

1. The unit vectors in spherical coordinate system are e_r , e_θ and e_ϕ . In terms of the unit vectors in Cartesian coordinate system, e_x , e_y and e_z , we have $e_r = \sin\theta \cos\phi e_x + \sin\theta \sin\phi e_y + \cos\theta e_z$ and $e_\theta = \cos\theta \cos\phi e_x + \cos\theta \sin\phi e_y - \sin\theta e_z$.

(a) Find expression for e_ϕ in terms of e_x , e_y and e_z . [3%]

(b) Find expressions for velocity vector v and acceleration vector a in spherical coordinates. [12%]

2 Consider the one-dimensional potential

$$U(x) = \frac{w}{d^4} (x^4 - 4d^2 x^2 - d^4) e^{-(x/d)^2},$$

where w and d are positive constants.

(a) Find equilibrium points of the potential and justify which is (are) the stable equilibrium point(s). [10%]

(b) Sketch the potential. [3%]

(c) A particle of mass m moves in the force field given above, find the force acting on this particle. [5%]

(d) Is the momentum of the particle conserved? Why? [2%]

(e) A particle with energy $E = -0.5w$ moves in the force field given above, is the motion bounded? How many turning points for the motion if it is bounded? [7%]

(f) Another particle with energy $E = 0.5w$ moves in the same field, is the motion bounded? Why? [3%]

Data may be useful for problem 2: $6^{1/2} \approx 2.449$, $\exp(6^{1/2}-3) \approx 0.5767$, $\exp(-6^{1/2}-3) \approx 0.0043$.

3. A one-dimensional simple harmonic oscillator consists of a particle of mass m attached to a massless Hooke spring whose force constant is k . At $t=0$, the particle is displaced a distance x_0 from the equilibrium position ($x=0$) and released from rest, and a driving force $F(t) = F_0 \sin(\omega t)$ is applied to the oscillator (F_0 and ω are constants).

(a) Find $x(t)$ at $t > 0$. [15%]

(b) Find $x(t)$ by taking the limit $\omega \rightarrow \omega_0 = (k/m)^{1/2}$ in your result for part (a). What will occur when $\omega \rightarrow \omega_0$? [5%]

4. Consider a vertical plane in a constant gravitational field. Let the origin of a coordinate system be located at some point in this plane. A particle of mass m moves in the vertical plane under the influence of gravity and an additional force $f = -A r^{\alpha-1}$ directed toward the origin (r is the distance from the origin; A and $\alpha \neq 0$ or 1) are constants).

(a) Choose appropriate generalized coordinates and find Lagrangian equations of motion [15%].

(b) Is the angular momentum about the origin conserved? Explain. [5%]

5 A projectile is fired at an angle 45° with initial kinetic energy E_0 . At the top of its trajectory, the projectile explodes with additional energy E_0 into two fragments. One fragment of mass m_1 travels straight down.

(1) What is the velocity (magnitude and direction) of the second fragment of mass m_2 ? [7%]

(2) What is the velocity of the first fragment of mass m_1 ? [4%]

(3) What is the ratio of m_1/m_2 when m_1 is a maximum? [4%]

