

Mass Measurement (10 points)

In this experimental problem, a measurement of mass is attempted. We further measure the mass utilizing the resonance characteristics of the harmonic oscillator.

Experimental setup

Below is the list of parts (Fig. 1). The number of the parts is given in [] if only there are two or more.

Figure 1: The experimental apparatus set.

1. Mounting base:

Note: magnet unit on the base creates the height-independent uniform radial magnetic fields warranted near the center of the magnet pair to within ± 3 mm in height.

- 2. (Oscillator) support
- 3. Thumbscrews [2]:

Note: Remove 2 and 3 from 1 in the as-received package for use.

4. Shim (washer) [6]

- 5. Cylindrical oscillator
- 6. Rubber bands [6]
- 7. Markers [2]
- 8. Weights [5]
- 9. Tweezers
- 10. Mirror
- 11. Riser block
- 12. Power supply (PS):

DC or AC mode is toggled on.

In the DC mode, it works as the constant-current source. Turn the knob labeled "DC Vol" to adjust the current. The magnitude of current is obtained from the voltage between "DCmon" and "DC GND" using the conversion factor 1.00 A/V.

In the AC mode, it functions as the voltage source with a fixed amplitude. Turn the "AC Vol" to adjust the voltage. The AC current is obtained from the AC voltage between "ACmon" and "AC GND" using the conversion factor 0.106 A/V. The frequency (Freq.) is tunable by using the "Coarse" and "Fine" tuning knobs.

- 13. Battery holders [2]
- 14. Batteries [8]
- 15. U-shaped crimp terminal wires [2]
- 16. Alligator clip wires [2]
- 17. Digital multimeter (DMM):

Turn the knob to select an appropriate measurement mode, "DCV", "ACV", and "Hz". Note that the displayed value of the AC voltage indicates the root mean square (RMS) value, i.e., the effective value.

Modeling the system

Figure 2 is a simplified model of the experimental setup. It is essentially a driven mass-on-spring oscillator.

Figure 2: Harmonic oscillator model.

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The relevant parameters are:

- \bullet *M*: mass of the (cylindrical) oscillator
- \cdot m: mass per weight
- \cdot *N*: the number of weights
- g : acceleration due to gravity
- \cdot k: effective spring constant pertaining to the vertical motion
- z : oscillator height (or displacement)
- $z_{\sf e}$: oscillator height at which a force balance without gravitational and electromagnetic forces is established.
- \bullet $B(B')$: magnetic field applied to the main (control) coil
- \cdot $L(L')$: length of the conducting wire of the main (control) coil
- \bullet $I(I')$: current flowing through the main (control) coil
- α : positive coefficient of drag force

The equation of motion is given by

$$
(M+Nm)\frac{\mathrm{d}^2z}{\mathrm{d}t^2} = -(M+Nm)g - k(z-z_{\mathbf{e}}) + BLI + B'L'I' - \alpha\frac{\mathrm{d}z}{\mathrm{d}t}.\tag{1}
$$

Installation of the oscillator

- 1. Remove the support from the mounting base. Wrap four rubber bands around it in a grid pattern (See Fig. 3(a)).
- 2. Insert the cylindrical oscillator from the scale side into the square opening amid the crossed rubber bands. Place the wire leads on the other side of the scale. (Fig. 3(b)).
- 3. The oscillator is designed to hang on the support with four rubber bands and eight little hooks (red circled in Fig. 3(c)). When properly implemented, one rubber band loop forms a truncated rhombus with two hooks above and below the support level in the side view.

Note: In this experiment, we can assume that the effective force due to the rubber bands obeys Hooke's law.

