

Physics 235, Homework Set 06

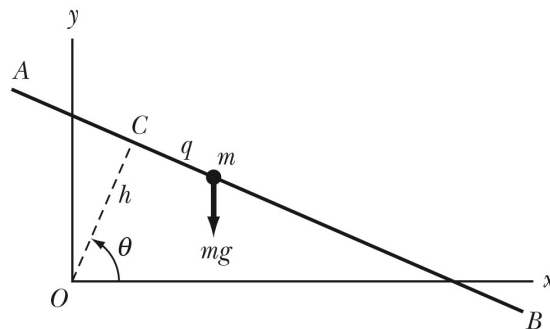
Write the following text on the front cover of your homework assignment and sign it. If the text is missing, 20 points will be subtracted from your homework grade.

Honor Pledge for Graded Assignments

"I affirm that I have not given or received any unauthorized help on this assignment, and that this work is my own."

Signature _____

1. A double pendulum consists of two simple pendula, with one pendulum suspended from the bob of the other. If the two pendula have equal lengths, have bobs of equal mass, and are confined to move in the same plane, find Lagrange's equations of motion for the system. Do not assume small angles.
2. A particle of mass m can slide freely along a wire AB whose perpendicular distance to the origin O is h (see Figure below).



The line OC rotates about the origin at a constant rate $d\theta/dt = \omega$. The position of the particle can be described in terms of the angle θ and the distance q to the point C . If the particle is subject to a gravitational force, and if the initial conditions are

$$\theta(0) = 0 \quad q(0) = 0 \quad \dot{q}(0) = 0$$

show that the time dependence of the coordinate q is

$$q(t) = \frac{g}{2\omega^2} (\cosh \omega t - \cos \omega t)$$

Sketch the result. Compute the Hamiltonian for the system, and compare it with the total energy. Is the total energy conserved?

3. Two masses m_1 and m_2 ($m_1 \neq m_2$) are connected by a rigid rod of length d and of negligible mass. An extensionless string of length l_1 is attached to m_1 and connected to a fixed point of support P . Similarly, a string l_2 ($l_1 \neq l_2$) connects m_2 to P . Obtain the equation describing the motion of this system in the plane of m_1 , m_2 , and P , and find the frequency of small oscillations around the equilibrium position.
4. A particle is constrained to move (without friction) on a circular wire rotating with a constant angular speed ω about a vertical diameter. Find the equilibrium position of the particle, and calculate the frequency of small oscillations around this position. Find and interpret physically a critical angular velocity $\omega = \omega_c$ that divides the particle's motion into two distinct types. Construct a phase diagram for the two cases $\omega < \omega_c$ and $\omega > \omega_c$.
5. A particle of mass m moves under the influence of gravity along the helix $z = k\theta$, $r = \text{constant}$, where k is a constant and z is the coordinate along the vertical axis. Obtain the Hamiltonian equations of motion.