

**Problem 1.** Consider the Kepler problem with Hamiltonian

$$H(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p}) = \frac{\mathbf{p}^2}{2\mu} - \frac{\alpha}{r}, \quad r = |\mathbf{r}|, \quad \alpha > 0,$$

and angular momentum

$$\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{r} \times \mathbf{p}.$$

Define the Laplace–Runge–Lenz vector

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{p} \times \mathbf{M} - \mu\alpha \frac{\mathbf{r}}{r}.$$

- (1) Use Hamilton's equations to show that the Laplace–Runge–Lenz vector is an integral of motion.
- (2) Compute  $\dot{\mathbf{A}}$  using

$$\dot{\mathbf{p}} = -\nabla U = -\frac{\alpha}{r^3}\mathbf{r}, \quad \dot{\mathbf{r}} = \frac{\mathbf{p}}{\mu},$$

and show that every term cancels identically.

**Problem 2.** Consider the Hamilton–Jacobi equation for the Kepler problem

$$\frac{1}{2\mu} \left[ \left( \frac{\partial S}{\partial r} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{r^2} \left( \frac{\partial S}{\partial \phi} \right)^2 \right] + \frac{\alpha}{r} = E.$$

- (1) Separate variables in polar coordinates.
- (2) Find  $\phi$  in terms of  $r$ .