

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED MATHEMATICS

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION JUNE 2003

SMA2103 THEORETICAL MECHANICS

3 hours  
June 2003

Answer ALL questions in Section A and any THREE questions in Section B

SECTION A: Answer ALL questions from this section.

1. The times taken by a boat to travel a distance  $d$  upstream and downstream are  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  respectively. Show that the speed of the boat relative to the water is  $d(t_1 + t_2)/2t_1t_2$ .

[7 marks]

2. Show that the force  $\vec{F} = (y + z, x + z, x + y)$  is conservative and find the potential  $V$  associated with  $\vec{F}$ .

[6 marks]

3. A particle of mass  $M$  is projected vertically upwards from the origin  $O$  with speed  $U$ . The particle moves under gravity in a medium which produces a resistance proportional to  $MV^2$  where  $V$  is the speed of the particle. Calculate its maximum height.

[7 marks]

4. Prove that in polar coordinates  $(r, \theta)$ , the velocity and acceleration are given by

$$\dot{\vec{r}} = \dot{r}\hat{r} + r\dot{\theta}\hat{\theta}$$

$$\ddot{\vec{r}} = (\ddot{r} - r\dot{\theta}^2)\hat{r} + (r\ddot{\theta} + 2\dot{r}\dot{\theta})\hat{\theta}$$
 respectively where  $\hat{r}$  and  $\hat{\theta}$  are unit vectors.

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[6 marks]

5. Evaluate  $\oint_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}$  where  $\vec{F} = (x - 3y)\underline{i} + (y - 2x)\underline{j}$

and  $C$  is a closed curve in the  $xy$ -plane, and  $x = 2\cos\theta$ ,  $y = 3\sin\theta$  from  $\theta = 0$  to  $\theta = 2\pi$ . Also give a physical interpretation.

[7 marks]

6. Define (a) a virtual displacement  
(b) a Lagrangian  
(c) a Hamiltonian  $H$

[7 marks]

## SECTION B

### ANSWER ANY THREE QUESTIONS (60)

7. Two ships  $A$  and  $B$  are observed at midnight to have the following velocity  $v_i$  and position  $r_i$  vectors where  $i = 1, 2$ .

Ship A:  $V_1 = 4\underline{i} + 3\underline{j}$ ;  $r_1 = 4\underline{i} - 2\underline{j}$

Ship B:  $V_2 = 6\underline{i} + 12\underline{j}$ ;  $r_2 = -20\underline{i} - 20\underline{j}$

where  $\underline{i}$  and  $\underline{j}$  are unit vectors in the directions east and north, respectively, and where the speeds are measured in kilometres per hour and distances in kilometres. Determine the time at which ships would collide if they both continued on their respective courses (i.e. their velocities remain constant). Where would the collision occur.

[20 marks]

8. a) Show that the moment of inertia of a square plate OABC about its axis OA is  $\frac{1}{3}ma^2$ , where  $a$  is the length of OA.  
b) A light square lamina of side 2 metres has masses of 1, 2, 3, and 4 kg placed at its corners A, B, C and D respectively. Find the moment of inertia of the system and the radius of gyration  
i. about an axis along AB  
ii. about an axis along BD.

[5+15 marks]

9. A rigid body consists of three particles of masses 2, 1, 4 located at (1, -1, 1) (2, 0, 2) and (-1, 0, 1) respectively.

Find

- a) Angular momentum of the body if it is rotated about the origin with angular

velocity  $\vec{w} = 3\vec{i} + 2\vec{j} + 4\vec{k}$ .

- b) the moments of inertia about  $x, y$  and  $z$  axes.
- c) the kinetic energy of rotation for the system.

[20 marks]

10. a) Two particles  $M_1, M_2$  are joined by a light inelastic string of length  $l$  initially close together over a smooth table. A smooth ring of mass  $M$  is threaded by the string and hangs over the edge of the table. The string and the ring are at right angles to the edge. The mass  $M_1$  moves a distance  $x$  towards the edge and the mass  $M_2$  moves a distance

$y$  towards the edge. Show that the acceleration of the mass  $M$  is  $\frac{\ddot{x} + \ddot{y}}{2}$  downwards?

Write down equations of motion for three masses and show that the

acceleration of the ring is given by  $\frac{(M_1 + M_2)Mg}{(M_1 + M_2)M + 4M_1M_2}$

[10 marks]

- b) A small stone of mass  $m$  is thrown vertically upwards with initial speed  $V$ . If the air resistance at speed  $v$  is  $mkv$  where  $k$  is a positive constant. Show that the stone returns to its starting point with speed  $U$  given by the equation

$$g - kU = (g + kV) \exp \left\{ \frac{-k}{g} (U + V) \right\}.$$

[10 marks]

END OF QUESTION PAPER.