

⑤ Lagrange's Equations (The Lagrange equations of the 2nd kind)

For a holonomic dynamic system having n degrees-of-freedom, there are n number of Lagrange's equations.

These are usually written as:

① ---
$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{q}_j} \right) - \frac{\partial T}{\partial q_j} + \frac{\partial D}{\partial \dot{q}_j} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial q_j} = Q_j ; j=1, 2, \dots, n.$$

Remember

q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n are the n generalized coordinates used to describe the system configuration at any instant of time.

$\dot{q}_j = \frac{dq_j}{dt}$ is the j th generalized velocity.

($q_1 = q_1(t), q_2 = q_2(t)$ etc. Similarly, $\dot{q}_1 = \dot{q}_1(t)$ etc)

T = System Kinetic energy

D = The Rayleigh dissipation function

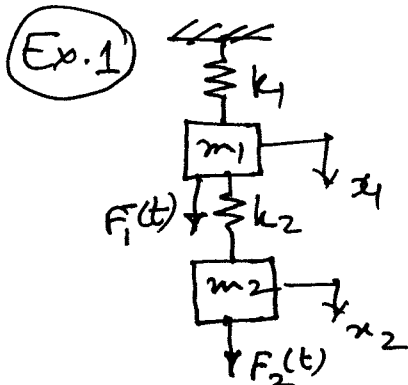
V = System potential energy

Q_j = Generalized force corresponding to the generalized coordinate q_j .

[To arrive at the Lagrange's equations

①, one starts with the general equation of dynamics (see ~~static~~ 'Lectures in Analytical Mechanics' by F. Gantmacher) which is also called generalized D'Alembert's principle. We are not going

for the ~~der~~ derivations of equations ① ②
 at this moment. We shall illustrate
 the use of ① through several
 examples. (Single DOF cases have
 been ~~too~~ already taken up)



Obtain the DEOM using Lagrange's equations.

Here we have a 2-DOF system. $x_1(t)$ & $x_2(t)$ are the generalized coordinates.

The 2 Lagrange's eqns are:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{x}_1} \right) - \frac{\partial T}{\partial x_1} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial x_1} = Q_1 \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

$$\& \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{x}_2} \right) - \frac{\partial T}{\partial x_2} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial x_2} = Q_2 \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

[Since $D=0$ (no viscous damping). ** Contd. on page 3.]

[Note:- The Lagrangian function L is defined as: $L = T - V$. Since V involves conservative forces only which are independent of generalized velocities, $\frac{\partial V}{\partial \dot{x}_1} = 0$ & $\frac{\partial V}{\partial \dot{x}_2} = 0$. Then, $\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{x}_1} \right) = \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial (T-V)}{\partial \dot{x}_1} \right) = \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}_1}$,
 $\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{x}_2} \right) = \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}_2} \right) + -\frac{\partial T}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial x_j} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} (T-V)$
 $= -\frac{\partial L}{\partial x_j}$ for $j=1,2$. Then, ① & ②

can be written as:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}_1} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_1} = Q_1$$

$$\& \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}_2} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_2} = Q_2$$

Thus, for free vibrations of above system, the Lagrange eqns. can be written as:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}_1} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_1} = 0$$

$$\& \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}_2} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_2} = 0$$

** Now, $T = \frac{1}{2} m_1 \dot{x}_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_2 \dot{x}_2^2$,

$$V = \frac{1}{2} K_1 x_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} K_2 (x_2 - x_1)^2$$

So, $\frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{x}_1} = m_1 \dot{x}_1 \Rightarrow \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{x}_1} \right) = m_1 \ddot{x}_1 \quad \text{--- (2)}$

$\frac{\partial T}{\partial x_1} = 0$, $\frac{\partial V}{\partial x_1} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} \left(\frac{1}{2} K_1 x_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} K_2 (x_2 - x_1)^2 \right)$

\rightarrow To obtain Q_1 , $= (K_1 + K_2)x_1 - K_2 x_2 \quad \text{--- (3)}$

the generalized force associated with generalized coordinate x_1 :—

Here we keep x_2 fixed, give x_1 a virtual variation δx_1 & compute the virtual work δW_{x_1} done by $F_1(t)$.

