

Introduction to Robotics  
E106/206 Midterm 2

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Please write your name at the top of each page

Show all working. Marks are awarded for method.

A cheat sheet is provided. No other notes are allowed.

# Introduction to Robotics

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Question 1: Rigid Body Motion ..... 4 points

- (a) Given rigid body transformations  $g_{EA}$ ,  $g_{AR}$ , and  $g_{ES}$ , write an expression for  $g_{RS}$ . (1)

$$g_{RS} = g_{AR}^{-1} g_{EA}^{-1} g_{ES}$$

- (b) Suppose that the origin of the  $S$  frame as seen from the  $E$  frame is  $[1, 1, 1]$  and that (3)

$$g_{ER} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Write down the coordinates of the origin of the  $S$  frame as seen from the  $R$  frame.

$$\begin{aligned} g_{RE} &= g_{ER}^{-1} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} R_{RE}^{-1} & -R_{RE}^{-1} p_{RE} \\ 0^T & 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ g_{RE}[\cdot] &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \boxed{\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}^T} \end{aligned}$$

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Question 2: Rotating Rigid Body Velocities ..... 14 points

Consider the rigid body in the top right of Figure 1 right, which is rotated about the point  $(L, L)$  with angular velocity  $\theta = 1$ . Use the fixed reference frame  $S$  as the spatial frame and the moving frame  $B$  as the body frame.

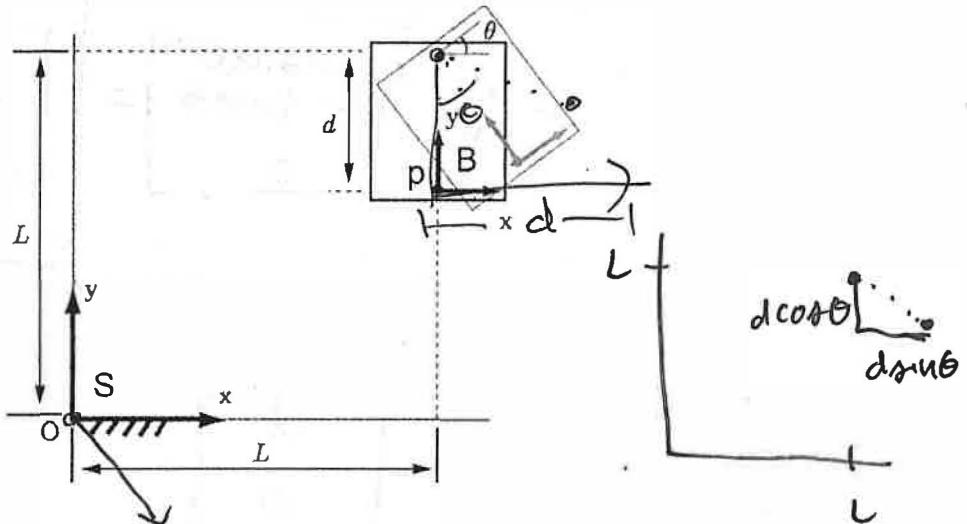


Figure 1: A rigid body rotating in the plane.

- (a) The point  $p$  is at the origin of the  $B$  frame. Find  $p_s$ , the position of the point  $p$  as seen from the spatial frame  $S$ , in terms of  $\theta$ . (2)

$$\begin{aligned}
 \dot{\boldsymbol{\xi}} &= \begin{bmatrix} -\omega \times \boldsymbol{q} \\ \omega \end{bmatrix}, \quad \omega = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \boldsymbol{q} = \begin{bmatrix} L \\ L \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\
 \dot{\boldsymbol{\xi}} &= \begin{bmatrix} -\omega \times \boldsymbol{q} \\ \omega \end{bmatrix}, \quad \omega = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} i & j & k \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = iL - jL \\
 &= \begin{bmatrix} L \\ -L \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \boldsymbol{q} = \begin{bmatrix} L \\ L \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad -\omega \times \boldsymbol{q} = \begin{bmatrix} L \\ -L \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\
 &\text{getting ahead of myself..} \\
 \mathbf{V}_{AB}^S &= \begin{bmatrix} L \\ -L \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \cdot 1 \quad \mathbf{p}_s = g_{SB} \cdot \mathbf{p} \\
 &= \begin{bmatrix} L + d \sin \theta \\ L - d \cos \theta \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\
 &\text{shifted } L, L
 \end{aligned}$$

