

Chapter 8

Many-Body Systems

8.1 The Many-Body Problem

11/1:

- Announcements.
 - Exam room locations are on Canvas.
 - Notice that we skipped Kibble and Berkshire (2004), Chapter 6.
- Recap: 2-body systems.
 - In such a system, we have two particles: m_1, \vec{r}_1 and m_2, \vec{r}_2 . Their mass sum is $M = m_1 + m_2$, their center of mass is at $\vec{R} = (m_1\vec{r}_1 + m_2\vec{r}_2)/(m_1 + m_2)$, their reduced mass is $\mu = m_1m_2/(m_1 + m_2)$, and their relative position is $\vec{r} = \vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2$.
 - Under a constant external force, their EOMs uncouple into $M\ddot{R}_i = Mg_i$ and $\mu\ddot{r}_i = -\partial V_{\text{int}}/\partial r_i$ where $V_{\text{int}}(\vec{r})$ is the interaction potential energy.
 - Jerison will now give a better answer to last time's question, "what is the reduced mass?"
 - Let's look at two important cases to start.
 1. If $m_1 = m_2$, $\mu = m_1/2 = m_2/2$ and the particles are maximally affecting each other.
 2. If $m_1 \ll m_2$, then
$$\mu = \frac{m_1m_2}{m_2(1 + m_1/m_2)} \approx m_1 \left(1 - \frac{m_1}{m_2}\right) + \text{H.O.T.} \rightarrow m_1$$
where H.O.T. stands for "higher order terms."
 - Additionally, as $m_1/m_2 \rightarrow 0$, we have $M \rightarrow m_2$, $\vec{R} \rightarrow \vec{r}_2$, $\vec{r}_2^* \rightarrow 0$, $\mu \rightarrow m_1$, and $\vec{r} \rightarrow \vec{r}_1^*$.
 - Essentially, we approach the limit of 1 body orbiting a fixed object.
 - This justifies the approximation made in earlier chapters of the Earth orbiting a fixed sun or a satellite orbiting the fixed Earth or more.
 - Additional consideration of $\vec{r}_2^* = -m_2/M \cdot \vec{r}??$
- Today: Many-body systems.
 - Lagrangian, CM frame.
 - Rockets.
- Call our particle indices $\alpha = 1, \dots, N$.
 - Kibble and Berkshire (2004) uses a different notation! They just say \vec{r}_i .
 - The mass sum in this case is

$$M = \sum_{\alpha} m_{\alpha}$$

- The center of mass in this case is

$$\vec{R} = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{\alpha} m_{\alpha} \vec{r}_{\alpha}$$

- The linear momentum in this case is

$$\vec{P} = \sum_{\alpha} m_{\alpha} \dot{\vec{r}}_{\alpha} = M \dot{\vec{R}}$$

- In the CM frame (still denoted $*$), we have

$$\vec{r}_{\alpha} = \vec{R} + \vec{r}_{\alpha}^*$$

- Moreover, within the frame, we still have $\dot{\vec{R}}^* = 0$ and hence $\vec{P}^* = 0$.

- Using the above, we may define the kinetic energy for the system

$$\begin{aligned} T &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha} m_{\alpha} \dot{\vec{r}}_{\alpha}^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha} m_{\alpha} (\dot{\vec{R}} + \dot{\vec{r}}_{\alpha}^*)^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left(\dot{\vec{R}}^2 \sum_{\alpha} m_{\alpha} + 2 \dot{\vec{R}} \cdot \underbrace{\sum_{\alpha} m_{\alpha} \dot{\vec{r}}_{\alpha}^*}_{0 = \vec{P}^*} + \sum_{\alpha} m_{\alpha} (\dot{\vec{r}}_{\alpha}^*)^2 \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} M \dot{\vec{R}}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha} m_{\alpha} (\dot{\vec{r}}_{\alpha}^*)^2 \\ &= T_{\text{CM}} + T^* \end{aligned}$$

- We may now define the Lagrangian for the system.

- Note that

$$\begin{aligned} V &= - \sum_{\alpha} m_{\alpha} \vec{r}_{\alpha} \cdot \vec{g} + V_{\text{int}}(\{\vec{r}_{\alpha} - \vec{r}_{\beta}\}) \\ &= -M \vec{g} \cdot \vec{R} + V_{\text{int}}(\{\vec{r}_{\alpha} - \vec{r}_{\beta}\}) \end{aligned}$$

where $\{\vec{r}_{\alpha} - \vec{r}_{\beta}\}$ denotes the vector with all pairwise differences.

