}$$

Multiplying by  $\dot{x}$  and rearranging the terms:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \underbrace{(T + V)}_E &= -C_D \dot{x}^2 \leq 0 \\ \implies \frac{dE}{dt} &\leq 0 \implies \text{Energy decreases with time} \end{aligned}$$

Examples of Conservative Forces

**Examples 5.4.**

- Gravity:  $F = -mg \implies V = mgx + C$
- Spring Force:  $F = -kx \implies V = \frac{1}{2}kx^2 + C$

We can choose  $C$  for our convenience.

Recall that forces that are related to a potential are called *conservative forces*.

Lecture 20

Another way to think about conservative forces is through the *work done*:

$$W_{12} = \int_{x(t_1)}^{x(t_2)} F \, dx$$

If the forces is conservative  $F = -\frac{dV}{dx} \implies W_{12} = -V(x_2) + V(x_1)$ .

Hence the work done just depends on the initial and final position. It is path independent!

We also saw that as a result:

$$T(t_1) + V(t_1) = T(t_2) + V(t_2) = E, \text{ the total energy}$$

## Potential Wells

Suppose we know  $\dot{x}$  and  $x$  at  $t = 0$ . With this, we can find

$$E = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2(0) + V(x(0))$$

And we know this for all times.

**Definition.** The points  $x_0, x_1$  and  $x_2$  are where  $V = E$ . These points are called *turning points*.

## Oscillations between Turning Points

At the turning points, for example  $V(x_1) = E$ , we know that  $T(x_1) = 0 \implies \dot{x}_1 = 0$ .

We know that if the particle is between  $x_0$  and  $x_1$ , it will oscillate between these points forever! We say that this particle is *trapped*!

Period of oscillation between  $x_0$  and  $x_1$ :

$$E = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2 + V(x)$$

Solve for  $\dot{x}$

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \dot{x} = \pm \left[ \frac{2}{m}(E - V(x)) \right]^{1/2} \quad (5.5)$$

We need to choose the correct root based on  $\dot{x}$  at a particular point in time. Suppose we know going from  $x_0$  to  $x_1$ ,  $\dot{x} > 0$ .

We need to integrate (5.5) to find the time it takes to go from  $x_0$  to  $x_1$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{x_0}^{x_1} \frac{dx}{\left[ \frac{2}{m}(E - V(x)) \right]^{1/2}} &= \int_{t_0}^{t_1} dt \\ &= T_{osc}/2 \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$T_{osc} = 2 \int_{x_0}^{x_1} \frac{dx}{\left[ \frac{2}{m}(E - V(x)) \right]^{1/2}} \quad (5.6)$$

**Example 5.7** (Spring).

Spring:  $V = \frac{1}{2}kx^2$

Initially  $x(0) = L$ ,  $\dot{x}(0) = 0$

$$E = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}(0) + V(L) = \frac{1}{2}kL^2$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 T_{osc} &= 2 \int_{-L}^L \frac{dx}{\left[\frac{2}{m}\left(\frac{1}{2}kL^2 - \frac{1}{2}kx^2\right)\right]^{1/2}} \\
 &= 2\sqrt{\frac{m}{k}} \int_{-L}^L \frac{dx}{[L^2 - x^2]^{1/2}} \\
 &= 2\sqrt{\frac{m}{k}} \int_{-L}^L \frac{dx}{L[1 - (x/L)^2]^{1/2}} \\
 u &= x/L \\
 &= 2\sqrt{\frac{m}{k}} \int_{-1}^1 \frac{du}{[1 - u^2]^{1/2}} \\
 &= 2\sqrt{\frac{m}{k}} \arcsin u \Big|_{-1}^1 = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{m}{k}}
 \end{aligned}$$

So  $T_{osc} = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{m}{k}}$ ,  $\omega_0 = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}$

## Escape

Suppose the particle is at  $x_A$ . What speed does it need to not be trapped, i.e.  $x \rightarrow \infty$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ ?

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Initial speed:  $u$

$$E = \frac{1}{2}mu^2 + V(x_A)$$

We want  $E > E^*$  to allow our particle to escape.  $E^* = V(X_1)$ . We require then

$$\begin{aligned}
 V(X_1) &< \frac{1}{2}mu^2 + V(x_A) \\
 \implies u &> \sqrt{\frac{2}{m}(V(X_1) - V(x_A))}
 \end{aligned}$$

## Stability

**Definition.** *Equilibrium Points* are where  $\frac{dV}{dx} = 0 \implies F = 0 \implies m\ddot{x} = 0$

We say that an equilibrium point is

- *stable* if  $\frac{d^2V}{dx^2} > 0$  (Minimum) e.g.  $X_0$
- *unstable* if  $\frac{d^2V}{dx^2} < 0$  (Maximum) e.g.  $X_1$

## Oscillations near Equilibrium Point

Suppose we are near and very close to a stable equilibrium point,  $X_0$ , so  $|x - X_0| \ll 1$ .

Taylor expansion of  $V(x)$  about  $X_0$ :

$$V(x) = V(X_0) + V'(X_0)(X - X_0) + \frac{1}{2}V''(X_0)(X - X_0)^2 + \dots \quad (5.8)$$

Since  $X_0$  is an equilibrium point, we know  $V'(X_0) = 0$

$$V(x) = V(X_0) + \frac{1}{2}V''(X_0)(X - X_0)^2$$

Since  $X_0$  is a stable equilibrium point  $V''(X_0) > 0$

$$F = \frac{-dV}{dx} = -(x - X_0)V''(X_0)$$

From Newton's 2nd Law

$$m\ddot{x} = -(x - X_0)V''(X_0)$$

Taking  $X = x - X_0$

$$m\ddot{X} + V''(X_0)X = 0$$

This looks like the simple harmonic oscillator with  $k = V''(X_0)$ .