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- (b) Find  $v_{ps}$ , the velocity of the point  $p$  as seen from the spatial frame. (2)

$$v_{ps} = \frac{d}{dt} [p_s]$$

$$= \frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} L + d \sin \theta \\ L - d \cos \theta \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} d \cos \theta \\ d \sin \theta \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- (c) Find  $v_{pb}$ , the velocity of the point  $p$  as seen from the body frame. (2)

$$\begin{bmatrix} d \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- (d) Write the configuration  $g_{SB}$  in terms of  $\theta$ . (2)

$$g_{SB} = [R \ p]$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & 0 & L + d \sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta & 0 & L - d \cos \theta \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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- (e) Find the twist in body frame coordinates. (2)

$$\xi^b = \begin{bmatrix} d \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- (f) Find the twist in spatial frame coordinates. (2)

$$\xi^s = \begin{bmatrix} L \\ -L \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- (g) What is the relationship between the twists from (e) and (f)? (1)

Multipled by Adjoint

$$\xi^b = \text{Ad}_{q^{-1}(0)} \xi^s$$

- (h) What is the relationship between the spatial twist and the spatial velocity of the point? (1)

$$v_{AB}^s = \xi \dot{\theta} \rightarrow v_p^s = \sqrt{s_{AB}} \bar{p}$$

$$\text{spatial velocity} = \text{spatial twist} \cdot \text{joint velocity}$$

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Question 3: Forward Kinematics ..... 6 points

For this question, refer to the manipulator seen in Appendix 2.

- (a) Write an expression for  $g_{WT}(\theta)$ , using the forwards kinematics map (leaving your answer in terms of  $e^{\hat{\xi}_i \theta_i}$ ). (2)

$$g_{WT}(\theta) = e^{\hat{\xi}_1 \theta_1} e^{\hat{\xi}_2 \theta_2} e^{\hat{\xi}_3 \theta_3} g_{WT}(0)$$

- (b) Write an expression for  $g_{WT}(\theta)$ , using relative coordinate frame transformations. (2)  
Include  $\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3$  in your expression.

$$g_{WT}(\theta) = g_{WA}(\theta_1) g_{AB}(\theta_2) g_{BC}(\theta_3) g_{CT}$$

- (c) Write the initial configuration  $g_{WT}(0)$  of the manipulator. (2)

~~$$g_{WT}(0) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & L_1 + L_3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & L_2 - L_1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$~~

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Question 4: Inverse Kinematics ..... 14 points

The manipulator in Appendix 2 is to be moved to a valid desired end-effector configuration  $g_{d,WT}$ .

- (a) Given  $g_{d,WT}$ , write an expression for  $g_{d,WC}$ , the configuration of the C frame in the desired configuration. If you use additional configurations in your expression, explicitly define the configurations in homogeneous matrix form. (2)

$$\begin{aligned} g_{d,WT} &= g_{d,WC} g_{CT} \\ \overbrace{g_{d,WC}}^{} &= g_{d,WT} \underbrace{g_{CT}^{-1}}_{\left[ \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & l_3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right]} \\ g_{CT} &= \left[ \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & -l_3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \\ \overbrace{g_{CT}^{-1}}^{} &= \left[ \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & l_3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \end{aligned}$$

- (b) Why is  $g_{d,WC}$  useful in solving the inverse kinematics problem? (1)

There is only one valid C frame for each desired T frame. We can use  $g_{d,WC}$  to solve for the first two joint angles, then solve for the last with  $g_{d,WT}$ .

- (c) The matrix  $g_1$  can be expressed as: (1)

$$g_1 = e^{\hat{\epsilon}_1 \theta_1} e^{\hat{\epsilon}_2 \theta_2} e^{\hat{\epsilon}_3 \theta_3}$$

Write an expression for  $g_1$  in terms of known configurations.

$$g_{d,WT} = g_1 g_{WT}(0)$$

$$\overbrace{g_1}^{=} = g_{d,WT} g_{WT}(0)^{-1}$$

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- (d) Decompose the manipulator inverse kinematics into Paden-Kahan subproblems:  
 State 1) the order in which you would solve the joint angles, and 2) which PK subproblem you would use to solve for each joint angle. (4)

- a) PK 3 to solve for  $\theta_2$
- b) PK 1 to solve for  $\theta_1$ ,
- c) PK 1 to solve for  $\theta_3$ , with an off-axis point

