

**SEMESTER-IV**  
**LECTURE NOTES ON**  
**Simple harmonic motion**

**1<sup>st</sup> PART**

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**REFERENCE BOOK: PARTICLE DYNAMICS BY  
SAHA AND GANGULY**

Motion In A straight Line

Figure 1

Figure 2

Points To Note

- 1) Motion takes place along a straight line (1 Dimensional motion)
- 2)  $0 \Rightarrow$  Fixed Point. Towards  $0$  or away from  $0$  the external force acts. As fixed so considered as origin (point of reference)
- 3) External Force is a function of  $x$  (distance of particle at any time  $t$  from  $0$ ). It is either directed towards  $0$  (attractive in nature)  $\rightarrow$  shown as  $f_1(x)$  in figure 1. Or it is directed away from  $0$  (repulsive in nature)  $\rightarrow$  shown as  $f_2(x)$  in figure 2.

4) Eqn of motion is

$$\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = -f_1(x) \quad (\text{for figure 1}) \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

$$\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = f_2(x) \quad (\text{for figure 2}) \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

} that mass of particle considered

5)  $A \Rightarrow$  position of particle initially i.e. at time  $t=0$

Simple Harmonic motion is a particular example of this type of motion where figure 1 is applicable together with  $f_1(x) = -Mx$  ( $M = \text{constant}$ )

