

## Kepler's laws

L5:1  
Kep:1

Consider two celestial bodies which affect each other only through gravity

Taylor:  
293-315

$$L = E_k - E_p = \frac{1}{2} m_1 \dot{\vec{r}}_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_2 \dot{\vec{r}}_2^2 - G \frac{m_1 m_2}{|\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2|}$$

2 bodies  
3 d.o.f. each  
=> 6 d.o.f.

Note that  $E_p$  only depends on the distance and introduce

$$\begin{cases} \vec{r} = \vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2 \\ \vec{r}_{cm} = \frac{m_1 \vec{r}_1 + m_2 \vec{r}_2}{m_1 + m_2} = \frac{m_1 \vec{r}_1 + m_2 \vec{r}_2}{M} \end{cases}$$

$M = \text{total mass}$

Eliminate  $\vec{r}_2$  and solve for  $\vec{r}_1$

$$\vec{r} + \frac{M}{m_2} \vec{r}_{cm}$$

$$= \vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2 + \frac{M}{m_2} \left( \frac{m_1 \vec{r}_1 + m_2 \vec{r}_2}{M} \right)$$

$$= \vec{r}_1 + \frac{m_1 \vec{r}_1}{m_2}$$

$$\stackrel{\times m_2}{\Rightarrow} m_2 \vec{r} + M \vec{r}_{cm} = (m_2 + m_1) \vec{r}_1 = M \vec{r}_1$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{r}_1 = \vec{r}_{cm} + \frac{m_2}{M} \vec{r}$$

In the same way

$$\vec{r}_2 = \vec{r}_{cm} - \frac{m_1}{M} \vec{r}$$

Expressed in  $\vec{r}$  and  $\vec{r}_{cm}$  we have

$$L = \frac{1}{2} m_1 \dot{\vec{r}}_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_2 \dot{\vec{r}}_2^2 + \frac{G m_1 m_2}{|\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2|}$$

$$L = \frac{1}{2} m_1 \left( \dot{\vec{r}}_{cm} + \frac{m_2}{M} \dot{\vec{r}} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_2 \left( \dot{\vec{r}}_{cm} - \frac{m_1}{M} \dot{\vec{r}} \right)^2 + \frac{G m_1 m_2}{|\vec{r}|}$$

$$= \dot{\vec{r}}_{cm}^2 \frac{1}{2} (m_1 + m_2) + \dot{\vec{r}}^2 \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{m_1 m_2^2 + m_2 m_1^2}{(m_1 + m_2)^2} \right) + 0 + \frac{G m_1 m_2}{|\vec{r}|}$$

$$= \underbrace{\dot{\vec{r}}_{cm}^2 \frac{1}{2} M}_{L_{cm}} + \underbrace{\dot{\vec{r}}^2 \frac{1}{2} \frac{m_1 m_2}{m_1 + m_2}}_{L_{rel}} + \underbrace{\frac{G m_1 m_2}{|\vec{r}|}}_{\text{potential energy}}$$

collect in front of  $\dot{\vec{r}}_{cm}^2$  and  $\dot{\vec{r}}^2$

Here  $\vec{r}_{cm}$  is a cyclic coordinate as  $L$  does not depend (explicitly) on  $\vec{r}_{cm}$  (only  $\dot{\vec{r}}_{cm}$ )  
 $\Rightarrow$  conserved quantities  $\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\vec{r}}_{cm}} = \dot{\vec{r}}_{cm} M$  (All components in one equation.)

Total momentum is thus conserved, the center of mass motion is trivial.

We therefore study  $L$  in the CM-system

$$L = \frac{1}{2} \mu \dot{\vec{r}}^2 + \frac{G \mu M}{|\vec{r}|} = \frac{1}{2} \mu \dot{\vec{r}}^2 - V$$

reduced mass  $\equiv \frac{m_1 m_2}{m_1 + m_2}$

[ Now only 3 d.o.f. ]

In  $\vec{r}$  we have the Lagrange equation  $\mu \ddot{\vec{r}} = -\nabla V(\vec{r})$   
 as if we had one particle with mass  $\mu$  moving in the potential  $V$

Note that  $L$  is spherically symmetric (= invariant under rotations)

=> We can remove one more d.o.f.

by using  $r \equiv |\vec{r}|$  and  $\varphi$ .

What is  $\dot{\vec{r}}^2$  in  $r$  and  $\varphi$ ?