You may denote δW_{x_1} as δW , also

Then, $Q_1 = \frac{\delta W_{x_1}}{\delta x_1}$, by definition.

So, here $\delta W_{x_1} = F_1(t) \delta x_1$ & $Q_1 = \frac{\delta W_{x_1}}{\delta x_1} = F_1(t) \quad \text{--- (4)}$

Putting (2), (3), (2') & (4) in (1), we get the DEOM of m_1 as:

$$m_1 \ddot{x}_1 + (K_1 + K_2)x_1 - K_2 x_2 = F_1(t) \quad \text{--- (1')}$$

\rightarrow Again, $\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{x}_2} \right) = m_2 \ddot{x}_2$, $\frac{\partial T}{\partial x_2} = 0$, $\frac{\partial V}{\partial x_2} = K_2 (x_2 - x_1)$

\rightarrow To get Q_2 , keep x_1 fixed. Give m_2 a

Virtual displ. δx_2 . Then $\delta W_{x_2} = \delta W_2 = F_2(t) \cdot \delta x_2$ & so,

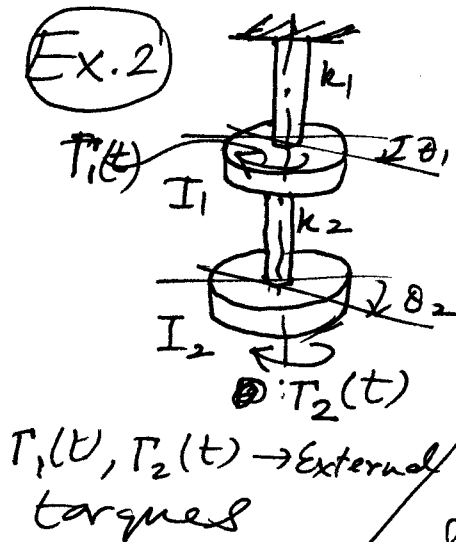
$$Q_2 = \frac{\delta W_2}{\delta x_2} = F_2(t). \text{ Putting all this in}$$

eqn. (2), we get the reqd. DEOM as: (4)

$$m_2 \ddot{x}_2 - k_2 x_1 + k_2 x_2 = F_2(t) \quad (2')$$

(1') & (2') are the reqd. DEOM.

Ex. 2



Obtain the DEOM using Lagrange's equations.
 θ_1 & θ_2 are the gen. coordinates.

Here Lagrange's eqns. are:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{\theta}_1} \right) - \frac{\partial T}{\partial \theta_1} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial \theta_1} = Q_1 \quad (1)$$

$$\& \quad \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{\theta}_2} \right) - \frac{\partial T}{\partial \theta_2} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial \theta_2} = Q_2 \quad (2)$$

$$T = \frac{1}{2} I_1 \dot{\theta}_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} I_2 \dot{\theta}_2^2$$

$$V = \frac{1}{2} k_1 \theta_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} k_2 (\theta_2 - \theta_1)^2$$

$$\delta W_1 = T_1(t) \times \delta \theta_1 \quad (\theta_2 \text{ kept constant})$$

$$\Rightarrow Q_1 = \frac{\delta W_1}{\delta \theta_1} = T_1(t). \quad \text{Similarly, } Q_2 = \frac{\delta W_2}{\delta \theta_2} = T_2(t)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{\theta}_1} \right) = I_1 \ddot{\theta}_1, \quad \frac{\partial T}{\partial \theta_1} = 0, \quad \frac{\partial V}{\partial \theta_1} = k_1 \theta_1 - k_2 (\theta_2 - \theta_1)$$

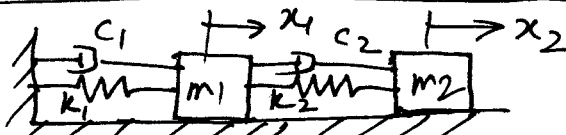
$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{\theta}_2} \right) = I_2 \ddot{\theta}_2, \quad \frac{\partial T}{\partial \theta_2} = 0, \quad \frac{\partial V}{\partial \theta_2} = k_2 (\theta_2 - \theta_1).$$

So, the DEOM are:-

$$I_1 \ddot{\theta}_1 + (k_1 + k_2) \theta_1 - k_2 \theta_2 = T_1(t)$$

$$\& \quad I_2 \ddot{\theta}_2 - k_2 \theta_1 + k_2 \theta_2 = T_2(t).$$

Ex. 3



Obtain the DEOM using Lagrange's eqns.