Figure 1

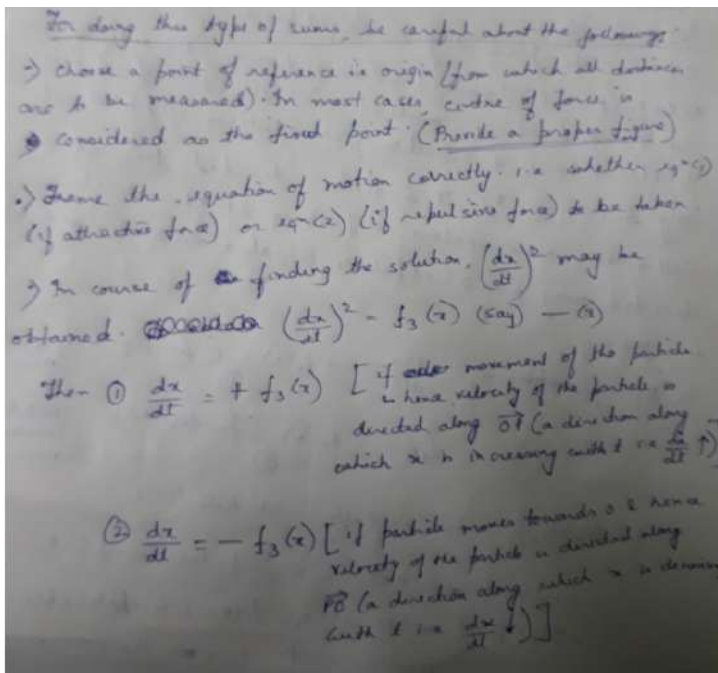


Figure 2

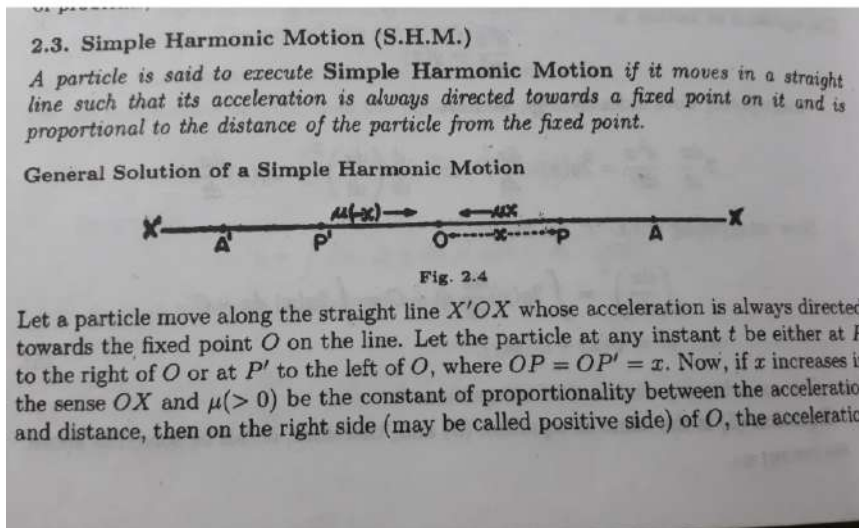


Figure 3

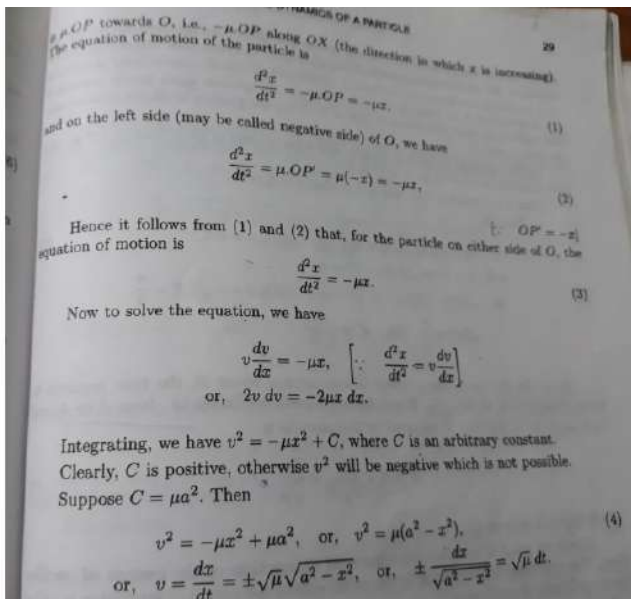


Figure 4

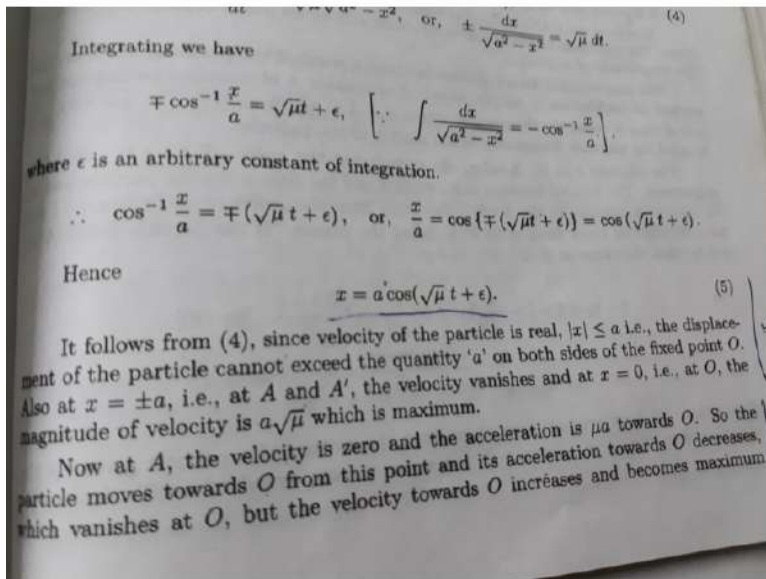


Figure 5

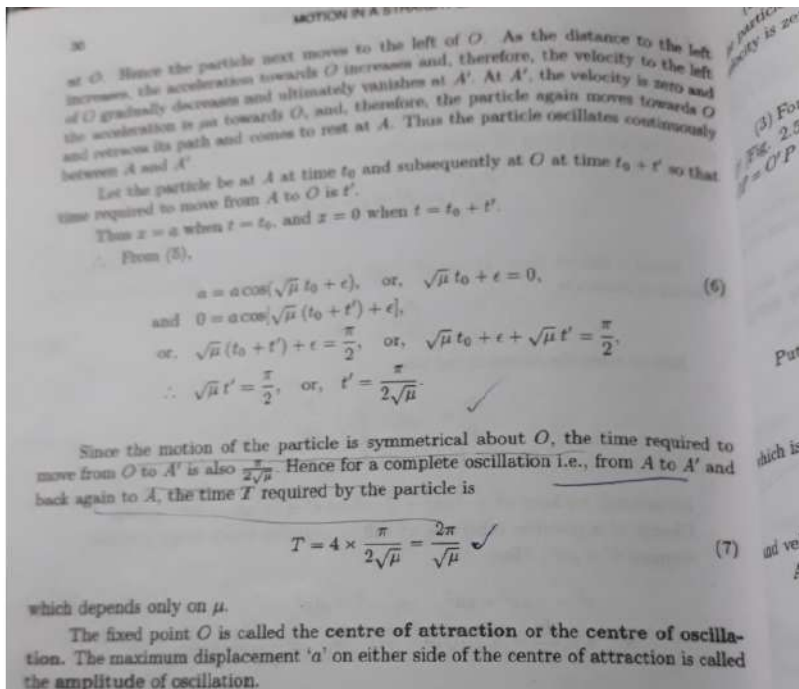


Figure 6

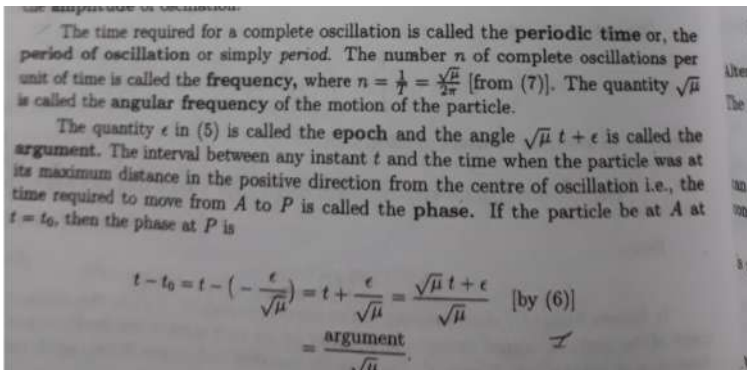


Figure 7

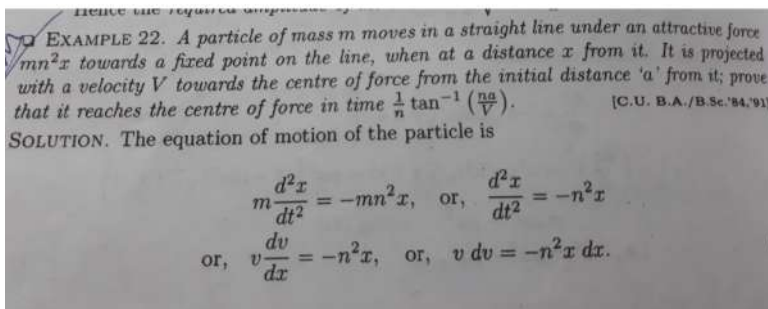


Figure 8

Integrating.

$$\int v \, dv = -n^2 \int x \, dx, \quad \text{or, } \frac{v^2}{2} = -n^2 \frac{x^2}{2} + C,$$

where  $C$  is an arbitrary constant.

Initially, at  $t = 0$ ,  $x = a$  and  $v = -V$ ;

$$\therefore \frac{V^2}{2} = -\frac{n^2 a^2}{2} + C, \quad \text{or, } C = \frac{1}{2}(V^2 + n^2 a^2)$$

∴ From (2),

$$\frac{v^2}{2} = -\frac{n^2 x^2}{2} + \frac{1}{2}(V^2 + n^2 a^2)$$

or,  $v^2 = -n^2 x^2 + V^2 + n^2 a^2$ , or,  $v = -\sqrt{(V^2 + n^2 a^2) - n^2 x^2}$

or,  $\frac{dx}{dt} = -\sqrt{(V^2 + n^2 a^2) - n^2 x^2}$

[negative sign is taken, since the velocity is towards the fixed point  $O$  and  $\frac{dx}{dt}$  is towards  $x$  increasing]