- 4. Refix the support to the post diagonally with two thumbscrews. The scale has to stand upright on top, not on the side of the binding posts (Fig. 3(d)).
- 5. Stand the oscillator upright. Its axis must be aligned vertically and shared with the magnet unit.
- 6. The main coil should sit near the middle of the two magnets when at rest, which can be confirmed by the distance between the upper surface of the lower magnet and the lower surface of the oscillator being 3 to 5 mm (Fig. 3(e) red arrow). If it is low, put the shims between the binding posts and the support (Fig. 3(f) red arrows). If it is high, turn the post of the magnet to remove it and add the shim under the post (Fig. 3(f) yellow arrow).
- 7. Expose the sticky surface of the double-sided adhesive tape on the marker (Fig. 4(a)). Glue the marker to the tiny little floating shelf on the oscillator to measure the height (Fig. 4(b)).
- 8. Set the mirror on the riser block (Fig. 4(c)). Secure a clear vision of the marker from above through the mirror (Fig. 4(d) red circle).

Figure 3: Installation of the oscillator.

Figure 4: Installation of the marker and mirror.

Wiring

- 1. Locate and pull gently the correct pair of wires leading to the main (M) and control (C) coils (Fig. 3(c)) from inside the oscillator (Fig.3(b)). Check to see if the enamel has been stripped off from the loose ends.
- 2. Loosen the screw on the binding posts M+ and M- to allow for gaps. Use the lower gaps for the wiring (Fig. 5(a), (b)). The polarity check will follow soon.
- 3. Wire the binding posts labeled C+ and C- likewise. (Either polarity is acceptable.)

- 4. Place the batteries in the battery holders and secure connections with PS (CN1, CN2) (Fig. 5(c)).
- 5. Connect the binding posts M+ and M- to the DC output (DC+ and DC-) on PS using the U-shaped crimp terminal wires.
- 6. Toggle on DC and power up PS.
- 7. Turn the "DC Vol." knob to adjust the current. Check to see if the oscillator moves upward by 2 mm or higher. If downward, swap the wires for polarity reversal and try again.

Caution: Hot parts. Beware of coils and magnets. Put the DC output down to the minimum at the end of each step.

Figure 5: (a), (b) Binding posts wired, (c) The whole setup wired including PS and batteries.

Oscillator test

- 1. Connect the M+ and M- binding posts to the AC output (AC+ and AC-) with the crimp terminal wires.
- 2. Toggle on the AC and power up PS.
- 3. Turn the knob labeled "AC Vol." clockwise starting from the minimum up to a quarter turn. Tune the frequency with the "Coarse" control knob to start oscillation.
- 4. Adjust the AC output voltage and frequency to make the oscillation about $A = 3$ mm in amplitude (Fig.6). If the oscillation is unstable, adjust the oscillator settings as appropriate.
- 5. Disconnect M+ and M- and connect the C+ and C- binding posts to the AC output.

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6. Power up PS to start oscillation again.

Figure 6: Oscillation behavior as seen through the mirror.

Part A. Hooke's law and electromagnetic forces (2.4 points)

Figure 7: The test leads of the DMM connected. The oscillator with a weight on the right.

- **A.3** Draw a graph showing the relationship between the number of the weights N and the height $z.$ Obtain the slope $a=\frac{\Delta z}{\Delta N}$ and its uncertainty from the graph. 0.7pt
- **A.4** Draw a graph showing the relationship between the number of weights N and the current $I.$ Obtain the value of b defined as $b=\frac{I}{N}$ and its uncertainty from the graph. 0.7pt

Part B. Induced electromotive force (3.0 points)

B.1 Suppose that an AC current at frequency f is applied to the control coil without a weight. Given that the oscillator height varies sinusoidally with time 0.2pt

$$
z - z_0 = A \sin(2\pi f t) \tag{2}
$$

where z_0 is the height for the force balance and A is the amplitude of the oscillation, write down the expression for the amplitude V of the induced electromotive force in the main coil.

B.2 Connect the C+ and C- posts to the AC output. Connect the DMM to the "Fmon" and "AC GND" to read the frequency. Adjust both the AC frequency and the output voltage to produce a steady oscillation of appropriate amplitude. Measure the frequency f_B and record it in the answer sheet. Couple the DMM with the binding posts M+ and M-. With the frequency fixed, vary the output voltage and measure the oscillation amplitude A and the AC vary the output voltage and measure the oscillation amplitude A and the AC
voltage $V'(V'=V/\sqrt{2})$ induced in the main coil. Fill in **Table B.2** as appropriate. 0.5pt

B.5 Using the results of **A.3, A.4**, and **B.4**, calculate the values of m and k and quantify their uncertainties. Use the acceleration due to gravity, $g =$ 9.80 m/s² where appropriate. 1.2pt

Part C. Mass-dependent resonant frequency (2.3 points)

For the following experiments use the main coil to drive the oscillator. Change connections accordingly.

