



COURSE DATA

DATA SUBJECT

Code: 34242
Name: Mechanics I
Cycle: Undergraduate Studies
ECTS Credits: 6
Academic year: 2025-26

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1105 - Degree in Physics	Facultat de Física	2	First quarter, Sin determinar
1107 - Degree in Mathematics	Facultat de Ciències Matemàtiques	4	Sin determinar
1928 - Double Degree Program Physics-Mathematics	Facultat de Ciències Matemàtiques	2	Second quarter, Sin determinar
1929 - Double Degree Program in Physics and Chemistry	Facultat de Física	2	First quarter, Sin determinar

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1105 - Degree in Physics	Mechanics and waves	COMPULSORY
1107 - Degree in Mathematics	Physics Addons	ELECTIVES
1928 - Double Degree Program Physics-Mathematics	Segundo Curso (Obligatorio)	COMPULSORY
1929 - Double Degree Program in Physics and Chemistry	Segundo Curso (Obligatorio)	COMPULSORY

COORDINATION

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SUMMARY

Mechanics I is a quarterly subject of the second year pertaining to the matter "Mechanics and Waves" which has allocated 6 credits (45 hours of theoretical and practical classes and 15 hours of supervised work sessions to resolve problems in small groups).

The descriptors proposed in the document Curriculum provide the following: curvilinear coordinates



(cylindrical and spherical) and differential operators in the context of mechanics, Newtonian Mechanics (point and particle systems), collision, central fields, non-inertial systems and rigid solid.

Relation with other subjects of the same degree:

The subject Physics I of the "Physics" matter imparted on the first course of the degree is devoted to the contents of mechanics at a much basic and conceptual level, focusing on the basics, problem solving and experimental exercises and demonstrations. While the basic objectives of this course "Mechanics I" are to acquire a knowledge of mechanics with a higher degree of generalization, formalizing and deepening problems of great interest from a classic Newtonian approach. This spirit is shared by the other subjects of the same matter as "Oscillations and Waves" and "Mechanics II". Although the course "Mechanics I" is independent of the subject " Experimental Laboratory of Mechanics and Waves" the relationship between the two is very close, and the labs cover almost the entire set of topics of "Mechanics I" (collisions, movements in the field gravitational, gyroscopic motion, etc.) and in all cases these subjects deal with the experimental results from the knowledge and appropriateness of the theoretical model.

In short, this subject has a fundamental character and a great relevance for the degree. It deals with a certain degree of mathematical formalization but primarily aimed at providing basic tools to address fundamental problems of mechanics, focusing on the physical contents rather than in their formulation as a theoretical body, which is the goal of the course "Mechanics II".

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

The subject of Mechanics I, like other subjects of the second and third year of the Degree in Physics, deals with greater depth and degree of formalism aspects studied in a more basic and conceptual in the contents of mechanics of the subject Physics I of the first year. For this reason, it is recommended to have successfully completed this subject. It is also recommended to master the base Mathematics acquired in the subject Mathematics in the first year and in previous courses (high school). We refer, in particular, to linear algebra and differential and integral calculus.

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

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Be able to understand and master the use of the most commonly used mathematical and numerical methods.

Communication Skills (written and oral): Being able to communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions through argumentation and reasoning which are characteristic of the scientific activity, using basic concepts and tools of physics.



Foreign Language skills: Have improved command of English (or other foreign languages of interest) through: use of the basic literature, written and oral communication (scientific and technical English), participation in courses, study abroad via exchange programmes, and recognition of credits at foreign universities or research centres.

Knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of physics in theoretical and experimental aspects, and the mathematical background needed for its formulation.

Learning ability: be able to enter new fields through independent study, in physics and science and technology in general.

Modelling & Problem solving skills: be able to identify the essentials of a process / situation and to set up a working model of the same; be able to perform the required approximations so as to reduce a problem to an approachable one. Critical thinking to construct physical models.