Here the Lagrange eqns. are:-

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{x}_1} \right) - \frac{\partial T}{\partial x_1} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial x_1} + \frac{\partial D}{\partial \dot{x}_1} = 0 \quad \&$$

(5)

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{x}_2} \right) - \frac{\partial T}{\partial x_2} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial x_2} + \frac{\partial D}{\partial \dot{x}_2} = 0$$

(Damped free-vibration)

$$T = \frac{1}{2} m_1 \dot{x}_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_2 \dot{x}_2^2$$

$$V = \frac{1}{2} k_1 x_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} k_2 (x_2 - x_1)^2$$

$$D = \frac{1}{2} c_1 \dot{x}_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} c_2 (\dot{x}_2 - \dot{x}_1)^2$$

Then, $\frac{\partial D}{\partial \dot{x}_1} = c_1 \dot{x}_1 - c_2 (\dot{x}_2 - \dot{x}_1) = (c_1 + c_2) \dot{x}_1 - c_2 \dot{x}_2$

& $\frac{\partial D}{\partial \dot{x}_2} = c_2 (\dot{x}_2 - \dot{x}_1) = -c_2 \dot{x}_1 + c_2 \dot{x}_2$

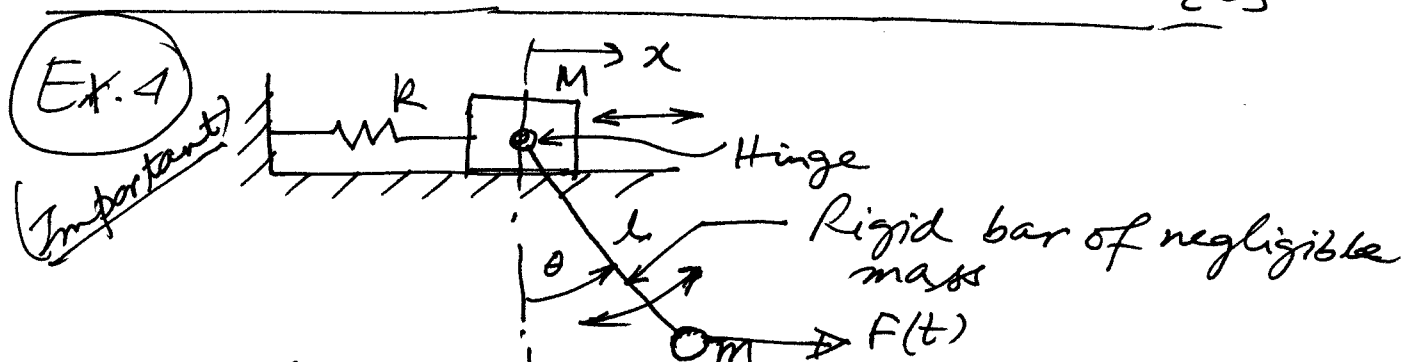
Other terms are as in Ex. 1.

