



All questions may be attempted but only marks obtained on the best **four** solutions will count.

The use of an electronic calculator is **not** permitted in this examination.

1. A bead of unit mass is sliding down a straight wire, inclined at an angle  $\alpha$  to the horizontal. The contact is rough, such that the tangential reaction opposing the motion is  $t$  multiplied by the normal reaction. Here  $t$  denotes time.

- (a) Show that, if the coordinate  $y$  is vertically upward, the bead motion is given by  $y = x \tan \alpha$  and

$$\begin{aligned}\ddot{x} &= (t \cos \alpha - \sin \alpha)N, \\ \ddot{y} &= (t \sin \alpha + \cos \alpha)N - g,\end{aligned}$$

where  $N(t) > 0$  is unknown.

- (b) Deduce, from the equations in (a), or otherwise, that  $N(t) = g \cos \alpha$ .  
(c) Solve for  $x(t)$ , given that the bead is released from rest at  $x = 0$  when  $t = 0$ .  
Then show that the bead comes to rest at a horizontal distance  $2g \sin^3 \alpha / (3 \cos \alpha)$  from the origin.

2. A point particle of mass  $m$  moves under gravity on a curve  $\gamma$ , which lies in a vertical plane, with  $s$  denoting distance along  $\gamma$  and  $\psi(s)$  the (variable) angle of inclination from the horizontal at each position along  $\gamma$ .

- (i) Show that the tangential and normal components of velocity are  $\dot{s}, 0$  respectively and those of acceleration are  $\ddot{s}, \dot{s}^2/\rho$  respectively, where  $\rho = ds/d\psi$ .  
(ii) If the reaction force  $R$  is normal to the curve, justify the governing equations  $\ddot{s} = -g \sin \psi$ ,  $m\dot{s}^2/\rho = R - mg \cos \psi$  for the motion.  
(iii) If, also,  $\gamma$  is defined by  $s^2 = \sin \psi$ , with  $0 < \psi < \pi/2$ , and initially  $s = s_0, \dot{s} = 0$ , solve the governing equations to give  $\dot{s}^2$  as a function of  $s$  only and  $R$  as a function of  $\psi$  only.

3. The position of a particle, moving in a plane, has polar coordinates  $r, \theta$ , with corresponding unit vectors  $\hat{\mathbf{r}}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$ , so that its position vector is  $\mathbf{r} = r\hat{\mathbf{r}}$ . Show that the acceleration of the particle is

$$(\ddot{r} - r\dot{\theta}^2)\hat{\mathbf{r}} + \frac{1}{r}\frac{d}{dt}(r^2\dot{\theta})\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}.$$

You may assume the rates of change (with respect to  $t$ ) of  $\hat{\mathbf{r}}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$  to be  $\dot{\theta}\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}, -\dot{\theta}\hat{\mathbf{r}}$  respectively.

The particle is moving under the action of an unspecified radial force directed towards the origin  $O$ . Initially the particle is at  $r = a, \theta = 0$ , with velocity  $u\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$ .

- (i) Deduce that  $r^2\dot{\theta} = ua$ .
- (ii) If the orbit of the particle is a closed curve enclosing an area  $A$ , show that the time  $T$  for a single circuit is given by  $T = 2A/ua$ .
- (iii) Show that  $O$  cannot lie outside the orbit.

4. The surface of a smooth funnel is given by  $z = a^4r^{-3}$ , in cylindrical polar coordinates  $r, \theta, z$ , with the  $z$ -axis vertically downwards. A particle of mass  $m$  is projected horizontally with speed  $u$ , along the inner surface, at the level  $z = a$ .

By considering angular momentum and energy, or otherwise, show that  $r^2\dot{\theta} = ua$  and

$$\left(1 + 9\frac{a^8}{r^8}\right)\dot{r}^2 + u^2\frac{a^2}{r^2} - 2g\frac{a^4}{r^3} = u^2 - 2ga,$$

where  $g$  denotes gravity.

If the particle is found to be moving horizontally again at the level  $z = 8a$ , prove that  $u^2 = 14ga/3$ .

5. A heavy body falls vertically through a cloud of particles at rest and accumulates particles at a rate  $kv$  (units of mass per unit time) when the body speed is  $v$ ; here  $k$  is a constant. The body is initially at rest and of mass  $M$ .

(a) Show that after falling a distance  $x$  the body has mass  $m = M + kx$ .

(b) Deduce that the speed  $v$  satisfies

$$(M + kx)v \frac{dv}{dx} + kv^2 = (M + kx)g.$$

(c) Hence or otherwise find  $v^2$  as a function of  $x, g, k$  and  $M$ .

6. The tension  $T$  in an elastic string  $AB$  of negligible mass is given by  $T = \lambda(\ell_1 - \ell)$ , where  $\ell$  is its natural length,  $\ell_1$  is its stretched length and  $\lambda$  is a stiffness constant. A particle of mass  $m_1$  is attached to the end  $B$  and the end  $A$  is fixed. A second string  $BC$  of identical natural length and stiffness constant to  $AB$ , but with a particle of mass  $m_2$  at the end  $C$ , is attached to the first particle at  $B$ .

(a) Determine the equilibrium lengths of the two strings when the system hangs vertically under gravity.

(b) Show that when the particles at  $B, C$  are subject to displacements  $x, y$  respectively, from equilibrium, their equations of motion are

$$\begin{aligned} m_1 \ddot{x} &= \lambda(y - 2x), \\ m_2 \ddot{y} &= \lambda(x - y). \end{aligned}$$

(c) Deduce that motions are possible in which  $x, y \propto \cos \omega t$ , and find two possible values for  $\omega^2$ .