Since  $\omega_0 = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}$ , the frequency of small oscillation is  $\omega_0 = \sqrt{\frac{V''(X_0)}{m}}$

$$\implies T_{osc} = \frac{2\pi}{\omega_0} = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{m}{V''(X_0)}}$$

**Example 5.9** (Lennard-Jones Potential).

Used to model interactions between neutral atoms or molecules and Molecular dynamics simulations.

## 6 Angular Momentum

### Central Forces

We will consider forces of the form

$$\vec{F} = F(r)\hat{r}$$

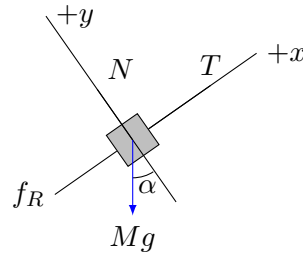
Magnitude depends on the distance from the origin.

Direction  $\hat{r}$  is repulsive; away from the origin.  $-\hat{r}$  : attractive; towards the origin.

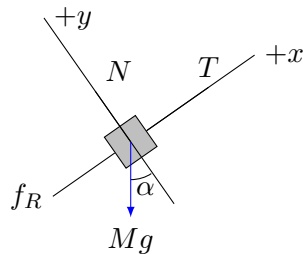
Lecture 23

**Example 6.1** (Gravity).

$$\vec{F} = -\frac{GMm}{r^2}\hat{r}$$



Suppose that



Polar coordinates are perfect for these problems

Newton's Second Law:

$$m(\ddot{r} - r\dot{\theta}^2) = F \quad (6.2)$$

$$m(r\ddot{\theta} + 2\dot{r}\dot{\theta}) = 0 \quad (6.3)$$

Multiply (6.3) by  $r$

$$m(r^2\ddot{\theta} + 2\dot{r}r\dot{\theta}) = 0$$

$$\frac{d}{dt}(mr^2\dot{\theta}) = 0 \implies mr^2\dot{\theta} = mh = \text{constant}$$

**Definition.**  $h = r^2\dot{\theta}$  - angular momentum per unit mass

Angular momentum,  $\vec{J} = \vec{r} \times \vec{p} = \vec{r} \times m\vec{v}$

#### Theorem 6.4: Conservation of Angular Momentum

Under a central force (no torque), the total angular momentum is conserved.

*Proof.* In polars,  $\vec{r} = r\hat{r}$ ,  $\vec{v} = \dot{r}\hat{r} + r\dot{\theta}\hat{\theta}$

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{J} &= \vec{r} \times m\vec{v} = (r\hat{r}) \times m(\dot{r}\hat{r} + r\dot{\theta}\hat{\theta}) = mr\dot{r}(\hat{r} \times \hat{r}) + mr^2\dot{\theta}(\hat{r} \times \hat{\theta}) \\ &\implies \vec{J} = mr^2\dot{\theta}\hat{k} = m h \hat{k} = \text{constant}\end{aligned}$$

■

### Energy

For a force to be conservative  $\vec{F} = -\vec{\nabla}V$ . In 2D

$$\vec{F} = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial x}\hat{i} - \frac{\partial V}{\partial y}\hat{j} \quad (6.5)$$

Since  $\vec{F} = \vec{F}(r)\hat{r}$  we need  $V = V(r)$

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial x} = \frac{dV}{dr} \frac{\partial r}{\partial x}$$

Since  $r = (x^2 + y^2)^{1/2}$ ,  $\frac{\partial r}{\partial x} = \frac{1}{2}[x^2 + y^2]^{-1/2} \times (2x) = x/r = \cos(\theta)$ . Thus

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial x} = \frac{dV}{dr} \cos \theta$$

Similarly

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial y} = \frac{dV}{dr} \frac{\partial r}{\partial y} = \frac{dV}{dr} \sin \theta$$

Thus the force, by (6.5), is

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{F} &= -\frac{dV}{dx} \cos \theta \hat{i} - \frac{dV}{dy} \sin \theta \hat{j} \\ &= -\frac{dV}{dr} \hat{r}\end{aligned}$$

So for a central force to be conservative

$$\vec{F}(r) = -\frac{dV}{dr}$$

From the Conservation of Energy

$$\frac{1}{2}mv^2 + V(r) = E$$

Since  $\vec{v} = \dot{r}\hat{r} + r\dot{\theta}\hat{\theta}$

$$E = \frac{1}{2}m[\dot{r}^2 + r^2\dot{\theta}^2] + V(r) \quad (6.6)$$

## Orbital Equation

Find the trajectories or shapes or orbits as a function of  $\theta$ . It's solution is  $u(\theta) = 1/r(\theta)$ .

We know  $h = r^2\dot{\theta} = \dot{\theta}u^{-2} \implies \dot{\theta} = hu^2$ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{r} &= \frac{d}{dt}(u^{-1}) = -u^{-2} \frac{du}{d\theta} \frac{d\theta}{dt} = -h \frac{du}{d\theta} \\ \ddot{r} &= -h \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{du}{d\theta} \right) = -h \frac{d^2u}{d\theta^2} \dot{\theta} = h^2 u^2 \frac{d^2u}{d\theta^2}\end{aligned}$$

Also

$$r\dot{\theta}^2 = u^{-1}(hu^2)^2 = h^2u^3$$

Write  $F(r) = F(u^{-1})$  and substitute into (6.2) from Newton's 2nd Law:

$$m(h^2u^2 \frac{d^2u}{d\theta^2} - h^2u^3) = F(u^{-1})$$

Giving our orbital equation:

$$\boxed{\frac{d^2u}{d\theta^2} + u = -\frac{1}{mh^2u^2} F(u^{-1})} \quad (6.7)$$