Physics general culture: Be familiar with the most important areas of physics and with those approaches which span many areas in physics, or connections of physics with other sciences.

Problem solving: be able to evaluate clearly the orders of magnitude in situations which are physically different, but show analogies, thus allowing the use of known solutions in new problems .

Students must be able to apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and have acquired the competences required for the preparation and defence of arguments and for problem solving in their field of study.

Students must be able to communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both expert and lay audiences.

Students must have acquired knowledge and understanding in a specific field of study, on the basis of general secondary education and at a level that includes mainly knowledge drawn from advanced textbooks, but also some cutting-edge knowledge in their field of study.

Students must have developed the learning skills needed to undertake further study with a high degree of autonomy.

Students must have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually in their field of study) to make judgements that take relevant social, scientific or ethical issues into consideration.

Theoretical understanding of physical phenomena: have a good understanding of the most important physical theories (logical and mathematical structure, experimental support, described physical phenomena).

To know how to apply the knowledge acquired to professional activity, to know how to solve problems and develop and defend arguments, relying on this knowledge.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS



1. INTRODUCTION-APPENDIX

Curvilinear coordinates: Cylindrical and spherical. Unit vectors and transformation matrix. Scalar and vector fields. Operators and integral theorems in Cartesian and curvilinear coordinates.

2. Kinematics of the point

Introduction. Reference system. Biography, space travel and the position vector of a point. Speed and acceleration. Examples of movements. Frenet trihedral. Position, velocity and acceleration of a point in curvilinear coordinates: Cylindrical and spherical. Galilean transformations. Galileo's Principle of Relativity.

3. Dynamics of the point

Newton's laws: Statement and discussion. Equations of motion according to the type of strength and resolution. Examples. Fundamental Interactions and Forces. Conservative and dissipative forces. Conservation of linear and angular moment of a particle. Work, kinetic energy and potential energy. Conservation of mechanical energy of a particle. Dimensional potential and introduction to small oscillations.

4. Particle Systems

Center of mass and relative coordinates. The case of two bodies. Internal and external forces. Conservation of linear momentum of a system. Variable mass systems and examples. Conservation of angular momentum of a system. Kinetic and potential energy of a system, internal energy. Conservation of mechanical energy of a system. The two-body system. Virial Theorem. Symmetries of the potential energy and conservation laws.

5. Fields and movement in central fields

Conservative fields and central fields. Newtonian/Coulomb Potential and Field of a system of discrete and continuous sources: spherical distribution. Poisson equation. Motion in a central potential. Law of the areas. Effective potential and orbits. Problem of two bodies. Orbits in a gravitational field.



6. Collisions and Scattering

Introduction. Collisions in two dimensions, types of collisions. Elastic collisions: Laboratory System and center of mass system. Inelastic collisions: variation of energy in the collision. Reactions. Elastic scattering by a hard sphere. Cross section. Scattering by a central potential: Rutherford Scattering.

7. Non-inertial systems

Relative motion. Instantaneous angular velocity. Coriolis theorem. Fictitious forces. Effective gravity. Movement in the Earth's surface. Deviation to the east. Foucault Pendulum.

8. Kinematics and dynamics of the rigid solid

Movement and degrees of freedom. Instantaneous angular velocity. Euler angles: rotation and angular velocity. Kinetic energy, angular momentum and inertia tensor. Euler equations. Free body movement.