- **C.1** Write down the expression for the resonant frequency f of the oscillator with N weights. Use the spring constant k' during motion, which is different than k . 0.2pt
- **C.2** Drive the oscillator by coupling AC power to the main coil. Measure the resonant frequency f, for different number of weights, $N = 0$ to 5, and write down the values in **Table C.2**. Avoid jumping weights. 0.5pt
- **C.3** Using the results of **C.2**, draw a graph to obtain $\frac{M}{k'}$ and $\frac{m}{k'}$. Write down the obtained values in the answer sheet. If you need to calculate any additional physical quantities, write them down in the blanks of **Table C.2**. 1.0_{pt}

C.4 What is the value of $\frac{M}{m}$? Calculate M and k' using the results of **B.5**. 0.6pt

Part D. Resonance characteristics (2.3 points)

When a periodic force of amplitude F_{AC} and frequency f acts on the oscillator without a weight, the oscillation amplitude of A is well described by the following with resonance characteristics:

$$
A(f) = \frac{F_{AC}}{8\pi^2 M f_0} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{(f - f_0)^2 + (\Delta f)^2}}.
$$
 (3)

Here $\Delta f=\frac{\alpha}{4\pi M}.$ This equation only holds in the frequency range where $|f-f_0|\ll f_0$ is relevant. In this part, the resonance characteristics are used to obtain the mass of the oscillator, M , assuming that Eq. (3) is always valid.

- **D.1** Drive the oscillator by coupling AC power to the main coil. Adjust the frequency and output voltage to produce a resonance with appropriate amplitude. Record the AC voltage V'_{AC} between the "ACmon" and "AC GND" in the answer sheet. Using the results of **B.4** and the conversion factor 0.106 A/V, calculate the amplitude F_{AC} of the periodic electromagnetic force acting on the oscillator. 0.4pt
- **D.2** Record in **Table D.2** the amplitude A of the oscillation as the frequency f is varied. A constant amplitude F_{AC} of the applied force must be maintained throughout the measurement. Draw a graph showing the relationship between the frequency f and the amplitude A . 0.9pt
	- **D.3** Using the results of **D.1** and **D.2**, obtain M. 1.0pt
-

where λ is the wavelength of light in vacuum.

incidence on the surface of a birefringent crystal.

The phase difference Γ between the two rays is

 $\Gamma = \Gamma_y - \Gamma_x = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$ $\frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda} \Delta n L,$ (3)

where

$\Delta n = n_{\rm e} - n_{\rm o}$ (4)

is the birefringence. Since the electric field of light is the vectorial sum of E_x and E_y with a phase difference Γ, the light after passing through the crystal has a polarization component perpendicular to the initial linear polarization of the incident light.

Let I_{\parallel} and I_{\perp} denote the intensities of the components of the light after passing through the crystal which are parallel and perpendicular to the direction of the linear polarization of the incident light, respectively. Hereafter the direction of the linear polarization of the incident light (E in Fig. 1) is 45° with respect to the x axis. Then the normalized intensity of the perpendicular component I_{Norm} is given by

$$
I_{\text{Norm}} = \frac{I_{\perp}}{I_{\text{Total}}} = \sin^2 \frac{\Gamma}{2},\tag{5}
$$

Figure 1: Vectorial decomposition of the electric field E of linearly polarized light at normal

Thickness Measurements Using Birefringence (10 points)

Uncertainty analysis is not required throughout this question.