The reqd DEOM are:

$$m_1 \ddot{x}_1 + (c_1 + c_2) \dot{x}_1 - c_2 \dot{x}_2 + (k_1 + k_2) x_1 - k_2 x_2 = 0$$

$$\& m_2 \ddot{x}_2 - c_2 \dot{x}_1 + c_2 \dot{x}_2 - k_2 x_1 + k_2 x_2 = 0$$

or, $\begin{bmatrix} m_1 & 0 \\ 0 & m_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} \ddot{x}_1 \\ \ddot{x}_2 \end{Bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} c_1 + c_2 & -c_2 \\ -c_2 & c_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} \dot{x}_1 \\ \dot{x}_2 \end{Bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} k_1 + k_2 & -k_2 \\ -k_2 & k_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{Bmatrix} = \begin{Bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{Bmatrix}$



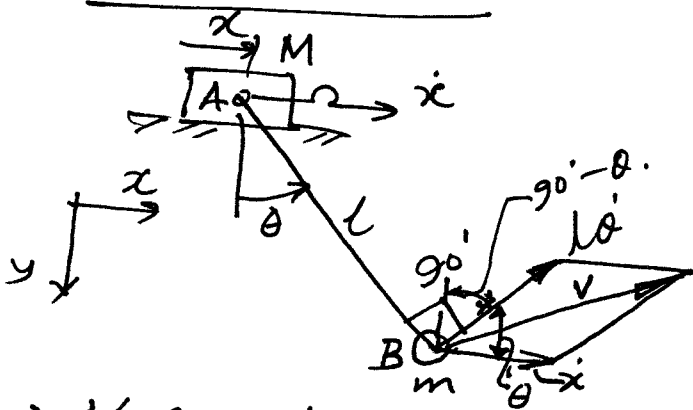
The block translates & the pendulum oscillates. Obtain the nonlinear DEOM using Lagrange's equations. A horizontal force $F(t)$ acts on the bob.

Solution: ~ Let $x(t)$ & $\theta(t)$ be the generalized coordinates (This is a 2-DOF system). θ is measured from the vertical, +ive CCW.

The Lagrange equations here are:- (6)

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{x}} \right) - \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial x} = Q_1 \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

$$+ \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{\theta}} \right) - \frac{\partial T}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial \theta} = Q_2 \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

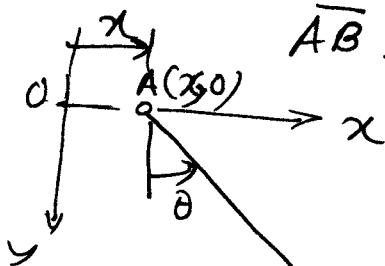


$T = \frac{1}{2} M \dot{x}^2 + \frac{1}{2} m V^2$
 where V = velocity of bob w.r.t. ground reference.

→ V can be obtained in several ways. One of the ways is shown above.

Then, $V^2 = \dot{x}^2 + (l\dot{\theta})^2 + 2\dot{x}l\dot{\theta}\cos\theta$

[You can also use $\vec{v}_B = \vec{v}_A + \vec{\omega}_{AB} \times \vec{AB}$
 where $\vec{v}_A = \dot{x} \hat{i}$, $\vec{\omega}_{AB} = \dot{\theta} \hat{k}$,
 $\vec{AB} = (l \sin\theta) \hat{i} + (l \cos\theta) \hat{j}$ etc.]



$(x, y)_B$ or $(x + l \sin\theta, l \cos\theta)$

You can also find $V = |\vec{v}_B|$ as follows:-

$\vec{v}_B = \dot{x}_B \hat{i} + \dot{y}_B \hat{j}$
 where $x_B = x + l \sin\theta$
 & $y_B = l \cos\theta$.

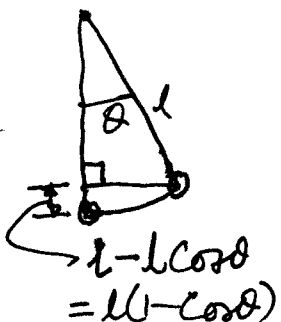
So, $V^2 = |\vec{v}_B|^2 = \dot{x}_B^2 + \dot{y}_B^2$ etc.]