or,  $dt = -\frac{dx}{n\sqrt{\frac{V^2}{n^2} + a^2 - x^2}} = -\frac{dx}{n\sqrt{b^2 - x^2}}$ , where  $b^2 = \frac{V^2}{n^2} + a^2$

Integrating

$$\int_0^T dt = -\frac{1}{n} \int_a^0 \frac{dx}{\sqrt{b^2 - x^2}}, \quad \text{where } T \text{ is the required time from } x = a \text{ to } x = 0$$

or,  $T = -\frac{1}{n} \left[ \sin^{-1} \frac{x}{b} \right]_a^0 = -\frac{1}{n} \left[ 0 - \sin^{-1} \frac{a}{b} \right]$ , where  $b^2 = \frac{V^2}{n^2} + a^2$

$$= \frac{1}{n} \sin^{-1} \frac{a}{b} \quad \left[ \text{If } \sin^{-1} \frac{a}{b} = \alpha, \text{ then } \sin \alpha = \frac{a}{b}; \therefore \tan \alpha = \frac{a}{\sqrt{b^2 - a^2}} \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{n} \tan^{-1} \frac{a}{\sqrt{b^2 - a^2}} = \frac{1}{n} \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{na}{V} \right) \quad \left[ \because b^2 = \frac{V^2}{n^2} + a^2 \right]$$

Figure 9

Points to be noted

For Sum No. 22

OA  $\rightarrow$  total distance ; OP  $\rightarrow$  distance at any time  $t$ .

