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• x(t) gives the values of these states over time



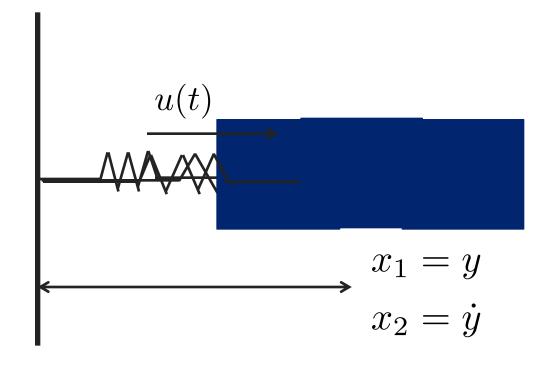
Evolution of these states over time is often given by a set of governing ordinary differential equations

Order: highest derivative that appears in the equations

$$\ddot{x}(t) = u(t)$$
 Second-order system



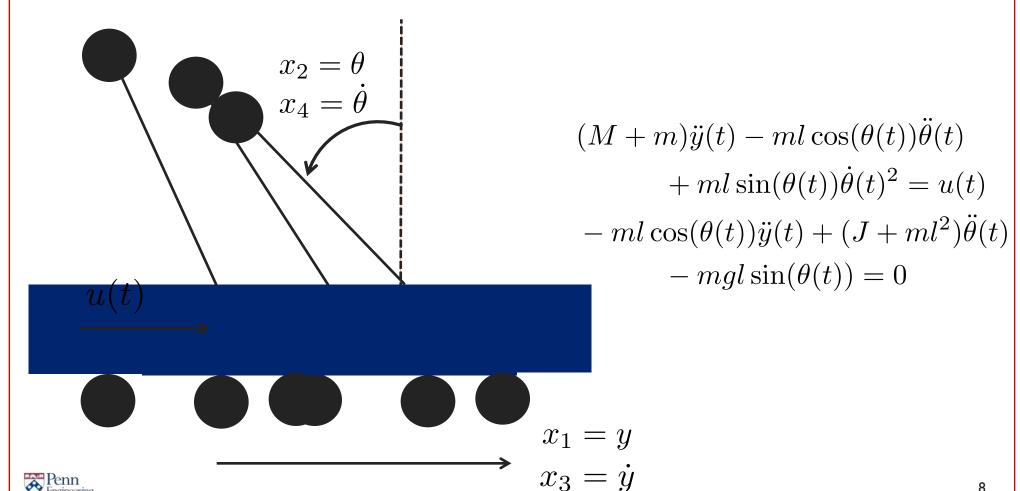
Example I: Mass-Spring System



$$m\ddot{y}(t) + ky(t) = u(t)$$



Example 2: Pendulum on a Cart



Example 3: Quadrotor

$$x_1 = x$$

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 $x_7 = \dot{x}$

$$x_2 = y$$

$$x_8 = \dot{y}$$

$$x_3 = z$$

$$x_9 = \dot{z}$$

$$x_4 = \phi$$

$$x_{10} = p$$

$$x_5 = \theta$$

$$x_{11} = q$$

$$x_6 = \psi$$

$$x_{12} = r$$