Thus, $T = T_{\text{block}} + T_{\text{bob}} = \frac{1}{2} M \dot{x}^2 + \frac{1}{2} m [\dot{x}^2 + l^2 \dot{\theta}^2 + 2l\dot{x}\dot{\theta}\cos\theta]$

$V = \frac{1}{2} k x^2 + mgl(1 - \cos\theta)$

Thus, $\frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{x}} = M \dot{x} + \frac{1}{2} m [2\dot{x} + 2l\dot{\theta}\cos\theta]$

& $\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{x}} \right) = M \ddot{x} + m [\dot{x} + l\ddot{\theta}\cos\theta - l\dot{\theta}^2 \sin\theta]$



(Be careful while differentiating. (7)
 Note that the generalized coordinates & gen. velocities are all independent of each other at this stage of obtaining the DEOM) ($\frac{d}{dt}(\cos\theta) = \frac{d(\cos\theta)}{d\theta} \cdot \frac{d\theta}{dt} = -\dot{\theta} \sin\theta$)

$$m, \quad \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{x}} \right) = (M+m)\ddot{x} + m\dot{\theta} \cos\theta - m\dot{\theta}^2 \sin\theta$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} = 0, \quad \frac{\partial V}{\partial x} = kx$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{\theta}} = \frac{1}{2} m [2l^2 \dot{\theta} + 2l\dot{x} \cos\theta]$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{\theta}} \right) = m [l^2 \ddot{\theta} + l\ddot{x} \cos\theta - l\dot{x} \dot{\theta} \sin\theta]$$

[Now comes the interesting term. Till now, the derivatives $\frac{\partial T}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial T}{\partial x_1}, \frac{\partial T}{\partial x_2}, \frac{\partial T}{\partial \theta}$ used to be zero. Here it is not so, note. This is because T is a function of $\theta(x, \cos\theta)$]

$$\rightarrow \frac{\partial T}{\partial \theta} = \frac{1}{2} m \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (2l\dot{x} \cos\theta) \right] = -m\dot{x} \dot{\theta} \sin\theta$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{\partial V}{\partial \theta} = mgl \sin\theta$$

Now to obtain Q_1 & Q_2 .

For obtaining Q_1 , θ is to be kept constant.

The block is given a virtual displacement δx .

$$\text{Then, } \delta W_x = F(t) \delta x \text{ \& so, } Q_1 = \frac{\delta W_x}{\delta x} = \underline{\underline{F(t)}}$$

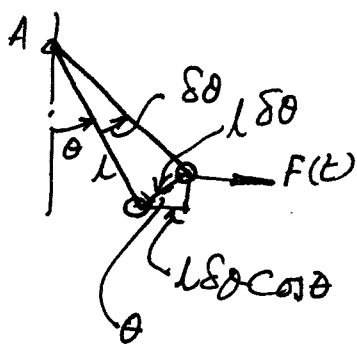
~~Now~~ (Note that while the block undergoes the virtual displacement, the bar of the pendulum moves & the bob also undergoes a displacement δx & hence, $F(t)$ does virtual work = $F(t) \delta x$.)

(8)

Have you noticed we take the force to remain constant at $F(t)$ while δx is given? This is so because time 'congeals', that is remains unchanged while the virtual displacement is given.

This is a little deep & you need to study Analytical Mechanics a bit to properly understand it).

→ To get Q_2 , keep x ~~and~~ unchanged, i.e. the block remains fixed at location x and θ is changed by $\delta\theta$ (see fig.)



[Actually, $\delta x, \delta\theta$ are infinitesimals. $\delta\theta$ is exaggerated for clarity]

Note that due to the virtual displacement $\delta\theta$, $F(t)$ moves an amount ~~the~~ $l\delta\theta\cos\theta$ in the horizontal direction. Hence, $\delta W_0 = F(t) \times l\cos\theta \delta\theta$

$$\delta\theta, \quad Q_2 = \frac{\delta W_0}{\delta\theta} = F(t)l\cos\theta.$$

Thus, Q_2 is not a force but the moment of a force. Hence, the name 'generalized force'.

→ We now have obtained everything needed to get the DEOM.

