

Potential Energy Surfaces



A ball in a potential well

Purpose: Demonstrates the idea of potential energy in more than one dimension, orbits, *etc.*

This equipment is really intended as a lab to measure the period of balls rolling in spherical potentials of different radii. However, it is so visually appealing to see the balls rolling — but not escaping — the potential well. It also nicely demonstrates planetary orbits and the relation of angular momentum and orbital eccentricity.

Extra Equipment: None

Location: Shelf A4