O  $\rightarrow$  fixed point (considering it as origin).

Law of motion given by ~~is~~

$$m \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = -mn^2x \quad \left( \begin{array}{l} -ve \text{ sign for attractive} \\ \text{force} \end{array} \right)$$

In calculating  $\frac{dx}{dt}$ , negative sign is taken :-

$$v^2 = \left( \frac{dx}{dt} \right)^2 = -n^2x^2 + v^2 + n^2a^2$$

$$\therefore \frac{dx}{dt} = -\sqrt{(v^2 + n^2a^2) - n^2x^2}$$

$\therefore$  This negative sign is required as the velocity  $v$  is directed towards origin O. (force is attractive in nature and particle is moving towards origin) whereas  $\frac{dx}{dt}$  is towards  $x$  increasing direction  $\frac{+}{-}$

Figure 10

EXAMPLE 23. A particle moves towards a centre of force O, the acceleration at a distance  $x$  from O being  $n^2x$ , starting from rest at a distance 'a' from O; when at a distance  $\frac{a\sqrt{3}}{2}$  from O, the particle receives a velocity  $na$  from O. Show that the new amplitude of oscillation is  $a\sqrt{3}$ .

SOLUTION. The equation of motion of the particle is

$$\ddot{x} = -n^2x.$$

Multiplying both sides by  $2\dot{x}$  and integrating, we get

$$\dot{x}^2 = -n^2x^2 + C, \quad \left[ \because \frac{d}{dt}(\dot{x}^2) = 2\dot{x}\ddot{x} \right], \quad (1)$$

where  $C$  is an arbitrary constant.

Initially, at  $t = 0, \dot{x} = 0$  and  $x = a$ ;

$$\therefore 0 = -n^2a^2 + C, \quad \text{or, } C = n^2a^2.$$

$\therefore$  From (1),  $\dot{x}^2 = -n^2x^2 + n^2a^2 = n^2(a^2 - x^2)$ .

At  $x = \frac{a\sqrt{3}}{2}, \dot{x}^2 = n^2(a^2 - \frac{3a^2}{4}) = \frac{1}{4}n^2a^2$ , or,  $\dot{x} = \frac{1}{2}na$ , and at this stage, the particle receives a velocity  $na$ . Since acceleration remains the same, from (1) we get

$$\dot{x}^2 = -n^2x^2 + C', \quad (2)$$

where  $C'$  is another arbitrary constant, whose value is to be determined from the new conditions:  $\dot{x} = \frac{1}{2}na + na = \frac{3}{2}na$  when  $x = \frac{a\sqrt{3}}{2}$ .

$\therefore$  From (2),  $\frac{9}{4}n^2a^2 = -\frac{3}{4}n^2a^2 + C'$ , or,  $C' = 3n^2a^2$ .

$\therefore$  From (2), we get  $\dot{x}^2 = -n^2x^2 + 3n^2a^2 = n^2(3a^2 - x^2)$ , which shows that  $\dot{x}$  vanishes at  $x = \pm\sqrt{3}a$ .

Hence the new amplitude of the simple harmonic motion after receiving the velocity  $na$  is  $\sqrt{3}a$ .

