

Mid-Term "Geodynamics", March 1st, 2017

(Ex1: 2pts, Ex2: 3pts, Ex3: 2pts, Ex4: 3pts)

Exercise 1

Derive the following expression for the moment of inertia of a spherically symmetric Earth model with outer radius R

$$I = \frac{8\pi}{3} \int_0^R \rho(r)r^4 dr$$

Hint: use the symmetry and compute $I = \frac{1}{3}(I_x + I_y + I_z)$.

Exercise 2

The density profile of a spherically symmetric planet is given by

$$\rho(r) = \begin{cases} \rho_0 & r \leq R/2 \\ \xi \left(\frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{R}\right) \rho_0 & r \geq R/2 \end{cases}$$

1. Determine ξ so that the density is continuous at $r = R/2$ and sketch $\rho(r)$.
2. Compute the average density $\langle \rho \rangle = \frac{1}{V} \int \rho dV$ of the planet as a function of R, ρ_0
3. Compute the momentum of inertia I for this density distribution
4. Determine whether I can be written as $I = fMR^2$ where M is the mass of the body.

Exercise 3

Here are a few equations:

$$g = \mathcal{G}\rho r^2 \quad (1)$$

$$F = \rho gh \quad (2)$$

$$x = \frac{1}{2}at^2 + v_0t + \sqrt{x_0} \quad (3)$$

$$m = 4\pi\rho^2 r^2 \quad (4)$$

where g is the gravity acceleration, \mathcal{G} is the gravitational constant, ρ is the mass density, r is a radial distance, F is a force, h is a height, x, x_0 are distances, a is an acceleration, t is the time, v_0 is a velocity and m is mass.

1. write down the dimension of each of these parameters in the form of $M^\alpha L^\beta T^\gamma$ where M stands for mass, L for length and T for time.
2. establish for each equation above whether they are plausible by doing a simple dimensional analysis.

Exercise 4

Let us consider a three-layer planet composed of a core, a lower-mantle and an upper-mantle with densities ρ_c, ρ_{lm} , and ρ_{um} respectively. The core-mantle boundary is at $r = R_c$ and the transition between upper and lower mantle occurs at $r = R_m$. The radius of the planet is R . In what follows we assume that ρ_c, M, R_c, R_m and I are known.

1. Compute the mass M_c of the core and its moment of inertia I_c .
2. Compute the total mass M of the planet and its total moment of inertia I , both as a function of $R_c, R_m, \rho_c, \rho_{lm}, \rho_{um}$.
3. Establish a relationship of the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} M - M_c \\ I - I_c \end{pmatrix} = A \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \rho_{lm} \\ \rho_{um} \end{pmatrix}$$

and write explicitly the A matrix.

4. Determine ρ_{lm} and ρ_{um} as a function of $M, M_c, I, I_c, R_c, R_m, \rho_c$