- speed in  $r$ -direction gives  $\dot{r}^2$
- speed in  $\varphi$ -direction gives  $(r\dot{\varphi})^2$

and motions where only  $r$  or only  $\varphi$  change are orthogonal

$$L = \frac{1}{2} \mu (\dot{r}^2 + r^2 \dot{\varphi}^2) + \frac{G\mu M}{r}$$

Here  $\varphi$  is a cyclic coordinate

$$\Rightarrow p_\varphi = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\varphi}} = \mu r^2 \dot{\varphi} = \text{const}$$

↙ generalized momentum

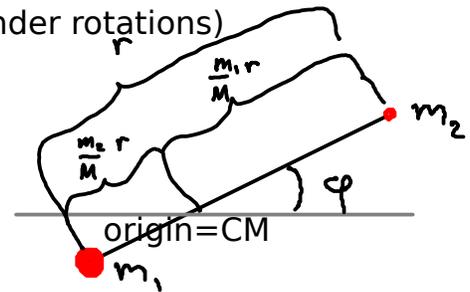
One can prove that  $p_\varphi$  is the angular momentum.

Proof: The total angular momentum is:

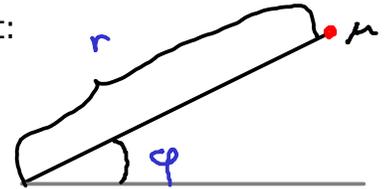
$$\begin{aligned} & \vec{r}_1 \times \vec{p}_1 + \vec{r}_2 \times \vec{p}_2 \\ &= m_1 \vec{r}_1 \times \dot{\vec{r}}_1 + m_2 \vec{r}_2 \times \dot{\vec{r}}_2 \\ \left. \begin{array}{l} \text{In CM} \\ \vec{r}_1 = \frac{m_2}{M} \vec{r}, \\ \vec{r}_2 = -\frac{m_1}{M} \vec{r} \end{array} \right\} & \rightarrow = m_1 \left( \frac{m_2}{M} \right)^2 \vec{r} \times \dot{\vec{r}} + \left( \frac{m_1}{M} \right)^2 m_2 \vec{r} \times \dot{\vec{r}} \\ &= \frac{m_1 m_2 (m_2 + m_1)}{M^2} \vec{r} \times \dot{\vec{r}} \\ &= \mu \vec{r} \times \dot{\vec{r}} \end{aligned}$$

with magnitude

$$\mu r^2 \dot{\varphi} = p_\varphi \quad \underline{\text{OK}}$$



Equivalent:



In total 2 d.o.f.

no  $\varphi$  dependence

Multiply  $p_\varphi$  with  $\frac{dt}{2\mu}$



$$p_\varphi \frac{dt}{2\mu} = \mu r^2 \frac{d\varphi}{dt} \frac{dt}{2\mu} = \frac{r}{2} r d\varphi = d(\text{Area}) = (\text{new}) \text{const}$$

⇒ Radius vector traverses equal area in equal time, Kepler's 2nd law.

(Johannes Kepler, 1571-1630)

Remark: Kepler's 2nd law is a consequence of  $p_\varphi = \text{const}$ , i.e., that we have a central force (it does not depend on the  $1/r$ -dependence)

Kepler's 1st law: The orbit of every planet is an ellipse with the sun at one of the two focal points.

Kepler's 3rd law:  $\frac{(\text{orbital period})^2}{r^3}$  same for all planets.

For  $r$ , Lagrange's equation gives us

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial r} = \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{r}} \right) \quad L = \frac{1}{2} \mu (\dot{r}^2 + r^2 \dot{\varphi}^2) + \frac{G\mu M}{r}$$

$$\Rightarrow \underbrace{\mu r \dot{\varphi}^2}_{\text{centrifugal force}} - \frac{G\mu M}{r^2} = \mu \ddot{r}$$

We know that  $\mu r^2 \dot{\varphi} = \text{const} \equiv L \Rightarrow \dot{\varphi} = \frac{L}{\mu r^2}$

$$\Rightarrow r \left( \frac{L}{\mu r^2} \right)^2 - \frac{G\mu M}{r^2} = \ddot{r} \quad \textcircled{r}$$

Introduce  $u(\varphi) = \frac{1}{r(\varphi)}$  We assume that  $r$  can be seen as a function of  $\varphi$ , it will turn out to work.

