

## CENTRAL FORCES

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## THE RISE OF

## CLASSICAL MECHANICS

- Classical mechanics gained sway because it could explain and predict the motion of the planets.
- Although this now seems rather pedagogical, at the time it had great practical importance.
- After this week, you will be able to
  - Derive the shapes of the orbits for an isotropic harmonic oscillator and gravity
  - Derive Kepler's Three Laws of Planetary Motion.
  - Use cross-sections to calculate rates.

DISASTER LUNACY

INFLUENZA

SUNDAY

MONDAY LUNIA LUNDI

TUESDAY MARTI MARDI

WEDNESDAY MERCURIO MERCURDI

THURSDAY JUVES JEUDI

FRIDAY VIERNES VENDREDI

SATURDAY

BY JOVE, MARTIAL, JOVIAL

STAR-CROSSED

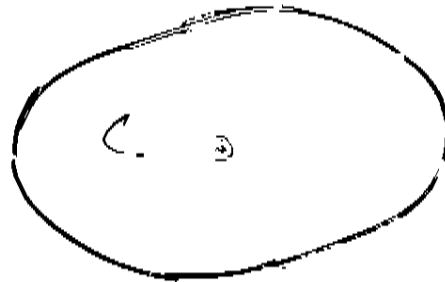
ASTROLOGY

ASTRAL

# CENTRAL FORCES



WHAT DOES A COMET'S PATH  
AROUND THE SUN LOOK  
LIKE?



## CENTRAL FORCES

## THE SUMS OF THE SPIN

- Let's start with the question I posed to you.
- What is conserved in a  $1/r^2$  central force?
  - a)  $V(r) = -\frac{GMm}{r} \rightarrow$  Energy
  - b)  $\vec{\tau} = \vec{r} \times \vec{F} = 0 \rightarrow$  Angular momentum.

Anything else?

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Q3

THERE IS A HIDDEN  
SYMMETRY

- The Newtonian Law of Gravitation has a hidden symmetry that gives another conserved quantity

$$\vec{C} = \hat{r} + \frac{\vec{J} \times \vec{p}}{GMm^2}$$

It is pretty well hidden.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\vec{C}}{dt} &= \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\vec{r}}{|\vec{r}|^3} \right) + \frac{\vec{J}}{GMm^2} \times \frac{d\vec{p}}{dt} \\ &= \frac{\vec{v}}{r} - \frac{r}{r^3} \vec{v} \cdot \vec{r} - \frac{m(\vec{r} \times \vec{v})}{GMm^2} \times \left( \frac{GMm}{r^3} \vec{r} \right) \\ &= \frac{\vec{v}}{r} - \frac{r}{r^3} \vec{v} \cdot \vec{r} - \frac{(\vec{r} \times \vec{v}) \times \vec{r}}{r^3} = 0 \end{aligned}$$

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## Two-Body Problem

What do we already know about the solution?

- (1) The motion is restricted to a plane.  $3 \rightarrow 2$
- (2) The orbit sweeps out equal area in equal time.  $2 \rightarrow 1$

Although the motion is 3-D,  
we only have to worry about  
the radial motion!

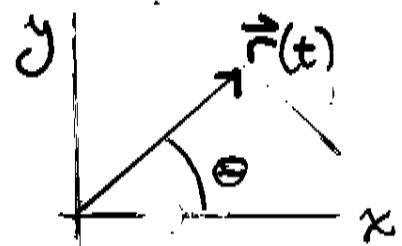
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Angular momentum is conserved

- Because the force is central, we have conservation of angular momentum

$$J = mr^2 \dot{\Theta}$$



so once we know  $r(t)$  we can solve for  $\Theta(t)$  by integration.

$$\frac{d\Theta}{dt} = \frac{J}{mr^2}$$

$$\Theta - \Theta_0 = \int_{t_0}^t \frac{J}{m} \frac{dt}{r^2(t)}$$

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## RADIAL MOTION

- We have a formal solution to the angular motion. Now let's look at the radial motion.