**Example 6.8.**  $r(\theta) = c\theta^2$  ( $c > 0$ ). Find  $F(r)$ :

$$u = c^{-1}\theta^{-2}, \quad \frac{du}{d\theta} = -2c^{-1}\theta^{-3}, \quad \frac{d^2u}{d\theta^2} = 6c^{-1}\theta^{-4} = 6u^2$$

From the Orbital Equation (6.6)

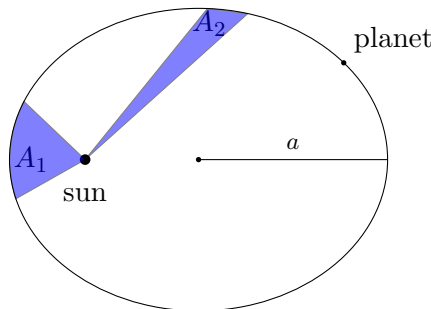
$$\begin{aligned}F(u^{-1}) &= -mh^2u^2(u + 6cu^2) = -mh^2(u^3 + 6cu^4) \\ \implies F(r) &= -mh^2(r^{-3} + 6cr^{-4})\end{aligned}$$

## Kepler's Laws

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### Theorem 6.9: Kepler's Laws

- I Orbits of Planets are Ellipses
- II Law of Equal Areas: If  $\Delta t_1 = \Delta t_2$  then  $A_1 = A_2$
- III The time period of orbit,  $T \propto a^3$



*Proof of Kepler's First Law.* Inverse square law:

$$F(r) = -k/r^2 \implies F(u^{-1}) = -ku^2$$

Substituting into our orbital equation (6.6)

$$\frac{d^2u}{d\theta^2} + u = \frac{k}{mh^2u^2} \quad (*)$$

This resembles

$$m \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} + kx = F_0$$

The general solution to (\*) is  $u = A \cos(\theta - \theta_0) + \frac{k}{mh^2}$ ; wlog take  $\theta_0 = 0$  so

$$u(\theta) = A \cos(\theta) + \frac{k}{mh^2}$$

$$\implies r(\theta) = \frac{(mh^2/k)}{1 + \frac{Amh^2}{k} \cos \theta} \quad (6.10)$$

This is the form of an ellipse in polar coordinates (see Problem 10, P.S. 1)

$$r(\theta) = \frac{l}{1 + e \cos \theta}$$

Where  $l = \frac{mh^2}{k}$ ,  $e = \frac{Amh^2}{k}$ .

$$e = [1 - b^2/a^2]^{1/2}, \quad l = a(1 - e^2)$$

■

We see that  $E$  is related to  $A$ .

We can get the family of orbits by considering the energy; equation (6.5) gives

$$E = \frac{1}{2}m[\dot{r}^2 + r^2\dot{\theta}^2] + V(r)$$

$$F(r) = -kr^{-2} = -\frac{dV}{dr}, \text{ so } V(r) = -kr^{-1} \implies V(u^{-1}) = -ku.$$

Also  $\dot{r} = -h \frac{du}{d\theta}$ , and  $r^2\dot{\theta}^2 = h^2r^{-2} = h^2u^2$ . So the energy is

$$E = \frac{1}{2}mh^2 \left[ \left( \frac{du}{d\theta} \right)^2 + u^2 \right] - ku$$



Using the fact  $u(\theta) = A \cos(\theta) + \frac{k}{mh^2}$ ,  $\frac{du}{d\theta} = -A \sin \theta$  and simplifying the trig we get

$$E = \frac{1}{2}mh^2 A^2 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{k^2}{mh^2}$$

$$\implies A = \sqrt{\frac{2E}{mh^2} + \frac{k^2}{(mh^2)^2}}$$

From (6.9), the eccentricity of the orbit,  $e = (1 - b^2/a^2)^{1/2}$ , is

$$e = \frac{Amh^2}{k} = \frac{mh^2}{k} \sqrt{\frac{2E}{mh^2} + \frac{k^2}{(mh^2)^2}} = \sqrt{1 + \frac{2Emh^2}{k^2}}$$

This parameter  $e$  actually allows our solution  $r(\theta)$  to describe a whole family of orbits.

### Examples 6.11.

(i) Bounded Trajectories

- $E = -k^2/2mh^2 \implies e = 0$  [Circle]
- $E < 0 \implies 0 < e < 1$  [Ellipse]

(ii) Unbounded Trajectories

- $E = 0 \implies e = 1$  [Parabola]
- $E > 0 \implies e > 1$  [Hyperbola]

## Effective Potential

Consider the energy

$$E = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{r}^2 + \frac{1}{2}mr^2\dot{\theta}^2 + V(r)$$

Since  $h = r^2\dot{\theta}$ ,  $h^2 = r^4\dot{\theta}^2 \implies r^2\dot{\theta}^2 = h^2/r^2$

$$E = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{r}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \frac{mh^2}{r^2} + V(r)$$

**Definition.** The *Effective Potential*,  $V_{EFF} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{mh^2}{r^2} + V(r)$

$$\implies E = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{r}^2 + V_{EFF}$$

What we've done is written our energy in such a way that it looks like what we had with 1D motion!

$$x \longrightarrow r$$

$$V(x) \longrightarrow V_{EFF}(r)$$

**Definition.** *Turning points* occur when  $V_{EFF} = E$ . This tells us where  $\frac{1}{2}m\dot{r}^2 = 0 \implies \dot{r} = 0$ . This tells us about the boundedness of our orbit.