Substitutions in ① gives:

$$(M+m)\ddot{x} + m l \ddot{\theta} \cos\theta - m l \dot{\theta}^2 \sin\theta + kx = F(t) \quad \text{--- (a)}$$

$$\text{+ (2) gives: } m l^2 \ddot{\theta} + m l \ddot{x} \cos\theta - m l \dot{x} \dot{\theta} \sin\theta + m l \dot{\theta}^2 \sin\theta + m g l \sin\theta = F(t) l \cos\theta \quad \text{--- (b)}$$

② & ⑥ are the required nonlinear DEOM and there is no way you can get a closed form analytical solution for these.

→ We can, however, linearize these DEOM. However, to linearize, only $\cos\theta \approx 1$ & $\sin\theta \approx \theta$ (for 'small' θ) won't do! Because, substitution of $\cos\theta = 1$ & $\sin\theta = \theta$ in ② & ⑥ gives:

$$(M+m)\ddot{x} + m\ddot{\theta} - m\dot{\theta}^2\theta + kx = F(t) \text{ --- ③}$$

$$\text{ \& } m l^2 \ddot{\theta} + m l \ddot{x} + m g l \theta = F(t) l \text{ --- ④}$$

Although ④ is linear, ③ is not due to the term $-m\dot{\theta}^2\theta$. Hence we must additionally assume that $\dot{\theta}^2$ is negligible & this seems a bit strange, isn't it?

So, the final linearized equation of motion are:

$$(M+m)\ddot{x} + m\ddot{\theta} + kx = F(t) \text{ \& } m l^2 \ddot{\theta} + m l \ddot{x} + m g l \theta = F(t) l$$

Check Everything

⑤..... $m l \ddot{x} + m l^2 \ddot{\theta} + m g l \theta = F(t) l$

OR ~~$(M+m)\ddot{x} + m\ddot{\theta} + kx = F(t)$~~
$$\begin{bmatrix} (M+m) & m l \\ m l & m l^2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} \ddot{x} \\ \ddot{\theta} \end{Bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} k & 0 \\ 0 & m g l \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} x \\ \theta \end{Bmatrix} = \begin{Bmatrix} F(t) \\ F(t) l \end{Bmatrix}$$

& note that the inertia matrix is symmetric but non-diagonal but the stiffness matrix is diagonal (& automatically symmetric). These linearized eqns

can be solved as before for free vibration & forced vibration response. (10)

→ A WORD OF CAUTION

See DEOM (c), pg. 9:

$$m \ddot{x} + m l^2 \ddot{\theta} + m g l \theta = F(t) l.$$

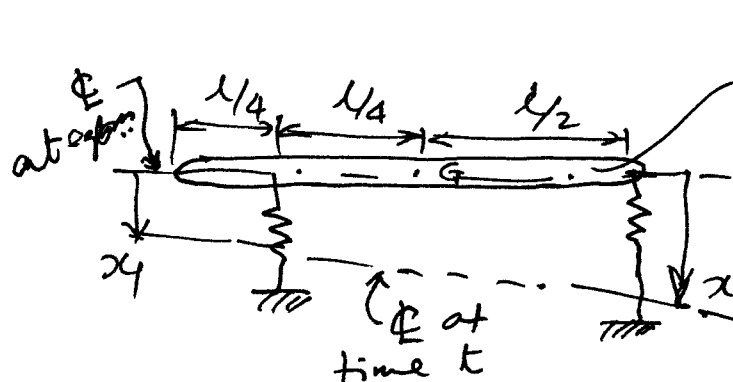
You might be tempted to reduce this to:

$$m \ddot{x} + m l \ddot{\theta} + m g \theta = f(t).$$

DONOT do this, because, although mathematically it seems OK, doing this would destroy the symmetric nature of the mass matrix & pose some analysis problem subsequently. Also, doing so will obliterate the nature of excitation force (it is the moment of a force) corresponding to gen. coordinate θ .

→ We have spent about 5 pages to do this problem. This is because quite few explanations were in order. You should not take more than 2 pages to complete it.

Example-5:— This example will illustrate how a new set of generalized coordinates result in a non-diagonal mass matrix. →



uniform bar of mass m & length l

Taking x_1 & x_2 as the generalized coordinates, obtain

the DEOM. Comment on the nature of $[m]$ & $[K]$.