Figure 11

Points to note (for Sum no 23)

$O \rightarrow$  fixed point (Centre of force)  
 $OA \rightarrow$  fixed distance;  $OP \rightarrow$  distance  $x$  (at any time  $t$ ) from  $O$ .  
 Eq<sup>n</sup> of motion  $\ddot{x} = -n^2 x$   
 multiplying both sides by  $2\dot{x}$  gives  
 $2\dot{x}\ddot{x} = -n^2 x \cdot 2\dot{x}$   
 $\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dt}(\dot{x}^2) = -n^2 x \frac{dx}{dt}$   
 $\Rightarrow d(\dot{x}^2) = -n^2 x dx$   
 Integration gives eq<sup>n</sup> (1)

For the velocity term  $\dot{x}$   
 If there was no blow then at  $x = \frac{\sqrt{3}a}{2}$ ,  $\dot{x}$  should be  $\sqrt{n^2(a^2 - \frac{3a^2}{4})}$   
 i.e.  $\dot{x} = 0$  would have been  $\frac{na}{2}$ .  
 But the particle receives a velocity  $na$  at  $x = \frac{\sqrt{3}a}{2}$ .  
 $\therefore \dot{x} = \frac{1}{2}na + na = \frac{3}{2}na$   
 After receiving blow, eq<sup>n</sup> of motion will be  $\ddot{x} = -n^2 x$   
 Arguing as before, we will again get  $\dot{x}^2 = -n^2 x^2 + C$  (2)

Figure 12

2.7. Motion in a Straight Line under Inverse Square Law

A particle moves in a straight line  $OX$  with an acceleration which is always directed towards a fixed point  $O$  on the line and varies inversely as the square of its distance from  $O$ . If the particle starts from rest at a point  $A$  on  $OX$ , to find the motion.

Let  $P$  be the position of the particle at any time  $t$  on  $OX$ , where  $OP = x$ .  
 If  $\mu (> 0)$  be the constant of variation, then the acceleration of the particle at  $P$  is  $\mu/x^2$  towards  $O$ . The equation of motion is

$$\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = -\frac{\mu}{x^2} \quad (1)$$

$\therefore \frac{d^2x}{dt^2}$  is the acceleration in the direction  $OP$ , while  $\frac{\mu}{x^2}$  is the acceleration towards  $O$ .  
 Multiplying both sides of (1) by  $\frac{2dx}{dt}$  and integrating,

$$\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2 = \frac{2\mu}{x} + C, \quad (2)$$

where  $C$  is an arbitrary constant.  
 If the particle starts from rest at  $A$  on the line  $OX$ , where  $OA = a$ , then  $\frac{dx}{dt} = 0$  when  $x = a$ ;  $\therefore 0 = \frac{2\mu}{a} + C$ , or,  $C = -\frac{2\mu}{a}$ .

