General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convenor
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Credit points
3

Prerequisites
Admission to BAdvSc

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This is a full-year unit, offering accelerated learning via lectures, discussions, homework, and literature-based research projects in a variety of areas of physics including: classical mechanics and astronomy. Topics include: the simple harmonic oscillator, coupled oscillators, Lagrangian methods with constrained and unconstrained systems, orbital mechanics, angular momentum and rotational stability, and non-inertial reference frames. Students are also expected to observe and participate in various activities closely associated with physics and astronomy research activities.

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at http://students.mq.edu.au/student_admin/enrolmentguide/academicdates/

Learning Outcomes

1. Know the role & use of mathematics. Being able to identify necessary math techniques (intermediate level) and apply all the basic ones [vectors, derivatives, integrals, partial derivatives, vector calculus, ordinary differential equations, etc]
2. The role and use of the conservation laws. Know and apply, when appropriate, the conservation of energy, momentum, angular momentum
3. Know and be able to calculate kinematics and dynamics of the orbital motion, Newton’s law of gravity. Be familiar with the deviations, relativistic corrections, elements of the modern space science.

4. Know and be able to apply the harmonic oscillator model in various physical situations.

5. Be familiar with and be able to apply the basics of the Lagrangian and Hamiltonina formalism, in mechanics and other branches of physics

6. Know physical basis and elementary/intermediate mathematical tools of special relativity

7. Know the basic physics and applications of rotation. Be able to apply elementary/intermediate mathematical techniques

8. Be familiar with the physical basis and some applications of quantum mechanics

Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>project</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>end of S1 and end of S2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>assignment</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>continuous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exam</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>end of S1 and end of S2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**project**

**Due:** end of S1 and end of S2  
**Weighting:** 20%

Two individual projects (one each term) on the subject of choice of a student (approved by the lecturer)

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Know and be able to calculate kinematics and dynamics of the orbital motion, Newton’s law of gravity. Be familiar with the deviations, relativistic corrections, elements of the modern space science.
- Be familiar with and be able to apply the basics of the Lagrangian and Hamiltonina formalism, in mechanics and other branches of physics
- Know physical basis and elementary/intermediate mathematical tools of special relativity
- Be familiar with the physical basis and some applications of quantum mechanics
assignment
Due: continuous
Weighting: 30%

Weekly home assignment. Four best are used towards the grade in each half of the unit.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Know the role & use of mathematics. Being able to identify necessary math techniques (intermediate level) and apply all the basic ones [vectors, derivatives, integrals, partial derivatives, vector calculus, ordinary differential equations, etc]
- The role and use of the conservation laws. Know and apply, when appropriate, the conservation of energy, momentum, angular momentum
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- Know and be able to apply the harmonic oscillator model in various physical situations.
- Be familiar with and be able to apply the basics of the Lagrangian and Hamiltonian formalism, in mechanics and other branches of physics
- Know physical basis and elementary/intermediate mathematical tools of special relativity
- Know the basic physics and applications of rotation. Be able to apply elementary/intermediate mathematical techniques
- Be familiar with the physical basis and some applications of quantum mechanics

exam
Due: end of S1 and end of S2
Weighting: 50%

Two end of the term exams.

The two examinations will be of 1.5 hours duration each. Any textbook(s) in physics (but not the collections of problems) and personal notes are permitted. Calculators (including the ones with graphic capabilities) are permitted. Any other devices are not permitted

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Know the role & use of mathematics. Being able to identify necessary math techniques (intermediate level) and apply all the basic ones [vectors, derivatives, integrals, partial derivatives, vector calculus, ordinary differential equations, etc]
- The role and use of the conservation laws. Know and apply, when appropriate, the conservation of energy, momentum, angular momentum
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• Know the basic physics and applications of rotation. Be able to apply elementary/intermediate mathematical techniques
• Be familiar with the physical basis and some applications of quantum mechanics

Delivery and Resources
Unit materials, reading suggestions, etc will be available from the iLearn page

Policies and Procedures
Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central. Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy  http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html
Disruption to Studies Policy  http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the Learning and Teaching Category of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct
Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Student Support
Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit  http://students.mq.edu.au/support/
Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

Student Enquiry Service

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

Equity Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/.

When using the University’s IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Know the role & use of mathematics. Being able to identify necessary math techniques (intermediate level) and apply all the basic ones [vectors, derivatives, integrals, partial derivatives, vector calculus, ordinary differential equations, etc]
- Know and be able to calculate kinematics and dynamics of the orbital motion, Newton’s law of gravity. Be familiar with the deviations, relativistic corrections, elements of the modern space science.
- Know and be able to apply the harmonic oscillator model in various physical situations.
Be familiar with and be able to apply the basics of the Lagrangian and Hamiltonina formalism, in mechanics and other branches of physics

Know physical basis and elementary/intermediate mathematical tools of special relativity

Be familiar with the physical basis and some applications of quantum mechanics

**Problem Solving and Research Capability**

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Know the role & use of mathematics. Being able to identify necessary math techniques (intermediate level) and apply all the basic ones [vectors, derivatives, integrals, partial derivatives, vector calculus, ordinary differential equations, etc]
- The role and use of the conservation laws. Know and apply, when appropriate, the conservation of energy, momentum, angular momentum
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- Be familiar with and be able to apply the basics of the Lagrangian and Hamiltonina formalism, in mechanics and other branches of physics
- Know physical basis and elementary/intermediate mathematical tools of special relativity
- Know the basic physics and applications of rotation. Be able to apply elementary/intermediate mathematical techniques
- Be familiar with the physical basis and some applications of quantum mechanics

**Creative and Innovative**

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:
Learning outcomes

• Know the role & use of mathematics. Being able to identify necessary math techniques (intermediate level) and apply all the basic ones [vectors, derivatives, integrals, partial derivatives, vector calculus, ordinary differential equations, etc]
• Know and be able to calculate kinematics and dynamics of the orbital motion, Newton’s law of gravity. Be familiar with the deviations, relativistic corrections, elements of the modern space science.
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• Be familiar with the physical basis and some applications of quantum mechanics

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

• Be familiar with the physical basis and some applications of quantum mechanics

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation’s historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

• Know and be able to calculate kinematics and dynamics of the orbital motion, Newton’s law of gravity. Be familiar with the deviations, relativistic corrections, elements of the modern space science.
• Be familiar with the physical basis and some applications of quantum mechanics
Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Know and be able to calculate kinematics and dynamics of the orbital motion, Newton's law of gravity. Be familiar with the deviations, relativistic corrections, elements of the modern space science.
- Be familiar with the physical basis and some applications of quantum mechanics.

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Know the role & use of mathematics. Being able to identify necessary math techniques (intermediate level) and apply all the basic ones [vectors, derivatives, integrals, partial derivatives, vector calculus, ordinary differential equations, etc].
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Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific
knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Know the role & use of mathematics. Being able to identify necessary math techniques (intermediate level) and apply all the basic ones [vectors, derivatives, integrals, partial derivatives, vector calculus, ordinary differential equations, etc]
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- Be familiar with the physical basis and some applications of quantum mechanics

**Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking**

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Know the role & use of mathematics. Being able to identify necessary math techniques (intermediate level) and apply all the basic ones [vectors, derivatives, integrals, partial derivatives, vector calculus, ordinary differential equations, etc]
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