Birefringence is an optical property of a crystal that light propagates as two rays experiencing different refractive indices. When the orthogonal crystal axes x and y lie in the plane of the input face of a birefringent crystal (Fig. 1), the electric field E of linearly polarized light at normal incidence on the crystal is decomposed into two orthogonal components E_x and E_y accompanied by refractive indices n_0 and $n_{\rm e}$, respectively. For a crystal of thickness L , the phase shift of the x -polarized light Γ_x and that of the y -polarized light Γ_u as they pass through the crystal are respectively given by

$$
\Gamma_x = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} n_0 L,\tag{1}
$$

$$
\Gamma_y = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} n_e L,\tag{2}
$$

$$
(\mathcal{M}_\mathcal{A},\mathcal
$$

where I_{Total} is the total transmitted light intensity, $I_{\parallel} + I_{\perp}$.

We can design an experiment such that I_{Norm} oscillates between 0 and 1 as we vary the wavelength of the incident light. Let λ_m ($m = 1, 2, 3, \dots$) be the wavelengths at which $I_{Norm} = 0$; then we find the phase difference Γ_m such that

$$
\Gamma_m = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda_m} \Delta n(\lambda_m) L = 2\pi m. \tag{6}
$$

This equation allows us to determine the crystal thickness L if multiple λ_m 's can be measured for the known $\Delta n(\lambda_m)$.

In this experiment, you will determine the thickness of the quartz plate. Quartz is birefringent with its refractive indices n_0 and n_e depending on the wavelength of light in vacuum as shown in Fig. 2.

Figure 2: Wavelength dependence of the refractive indices n_0 and n_e of quartz.

Figure 3 shows the thickness-measurement system. Shown in Figs. 4 and 5 are the optomechanical and photonic components and devices. A white light-emitting diode (LED) is used as the light source, which contains a blue LED and a phosphor. When light from the blue LED is irradiated onto the phosphor, white light is emitted with a continuous spectrum. Light from this white LED is dispersed, i.e., spectrally resolved, using the transmission diffraction grating **G**, and linearly polarized by the polarizer **P1**. Its direction of polarization (E in Fig. 1) is 45° off the x -axis of the quartz plate **Q**. The polarization component of light after passing through **Q**, i.e., parallel and perpendicular to the direction of polarization of **P1**, is selected by rotating the polarizer **P2**. The photodetector measures the light intensity.

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Figure 3: (a) Schematic and (b) photograph of thickness-measurement system. LED: white LED, **S**: slit, **L1**: collimating lens, **G**: transmission diffraction grating, **P1**: polarizer, **Q**: quartz plate, **P2**: polarizer, **L2**: focusing lens, **C**: light-shield cylinder, **PD**: photodetector, **DMM**: digital multimeter.

Figure 4: Components and devices: **1(a)**. white LED (front view); **1(b)**. white LED (rear view); **2**. batteries; **3**. slit (**S** in Fig. 3); **4**. LED with slit attached; **5**. lens (**L1**, **L2** in Fig. 3); **5(a)** mounted lens; **5(b)** lens post; **5(c)** post base; **6**. transmission diffraction grating (**6(a)** front; **6(b)** rear w/ adhesive tape) on **6(c)** rotation stage (**G** in Fig. 3); **6(d)** angle readout device on the rotation stage; **7**. polarizer (**P1** in Fig. 3); **8**. quartz plate (**Q** in Fig. 3); **9**. polarizer on rotation mount (**P2** in Fig. 3).

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Figure 5: Components and devices (continued): **10**. light-shield cylinder with magnet (C in Fig. 3); **11**. cylinder mount; **12**. photodetector (**PD** in Fig. 3); **13**. photodetector with cylinder; **14**. digital multimeter (**DMM** in Fig. 3); **15**. short guide rail; **16**. long guide rail; **17**. scale assembly; **18**. white card; **19**. black card; **20**. anti-slip sheets; **21** & **22**. light-shield box (before assembly and as assembled).

Part A. Measurement System Setup (2.3 points)

The LED output is incident on the grating surface (Fig. 6). The rotation angle θ of **G** for normal incidence is defined as 0°. The counterclockwise and clockwise rotations are denoted by $+$ and $-$, respectively. The first-order diffraction angle α is defined as illustrated. Using the groove period (or slit separation) d of **G**, the wavelength λ is given in terms of θ as

$$
\lambda = d \sin(\alpha - \theta) + d \sin \theta \tag{7}
$$

$$
= 2d \sin \frac{\alpha}{2} \cos \left(\frac{\alpha}{2} - \theta\right).
$$
 (8)

Hereafter use $d = 1.00$ µm and the fixed diffraction angle $\alpha = 40.0$ °.

