Math 211 Sec. 4

Models of Motion

September 4, 2001

Models of Motion

History of models of planetary motion

- Babylonians - 3000 years ago
  - Initiated the systematic study of astronomy.
  - Collection of astonomical data.

Greeks

- Descriptive model - Ptolemy (~ 100)
  - Geocentric model
  - Epicycles
- Enabled predictions
- No causal explanation
- This model was refined over the following 1400 years.

Nicholas Copernicus (1543)

- Shifted the center of the universe to the sun.
- Fewer epicycles required.
- Still descriptive and not causal.
- The shift to a sun centered universe was a major change in human understanding of their place in the universe.

Johann Kepler (1609)

- Based on experimental work of Tycho Brahe (1400).
- Three laws of planetary motion.
  1. Each planet moves in an ellipse with the sun at one focus.
  2. The line between the sun and a planet sweeps out equal areas in equal times.
  3. The ratio of the semi-major axis to the cube of the period is the same for each planet.
- This model was still descriptive and not causal.

Isaac Newton

- Three major contributions.
  - Laws of mechanics.
    - Second law — $F = ma$.
  - Universal law of gravity.
  - Fundamental theorem of calculus.
    - $f' = g \Leftrightarrow \int g(x)\,dx = f(x) + C$.
    - Invention of calculus.
  - *Principia Mathematica* 1687

Isaac Newton (cont.)

- Laws of mechanics and gravitation were based on his own experiments and his understanding of the experiments of others.
- Derived Kepler's three laws of planetary motion.
- This was a causal explanation.
  - For any mechanical motion.
  - Still used today.

Isaac Newton (cont.)

- *The Life of Isaac Newton* by Richard Westfall, Cambridge University Press 1993.
- Problems with Newton's theory.
  - The force of gravity was action at a distance.
  - Physical anomalies.
    - The Michelson-Morley experiment (1881-87).

Albert Einstein

- Special theory of relativity – 1905.
- General theory of relativity – 1916.
  - Gravity is due to curvature of space-time.
  - Curvature of space-time is caused by mass.
  - Gravity is no longer action at a distance.
- All known anomalies explained.

Unified Theories

- Four fundamental forces.
  - Gravity, electromagnetism, strong nuclear, and weak nuclear.
- Last three can be unified by quantum mechanics. — Quantum chromodynamics.
- Currently there are attempts to include gravity.
  - String theory.
  - *The Elegant Universe : Superstrings, hidden dimensions, and the quest for the ultimate theory* by Brian Greene, W.W.Norton, New York 1999.

The Modeling Process

- It is based on experiment and/or observation.
- It is iterative.
  - For motion we have ≥ 6 iterations.
  - After each change in the model it must be checked by further experimentation and observation.
- It is rare that a model captures all aspects of the phenomenon.

Linear Motion

- Motion in one dimension — $x(t)$ is the distance from a reference position.
- Example: motion of a ball in the earth's gravity — $x(t)$ is the height of the ball above the surface of the earth.
- Velocity: $v = x'$
- Acceleration: $a = v' = x''$.

- Acceleration due to gravity is (approximately) constant near the surface of the earth

$$F = -mg, \quad \text{where} \quad g = 9.8 m/s^2$$

- Newton's second law: $F = ma$
- Equation of motion: $ma = -mg$, which becomes

$$x'' = -g \quad \text{or} \quad \begin{aligned} x' &= v, \\ v' &= -g. \end{aligned}$$

- Solving the system
$$x' = v,$$
$$v' = -g$$
- Integrate the second equation:
$$v(t) = -gt + c_1$$
- Substitute into the first equation and integate:
$$x(t) = -\frac{1}{2}gt^2 + c_1 t + c_2.$$

Resistance of the Medium

- Force of resistance

$$R(x, v) = -r(x, v)v \quad \text{where} \quad r(x, v) \geq 0.$$

- Resistance proportional to velocity.

$$R(x, v) = -rv, \quad r \text{ a positive constant.}$$

- Magnitude of resistance proportional to the square of the velocity.

$$R(x, v) = -k|v|v, \quad k \text{ a positive constant.}$$

$R(x, v) = -rv$

- Total force: $F = -mg - rv$
- Newton's second law: $F = ma$
- Equation of motion:

$$mx'' = -mg - rv \quad \text{or} \quad \begin{aligned} x' &= v, \\ v' &= -\frac{mg + rv}{m}. \end{aligned}$$

- The equation $v' = -\frac{mg + rv}{m}$ for v is separable.
- Solution is $v(t) = Ce^{-rt/m} - \frac{mg}{r}$.
- Notice

$$\lim_{t\to\infty} v(t) = -\frac{mg}{r}.$$

- The *terminal velocity* is $v_{\mathrm{term}} = -\frac{mg}{r}$.

$$R(x, v) = -k|v|v$$

- Total force: $F = -mg - k|v|v$.
- Equation of motion:

$$mx'' = -mg - k|v|v \quad \text{or} \quad \begin{aligned} x' &= v, \\ v' &= -g - \frac{k|v|v}{m}. \end{aligned}$$

- The equation for v is separable.

- Suppose a ball is dropped from a high point. Then $v < 0$.
- The equation is

$$\begin{aligned} v' &= \frac{-mg + kv^2}{m} \\ &= -\frac{k}{m}\left[\frac{mg}{k} - v^2\right] \\ &= -\frac{k}{m}\left[\alpha^2 - v^2\right], \quad \text{where } \alpha = \sqrt{mg/k}. \end{aligned}$$

- The solution is

$$v(t) = \sqrt{\frac{mg}{k}}\,\frac{Ae^{-2t\sqrt{kg/m}} - 1}{Ae^{-2t\sqrt{kg/m}} + 1}.$$

- The terminal velocity is

$$v_{\text{term}} = -\sqrt{mg/k}.$$

Solving for $x(t)$

- Integrating $x' = v(t)$ is sometimes hard.
- Use the trick (see Exercise 2.3.7):

$$a = \frac{dv}{dt} = \frac{dv}{dx} \cdot \frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{dv}{dx} \cdot v$$

- The equation

$$v\frac{dv}{dx} = a$$

is usually separable.

A ball is projected from the surface of the earth with velocity v_0. How high does it go?

- At $t = 0$, we have $x(0) = 0$ and $v(0) = v_0$.
- At the top we have $t = T$, $x(T) = x_{\max}$, and $v(T) = 0$.
- $R = 0 \Rightarrow a = -g$.

$$v\,dv = -g\,dx$$

$$\int_{v_0}^{0} v\,dv = -\int_{0}^{x_{\max}} g\,dx$$

$$x_{\max} = \frac{v_0^2}{2g}.$$

- $R = -rv \Rightarrow a = -g - rv/m$.

$$\frac{v\,dv}{v + mg/r} = -\frac{r}{m}\,dx.$$

$$x_{\max} = \frac{m}{r}\left[\frac{mg}{r}\ln\left(1 + \frac{v_0 r}{mg}\right) - v_0\right].$$

- $R = -k|v|v \Rightarrow a = -g - kv^2/m.$

$$\frac{v\,dv}{v^2 + mg/k} = -\frac{k}{m}\,dx.$$

$$x_{\max} = \frac{m}{2k}\ln\left(1 + \frac{kv_0^2}{mg}\right).$$