

The attached code models a massive spring pendulum system. The mass of the spring can be specified. Motion is constrained to a plane, the spring is assumed to not bend, and damping is neglected.

Define the origin as the point where the pendulum is attached to the support. The generalized coordinates are r and θ or, letting $r = l + x$ where l is the rest length of the spring, the generalized coordinates are x and θ . Also note $\dot{r} = \dot{x}$. The total Lagrangian is Lagrangian of the mass plus that of the spring.

For the mass, the Lagrangian is given by

$$L_{mass} = T - V \quad (1)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2}Mv^2 + Mg(l+x)\cos(\theta) - \frac{1}{2}kx^2 \quad (2)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2}M(\dot{r}^2 + r^2\dot{\theta}^2) + Mg(l+x)\cos(\theta) - \frac{1}{2}kx^2 \quad (3)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2}M(\dot{x}^2 + (l+x)^2\dot{\theta}^2) + Mg(l+x)\cos(\theta) - \frac{1}{2}kx^2 \quad (4)$$

To find the Lagrangian for the spring, first find the kinetic energy:

$$T = \int_m \frac{1}{2}u^2 dm \quad (5)$$

Where u is the velocity of a differential element of mass along the spring. For a uniform spring, $dm = m \left(\frac{dy}{L} \right)$. Performing a change of variables yields:

$$T = \int_0^L \frac{1}{2}u^2 m \left(\frac{dy}{L} \right) \quad (6)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \frac{m}{L} \int_0^L u^2 dy \quad (7)$$

At the point where the pendulum is attached, $u=0$. At the other end, $u=v$, the velocity of the mass that's attached. Assuming the spring doesn't bend like a slinky, the velocity of each differential element is proportional to it's distance from where the pendulum is attached, $u = \frac{vy}{L}$. Therefore,

$$T = \frac{1}{2} \frac{m}{L} \int_0^L \left(\frac{vy}{L} \right)^2 dy \quad (8)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \frac{m}{3} v^2 \quad (9)$$

Also, knowing the internal potential energy of the spring is given by $-\frac{1}{2}kx^2$, the

Lagrangian is given by:

$$L_{spring} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{m}{3} v^2 + mg \frac{(l+x)}{2} \cos(\theta) \quad (10)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \frac{m}{3} (\dot{x}^2 + (l+x)^2 \dot{\theta}^2) + mg \frac{(l+x)}{2} \cos(\theta) \quad (11)$$

Letting $L_{total} = L_{mass} + L_{spring}$ and plugging into the Euler-Lagrange Equations $\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial q} = 0$, the following equations of motion are obtained:

$$\ddot{x} = (l+x)\dot{\theta}^2 + \left(\frac{m/2+M}{m/3+M} \right) g \cos(\theta) - \left(\frac{1}{m/3+M} \right) kx \quad (12)$$

$$\ddot{\theta} = -\frac{1}{(l+x)} \left[2\dot{\theta}\dot{x} + g \left(\frac{m/2+M}{m/3+M} \right) g \sin(\theta) \right] \quad (13)$$

These are the equations used in the Python SciPy ODE solver used to generate the animation.