$$\begin{cases} \dot{r} = \frac{d}{dt} \frac{1}{u(\varphi)} = -\frac{1}{u^2} \frac{du}{dt} = -\frac{1}{u^2} \frac{du}{d\varphi} \frac{d\varphi}{dt} = -\frac{1}{u^2} \frac{du}{d\varphi} \frac{L}{\mu r^2} = -\frac{L}{\mu} \frac{du}{d\varphi} \\ \ddot{r} = \frac{d}{dt} \left( -\frac{L}{\mu} \frac{du}{d\varphi} \right) = \frac{d}{d\varphi} \left( -\frac{L}{\mu} \frac{du}{d\varphi} \right) \frac{d\varphi}{dt} = -\frac{L^2}{\mu^2} u^2 \frac{d^2 u}{d\varphi^2} \end{cases}$$

$$r \left( \frac{l}{r^2 m} \right)^2 - \frac{GM}{r^2} = \ddot{r} \quad (r)$$

Insert in (r)

$$u^3 \frac{l^2}{m^2} - GM u^2 = - \frac{l^2 u^2}{m^2} \frac{d^2 u}{d\varphi^2}$$

Divide out  $\frac{l^2}{m^2} u^2$

$$\frac{d^2 u}{d\varphi^2} + \underbrace{u - \frac{GM m^2}{l^2}}_w = 0$$

with  $w = u - \frac{GM m^2}{l^2}$  we have

(get rid of const term)

$$\frac{d^2 w}{d\varphi^2} + w = 0 \quad (\text{harmonic oscillator})$$

$$\Rightarrow w = A \cos(\varphi - \delta)$$

some phase

Pick the phase  $\delta = 0$

$$\Rightarrow u = A \cos \varphi + \frac{GM m^2}{l^2} \Rightarrow$$

$$r = \frac{1}{u} = \frac{1}{A \cos \varphi + \frac{GM m^2}{l^2}} = \frac{l^2}{GM m^2} \frac{1}{1 + \underbrace{\left( \frac{l^2 A}{GM m^2} \right)}_{\equiv \varepsilon} \cos \varphi}$$

$\equiv \varepsilon$  the eccentricity

For maximal  $\cos \varphi$ ,  $\varphi = 0$  we get perihelion

$$r_{\min} = \frac{l^2}{GM m^2} \frac{1}{1 + \varepsilon}$$

$r_{\min}$

and similarly for aphelion

$$r_{\max} = \frac{l^2}{GM m^2} \frac{1}{1 - \varepsilon}$$

About one page of calculations in Cartesian coordinates  $(x,y)$  gives  
(see last page)

- $\epsilon = 0$        $x^2 + y^2 = r_{min}^2$       circle
- $0 \leq \epsilon < 1$       same sign for  $x^2$  and  $y^2$       ellipse
- $\epsilon = 1$       no  $x^2$ -term      parabola
- $\epsilon > 1$       different signs for  $x^2$  and  $y^2$       hyperbola

The solutions are conic sections.  
Kägelsnitt

In particular we note:

Kepler's 1st law: The orbit of every planet is an ellipse with the sun at one of the two focal points.

Consider  $\epsilon=0$  (circle) from  $r_{min}$  we have  $l = \mu \sqrt{GM r_{min}}$   
using  $l = \mu r^2 \dot{\varphi}$  and  $r = r_{min}$  we get

$$\omega^2 = \dot{\varphi}^2 = \frac{l^2}{\mu^2 r^4} = \frac{1}{\mu^2 r^4} \mu^2 GM r$$

"      "      "      "

$\left(\frac{2\pi}{\tau}\right)^2$  orbital period

$$\tau = \frac{2\pi}{\omega}$$

For planets  $M \approx M_{sun}$

$$\Rightarrow \tau^2 = \left(\frac{2\pi}{\omega}\right)^2 = \frac{4\pi^2 r^3}{GM_{sun}} \quad \text{i.e.} \quad \tau^2 \propto r^3 \quad \text{Kepler's 3rd law}$$

We have seen that  $l$  is conserved, but we also know

- 1)  $L$  does not depend explicitly on time
- 2) The potential is not velocity dependent
- 3) The coordinate transformation from  $\vec{r}$  to  $r, \varphi$  does not depend explicitly on time.

$\Rightarrow$  The Hamiltonian is constant and the energy is also conserved.

The orbits can be characterized by two constants of motion  $l$  and  $E$ .