## Equilibria

In 1D:  $V'(x_0) = 0 \implies F(x_0) = 0$ , where  $x_0$  is the equilibrium point

If  $\dot{x} = 0$  and  $x = x_0$  at  $t = 0$ , then  $m\ddot{x} = 0$  and  $x = x_0 \forall t$

$$\begin{aligned} V_{EFF} &= \frac{1}{2} \frac{mh^2}{r^2} + V(r) \\ \implies \frac{dV_{EFF}}{dr} &= -mh^2 r^{-3} + \underbrace{V'(r)}_{-F(r)} \end{aligned}$$

Newton's 2nd Law's  $\hat{r}$  component (equation (6.2))

$$\begin{aligned} m(\ddot{r} - r\dot{\theta}^2) &= F(r) \\ \implies m\ddot{r} &= F(r) + \frac{mh^2}{r^3} = \frac{dV_{EFF}}{dr} \end{aligned}$$

Suppose that  $V'_{EFF}(r_0) = 0$ . If  $r = r_0$  and  $\dot{r} = 0$  at  $t = 0$ , then  $m\ddot{r} = 0 \implies r = r_0 \forall t$ .  
So we have a constant  $r \implies$  Circular Trajectory

## Stability

$R = r - r_0$ ,  $|R| \ll 1$ , then the Taylor expansion about  $r_0$ :

$$V_{EFF}(r) = V_{EFF}(r_0) + RV'_{EFF}(r_0) + \frac{1}{2}R^2V''_{EFF}(r_0) + \dots \quad (6.12)$$

Since at  $r_0$ ,  $V'_{EFF}(r_0) = 0$

$$V_{EFF}(r) = V_{EFF}(r_0) + \frac{1}{2}R^2V''_{EFF}(r_0)$$

Differentiating

$$V'_{EFF}(r) = RV''_{EFF}(r)$$

Using this in Newton's Second Law:

$$m\ddot{r} = -RV''_{EFF}(r_0)$$

or

$$m\ddot{R} + RV''_{EFF}(r_0) = 0$$

- If  $V''_{EFF}(r_0) > 0 \implies$  a minimum, so the circular orbit is stable.
- If  $V''_{EFF}(r_0) < 0 \implies$  a maximum, so the circular orbit is unstable.

**Example 6.13.**  $F(r) = -kr^{-2}$  ( $k > 0$ )  $\implies V(r) = -kr^{-1}$

$$\begin{aligned} \implies V_{EFF}(r) &= -kr^{-1} + \frac{1}{2}mh^2r^{-2} \\ \implies V'_{EFF}(r) &= kr^{-2} - mh^2r^{-3} \end{aligned}$$

Setting this equal to zero

$$r^{-3}(kr - mh^2) = 0$$

This is satisfied as  $r \rightarrow \infty$  or at  $r_0 = mh^2/k$

$$V''_{EFF}(r) = -2kr^{-3} + 3mh^2r^{-4}$$

So at the equilibria point

$$V''_{EFF}(mh^2/k) = \left(\frac{k}{mh^2}\right)^4 (3mh^2 - 2k(mh^2/k)) = \left(\frac{k}{mh^2}\right)^4 (mh^2) > 0$$

This is a stable circular trajectory.

$$V'_{EFF}\left(\frac{mh^2}{k}\right) = -k\left(\frac{k}{mh^2}\right) + \frac{1}{2}mh^2\left(\frac{k^2}{(mh^2)^2}\right) = -\frac{k^2}{2mh^2}$$

Thus

$$E_{MIN} = -\frac{k^2}{2mh^2}.$$

We reach the same family of orbits as Example 6.10 by differing values of  $E$ :

(i) Bounded Trajectories

- $E = E_{MIN} = -k^2/2mh^2 \implies r = \frac{mh^2}{k} \implies$  Circular Orbit
- $E_{MIN} < E < 0 \implies$  two turning points  $\implies$  Bounded Orbit [Ellipse]

(ii) Unbounded Trajectories when  $E \geq 0$  since we have only a single turning point.

In particular

- $E = 0 \implies$  Parabola
- $E > 0 \implies$  Hyperbola

## 7 Systems of Particles

Lecture 26

**Definition.**

- $N$ : Total number of particles
- $\vec{r}_i$ : Position of particle  $i$
- $\vec{v}_i$ : Velocity of particle  $i$
- $\vec{F}_i$ : Force on particle  $i$
- $m_i$ : Mass of particle  $i$

Consider the average motion of the system:

**Definition.** *Centre of Mass,  $\vec{r}_{cm}$ :*

$$\vec{r}_{cm} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N m_i \vec{r}_i}{\sum_{i=1}^N m_i} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N m_i \vec{r}_i}{M}$$

Where  $M = \sum_{i=1}^N m_i$  is the *total mass*.

### Momentum

The total momentum  $\vec{p}$  is

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{p} &= \sum_i \vec{p}_i = \sum_i m_i \vec{v}_i = \sum_i m_i \frac{d\vec{r}_i}{dt} \\ &= \frac{d}{dt} \left( \sum_i m_i \vec{r}_i \right) \\ &= \frac{d}{dt} (M \vec{r}_{cm}) \\ &= M \frac{d\vec{r}_{cm}}{dt} = M \vec{v}_{cm} \end{aligned}$$

Where  $\vec{v}_{cm}$  is the velocity of the centre of mass.

$$\vec{F}_i = \vec{F}_i^{EXT} + \sum_{j=1}^N \vec{F}_{ij}$$

where  $\vec{F}_i^{EXT}$  is the external forces on particle  $i$ ,  $\vec{F}_{ij}$  is the force on  $i$  due to  $j$

**Example 7.1.**

Here  $\vec{F}_{gi}$  (Force due to gravity on  $i$ ) is the only external force on  $i \implies \vec{F}_i^{EXT} = \vec{F}_{gi}$

Note that

- (i)  $\vec{F}_{ii} = \vec{0}$
- (ii)  $\vec{F}_{ij} = -\vec{F}_{ji}$  By Newton's Third Law

### Theorem 7.2: Newton's Second Law for a System

The external force is equal to the rate of change of momentum of the centre of mass

$$M \frac{d\vec{v}_{cm}}{dt} = \vec{F}^{EXT}$$

Where the total external force on the system  $\vec{F}^{EXT} = \sum_i \vec{F}_i^{EXT}$ .