Figure 13



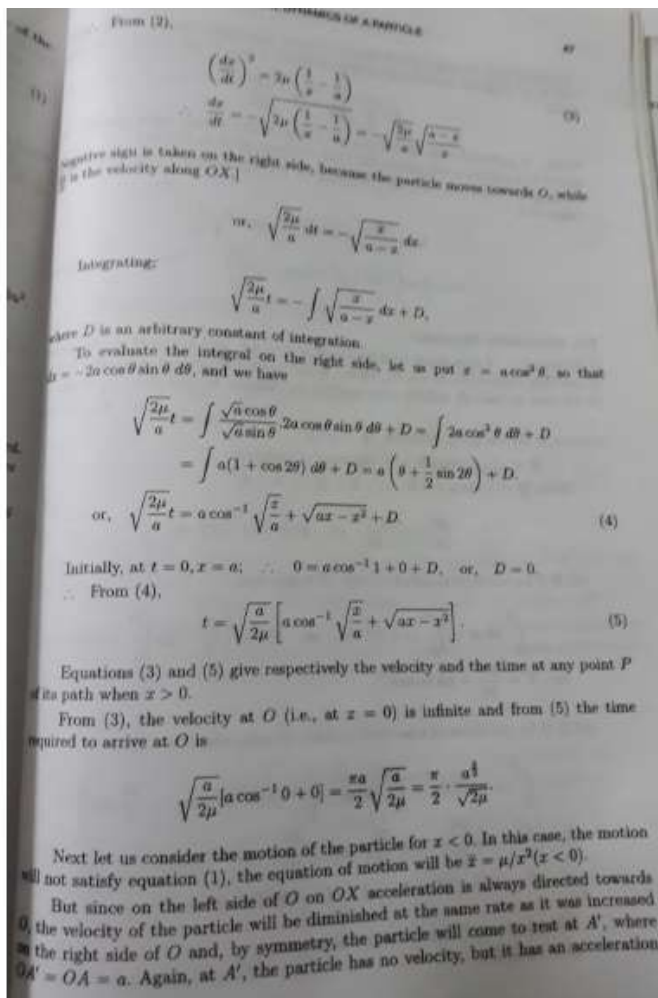


Figure 14

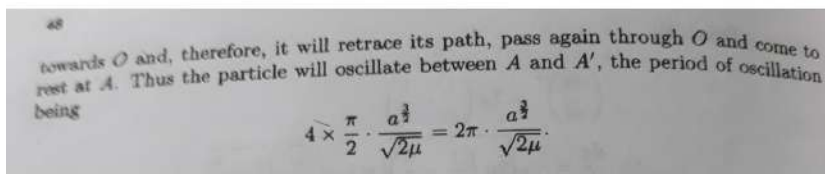


Figure 15

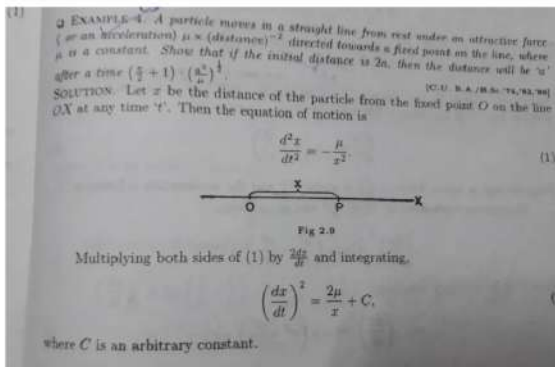


Figure 16

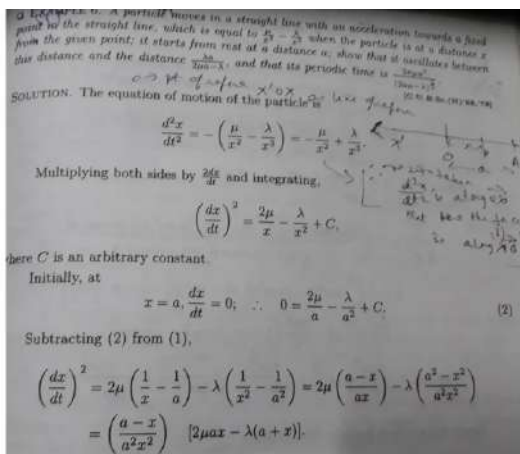


Figure 17

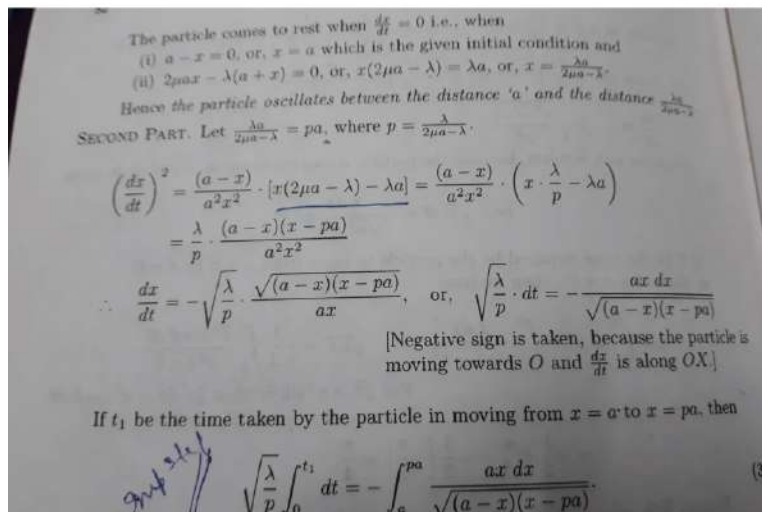


Figure 18

$$dx = 2a \sin \theta \cdot \cos \theta \cdot d\theta - 2pa \cos \theta \cdot \sin \theta \cdot d\theta$$

$$= 2a \sin \theta \cdot \cos \theta \cdot d\theta \cdot (1-p),$$

$$a-x = a - a \sin^2 \theta - pa \cos^2 \theta = a \cos^2 \theta - pa \cos^2 \theta$$

$$= a(1-p) \cos^2 \theta,$$

$$\text{and } x-pa = a \sin^2 \theta - pa \sin^2 \theta = a(1-p) \sin^2 \theta; \quad [4]$$

when  $x = a$ , from (4),  $\cos \theta = 0$ ;  $\therefore \theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$ ;  
 when  $x = pa$ , from (5),  $\sin \theta = 0$ ;  $\therefore \theta = 0$ .  
 Hence, from (3), we get