- Combining this result with the above, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} L &= T - V \\ &= \frac{1}{2} M \dot{\vec{R}}^2 + M \vec{g} \cdot \vec{R} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha} m_{\alpha} (\dot{\vec{r}}_{\alpha}^*)^2 - V_{\text{int}}(\{\vec{r}_{\alpha} - \vec{r}_{\beta}\}) \end{aligned}$$

- Thus, the EOMs separate into

$$M \ddot{\vec{R}} = M \vec{g} \qquad m_{\alpha} \ddot{r}_{\alpha_i}^* = - \frac{\partial V_{\text{int}}}{\partial r_{\alpha_i}^*}$$

where we have three of these, one for each $i = q_1, q_2, q_3$ component of particle α .

- Moreover, we get two conservation laws.

$$\frac{1}{2} M \dot{\vec{R}}^2 - M \vec{g} \cdot \vec{R} = E \qquad T^* + V_{\text{int}} = E_{\text{int}}$$

- In the more general case wherein other forces act on the system, we have

$$m_\alpha \ddot{\vec{r}}_\alpha = \sum_\beta \vec{F}_{\alpha\beta} + \vec{F}_\alpha$$

- The $\vec{F}_{\alpha\beta}$ are internal pairwise forces.
- The singular \vec{F}_α represents an external force.

- Linear momentum in this case.

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\vec{P}} &= \sum_\alpha m_\alpha \ddot{\vec{r}}_\alpha \\ &= \sum_\alpha \sum_\beta \vec{F}_{\alpha\beta} + \sum_\alpha \vec{F}_\alpha \end{aligned}$$

- Since $\vec{F}_{\alpha\beta} = -\vec{F}_{\beta\alpha}$, the left term above cancels, leaving us with

$$\dot{\vec{P}} = \sum_\alpha \vec{F}_\alpha = M \ddot{\vec{R}}$$

- Recall that if there are no external forces, \vec{P} is constant.

- Angular momentum in this case.

$$\vec{J} = \sum_\alpha m_\alpha \vec{r}_\alpha \times \dot{\vec{r}}_\alpha$$

- It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\vec{J}} &= \sum_\alpha m_\alpha \vec{r}_\alpha \times \ddot{\vec{r}}_\alpha \\ &= \sum_\alpha \vec{r}_\alpha \times \sum_\beta \vec{F}_{\alpha\beta} + \sum_\alpha \vec{r}_\alpha \times \vec{F}_\alpha \\ &= \sum_\alpha \sum_\beta \vec{r}_\alpha \times \vec{F}_{\alpha\beta} + \sum_\alpha \vec{r}_\alpha \times \vec{F}_\alpha \end{aligned}$$

- If $\vec{F}_{\alpha\beta}$ are central (i.e., parallel to $\vec{r}_\alpha - \vec{r}_\beta$), then the left term above is zero.
- This leaves us with

$$\dot{\vec{J}} = \sum_\alpha \vec{r}_\alpha \times \vec{F}_\alpha$$

i.e., $\dot{\vec{J}}$ is only affected by external forces in the central $\vec{F}_{\alpha\beta}$ case.

- Thus, if $\vec{F}_\alpha = 0$, \vec{J} is constant.
- Additionally, if \vec{F}_α are central, then \vec{J} is constant because the cross product cancels.

- In the CM frame...

- Recall that $\vec{r}_\alpha = \vec{R} + \vec{r}_\alpha^*$.
- Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{J} &= \sum_\alpha m_\alpha (\vec{R} + \vec{r}_\alpha^*) \times (\dot{\vec{R}} + \dot{\vec{r}}_\alpha^*) \\ &= \left(\sum_\alpha m_\alpha \right) \vec{R} \times \dot{\vec{R}} + \underbrace{\left(\sum_\alpha m_\alpha \vec{r}_\alpha^* \right)}_{0=\vec{R}^*} \times \dot{\vec{R}} + \vec{R} \times \underbrace{\left(\sum_\alpha m_\alpha \dot{\vec{r}}_\alpha^* \right)}_{0=\vec{P}^*} + \sum_\alpha m_\alpha \vec{r}_\alpha^* \times \dot{\vec{r}}_\alpha^* \\ &= M \vec{R} \times \dot{\vec{R}} + \vec{J}^* \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\vec{J}^* = \sum_{\alpha} m_{\alpha} \vec{r}_{\alpha}^* \times \dot{\vec{r}}_{\alpha}^*$$

