

# Harmonic motion and constant force

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Taylor, problem 13.10

Consider a particle of mass  $m$  moving in two dimensions, subject to the force

$$\vec{F} = -kx \hat{i} + Ky \hat{j}$$

where  $k$  and  $K$  are positive constants.

Write down the Hamiltonian and Hamilton's equations, using  $x$  and  $y$  as generalized coordinates. Solve the equations and describe the motion.

One needs to find the potential first

$$\begin{aligned} U(x, y) &= - \int \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{\ell} = - \int F_x dx - \int F_y dy + \text{const} \\ &= \frac{kx^2}{2} - Ky + \text{const}. \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathcal{H} = T + U = \frac{p_x^2 + p_y^2}{2m} + \frac{kx^2}{2} - Ky$$

$$\dot{x} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial p_x} = \frac{p_x}{m} \quad \dot{y} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial p_y} = \frac{p_y}{m}$$

$$\dot{p}_x = - \frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial x} = -kx \quad \dot{p}_y = - \frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial y} = K$$

$$\ddot{x} = - \frac{k}{m} x \quad \ddot{y} = \frac{K}{m}$$

$$x = A \cos(\omega t + \delta)$$

SIMPLE HARMONIC  
MOTION

$$y = \frac{1}{2} \frac{K}{m} t^2 + v_{0,y} t + y_0$$

UNIFORMLY ACCELERATED  
MOTION