a_2 - Discuss the stability of the equilibrium for each case.

Suppose that, at a given moment,
the rod deviates from the stable configuration by a small angle. The system will begin to swing like a pendulum.

b - Express the period of the swinging in terms of the period of revolution of the system around the earth.

In Fig. 1 the magnetic field of the earth is perpendicular to the diagram and is directed towards the reader. Due to the orbital velocity of the rod, a potential difference arises between its ends. The environment (the magnetosphere) is a rarefied, ionised gas with a very good electrical conductivity. Contact with the ionised gas is made by means of electrodes in A (the Atlantis) and S (the satellite). As a consequence of the motion, a current, I, flows through the rod.

c_1 - In which direction does the current flow through the rod? (Take $\alpha = 0$)

Data:	- the period of the orbit	$T = 5{,}4 \,.\, 10^3$ s
	- length of the rod	$L = 2{,}0 \,.\, 10^4$ m
	- magnetic field strength of the eart at the height of the satellite	$B = 5{,}0 \,.\, 10^{-5}$ Wb.m^{-2}
	- the mass of the shuttle Atlantis	$m = 1{,}0 \,.\, 10^5$ kg

Next, a current source inside the shuttle is included in the circuit, which maintaines a net direct current of 0.1 A in the opposite direction.

c_2 - How long must this current be maintained to change the altitude of the orbit by 10 m.
Assume that α remains zero. Ignore all contributions from currents in the magnetosphere.
- Does the altitude decrease or increase?

Question 3. The rotating neutron star.

A 'millisecond pulsar' is a source of radiation in the universe that emits very short pulses with a period of one to several milliseconds. This radiation is in the radio range of wavelengths; and a suitable radio receiver can be used to detect the separate pulses and thereby to measure the period with great accuracy.

These radio pulses originate from the surface of a particular sort of star, the so-called neutron star. These stars are very compact: they have a mass of the same order of magnitude as that of the sun, but their radius is only a few tens of kilometers. They spin very quickly. Because of the fast rotation, a neutron star is slightly flattened (oblate). Assume the axial cross-section of the surface to be an ellipse with almost equal axes. Let r_p be the polar and r_e the equatorial radii; and let us define the flattening factor by:

$$\epsilon = \frac{(r_e - r_p)}{r_p}$$

Consider a neutron star with a mass of $2.0 \cdot 10^{30}$ kg,
an average radius of $1.0 \cdot 10^{4}$ m,
and a rotation period of $2.0 \cdot 10^{-2}$ s.

a - Calculate the flattening factor, given that the gravitational constant is $6.67 \cdot 10^{-11}$ $N.m^2.kg^{-2}$.

In the long run (over many years) the rotation of the star slows down, due to energy loss, and this leads to a decrease in the flattening. The star has however a solid crust that floats on a liquid interior. The solid crust resists a continuous adjustment to equilibrium shape. Instead, starquakes occur with sudden changes in the shape of the crust towards equilibrium. During and after such a star-quake the angular velocity is observed to change according to figure 1.

angular velocity of the crust (s^{-1})

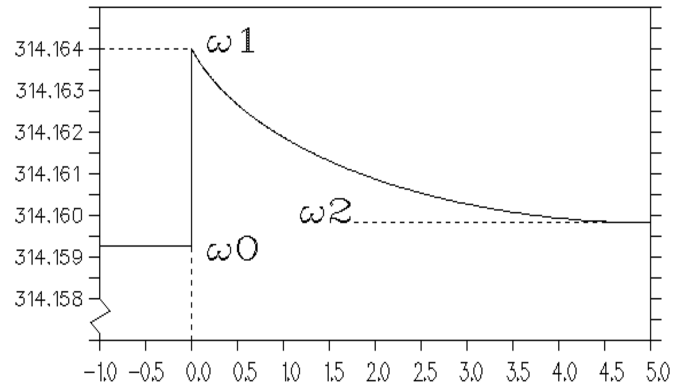

Figure 1 time (days) -->

A sudden change in the shape of the crust of a neutron star results in a sudden change of the angular velocity.

b - Calculate the average radius of the liquid interior, using the data of Fig. 1. Make the approximation that the densities of the crust and the interior are the same. (Ignore the change in shape of the interior).

Question 4. Determination of the efficiency of a LED.

Introduction

In this experiment we shall use two modern semiconductors: the light-emitting diode (LED) and the photo-diode (PD). In a LED, part of the electrical energy is used to excite electrons to higher energy levels. When such an excited electron falls back to a lower energy level, a photon with energy E_{photon} is emitted, where

$$E_{photon} = \frac{h.c}{\lambda}$$

Here h is Planck's constant, c is the speed of light, and λ is the wavelength of the emitted light. The efficiency of the LED is defined to be the ratio between the radiated power, ϕ , and the electrical power used, P_{LED}: