Physics 185 Problem Set 1

Problem 1.1 (5 points) Orthogonalizing vectors (cf Taylor [1.6])

Vector \vec{A} is defined as $\hat{x} + 2\hat{y}$. Vector \vec{B} is defined as $\hat{x} + s\hat{y}$, where s is some constant. For what value(s) of s would \vec{B} be orthogonal (*i.e.*, perpendicular) to \vec{A} ?

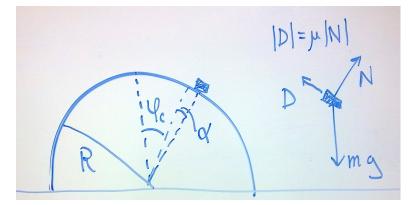
Problem 1.2 (10 points) Time-determined force

A mass m lies at rest at position x = 0 on a frictionless, horizontal track. A string is attached to the mass. The other end of the string is attached to a force actuator that can exert a specified horizontal force F as a function of time t. We program the actuator to exert a force At. (Naturally any real actuator could only exert such a force over a limited range of t.)

a) What is the equation of motion governing the position x(t)?

- b) By integrating this equation once, find the velocity $\dot{x}(t)$.
- c) By integrating the equation for $\dot{x}(t)$ find the position x(t).
- d) If the mass moves one inch in a given time t_0 , how far will it go in time $2t_0$?
- e) If the mass is doubled and the experiment is repeated, how far will it go in time t_0 ?

Problem 1.3 (10 points) Frictiony sphere



By combining partial information about the forces in different directions, one can find the motion along a given path.

A small mass m placed on a frictionless sphere at some angle ϕ from the vertical will accelerate downwards because of gravity. However with friction there is a region near the top where the mass does not accelerate. If given a small velocity, it slows down and stops. It only speeds up if the angle from the vertical is ϕ_c or more.

- a) Find the equation of motion for $\ddot{\phi}$ analogous to Eq. 1.50. It can be given explicitly in terms of ϕ , $\dot{\phi}$, the (kinetic) coefficient of friction μ , the radius R and the gravitational acceleration g.
- b) Determine the dynamic friction coefficient μ in terms of ϕ_c .

Solution:

1.1

 $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = 1 + 2s$. If \vec{A} and \vec{B} are to be orthogonal, we must have $0 = \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = 1 + 2s$ therefore s = -1/2.

1.2 a) $m\ddot{x} = At$ b) $\dot{x}(t) = \dot{x}(0) + \int_{0}^{t} dt' \ \ddot{x}(t') = 0 + \frac{A}{2m}t^{2}$ c) $x(t) = x(0) + \int_{0}^{t} dt' \ \dot{x}(t') = 0 + \frac{A}{2m}\frac{1}{3}t^{3}$ d)

$$x(2t_0)/x(t_0) = (2t_0)^3/t_0^3 = 8;$$
 thus, $x(2t_0) = 8x(t_0) = 8$ in

$$x(2m, t_0)/x(m, t_0) = \frac{1}{2}$$
; thus, $x(2m, t_0) = \frac{1}{2}$ in

1.3

e)

a) The equation of motion is

$$nR\ddot{\phi} = mg\sin\phi - |D| \tag{1}$$

where $|D| = \mu N$. Since there is no velocity in the radial direction, $\vec{v} = v\hat{\phi}$ and

$$\dot{\vec{v}} = \frac{d}{dt}(v\hat{\phi}) = \dot{v}\hat{\phi} + v\dot{\hat{\phi}}$$

As explained in the text, $\dot{\hat{\phi}} = -(v/R)\hat{r}$. thus the equation of motion in the \hat{r} direction reads

$$-m(v^2/R) \hat{r} = -mg\cos\phi \hat{r} + N \hat{r}$$

so that $N = mg \cos \phi - mv^2/R$ or $N = mg \cos \phi - m\dot{\phi}^2 R$ Combining, the equation of motion (1) becomes

$$mR\ddot{\phi} = mg\sin\phi - \mu \ (mg\cos\phi - m\dot{\phi}^2R)$$

b) The critical angle ϕ_c is that at which $\ddot{\phi}$ goes through zero with arbitrarily little motion *i.e.*, $\dot{\phi} \rightarrow 0$:

$$0 = mg(\sin\phi_c - \mu\cos\phi_c)$$

Thus $\mu = \sin \phi_c / \cos \phi_c = \tan \phi_c$.