- (e) Formulate the inverse kinematics problem to find  $\theta_2$  using a PK subproblem. Based on your answer to part (d), you may assume knowledge of previously solved joint angles. State the subproblem and define all necessary terms to compute  $\theta_2$  (ie.  $p$ ,  $q$ ,  $r$ ,  $\delta$ ). (4)

$$\tilde{\pi} = \tilde{\pi}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -l_0 \\ 0 \\ l_1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad q = [l_1 \ 0 \ l_0] \\ -w \times q = \begin{bmatrix} i \\ j \\ k \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ = -l_0 i + l_1 k$$

$$\delta = \|p_A - g_1 p_C\|_2 \\ = \left\| [0 \ 0 \ l_0]^T - g_1 [l_1 \ 0 \ l_0 - l_2]^T \right\|_2$$

$$q = p_A = [0 \ 0 \ l_0]^T$$

$$p = [l_1 \ 0 \ l_0 - l_2]^T$$

$$r = [l_1 \ 0 \ l_0]^T$$

- (f) For a valid desired configuration of this manipulator, how many valid inverse kinematics solutions exist? (1)

1

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- (g) For this manipulator, give an example of a desired configuration with no inverse kinematics solution. Explain why there is no solution. (1)

$$\boxed{L_1 + L_3 + 1} \quad g_{d,wt} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & L_1 + L_3 + 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & L_0 - L_2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

this is impossible because the joint is not long enough. We'd need a prismatic joint along the x-axis to reach it.

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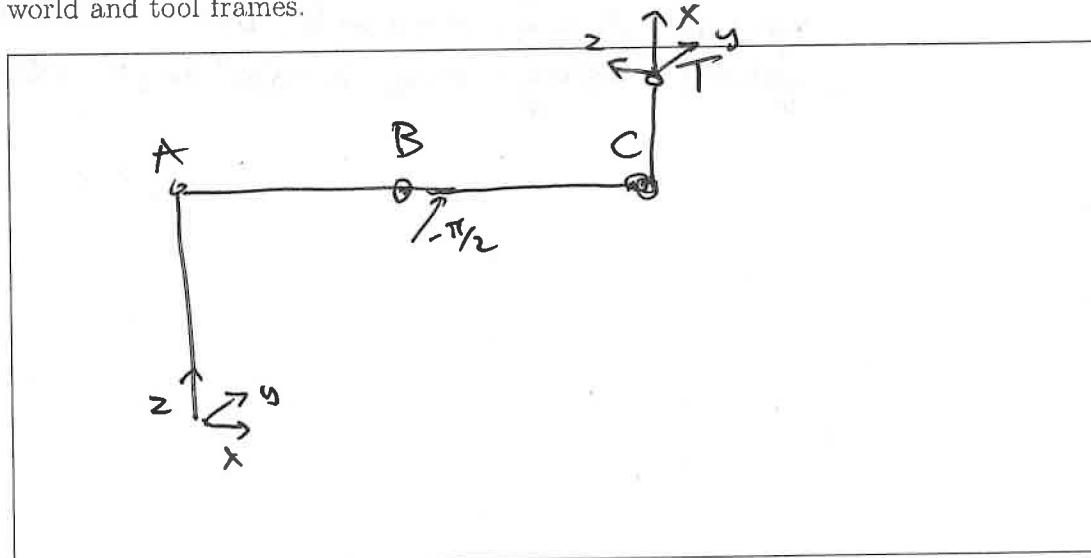
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Question 5: Velocities ..... 12 points

The body and spatial Jacobians for the manipulator in configuration  $g_{WT} (0, -\frac{\pi}{2}, 0)$  (Appendix 2, Figure 3) can be written:

$$J^s = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -l_0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -l_1 - l_2 \\ 0 & l_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad J^b = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -l_2 & 0 \\ l_1 + l_2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -l_3 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- (a) Sketch the manipulator in the configuration  $g_{WT} (0, -\frac{\pi}{2}, 0)$ . Label the axes of the world and tool frames. (2)



- (b) For this configuration, write  $\hat{V}_{WT}^s$ . (3)

$$\hat{V}_{WT}^s = \hat{J}_{s, \dot{\theta}}^s$$

*Note: The student has circled the term  $\hat{J}_{s, \dot{\theta}}^s$  and written "hat" above it.*

$$= \begin{bmatrix} -l_0 \dot{\theta}_2 \\ \dot{\theta}_3 (-l_1 - l_2) \\ l_1 \dot{\theta}_2 \\ 0 \\ \dot{\theta}_2 \\ \dot{\theta}_1 + \dot{\theta}_3 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -l_2 \dot{\theta}_2 \dot{\theta}_3 (-l_1 - l_2) \\ l_1 \dot{\theta}_2 & 0 & l_1 \dot{\theta}_2 & \dot{\theta}_2 \\ -\dot{\theta}_3 (l_1 + l_2) & -l_0 \dot{\theta}_2 & 0 & \dot{\theta}_1 + \dot{\theta}_3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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- (c) Given a point  $q_T$  defined in the  $T$  frame, write an expression for  $v_{qW}$  (the velocity of the point with reference to the world frame). (2)

$$v_{qW} = \overset{\wedge}{\omega}_T^S g_{WT} q_T$$

- (d) For this configuration, how does the body velocity of the same point,  $v_{qT}$ , relate to  $v_{qW}$ ? Explain your answer. (1)