Figure 6: The rotation angle θ of the transmission diffraction grating **G** and the diffraction angle α .

Setup procedures for the measurement system are as follows.

[1] Stand the scale assembly upright (**17** in Fig. 5) using the pedestal (**17(b)**).

[2] Set two batteries on the white LED module. The "+" sides must face toward you.

[3] Turn on the LED.

[4] Remove the screw on the front side of the LED module. Attach the slit to the LED module with the screw (**4** in Fig. 4). Using the scale assembly, adjust the slit position to make the transmitted white light flux brightest, and measure the height of the beam center at the exit of the slit (for the procedure [9]).

[5] Let the U-shaped open-slotted end of the long guide rail ride on that of the short one (Fig. 7(i)). Insert the rotation axle sticking out of the bottom face of the rotation stage into the ''virtual through-hole'' made by the guide rails (Fig. 7(ii)). Ensure free and smooth rotation of both arms about the axle referring to Fig. 7(iii). Make sure that the long guide rail will stay on the table $0^{\circ} \le \alpha \le 40.0^{\circ}$.

Figure 7: **(i)** U-shaped open-slotted end of the short guide rail under that of the long guide rail making a ''virtual'' through-hole. **(ii)** Into the virtual hole, insert the axle sticking out of the bottom face of the rotation stage. **(iii)** Top view of the rotation stage with guide rails that are free to rotate about the axle. **1**. short guide rail; **2**. long guide rail; **3**. rotation stage; **4**. axle of the rotation stage.

[6] Align the centerline of the short guide rail with 0° on the scale of the rotation stage, and keep it in that place. You may put an anti-slip sheet under the short guide rail.

[7] Assemble the lenses (**5** in Fig. 4).

[8] Place the white LED module with the slit and the lens (**L1** in Fig. 3) on the short guide rail. Adjust the distance between the slit and **L1** so that the light beam size after passing through **L1** remains almost constant, i.e., collimated, over the flight path.

[9] Using the scale assembly, measure the beam height after **L1**. Adjust the level of **L1** by loosening the setscrew of the post base and moving the post as necessary to keep the beam height almost the same as that right after the slit.

[10] Align the centerline of the long guide rail with 180° on the angle scale on the rotation stage.

[11] Tweak the horizontal position of the lens mount (**5(a)** in Fig. 4) by loosening the setscrew and moving it right or left. The beam center after **L1** should align with the center line of the long guide rail. You may put the scale assembly upside down over the long rail.

[12] Expose the second surface of the double-sided adhesive tape on the rear side of the transmission diffraction grating (**6(b)** in Fig. 4) and affix it to the axle top of the rotation stage (**6** in Fig. 4).

[13] Face the front side of the grating towards the light source, and rotate the stage so that the reflected light enters the slit, i.e., $\theta = 0^{\circ}$ (normal incidence). Record the angle $\theta_{\rm Stane}$ of the rotation stage. It will be used in B.1.

[14] Move the long quide rail around the axle so that $\alpha = 40.0^{\circ}$ (Fig. 6). Once fixed, you may place another anti-slip sheet thereafter to prevent accidental misalignment.

[15] Place the lens (**L2** in Fig. 3) and the photodetector (**PD** in Fig. 3) with the cylinder mount on the long rail. To focus the diffracted light onto **PD**, adjust the distance between **PD** and **L2** along the long rail, and also the height of **L2**. The vertical beam diameter is thereby minimized. Check the beam diameter with the white card. In case it is too weak to recognize with the naked eye, use the light-shield box to cover **PD**.

[16] Set the light-shield cylinder to the mount (**13** in Fig. 5). The light shield minimizes the unwanted light to be detected.

[17] Connect **PD** to the DMM. The red (black) jump wire goes to red (black) terminal. Set the multimeter to the DC voltage measurement mode.