– It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\vec{J}}^* &= \dot{\vec{J}} - \frac{d}{dt} (M \vec{R} \times \dot{\vec{R}}) \\ &= \dot{\vec{J}} - M \vec{R} \times \ddot{\vec{R}} \\ &= \dot{\vec{J}} - \vec{R} \times \sum_{\alpha} \vec{F}_{\alpha} \\ &= \sum_{\alpha} \vec{r}_{\alpha} \times \vec{F}_{\alpha} - \vec{R} \times \sum_{\alpha} \vec{F}_{\alpha} \\ &= \sum_{\alpha} \vec{r}_{\alpha}^* \times \vec{F}_{\alpha} \end{aligned}$$

• An application of these multi-body systems: Rockets!

- Consider a rocket traveling forward at velocity v .
- To propel itself forward, it ejects mass dm at a constant speed u relative to the rocket.
- After the ejection, the mass dm travels backwards at speed $v - u$ and the remaining rocket $M - dm$ travels forward at velocity $v + dv$.
- We have conservation of momentum in this “explosion,” so

$$\begin{aligned} (M - dm)(V + dv) + dm(v - u) &= Mv \\ Mv + M dv - v dm - u dm + v dm &= Mv \\ M dv &= u dm \\ &= -u dM \\ \frac{dv}{u} &= -\frac{dM}{M} \\ \frac{v}{u} &= -\ln \frac{M}{M_0} \\ M &= M_0 e^{-v/u} \end{aligned}$$

- Examples: $k = -GMm$, $k = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2}$ $\left\{ \frac{(x-ae)^2}{a^2} - \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1 \right\}$, $a = \frac{1}{e^2 - 1} = \frac{|k|}{2E}$, $b^2 = a^2 = \frac{J^2}{2mE}$
- ($k > 0$) repulsion, $r(e \cos(\theta - \theta_0) - 1) = l$, $e^2 = \frac{2E l}{|k|} + 1$
- ($k < 0$) attraction, $r(e \cos(\theta - \theta_0) + 1) = l$, $\frac{(x+ae)^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$, $a = \frac{l}{1 - e^2}$, $b = \frac{l}{\sqrt{1 - e^2}} = \sqrt{\frac{J^2}{2m|E|}} = \sqrt{a l}$
- $e = 0$ (circle), $e < 1$ (ellipse), $e = 1$ (parabola), $e > 1$ (hyperbola)
- $b = a \cot(\frac{1}{2}\theta)$

Scattering

• $dA = L^2 \sin\theta d\theta d\phi$, $d\omega = L \frac{d\sigma}{d\theta} \frac{d\theta}{L^2}$, $d\Omega = \sin\theta d\theta d\phi$

• $\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{b}{\sin\theta} \left| \frac{db}{d\theta} \right|$

• Hard sphere: $b = R \cos(\frac{1}{2}\theta)$

• $\theta = \pi - 2 \int_{r_{\min}}^{\infty} \frac{b/r^2}{\sqrt{1 - V(r)/E - b^2/r^2}} dr$

5 Absolute vs. relative velocity: $\frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} = \dot{\vec{r}} + \vec{\omega} \times \vec{r}$, $\vec{\omega} = \omega \hat{k} = \omega \cos\theta \hat{r} + \omega \sin\theta \hat{\phi}$

• $m \ddot{\vec{r}} = m \frac{d^2 \vec{r}}{dt^2} = 2m \vec{\omega} \times \dot{\vec{r}} - m \vec{\omega} \times (\vec{\omega} \times \vec{r})$, $\ddot{r}_r = -g + 2\omega \sin\theta \dot{r}_\phi + \omega^2 R \sin^2\theta$

$m \ddot{\vec{r}} = m \frac{d^2 \vec{r}}{dt^2}$ $\ddot{r}_\theta = -2\omega \cos\theta \dot{r}_\phi - \omega^2 R \sin\theta \cos\theta$, $\ddot{r}_\phi = 2\omega \cos\theta \dot{r}_\theta - 2\omega \sin\theta \dot{r}_r$

Magnetism: $\vec{F} = q \vec{v} \times \vec{B}$, $\vec{\omega} = \frac{q}{m} \vec{B}$, $r = \frac{mv}{qB}$, $\omega_c = \frac{qB}{m}$

Larmor: $\ddot{\vec{r}} = -\frac{k}{m r^3} \vec{r}$ ellipses in rotating frame!, $\omega_L = \frac{qB}{2m}$