*Proof.* For particle  $i$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\vec{p}_i}{dt} &= \vec{F}_i = \vec{F}_i^{EXT} + \sum_{j=1}^N \vec{F}_{ij} \\ \Rightarrow \sum_i \frac{d\vec{p}_i}{dt} &= \sum_i \vec{F}_i = \sum_i \vec{F}_i^{EXT} + \sum_i \sum_j \vec{F}_{ij} \end{aligned}$$

Due to Newton's Third Law  $\sum_i \sum_j \vec{F}_{ij} = \vec{0}$ . We are then left with

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_i \frac{d\vec{p}_i}{dt} &= \sum_i \vec{F}_i^{EXT} \\ \Rightarrow \frac{d}{dt} \left( \sum_i \vec{p}_i \right) &= \vec{F}^{EXT} \\ \Rightarrow M \frac{d\vec{v}_{cm}}{dt} &= \vec{F}^{EXT} \quad \blacksquare \end{aligned}$$

- (i) If there is no external forces then

$$M \frac{d\vec{v}_{cm}}{dt} = 0 = \frac{d\vec{p}}{dt}$$

(The conservation of momentum)

- (ii) If there are external forces then the centre of mass moves as though it were a point particle of mass  $m$  subject to force  $\vec{F}^{EXT}$

## Two Body Problems

$$\vec{F}_1 = m_1 g \hat{i} + \vec{F}_{12}$$

$$\vec{F}_2 = m_2 g \hat{i} + \vec{F}_{21}$$

The total external force:

$$\vec{F}^{EXT} = m_1 g \hat{i} + m_2 g \hat{i} = M g \hat{i} \quad (M = m_1 + m_2)$$

Thus

$$M \frac{d\vec{v}_{cm}}{dt} = Mg\hat{i} \implies \frac{d\vec{v}_{cm}}{dt} = g\hat{i}$$

For two body problems this is half of the information.

$$m_1 \frac{d^2 \vec{r}_1}{dt^2} = \vec{F}_1^{EXT} + \vec{F}_{12} \quad (7.3)$$

$$m_2 \frac{d^2 \vec{r}_2}{dt^2} = \vec{F}_2^{EXT} + \vec{F}_{21} \quad (7.4)$$

Calling  $\frac{m_1 \vec{r}_1 + m_2 \vec{r}_2}{m_1 + m_2}$ , and adding the equations

$$\begin{aligned} m_1 \frac{d^2 \vec{r}_1}{dt^2} + m_2 \frac{d^2 \vec{r}_2}{dt^2} &= \vec{F}_1^{EXT} + \vec{F}_2^{EXT} \\ M \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{m_1 \vec{v}_1 + m_2 \vec{v}_2}{M} \right) &= \vec{F}_1^{EXT} + \vec{F}_2^{EXT} \\ M \frac{d\vec{v}_{cm}}{dt} &= \vec{F}_1^{EXT} + \vec{F}_2^{EXT} \end{aligned}$$

Lecture 27

Consider:  $m_2 \times (7.4) - m_1 \times (7.3)$

$$m_1 m_2 \frac{d^2}{dt^2} (\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2) = m_2 \vec{F}_1^{EXT} + m_1 \vec{F}_2^{EXT} + m_2 \vec{F}_{12} - m_1 \vec{F}_{21}$$

Call  $\vec{r}_{12} = (\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2)$ . Since  $\vec{F}_{12} = -\vec{F}_{21}$

$$m_1 m_2 \frac{d^2 \vec{r}_{12}}{dt^2} = m_2 \vec{F}_1^{EXT} + m_1 \vec{F}_2^{EXT} + (m_1 + m_2) \vec{F}_{12}$$

Divide through by  $M$

$$\frac{m_1 m_2}{M} \frac{d^2 \vec{r}_{12}}{dt^2} = \frac{m_2 \vec{F}_1^{EXT} + m_1 \vec{F}_2^{EXT}}{M} + \vec{F}_{12}$$

**Definition.** Introduce  $\mu = \frac{m_1 m_2}{M}$ , the *reduced mass*.

Then for our two body system we have:

$$M \frac{d\vec{v}_{cm}}{dt} = \vec{F}_1^{EXT} + \vec{F}_2^{EXT} \quad (7.5)$$

$$\mu \frac{d^2 \vec{r}_{12}}{dt^2} = \frac{m_2 \vec{F}_1^{EXT} + m_1 \vec{F}_2^{EXT}}{M} + \vec{F}_{12} \quad (7.6)$$

If  $\vec{F}_1^{EXT} = \vec{F}_2^{EXT} = 0$ , then  $M \frac{d\vec{v}_{cm}}{dt} = 0$ , and  $\mu \frac{d^2 \vec{r}_{12}}{dt^2} = \vec{F}_{12}$ .

If  $\vec{F}_1^{EXT} = -m_1 g \hat{j}$  and  $\vec{F}_2^{EXT} = -m_2 g \hat{j}$ , then  $M \frac{d\vec{v}_{cm}}{dt} = -Mg\hat{j}$ , and  $\mu \frac{d^2 \vec{r}_{12}}{dt^2} = \vec{F}_{12}$ .

**Example 7.7** (Spring).

Spring has a spring constant  $k$  and equilibrium length  $l$ .

$$\vec{F}_{12} = -k(x_1 - x_2 - l)\hat{i}$$

Initially  $x_1(0) = 0$ ,  $\dot{x}_1 = v_0$ ,  $x_2(0) = 0$ ,  $\dot{x}_2(0) = 0$ .