$$\sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{p}} t_1 = - \int_{\frac{\pi}{2}}^0 \frac{2a^2 \sin \theta \cdot \cos \theta \cdot d\theta (1-p) \cdot (a \sin^2 \theta + pa \cos^2 \theta)}{\sqrt{a(1-p) \cos^2 \theta \cdot a(1-p) \sin^2 \theta}}$$

$$= 2a^2 \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} (\sin^2 \theta + p \cos^2 \theta) d\theta = 2a^2 \left[ \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{\pi}{2} + p \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{\pi}{2} \right]$$


$$= \frac{\pi a^2}{2} (1+p) = \frac{\pi a^2}{2} \left( 1 + \frac{\lambda}{2\mu a - \lambda} \right) = \frac{\pi a^2 \cdot \mu a}{2\mu a - \lambda}$$

$$\text{or } t_1 = \frac{\pi \mu a^3}{2\mu a - \lambda} \sqrt{\frac{p}{\lambda}} = \frac{\pi \mu a^3}{2\mu a - \lambda} \sqrt{\frac{1}{2\mu a - \lambda}} = \frac{\pi \mu a^3}{(2\mu a - \lambda)^{\frac{3}{2}}}$$

Hence the required periodic time  $= 2t_1 = \frac{2\pi \mu a^3}{(2\mu a - \lambda)^{\frac{3}{2}}}$ .

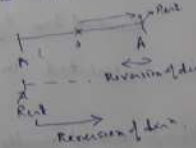
Figure 19

Points to note for Question



Considering centre of force (fixed point) as origin  
 Initially (at  $t=0$ ) position of the particle is at A  
 $OA = a$   
 Let P be position of particle at any time  $t$ .  $OP = x$ .

To prove  $\pi$  part (i.e. finding oscillating b/w a  $2 \frac{2a}{2\mu a - \lambda}$ )  
 During oscillation between A and A' body momentarily comes at rest at A and at A'.  
 $\therefore$  at A and A',  $\frac{dx}{dt}$  must be 0.



$\therefore \frac{dx}{dt}$  calculated is equated to 0

$$\text{i.e. } \frac{dx}{dt} = \left( \frac{a-x}{a^2 x} \right) [2\mu a x - \lambda(a+x)] = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x = a \quad | \quad x = \frac{\lambda a}{2\mu a - \lambda}$$

Figure 20

For 2nd part (i.e. Periodic Time)

The motion is SHM (Simple Harmonic Motion)

So periodic time  $T$  = Time to complete one full oscillation  
 i.e. time to start from A go to A' along ~~the path~~ and then  
 returns back to A along  $\frac{A'A}{A'A}$

= 2X Time to move from A to A' (due to symmetry)

Time to move from A ( $x=a$ ) to A' ( $x=pa - \frac{\lambda a}{2\mu a^2}$ ) is  
 denoted here by  $t_1$ .

$t_1$  is calculated in eq<sup>n</sup> (3),  $\int_a^b \frac{dx}{v} = \int_0^{t_1} dt = - \int_a^b \frac{ax dx}{\sqrt{(a-x)(x-pa)}} \quad (3)$

Transformation of variable made  $x = a \sin^2 \theta + pa \cos^2 \theta$  so as to  
 simplify the integrand in eq<sup>n</sup> (3). (Not mandatory) ~~may be done~~

Figure 21

Try the following sums:

1) A particle moves towards a centre of force, the acceleration at a distance  $x$  being given by  $\mu \left( x + \frac{a^4}{x^3} \right)$ . If it starts from rest at a distance 'a', show that it will arrive at the centre in time  $\pi(4\sqrt{a})$ .

2) A point moves towards a centre of force, the acceleration being given by  $\frac{\mu}{x^3}$ , starting from rest at a distance 'a' from the centre; show that the time of reaching a point distant 'b' from the centre is  $a \sqrt{(a^2 - b^2)/A}$ , and its velocity then is  $\sqrt{4\mu(a^2 - b^2)}/(ab)$ .

3) A particle moves towards a centre of attraction starting from rest at a distance 'a' from the centre. At any distance  $x$  of its velocity varies as  $\sqrt{\left( \frac{a^2 - x^2}{x^2} \right)}$ ; find the law of force.

Figure 22