

University of Kentucky, Physics 404G
Homework #3, Rev. A, due Thursday, 2021-09-23

1. The **Cartesian**, **cylindrical**, and **spherical** coordinate systems are by far the most common. Do parts a), b), c), and e) for each of these coordinate systems, d) for cylindrical only:

a) Determine the coordinate transformation functions $q^i(\mathbf{r})$ in terms of each of the other two systems. *Hint: combine the simpler Cartesian-cylindrical and cylindrical-spherical transformations to obtain Cartesian-spherical.*

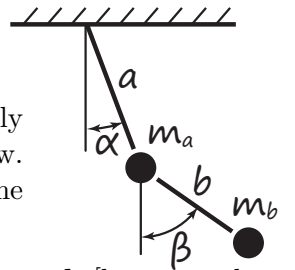
b) Pick a point \mathbf{r}_0 and illustrate the three coordinate isosurfaces $q^i(\mathbf{r}) = q_0^i$ (constant) that pass through \mathbf{r}_0 , labeling all lengths and angles in your diagram. For each coordinate q^i , identify the curve $\mathbf{s}(q^i; q_0^j, q_0^k)$ at the intersection of two surfaces of constant $q^j = q_0^j$ and $q^k = q_0^k$.

c) Calculate $\mathbf{b}_i = \partial \mathbf{s} / \partial q^i$ using $d\mathbf{s} = \hat{x}dx + \hat{y}dy + \hat{z}dz$. Normalize $\mathbf{b}_i = \hat{\mathbf{e}}_i h_i$ to find the *unit vectors* and *line element* $d\mathbf{s} = \hat{\mathbf{e}}_i h_i dq^i$, [bonus: *area element* $d\mathbf{a} = \frac{1}{2} d\mathbf{s} \times d\mathbf{s} = \hat{\mathbf{e}}_k h_k h_j dq^j dq^i$ for i, j, k cyclic], and [bonus: *volume element* $d\tau = \frac{1}{3} d\mathbf{s} \cdot d\mathbf{a} = h_1 h_2 h_3 dq^1 dq^2 dq^3$ (for orthogonal coordinates)]. Note that the scale factors h_θ and h_ϕ for angular coordinates are just radius of curvature, according to the arc length formulae $ds_\theta = r d\theta$ and $ds_\phi = \rho d\phi$.

d) Invert cylindrical coordinates to obtain $(\rho, \phi, z) = f^{-1}(x, y, z)$. Calculate the covariant basis $\mathbf{b}^i = \nabla q^i = \hat{\mathbf{e}}_i / h_i$ to verify $\mathbf{b}_i \cdot \mathbf{b}^j = \delta_i^j$. [bonus: Same for spherical coordinates].

e) Calculate $g_{ij} = \mathbf{b}_i \cdot \mathbf{b}_j = \text{diag}(h_1^2, h_2^2, h_3^2)$ and [bonus: $\Gamma_{ij} = \partial \mathbf{b}_i / \partial q^j$].

2. The position of the lower mass m_b of a **double pendulum** is most naturally parametrized by the non-orthogonal coordinate system (α, β) , illustrated below. The position of the upper mass m_a is trivially parametrized by α , but that of the lower mass m_b depends on both angles (α, β) .



a) Calculate and draw the α and β coordinate lines, the contravariant basis vectors \mathbf{b}_i [bonus: and covariant basis \mathbf{b}^i]. Use the components of $d\mathbf{s}$ to obtain the velocity $\mathbf{v} = \dot{\mathbf{r}} = \mathbf{b}_i \dot{q}^i$ of the lower mass.

b) Calculate the metric $g_{ij} = \mathbf{b}_i \cdot \mathbf{b}_j$ and thus $ds^2 = g_{ij} dq^i dq^j$ to obtain the kinetic energy $T_b = \frac{1}{2} m_b v^2 = \frac{1}{2} m_b g_{ij} \dot{q}^i \dot{q}^j$ of the lower mass. Raise the indices of \mathbf{b}_i with the inverse metric g^{ij} to obtain the covariant basis \mathbf{b}^i . [bonus: Compare with the direct calculation of $\mathbf{b}^i = \nabla q^i$ from a)].

c) Calculate the connection vectors $\Gamma_{ij} = \partial \mathbf{b}_i / \partial q^j$. Compare the covariant components $\Gamma_{kij} \equiv \mathbf{b}_k \cdot \Gamma_{ij}$ of $\Gamma_{\alpha\alpha}$ with those obtained directly from the metric $\Gamma_{kij} = \frac{1}{2} (g_{ik,j} + g_{jk,i} - g_{ij,k})$. Use Γ_{kij} to obtain the covariant components of acceleration $\mathbf{A} = \dot{\mathbf{v}} = \mathbf{b}_k \ddot{q}^k + \Gamma_{ij} \dot{q}^i \dot{q}^j$ of the mass m_b .

d) Calculate the potential of gravity $V(\alpha, \beta) = mgh$ for both masses m_a and m_b in terms of (α, β) to construct the Lagrangian $\mathcal{L} = T - V$. Compare the two equations of motion for α and β , in the covariant components of $\mathbf{F} = m\mathbf{A}$ using $F_i = \partial V / \partial q^i$ and A_i from above, with the direct calculation using Lagrange's equations.

e) Computer exercise: numerically integrate the four first order equations of motion in the variables $\mathbf{q} = (\alpha, \beta, \dot{\alpha}, \dot{\beta})$ for $a = 2$ m and $b = 1$ m, $m_a = m_b = 1$ kg, starting from initial conditions $\mathbf{q}_0 = (.1, .2, 0, 0)$, in units of [rad] and [rad/s]. Vary the initial value β_0 to discover two *modes* of pure periodic motion, and calculate their [eigen]frequencies. Increase α_0 and β_0 until the motion becomes *chaotic* (unpredictable). *Hint: start with the code for this [simple pendulum](#).*