$\vec{F}_{12}$  is the only force in the  $\hat{i}$  direction. No external forces in the  $\hat{i}$  direction.

$$\implies M\ddot{x}_{cm} = 0 \implies \dot{x}_{cm} = C$$

We can find  $C$  using the conservation of momentum

$$\vec{p} = m\dot{x}_1 + m\dot{x}_2 = M\dot{x}_{cm}$$

At  $t = 0$ ,  $\dot{x}_1 = v_0$  and  $\dot{x}_2 = 0$ . Then  $p = mv_0$ . Since  $M = 2m$ :

$$\dot{x}_{cm} = v_0/2$$

For  $x_{12} = x_1 - x_2$

$$\mu = \frac{m_1 m_2}{m_1 + m_2} = \frac{m^2}{2m} = \frac{m}{2}$$

$$\vec{F}_{12} = -k(x_1 - x_2 - l) = -k(x_{12} - l)$$

Using the equation for  $\vec{r}_{12}$

$$\mu\ddot{x}_{12} = \vec{F}_{12}$$

$$\frac{m}{2}\ddot{x}_{12} = -k(x_{12} - l)$$

$$\ddot{x}_{12} + \frac{2k}{m}x_{12} = \frac{2kl}{m}$$

The general solution is

$$x_{12} = A \cos \omega t + B \sin \omega t + l$$

where  $\omega^2 = \frac{2k}{m}$ .

From our initial conditions  $x_{12}(0) = x_1(0) - x_2(0) = l$  and  $\dot{x}_{12} = v_0$ .

$$\implies A = 0, B = v_0/\omega$$

Thus

$$x_{12} = \frac{v_0}{\omega} \sin \omega t + l$$

$$\dot{x}_{12} = v_0 \cos \omega t$$

We can show that (in general)

$$\vec{r}_1 = \vec{r}_{cm} + \vec{m}_2 M \vec{r}_{12}$$

$$\vec{r}_2 = \vec{r}_{cm} + \vec{m}_1 M \vec{r}_{12}$$

Thus

$$x_1 = x_{cm} + \frac{1}{2}x_{12}$$

$$\dot{x}_1 = \dot{x}_{cm} + \frac{1}{2}\dot{x}_{12} = \frac{v_0}{2} + \frac{1}{2}v_0 \cos \omega t = \frac{v_0}{2}(1 + \cos \omega t)$$

Similarly

$$\dot{x}_2 = \frac{v_0}{2}(1 - \cos \omega t)$$

This is a push-me-pull-you system.

*What about more than two particles?*

**Definition** (Centre of Mass Coordinates).

$$\vec{R}_i = \vec{r}_i - \vec{r}_{cm}$$

This is the position of particle  $i$  relative to the position of the centre of mass

$$\sum_i m_i \vec{R}_i = \underbrace{\sum_i m_i \vec{r}_i}_{M \vec{r}_{cm}} - \underbrace{\vec{r}_{cm} \sum_i m_i}_M = 0$$

## Kinetic Energy

Lecture 28

$$T = \sum_i \frac{1}{2} m_i v_i^2$$

We can write  $\vec{v}_i = \vec{v}_{cm} + \frac{d\vec{R}_i}{dt}$ ,  $\vec{u}_i = \frac{d\vec{R}_i}{dt}$ , so  $\vec{v}_i = \vec{v}_{cm} + \vec{u}_i$

$$\begin{aligned} T &= \sum_i \frac{1}{2} m_i (\vec{v}_{cm} + \vec{u}_i) \cdot (\vec{v}_{cm} + \vec{u}_i) \\ &= \sum_i \frac{1}{2} [v_{cm}^2 + 2\vec{u}_i \cdot \vec{v}_{cm} + u_i^2] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} v_{cm}^2 \sum_i m_i + \vec{v}_{cm} \cdot \sum_i m_i \vec{u}_i + \frac{1}{2} \sum_i m_i u_i^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{2} M v_{cm}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_i m_i u_i^2 + \vec{v}_{cm} \cdot \sum_i m_i \vec{u}_i \end{aligned}$$

Consider  $\sum_i m_i \vec{u}_i = \sum_i m_i \frac{d\vec{R}_i}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt} (\sum_i m_i \vec{R}_i) = 0$ . Then

$$\boxed{T = \frac{1}{2} M v_{cm}^2 + \sum_i \frac{1}{2} m_i u_i^2} \quad (7.8)$$



## Angular Momentum

$$\vec{J} = \vec{r} \times \vec{p} = \vec{r} \times m\vec{v}$$

For central forces where the motion was restricted to a plane  $\vec{J} = m\hbar\hat{k} = \text{constant vector}$ .

What causes  $\vec{J}$  to change?

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\vec{J}}{dt} &= \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} \times m\vec{v} + \vec{r} \times \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt} \\ &= m[\vec{v} \times \vec{v}] + \vec{r} \times \vec{F} = \vec{\tau} \end{aligned}$$

**Definition.**  $\vec{\tau} = \vec{r} \times \vec{F}$  is the *Torque* or the *Moment*.

- $\vec{\tau}$  is in the direction out of the screen
- $|\vec{\tau}| = |\vec{F}||\vec{r}|\sin\phi$

For central forces

Since  $\phi = 0 \implies \vec{\tau} = 0$ .

For a system, the total angular momentum

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{J} &= \sum_i \vec{J}_i = \sum_i \vec{r}_i \times m_i \vec{v}_i \\ \implies \vec{\tau} &= \frac{d\vec{J}}{dt} = \sum_i \frac{d\vec{J}_i}{dt} = \sum_i \vec{r}_i \times \vec{F}_i \end{aligned}$$

Write  $\vec{F}_i = \vec{F}_i^{EXT} + \sum_j \vec{F}_{ij}$ . Then we have

$$\vec{\tau} \frac{d\vec{J}}{dt} = \sum_i \vec{r}_i \times \vec{F}_i^{EXT} + \sum_i \sum_j \vec{r}_i \times \vec{F}_{ij} \quad (7.9)$$

### Theorem 7.10: Conservation of Angular Momentum for a System

If there is no net torque, the angular momentum is conserved.