~~OR: Multiplied by inverse of adjoint, because frame needs to be transformed~~

~~OR: same, but swapped axes ( $x=z$ ,  $z=-x$ ) because of relative frame positions~~

- (e) What instantaneous linear and rotational body velocities are possible in this configuration? (2)

Any  $w_x$  and  $v_y$ , and  $(v_x \text{ or } v_z)$

~~$w_x$~~  Any linear combination of the twists.

$$v_y \& w_x, v_x \& v_z \& w_y, w_x$$

- (f) Is it possible to independently control the  $v_x$ ,  $v_y$ , and  $\omega_y$  body velocities? Explain. (1)

No — no joint has control of  $v_y$   
( $v_y$  columns are all zero)

- (g) Is this a singular configuration? Explain. (1)

No — rank is 3 (full col. rank)

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Question 6: Wrenches..... 9 points

Again consider the configuration  $g_{WT} (0, -\frac{\pi}{2}, 0)$  whose body and spatial Jacobians can be written:

$$J^s = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -l_0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -l_1 - l_2 \\ 0 & l_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad J^b = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -l_2 & 0 \\ l_1 + l_2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -l_3 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- (a) What spatial forces and torques can be applied by the manipulator end-effector in this configuration? (2)



$w_z, v_y$ , and  $(v_x, v_z, w_y)$   
coupled

- (b) Suppose that a force  $f = [1, 2, 3]$  and a torque  $\tau = [4, 5, 6]$  are applied at the origin of the T frame. What are the resulting torques experienced at each joint? (3)

$$\tau = (J_{st}^b)^T \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 2(l_1 + l_2) + 4 \\ -l_2 - 3l_3 + 5 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

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- (c) A mass  $m$  is held by the manipulator at the origin of the  $T$  frame. What is the body wrench  $\Gamma^b$  associated with this load in the initial configuration (Fig. 3)? Is this the same as the body wrench in the configuration  $g_{WT}(0, -\frac{\pi}{2}, 0)$ ? (2)

$$\begin{aligned}\Gamma^b &= \begin{bmatrix} F \\ \tau \end{bmatrix}, \quad F = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -mg \end{bmatrix}, \quad \tau = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ -mg \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}\end{aligned}$$

Not same — different axis facing down in world frame.

- (d) Given a wrench  $\Gamma_1$  applied at the  $T$  frame origin and a wrench  $\Gamma_2$  applied at the  $B$  frame origin, write an expression for the total wrench experienced at the world frame. (2)

$$\begin{aligned}\Gamma^b &= (\text{Ad}_{g_{WT}})^T T^S \\ T^S &= (\text{Ad}_{g_{WT}}^T)^{-1} \Gamma^b\end{aligned}$$

use the adjoint

$$\Gamma_w = (\text{Ad}_{g_{WT}}^T)^{-1} \Gamma_1 + (\text{Ad}_{g_{WB}}^T)^{-1} \Gamma_2$$

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Question 7: Dynamics ..... 11 points

A torsion spring is a spring that works by torsion or twisting; that is, a flexible elastic object that stores mechanical energy when it is twisted. When it is twisted, it exerts a torque in the opposite direction, proportional to the amount (angle) it is twisted.

Torsion springs obey an angular form of Hooke's law:

$$\tau = -\kappa\theta$$

where  $\tau$  is the torque exerted by the spring, and  $\theta$  is the angle of twist from its equilibrium position.  $\kappa$  is the spring's torsion coefficient, analogous to the spring constant of a linear spring. The negative sign indicates that the direction of the torque is opposite to the direction of twist.

The energy  $U$ , in joules, stored in a torsion spring is:

$$U = \frac{1}{2}\kappa\theta^2$$

Consider the pendulum with a point mass and a torsion spring. The angle  $\theta$  is the displacement from the horizontal. Denote the equilibrium position of the mass  $\theta_0$ .