[18] Adjust the height of **L2** to maximize the DMM readings. Hereafter the intensity of light is identified with the voltage values on the DMM.

A.3 Rotate the rotation stage and find the angle θ and the corresponding wavelength λ_{Peak} at which the blue LED spectral density is maximized, assuming that $\alpha = 40.0^{\circ}$. If your answer for λ_{Peak} is between 450 and 460 nm, your apparatus is properly aligned; write down $\alpha = 40.0^{\circ}$ on the answer sheet and continue. Otherwise, you will have to find the true value of α . Without changing anything, including your original value for λ_{Peak} , find a corrected value for α which would make λ_{Peak} fall in the appropriate range. Record this α on the answer sheet and use it for the rest of the problem. 0.8pt

[19] Set the polarizers (**P1** and **P2** in Fig. 3) on the long guide rail.

- **A.4** Set the rotation stage to the $\theta = -15.0^{\circ}$ position. Watch the readings on the DMM and find the angle φ_1 of the rotation mount of the polarizer **P2** such that its polarization direction is perpendicular to that of the light transmitted through the polarizer **P1**. From this result, find the angle φ_{\parallel} of the rotation mount of the polarizer P2 when its polarization direction is parallel to that of the polarizer **P1**. 0.3pt
- **A.5** Block the light through the slit by placing the black card in front of the slit. By doing so, you can evaluate the system background, i.e., the offset of the intensity from zero. We define the light intensities $I_{\text{Offset } \perp}$ and $I_{\text{Offset } \parallel}$ when the angles of the rotation mount of the polarizer **P2** are φ_\perp and φ_\parallel , respectively. Measure the offsets $I_{\mathsf{Offset}\perp}$ and $I_{\mathsf{Offset}\parallel}$. Note that $I_{\mathsf{Offset}\perp}$ and $I_{\mathsf{Offset}\parallel}$ are due to light other than the light source. They should be eliminated by subtraction to determine the true contribution from the light source. 0.2pt

A.6 I_{\perp} and I_{\parallel} refer to the light intensities from the light source when the angles of the rotation mount of the polarizer **P2** are φ_\perp and φ_\parallel , respectively. Measure the light intensities I_{\perp} and I_{\parallel} for $\theta=-15.0^{\circ}.$ 0.5pt

Part B. Measurement of transmitted light intensities (4.7 points)

Hereafter use the values of λ calculated using the corrected value of α in **A.3** as necessary.

B.1 Place the quartz plate between polarizers **P1** and **P2** and measure the transmitted light intensities I_{\perp} and I_{\parallel} at various angles θ . Your measurements should fully cover the wavelength range of 440 nm to 660 nm. Tabulate the following parameters: θ_{Stage} (angle readings of the rotation stage), θ , λ , I_{\perp} , I_{\parallel} , $I_{\text{Total}}=$ $I_{\perp}+I_{\parallel},~I_{\mathsf{Norm}}=\tilde{I_{\perp}}/I_{\mathsf{Total}}.$ Note that when the value of θ_{Stage} increases, the value of θ decreases with the same value, and vice versa. You do not have to use every row of the provided table, but you should take enough data to obtain accurate results. 2.0pt

- **B.2** Plot the spectrum of the white LED, i.e., I_{Total} , versus wavelength on the graph. 1.0pt
- **B.3** Find the full width at half maximum $\Delta \lambda_{FWHM}$ of the spectrum of the blue LED built in the white LED. It is the width of a peak measured between those points which are at half the maximum amplitude 0.2pt
- **B.4** Plot the spectrum of I_{Norm} on the graph. $1.5pt$

Part C. Analyses of Measured Results (3.0 points)

- **C.1** From the I_{Norm} graph, find all the wavelengths at which the intensities go through local minima. The associated order number m according to Eq. (6) must be given below the corresponding wavelength. To determine the birefringence Δn , use the values of n_0 and n_e given in Table 1. 1.5pt
- **C.2** Obtain the sample thickness L. 1.5pt

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Table 1: Refractive indices n_o and n_e of quartz (400–700 nm).