*Proof (for two body system).* Suppose we have two particles. Then the double sum is

$$\vec{r}_1 \times \vec{F}_{12} + \vec{r}_2 \times \vec{F}_{21}$$

By Newton's Third Law  $\vec{F}_{12} = -\vec{F}_{21}$ . Thus

$$\vec{r}_1 \times \vec{F}_{12} + \vec{r}_2 \times \vec{F}_{21} = (\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2) \times \vec{F}_{12}$$

If  $\vec{F}_{12}$  is parallel to  $\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2$ , then  $(\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2) \times \vec{F}_{12} = 0$ .

This is the case if  $\vec{F}_{12}$  is a central force, i.e. no torque.

Thus if  $\vec{F}_{ij}$  is a central force for all  $i$  and  $j$ . Then

$$\sum_i \sum_j \vec{r}_i \times \vec{F}_{ij} = \vec{0}$$

Then

$$\frac{d\vec{J}}{dt} = \sum_i \vec{r}_i \times \vec{F}_i^{EXT} = \vec{\tau}^{EXT}$$

where  $\vec{\tau}^{EXT}$  is the total external torque on the system.

So if  $\vec{\tau}^{EXT} = \vec{0}$  then  $\frac{d\vec{J}}{dt} = \vec{0}$ , hence the angular momentum is conserved. ■

### Example 7.11.

Each particle has mass  $m$ . Each mass has velocity  $\vec{v}_i = \vec{\omega} \times \vec{r}_i$ , with  $\vec{\omega} = \omega \hat{k}$

The angular momentum of particle  $i$  is:

$$\vec{J}_i = \vec{r}_i \times m_i \vec{v}_i = m[\vec{r}_i \times (\vec{\omega} \times \vec{r}_i)]$$

Recall that  $\vec{A} \times (\vec{B} \times \vec{C}) = (\vec{A} \cdot \vec{C})\vec{B} - (\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B})\vec{C}$

$$\vec{r}_i \times (\vec{\omega} \times \vec{r}_i) = (\vec{r}_i \cdot \vec{r}_i)\vec{\omega} - (\vec{r}_i \cdot \vec{\omega})\vec{r}_i = r_i^2 \vec{\omega} - 0 \vec{r}_i = r_i^2 \omega \hat{k}$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{J}_i &= mr^2 \omega \hat{k} \\ \implies \vec{J} &= \sum_i \vec{J}_i = 4mr^2 \omega \hat{k} = 2ml^2 \omega \hat{k} \end{aligned}$$

Suppose that

$\vec{v}_i = \vec{\omega} \times \vec{r}_i \longrightarrow \vec{v}_i = \vec{\Omega} \times \vec{r}_i$ . What's  $\vec{\Omega}$ ?

Single the configuration changed to to internal, central forces,  $\frac{d\vec{J}}{dt} = 0$

For our new configuration

$$\vec{J}_i = 2m[\vec{r}_i \times (\vec{\Omega} \times \vec{r}_i)] = 2mr_i^2 \Omega \hat{k} = \frac{ml^2 \Omega}{2} \hat{k}$$

The total angular momentum

$$\vec{J} = 2\vec{J}_i = ml^2\Omega\hat{k}$$

Since  $\frac{d\vec{J}}{dt} = 0 \implies \vec{J}_{before} = \vec{J}_{after}$

$$\implies 2ml^2\omega\hat{k} = ml^2\Omega\hat{k}$$

$$\implies \Omega = 2\omega$$

The angular speed doubles as a result of the change.

## Centre of Mass Coordinates

Lecture 29

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{r}_i &= \vec{r}_{cm} + \vec{R}_i \\ \vec{v}_i &= \vec{v}_{cm} + \vec{u}_i, \quad \left( \vec{u}_i = \frac{d\vec{R}_i}{dt} \right)\end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{J} &= \sum_i (\vec{r}_{cm} + \vec{R}_i) \times m_i (\vec{v}_{cm} + \vec{u}_i) \\ &= \sum_i \vec{r}_{cm} \times m_i \vec{v}_{cm} + \sum_i \vec{r}_{cm} \times m_i \vec{u}_i + \sum_i \vec{R}_i \times m_i \vec{v}_{cm} + \sum_i \vec{R}_i \times m_i \vec{u}_i \\ &= \vec{r}_{cm} \times \vec{v}_{cm} \left( \sum_i m_i \right) + \vec{r}_{cm} \times \left( \sum_i m_i \vec{u}_i \right) + \left( \sum_i m_i \vec{R}_i \right) \times \vec{v}_{cm} + \sum_i \vec{R}_i \times m_i \vec{u}_i\end{aligned}$$

We know that  $\sum_i m_i = M$ ,  $\sum_i m_i \vec{R}_i = \sum_i m_i \vec{u}_i = 0$ . Thus

$$\vec{J} = \vec{r}_{cm} \times M\vec{v}_{cm} + \sum_i \vec{R}_i \times m_i \vec{u}_i$$

Call  $\vec{J}_{cm} = \sum_i \vec{R}_i \times m_i \vec{u}_i$

Recall that

$$\frac{d\vec{J}}{dt} = \sum_i \vec{r}_i \times \vec{F}_i^{EXT} (= \vec{\tau}^{EXT})$$

Since  $\vec{r}_i = \vec{r}_{cm} + \vec{R}_i$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d\vec{J}}{dt} &= \sum_i \vec{r}_{cm} \times \vec{F}_i^{EXT} \\ &= \vec{r}_{cm} \times \vec{F}^{EXT} + \sum_i \vec{R}_i \times \vec{F}_i^{EXT}\end{aligned}$$