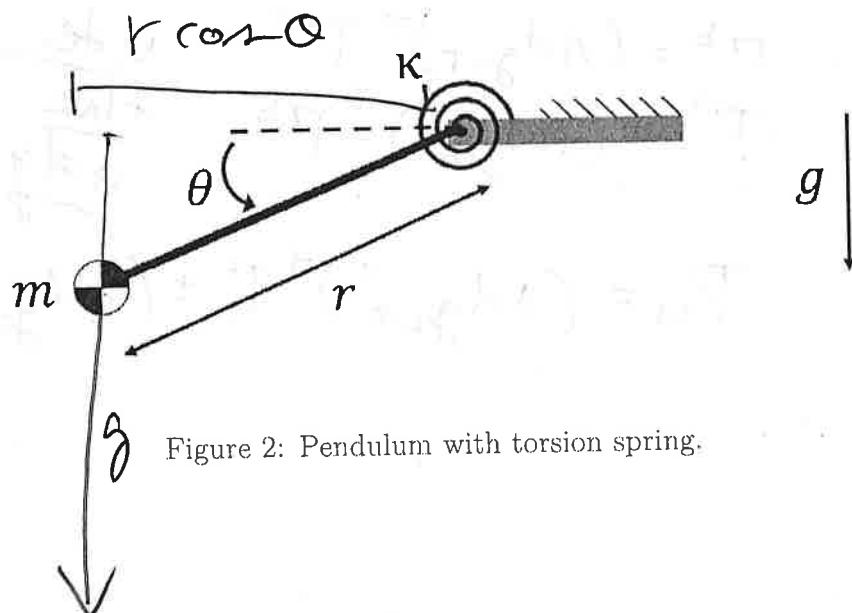


Figure 2: Pendulum with torsion spring.

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- (a) Write an expression for the kinetic energy in this system.

(1)

$$T = KE = \frac{1}{2} mr^2 \dot{\theta}^2$$

- (b) Write an expression for the potential energy in the system.

(1)

$$\begin{aligned} V &= PE = PE_{\text{gravity}} + PE_{\text{spring}} \\ &= -mgh \\ &= -mgr \sin \theta + \frac{1}{2} k \theta^2 \end{aligned}$$

- (c) Derive the equations of motion using Lagrangian mechanics (use energy).

(4)

$$\begin{aligned} L &= \frac{1}{2} mr^2 \dot{\theta}^2 + mgr \sin \theta - \frac{1}{2} k \theta^2 \\ \Gamma &= \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\theta}} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial \theta} \\ &= \frac{1}{mr^2} (mr^2 \ddot{\theta}) - (mgr \cos \theta - k \theta) \\ \cancel{mr^2 \ddot{\theta}} &= mgr \cos \theta - k \theta \end{aligned}$$

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- (d) Derive the equations of motion using Newtonian mechanics.

(3)

$$\begin{aligned} \Sigma \tau &= -k\theta & \text{Tension} &= -k\theta \\ \cancel{\Sigma T = mr\ddot{\theta}} & \cancel{\Sigma T_{\text{gravity}} = mgr\cos\theta} & T_{\text{gravity}} &= mgr\cos\theta \\ \cancel{\Sigma F = ma} & \cancel{\Sigma T = I\ddot{\theta}} & \Sigma F &= ma \\ \cancel{\Sigma T = mr^2\ddot{\theta}} & \cancel{\Sigma T = I\ddot{\theta}} & \Sigma T &= I\ddot{\theta} \\ \cancel{mr^2\ddot{\theta}} & \cancel{mr^2\ddot{\theta}} & mr^2\ddot{\theta} &= mgr\cos\theta - k\theta \end{aligned}$$

- (e) How would you determine the equilibrium position of the mass? (Note: there is no closed form solution).

(1)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Set the } &\text{sum of the} \\ &\text{spring and gravity} \\ &\text{torques} & \cancel{\text{equal to zero}} & \cancel{\text{each other}} \\ &= -k\theta - mrg & \cancel{T_{\text{spring}} + T_{\text{gravity}} = 0} \\ &= -k\theta + mrg\cos\theta & \cancel{-k\theta + mrg\cos\theta = 0} \\ \text{and solve for } &\theta \end{aligned}$$

- (f) Now consider the same system but with a mass  $m$  with inertia  $I$  attached at a radius  $r$ . Write the equation of motion for this system.

(1)

$$\begin{aligned} I' &= I + mr^2 \\ \Sigma \tau &= I'\ddot{\theta} \\ (I + mr^2)\ddot{\theta} &= mgr\cos\theta - k\theta \end{aligned}$$