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Tutorials	15,00
Theory	45,00
Total hours	60,00

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	0,00
Individual or group project	20,00
Independent study and work	0,00
Preparation of lessons	50,00
Preparation for assessment activities	20,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
Total hours	90,00



TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The course will consist of two types of classes with differentiated methodology:

a) Theoretical-practical classes (3 hours per week)

In the theoretical and practical classes the basic theoretical contents of the subject will be taught, as well as practical examples of problems and exercises that best illustrate them. In combination with discussions and deductions on the board, graphic tools can be used that include images, videos and animations that allow illustrating some of the phenomena explained, as well as experimental demonstrations. The basic summaries of the contents of the subject explained in class will be made available to students in the virtual classroom. Although most of the aspects of the program will be addressed directly in these classes, some specific or monographic aspects of the syllabus may be indicated for study without being discussed directly. In fact, the student will be encouraged and guided in the expansion of these contents through the recommended bibliography, as well as the possibility of expanding knowledge in future subjects.

b) Sessions of supervised work in small groups (1 hour each week)

In these classes of problems in small groups, a bulletin will be made available to the students with problems and exercises that will be programmed to be solved by the students before each class. In them, students must publicly solve and explain the problems, adequately justifying the calculations made and raising any doubts that have arisen or aspects that present conceptual or calculation difficulties. The professors will monitor the work and progress of the students, in addition to solving the questions raised. During the development of the sessions themselves, basic exercises will be assigned to facilitate the understanding of the fundamentals of the subject.

c) Tutoring

There is no specific allocation of weekly tutoring hours, but it is recommended that students make use of this possibility of interacting directly with teachers. The use of forums in the Virtual Classroom will be encouraged to discuss points of common interest by various students.

EVALUATION

The evaluation systems are the following:

- **Written exam:** The exam will consist of two parts. The first part will evaluate the understanding of the theoretical-conceptual aspects and the formalism of the subject, both through theoretical questions and through conceptual and numerical questions or simplified particular cases. The second part will assess the ability to apply formalism through problem solving, as well as the critical ability regarding the results obtained. In both parts, correct argumentation and adequate justification will be valued. Each part will be graded from 0 to 10. To calculate the final grade of the written exam (**evaluation A**), a minimum score of 4 in each part is required. Otherwise, the final grade will be the lower of the two scores.
- **Continuous assessment:** Assessment of work and problems presented by students during



supervised class sessions, questions proposed and discussed in the classroom, oral presentation of solved problems or any other method involving interaction between teachers and students. The set of activities carried out during the continuous evaluation will be valued with a note between 0 and 10 (**assessment B**).

The **Final Mark** will be the combination of the two previous evaluation options as follows:

- If the written exam mark is higher than 4, the final grade will be the higher of: the exam mark and the result of adding 75% of the written exam mark and 25% of the continuous assessment mark.

$$\text{Final mark} = \max(\mathbf{A}, 0.75*\mathbf{A} + 0.25*\mathbf{B})$$

- If the exam mark is less than 4, the final mark will be that of the exam.

These evaluation criteria are common to the first and second calls.

As long as the compensation criteria established for this purpose are met, the mark for this subject may be averaged with that of others belonging to the same subject in order to pass it.

REFERENCES

Basic:

- "Classical Dynamics of Particles and Systems". Stephen T. Thornton, Jerry B. Marion & Brooks Cole (2004)
- "Classical Mechanics". Tom W. B. Kibble and Frank H. Berkshire. Imperial College Press (2005)
- "Classical Mechanics". John R. Taylor, University Science Books (2005)

Additional:



- "Classical Mechanics ¿ A modern perspective". V. Barger and M. Olsson. McGraw-Hill (1995)
- "Dinámica clásica". A. Rañada. Ed. Alianza (1990)
- "Fonaments de Física. Vol. 1,2". V. Martinez (Enciclopedia Catalana)
- "Física I: Mecánica", Alonso Finn. Adison Wesley, 1986
- "Física". Feynman, vol. I, ed Pearson.
- "Mechanics. Berkeley Physics Course I". Kittel-Knight-Ruderman. Ed Reverté (1999)
- "Mecánica Newtoniana", MIT Physics Course, A. P. French, Ed. Reverté.
- "Introduction to Electrodynamics" David J. Griffiths, Prentice Hall (1999) "Mathematical methods for physics and engineering" K. F. Riley et al., Cambridg. Univ. Press. (1998)