$$L = \frac{m}{2}(\dot{r}^2 + r^2\dot{\theta}^2) - V(r)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt}\left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{r}}\right) = \frac{\partial L}{\partial r}$$

$$m\ddot{r} = m r \dot{\theta}^2 - \frac{\partial V}{\partial r}$$

N.B.  $|\vec{J}| = m r^2 \dot{\theta}$  so

$$\boxed{m\ddot{r} = \frac{J^2}{m r^3} - \frac{\partial V(r)}{\partial r}}$$

Radial equation  
of motion



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... ..

- We can also get an equation for the radial velocity from the equation for energy

$$E = \frac{m}{2}(\dot{r}^2 + r^2\dot{\theta}^2) + V(r)$$

$$E = \frac{m}{2}\dot{r}^2 + \frac{J^2}{2mr^2} + V(r)$$

$$\dot{r}^2 = \frac{2}{m} \left( E - \frac{J^2}{2mr^2} - V(r) \right)$$

gravity ↙

↘ spring

$$\dot{r}^2 = \frac{2}{m} \left( E - \frac{J^2}{2mr^2} + \frac{GMm}{r} \right)$$

$$\dot{r}^2 = \frac{2}{m} \left( E - \frac{J^2}{2mr^2} - \frac{1}{2}kr^2 \right)$$

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- Solving for the orbit requires a bit of inspiration.

For gravity we have

$$\dot{r}^2 = \frac{2E}{m} - \frac{J^2}{m^2 r^2} + \frac{2GM}{r}$$

Lots of stuff downstairs!

What about  $r(\theta)$  instead of  $r(t)$ ?

$$\frac{dr(\theta)}{dt} = \frac{dr}{d\theta} \dot{\theta} = \frac{dr}{d\theta} \frac{J}{mr^2}$$

Now the 2nd trick. Let  $u = \frac{1}{r(\theta)}$

$$\frac{du}{d\theta} = -\frac{1}{r^2} \frac{dr}{d\theta} \rightarrow \dot{r} = -\frac{du}{d\theta} \frac{J}{m}$$

$$\frac{J^2}{m^2} \left( \frac{du}{d\theta} \right)^2 = \frac{2E}{m} - \frac{J^2}{m^2} u^2 + 2GMu$$

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## THE 3RD TRICK

Let's clean things up.  $\nearrow \frac{2}{l}$

$$\left(\frac{du}{d\theta}\right)^2 = -u^2 + \frac{2Em}{J^2} + \frac{GMm^2}{2J^2} u$$

Now the 3rd trick  $v = u - \frac{1}{l}$

$$\left(\frac{dv}{d\theta}\right)^2 = -\left(v + \frac{1}{l}\right)^2 + \frac{2Em}{J^2} + \frac{2}{l}\left(v + \frac{1}{l}\right)$$

$$\left(\frac{dv}{d\theta}\right)^2 = -v^2 - \frac{2}{l}v - \frac{1}{l^2} + \frac{2v}{l} + \frac{2}{l^2} + \frac{2Em}{J^2}$$

$$v^2 + \left(\frac{dv}{d\theta}\right)^2 = \frac{2Em}{J^2} + \frac{1}{l^2}$$

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{2Em}{J^2} + \frac{1}{l^2}} \cos\theta = \frac{1}{l} \sqrt{\frac{2Em l^2}{J^2} + 1} \cos\theta$$

$$\frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{l} = \frac{e}{l} \cos\theta$$

$$\frac{1}{r} = \frac{e \cos\theta + 1}{l}$$

$$r = \frac{l}{1 + e \cos\theta}$$



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The radial motion is governed by the effective potential

- If we look at the radial motion there is an effective potential.

$$V_{\text{eff}}(r) = \frac{\vec{J}^2}{2mr^2} + V(r)$$

