

(1)

Physics 106a  
Final Exam Solutions  
J. Preskill

(1) a)



rolls without slipping  $\Rightarrow$

$$r(\theta + \phi) = R(\theta - \phi); \quad \dot{\phi} = \alpha t$$

$$\Rightarrow r\dot{\phi} = (R-r)\dot{\theta} - R\alpha t$$

$$K.E. = \frac{1}{2}m(R-r)^2\dot{\theta}^2 + \frac{1}{4}mr^2\dot{\phi}^2$$

$$= \frac{3}{4}m(R-r)^2\dot{\theta}^2 - \frac{1}{2}m\alpha t R(R-r)\dot{\theta} + \frac{1}{4}mR^2\alpha^2t^2$$

b)  $L = T + mg(R-r)\cos\theta$

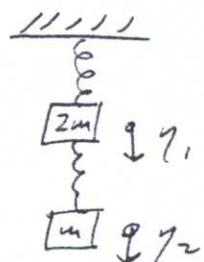
$$\Rightarrow \frac{dL}{d\theta} = -mg(R-r)\sin\theta = \frac{d}{dt} \frac{dL}{d\theta} = \frac{d}{dt} \left[ \frac{3}{2}m(R-r)\dot{\theta} - \frac{1}{2}mR(R-r)\dot{\theta} \right]$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{3}{2}(R-r)\ddot{\theta} = \frac{1}{2}R\alpha - g\sin\theta$$

c)  $\ddot{\theta} = 0 \Rightarrow \sin\theta = R\alpha/2g; \quad \alpha < 2g/R$

(2) a)  $T = \frac{1}{2}(2m)\dot{\gamma}_1^2 + \frac{1}{2}m\dot{\gamma}_2^2$

Since gravitational potential energy depends linearly on height of the blocks, gravity does not contribute to quadratic part of  $V$ .



$$V = \frac{1}{2}K[\dot{\gamma}_1^2 + (\dot{\gamma}_2 - \dot{\gamma}_1)^2], \quad L = T - V$$

b) we have  $\underline{T}' = \begin{pmatrix} 2m & 0 \\ 0 & m \end{pmatrix}$  and  $\underline{V}' = \begin{pmatrix} 2K & -K \\ -K & K \end{pmatrix}$ .

so

$$\det(\omega^2 \underline{T}' - \underline{V}') = \det \begin{pmatrix} 2m\omega^2 - 2K & K \\ K & m\omega^2 - K \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= 2(m\omega^2 - K)^2 - K^2 = 2m^2\omega^4 - 4km\omega^2 + K^2 = 0.$$

Thus,  $\omega^2 = \frac{1}{4m^2} [4km \pm \sqrt{16K^2m^2 - 8K^2m^2}] = \frac{K}{m}(1 \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}})$

(2)

c) Let  $\omega_1^2 = \frac{1}{m} \left(1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)$ . Then  $\omega_1^2 \underline{I} - \underline{V} = K \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix}$ ,

and  $(\omega_1^2 \underline{I} - \underline{V}) \vec{X}^{(1)} = 0 \Rightarrow \vec{X}^{(1)} \propto \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -\sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix}$ .

Normalizing:

$$\vec{X}^{(1)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4m}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -\sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix}$$

Similarly  $\omega_2^2 = \frac{1}{m} \left[1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right] \Rightarrow \omega_2^2 \underline{I} - \underline{V} = K \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} & 1 \\ 1 & -\frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix}$ ,

so  $(\omega_2^2 \underline{I} - \underline{V}) \vec{X}^{(2)} = 0 \Rightarrow \vec{X}^{(2)} \propto \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix}$ .

Normalizing:

$$\vec{X}^{(2)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4m}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix}$$

③ a)  $[Q, Q] = [P, P] = 0; [Q, P] = \cos^2 \alpha [q, p] - \sin^2 \alpha [p, q] = [q, p] = 1$

b)  $P = \frac{1}{\cos \alpha} [P - \sin \alpha q] = \partial G_2 / \partial q$

$Q = \frac{1}{\cos \alpha} [q - \sin \alpha P] = \partial G_2 / \partial P$

$$\Rightarrow G_2(q, P) = \frac{1}{\cos \alpha} \left[ qP - \frac{1}{2} \sin \alpha (P^2 + q^2) \right]$$

c)  $G_2 \sim qP - \frac{1}{2} \alpha (P^2 + q^2) + O(\alpha^2)$   
 $\Rightarrow P^2 + q^2 \text{ conserved}$

④ a)  $T$  is a generating function of the Third type  $\Rightarrow$

$$g = -\frac{\partial T}{\partial P} \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{H}(Q, L, t) = H(q, p, t) + \frac{\partial T}{\partial t}$$

We require  $\bar{H} = 0$  or

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + H\left(-\frac{\partial T}{\partial P}, P, t\right) = 0$$

b)  $H = \frac{1}{2m} P^2 + mgq \Rightarrow \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2m} P^2 - mg \frac{\partial T}{\partial P} = 0$

(3)

c) let  $T(p, t) = W(p) - Qt \Rightarrow Q = \frac{1}{2m} p^2 - mg \frac{dW}{dp}$

or  $T = \frac{1}{mg} \int dp (\frac{1}{2m} p^2 - Q) - Qt \Rightarrow T = \frac{1}{6m^2 g} p^3 - \frac{Q}{mg} p - Qt$

d)  $\boxed{P = -\frac{\partial T}{\partial Q} = \frac{p}{mg} + \frac{t}{2}}$

$$g = -\frac{\partial T}{\partial p} = -\frac{p^2}{2m^2 g} + \frac{Q}{mg} \Rightarrow \boxed{Q = \frac{1}{2m} p^2 + mg g}$$

$Q$  is the energy, and  $P$  is the time when  $p=0$  (i.e., the particle is at rest and its height is a maximum.)

$$\boxed{p = mg(P-t)}$$

$$g = -\frac{1}{2m^2 g} p^2 + \frac{Q}{mg} \Rightarrow$$

$$\boxed{g = -\frac{1}{2} g(t-P)^2 + \frac{Q}{mg}}$$