For E we have

$$E = \frac{\mu}{2} (\dot{r}^2 + r^2 \dot{\varphi}^2) - \mu \frac{GM}{r}$$

$$\dot{\varphi} = \frac{L}{\mu r^2} \rightarrow = \frac{\mu}{2} \dot{r}^2 + \frac{\mu}{2} \frac{L^2}{\mu^2 r^2} - \mu \frac{GM}{r}$$

$$u = \frac{1}{r} \rightarrow \dot{r} = -\frac{L}{\mu} \frac{du}{d\varphi} \rightarrow = \frac{\mu}{2} \frac{L^2}{\mu^2} \left( \frac{du}{d\varphi} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \frac{L^2}{\mu} u^2 - \mu GM u$$

$$u = A \cos \varphi + \frac{GM\mu^2}{L^2} \rightarrow = \frac{L^2}{2\mu} A^2 \sin^2 \varphi + \frac{L^2}{2\mu} \left( A \cos \varphi + \frac{GM\mu^2}{L^2} \right)^2 - \mu GM \left( A \cos \varphi + \frac{GM\mu^2}{L^2} \right)$$

$$\sin^2 + \cos^2 = 1 \rightarrow = \frac{L^2}{2\mu} A^2 + \frac{L^2}{2\mu} 2A \cos \varphi \frac{GM\mu^2}{L^2} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{G^2 M^2 \mu^3}{L^2} - \mu GM A \cos \varphi - \frac{G^2 M^2 \mu^3}{L^2}$$

$$= \frac{L^2}{2\mu} A^2 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{G^2 M^2 \mu^3}{L^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow A^2 = \frac{G^2 M^2 \mu^4}{L^4} + \frac{2E}{L^2} \mu$$

Giving for the amplitude

$$\Rightarrow A = \frac{GM\mu^2}{L^2} \sqrt{1 + 2 \frac{L^2}{M^2 G^2} \frac{E}{\mu^3}}$$

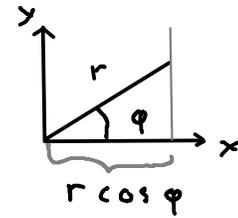
From  $\epsilon = \frac{L^2 A}{GM\mu^2}$  we get  $\epsilon = \sqrt{1 + 2 \frac{L^2}{G^2 M^2} \frac{E}{\mu^3}}$

$$\Rightarrow \varepsilon^2 = 1 + \frac{2L^2 E}{G^2 M^2 a^3} > 0$$

- $0 \leq \varepsilon < 1$  ellipse  $E < 0$
- $\varepsilon = 1$  parabola  $E = 0$
- $\varepsilon > 1$  hyperbola  $E > 0$

Orbits:

$$\text{Let } r = \frac{c}{1 + \epsilon \cos \varphi} = \frac{c}{1 + \epsilon \frac{x}{r}} = \frac{cr}{r + \epsilon x}$$



$$\Leftrightarrow r + \epsilon x = c$$

$$\Rightarrow r^2 = (c - \epsilon x)^2 = c^2 - 2\epsilon x c + \epsilon^2 x^2$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x^2(1 - \epsilon^2) + y^2 + 2\epsilon x c = c^2$$

Note •  $\epsilon = 1$  parabola  $y^2 + 2\epsilon x c = c^2$

•  $\epsilon > 1$  hyperbola  $x^2 \underbrace{(1 - \epsilon^2)}_{< 0} + y^2 + 2\epsilon x c = c^2$

•  $0 \leq \epsilon < 1$  ellipse  $x^2 \underbrace{(1 - \epsilon^2)}_{> 0} + y^2 + 2\epsilon x c = c^2$

Study the ellipses:

$$0 \leq \epsilon < 1 \Rightarrow \left( x \sqrt{1 - \epsilon^2} + \frac{\epsilon c}{\sqrt{1 - \epsilon^2}} \right)^2 - \frac{\epsilon^2 c^2}{1 - \epsilon^2} + y^2 = c^2$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \left( x \sqrt{1 - \epsilon^2} + \frac{\epsilon c}{\sqrt{1 - \epsilon^2}} \right)^2 + y^2 = c^2 \left( 1 + \frac{\epsilon^2}{1 - \epsilon^2} \right) = c^2 \left( \frac{1 - \epsilon^2 + \epsilon^2}{1 - \epsilon^2} \right) = c^2 \frac{1}{1 - \epsilon^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\left( x + \frac{\epsilon c}{1 - \epsilon^2} \right)^2 (1 - \epsilon^2)}{\frac{c^2}{1 - \epsilon^2}} + \frac{y^2}{\frac{c^2}{1 - \epsilon^2}} = 1$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \frac{\left( x + \frac{\epsilon c}{1 - \epsilon^2} \right)^2}{\left( \frac{c}{1 - \epsilon^2} \right)^2} + \frac{y^2}{\left( \frac{c \sqrt{1 - \epsilon^2}}{1 - \epsilon^2} \right)^2} = 1$$

$\underbrace{\frac{c}{1 - \epsilon^2}}_{\equiv a}$        $\underbrace{\frac{c \sqrt{1 - \epsilon^2}}{1 - \epsilon^2}}_{\equiv b}$

