

Problem 1 (20=10+10 marks)

The mirror image of \mathbf{r} with respect to the plane through $\mathbf{r} = 0$ that is perpendicular to unit vector \mathbf{e} is $\mathbf{r} - 2\mathbf{e}\mathbf{e} \cdot \mathbf{r}$. If we take two successive mirror images, first for \mathbf{e}_1 and then for \mathbf{e}_2 , the overall effect is a rotation.

- (a) Show that the axis of rotation is specified by $\mathbf{e}_1 \times \mathbf{e}_2$.
- (b) Express the angle of rotation ϕ in terms of the angle α between \mathbf{e}_1 and \mathbf{e}_2 , that is $\cos \alpha = \mathbf{e}_1 \cdot \mathbf{e}_2$.

Problem 2 (20 marks)

A constant force $F = mg$ is applied to a undamped harmonic oscillator (mass m , circular frequency ω_0 , damping constant $\gamma = 0$) for a finite duration T . It so happens that the oscillator is at $x = 0$ at time $t = 0$ and has vanishing velocity at time $t = T$. What are the position $x(t)$ and the velocity $\dot{x}(t)$ for $0 < t < T$?

Problem 3 (20=5+15 marks)

A point mass m is moving along the x -axis under the influence of the force associated with the potential energy

$$V(x) = -\frac{E_0}{[\cosh(kx)]^2},$$

where E_0 and k are positive constants.

- (a) For which ranges of energy is the motion of the point mass bounded by two turning points, by one turning point, or not bounded at all?
- (b) For energy E such that there is periodic motion between two turning points, find the period $T(E)$.

Hint: The identity $(\cosh \vartheta_1)^2 - (\cosh \vartheta_2)^2 = (\sinh \vartheta_1)^2 - (\sinh \vartheta_2)^2$ could be useful.

Problem 4 (20=12+8 marks)

A force field $\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r})$ has the form

$$\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r}) = f_1(r)\mathbf{a} + f_2(r)\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{r} \mathbf{r}$$

with a constant vector \mathbf{a} and non-singular functions $f_1(r)$ and $f_2(r)$ that depend only on the distance $r = |\mathbf{r}|$ from the origin of the coordinate system.

- (a) How are $f_1(r)$ and $f_2(r)$ related if $\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r})$ is a conservative force?
- (b) What is the potential energy associated with such a conservative force?

Hint: The curl of a scalar field $b(\mathbf{r})$ times a vector field $\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r})$ is given by the product rule, $\nabla \times (b\mathbf{B}) = \nabla b \times \mathbf{B} + b\nabla \times \mathbf{B}$.