AMERICAN JOURNAL of PHYSICS

CODEN: AJPIAS
ISSN: 0002-9505

Volume 75, No. 7
July 2007

Cover figure: Consecutive frames from a video sequence of an elastic spring hanging from one end and then released. The six black tags show that the coils remain at rest for a duration depending on their distance to the upper end. See article on page 583.

GUEST COMMENT

PAPERS

(Continued)

NOTES AND DISCUSSIONS

APPARATUS AND DEMONSTRATION NOTES

BOOK REVIEWS

PHYSICS RESEARCH AND EDUCATION: COMPUTATION AND COMPUTER-BASED INSTRUCTION AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHYSICS THEME ISSUE

The *American Journal of Physics* seeks contributed manuscripts for a special theme issue on "Computation and Computer-Based Instruction," to be published in early 2008. The purpose of this issue is to promote innovation in all aspects and at all levels of teaching with computers including the integration of computational physics research into teaching. Examples of appropriate topics include innovations in incorporating computational physics in both teaching and research, historical developments of special importance to computational physics, applications of computational physics to other areas of physics and even to other disciplines, the impact of computation and computer modeling (including classroom-tested simulations and visualizations) on student understanding. Manuscripts that include suggested novel computation projects or problems and the assessment of the impact of this material on student learning are especially encouraged.

Consistent with AJP's general editorial policy, manuscripts that are primarily a rederivation of well known results are unlikely to be appropriate for publication in this theme issue. To ensure consideration for the theme issue, manuscripts should be received by September 15, 2007. Authors should indicate their interest in having their manuscript considered for the theme issue. Authors who have already submitted manuscripts may indicate their interest with a letter or message to the Editor. Manuscripts should be submitted in the usual way to AJP, and the same process to review will be used as with regular submissions.

Questions or suggestions about the theme issue can be addressed to the theme issue editors, Wolfgang Christian (wochristian@davidson.edu) and Brad Ambrose (ambroseb@gvsu.edu), and the assistant editors, Chandralekha Singh (clsingh@pitt.edu) and Enrique J. Galvez (Egalvez@mail.colgate.edu).

The 2008 Gordon Conference on Physics Research and Education will also concentrate on Computation and Computer-Based Instruction. The conference will be held June 8–13, 2008 at Bryant University, Smithfield, RI. The editors and assistant editors of the theme issue can provide additional details about the Conference.

Erratum: "Feynman's wobbling plate" [Am. J. Phys. 75 (3), 240–244 (2007)]

Slavomir Tuleja
Gymnazium arm. gen. L. Svobodu, 06601 Humenne, Slovakia

Jozef Hanc
Institute of Physics, P. J. Safarik University in Kosice, Park Angelinum 9, 04001 Kosice, Slovakia

(Received 29 March 2007; accepted 6 April 2007)
[DOI: 10.1119/1.2735635]

In our recent paper[1] we failed to cite one important reference of which we were not aware. The fact that the orbits of vectors $\hat{\boldsymbol{x}}_1$ and $\hat{\boldsymbol{x}}_2$ are circles and the consequent visual explanation of the two-to-one wobble to spin ratio was published earlier as a letter in Physics Today[2] by Andy Ruina.

Also the URL of David J. Morin's book in Ref. 10 from our paper is cited incorrectly. The correct URL is http://www.courses.fas.harvard.edu/~phys16/Textbook/ch8.pdf.

[1] S. Tuleja, J. Hanc, B. Gazovic, and A. Tomori, "Feynman's wobbling plate," Am. J. Phys. **75**(3), 240–244 (2007).
[2] A. Ruina, "Feynman: Wobbles, Bottles and Ripples," Phys. Today **42**(11), 127–129 (1989).

ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES

"In the beginning, in the invisible realm where electromagnetic energy traveled, there was emptiness. Such energy did exist, of course, and traveled in the form of waves launched from the sun or by lightning or any random spark, but these emanations rocketed past without meaning or purpose, at the speed of light. When men first encountered sparks, as when a lightning bolt incinerated their neighbors, they had no idea of their nature or cause, only that they arrived with a violence unlike anything else in the world. Historians often place humankind's initial awareness of the distinct character of electrical phenomena in ancient Greece, with a gentleman named Thales, who discovered that by rubbing amber he could attract to it small bits of things, like beard hair and lint. The Greek word for amber was *elektron*."

Lardon, Erik, *Thunderstruck* (Crown Publishers, New York, 2006), pp. 19–20.

