

Contents

1 Data Analysis	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.1.1 Introduction to eXtrema	1
1.2 Instrumental errors	2
1.2.1 Determination of a gravitational acceleration g	2
1.3 Random errors	4
1.3.1 Basics of statistical analysis in eXtrema	7
1.3.2 Constructing a distribution function	8
1.4 Propagation of errors	10
1.4.1 Computational exercises	12
2 Simple Harmonic Oscillations	13
2.1 Introduction	13
2.2 Undamped harmonic oscillator	15
3 Damping and Anharmonicity	17
3.1 Damped harmonic oscillations	17
3.2 Undamped anharmonic oscillations	18
4 Resonance: Forced, Damped, Harmonic Oscillations	22
5 Angular Motion	25
5.1 Deriving an expression for rotational inertia	26
5.2 Rotational inertia of an unloaded cradle assembly	26
5.3 Geometrical factors in front of mR^2 : disc <i>vs.</i> ring	27
5.4 Parallel axis' theorem	28
6 Probing an Interaction Potential	31
6.1 Introduction	31
6.2 Experimental procedure	33
6.3 Optional: an alternate experimental procedure	35
7 Coupled Oscillators	37
7.1 Coupled oscillators	37
7.2 Coupled pendula	39
7.3 Experimental procedure	41
8 Kater's Pendulum	43
8.1 Introduction	43
8.2 Experimental procedure	44

9 Bessel's Pendulum	47
9.1 The apparatus	47
9.2 Experimental procedure	48
10 Collisions and Conservation Laws	50
10.1 Elastic collisions	50
10.2 Experimental procedure	51
A How to prepare a good lab report	56
A.1 Before the experiment	57
A.2 During the experiment	57
A.3 After the experiment	59