We can show (P.S. 4 Problem 9)

$$\frac{d\vec{J}_{cm}}{dt} = \sum_i \vec{R}_i \times \vec{F}_i^{EXT}$$

Call

$$\vec{\tau}_{cm}^{EXT} = \sum_i \vec{R}_i \times \vec{F}_i^{EXT}$$

### Complete Picture

(i) Momentum:

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{p} &= M\vec{v}_{cm} \\ \frac{d\vec{p}}{dt} &= M \frac{d\vec{v}_{cm}}{dt} = \vec{F}^{EXT}\end{aligned}$$

(ii) Angular Momentum:

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{J} &= \vec{r}_{cm} \times M\vec{v}_{cm} + \vec{J}_{cm} \\ \vec{J}_{cm} &= \sum_i \vec{R}_i \times m_i \vec{u}_i \\ \frac{d\vec{J}}{dt} &= \vec{r}_{cm} \times \vec{F}^{EXT} + \vec{\tau}_{cm}^{EXT}\end{aligned}$$

## 8 Rigid Body Motion

**Definition.** *Rigid Body Motion* occurs when

$$\frac{d|\vec{r}_i - \vec{r}_j|}{dt} = 0, \quad \forall i, j$$

For such a system

$$\vec{v}_i = \vec{v}_{cm} + \underbrace{\vec{\omega} \times \vec{R}_i}_{\vec{u}_i}$$

Where  $\vec{\omega}$  is the *angular velocity of the rigid body*.

We can also write

$$\vec{v}_i = \vec{V} + \vec{\omega} \times \vec{r}_i$$

where  $\vec{V} = \vec{v}_{cm} - \vec{\omega} \times \vec{r}_{cm}$

To determine the motion of the system we'll need to find  $\vec{v}_{cm}$  and  $\vec{\omega}$ . For  $\vec{v}_{cm}$  we already have this!

$$M \frac{d\vec{v}_{cm}}{dt} = \vec{F}^{EXT} \quad (8.1)$$

What about  $\vec{\omega}$ ?

$$\vec{J}_{cm} = \sum_i \vec{R}_i \times m_i \vec{u}_i$$

For a rigid body  $\vec{u}_i = \vec{\omega} \times \vec{R}_i$

$$\vec{J}_{cm} = \sum_i \vec{R}_i \times m_i (\vec{\omega} \times \vec{R}_i) = \sum_i m_i (\vec{R}_i \times (\vec{\omega} \times \vec{R}_i))$$

From the identity for the triple vector product, we have

$$\vec{J}_{cm} = \sum_i m_i [R_i^2 \vec{\omega} - (\vec{\omega} \cdot \vec{R}_i) \vec{R}_i]$$

Consider only planar motion: we have  $\vec{\omega} = \omega \hat{k}$ , and  $\vec{R}_i = X_i \hat{i} + Y_i \hat{j}$ . Thus

$$\vec{\omega} \cdot \vec{R}_i = 0, \quad \forall i$$

As a result:

$$\vec{J}_{cm} = \underbrace{\left( \sum_i m_i R_i^2 \right)}_{I_{cm}} \vec{\omega} \quad (8.2)$$

**Definition.**  $I_{cm}$  is the *moment of inertia* about the centre of mass.

For this Rigid Body Motion  $\frac{d|R_i|}{dt} = 0$ . This means that  $I_{cm}$  is constant.

Consider

$$\frac{d\vec{J}_{cm}}{dt} = I_{cm} \frac{d\vec{\omega}}{dt} = \vec{\tau}_{cm}^{EXT} = \sum_i \vec{R}_i \times \vec{F}_i^{EXT}$$

For a rigid body undergoing planar motion:

$$M \frac{d\vec{v}_{cm}}{dt} = \vec{F}^{EXT} \quad (8.3)$$

$$I_{cm} \frac{d\omega}{dt} = \tau_{cm}^{EXT} \quad (8.4)$$

(Scalar Equation since all in  $\hat{k}$ )

## Kinetic Energy

$$T = \frac{1}{2} M \vec{v}_{cm}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_i m_i \vec{u}_i^2$$

$$\vec{u}_i = \vec{\omega} \times \vec{R}_i, u_i^2 = (\vec{\omega} \times \vec{R}_i) \cdot (\vec{\omega} \times \vec{R}_i)$$

$$\text{For planar motion } |\vec{\omega} \times \vec{R}_i| = |\vec{\omega}| |\vec{R}_i| \implies u_i^2 = \omega^2 R_i^2$$

$$T = \frac{1}{2} M \vec{v}_{cm}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \left( \sum_i m_i R_i^2 \right) \omega^2$$

$$\implies T = \frac{1}{2} M \vec{v}_{cm}^2 + \frac{1}{2} I_{cm} \omega^2$$

Lecture 30

**Definition.** The continuous case:

$$M = \sum_i m_i = \int_B dm$$

$$\vec{r}_{cm} = \frac{\sum_i m_i \vec{r}_i}{M} = \frac{\int_B \vec{r} dm}{M}$$

$$I_{cm} = \sum_i m_i R_i^2 = \int_B R^2 dm$$

Equations of motion remain the same.

**Example 8.5** (Uniform Rod).

## \* Parallel Axis Theorem \*

Lecture 31

(Non-examinable in 2015)

**Theorem 8.6: Parallel Axis Theorem**

For an axis,  $P$ , parallel to the centre of mass

$$I_P = I_{CM} + Mr_{CM}^2$$

*Proof.*

$$\begin{aligned} I_P &= \sum_i m_i r_i^2 = \sum_i m_i (\vec{r}_{CM} + \vec{R}_i)^2 \\ &= \sum_i m_i r_{CM}^2 + 2 \end{aligned}$$

■

**Example 8.7** (Physical Pendulum). Blah

- End of Mechanics -