

22-R-VIB-JL-42

A disc with a spring attached at the top sits at equilibrium. A small disturbance displaces the disc from equilibrium so that it oscillates back and forth. Determine the differential equation of motion describing its oscillation.

The disc has a mass $m = 37$ kg, radius $r = 0.69$ m and radius of gyration $k_G = 0.32$ m. The spring has a stiffness $k_S = 120$ N/m.

(Assume the disc has very small displacement, use the approximation $\sin \theta = \theta$)

Solution

To find the differential equation of motion we will use conservation of energy. Knowing this we have $T + V = \text{constant}$, and so finding T and V :

$$\begin{aligned} T &= \frac{1}{2} m v_G^2 + \frac{1}{2} I_G \omega^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{2} m (\dot{\theta} r)^2 + \frac{1}{2} (m k_G^2) \dot{\theta}^2 \\ &= \frac{m}{2} (r^2 + k_G^2) \dot{\theta}^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} V &= \frac{1}{2} k_S (s)^2 \quad \text{where } s = 2r \sin \theta \approx 2r\theta \\ &= \frac{1}{2} k_S (2r\theta)^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$T + V = \text{constant} = \frac{m}{2} (r^2 + k_G^2) \dot{\theta}^2 + \frac{1}{2} k_S (2r\theta)^2$$

Now taking the time derivative we have:

$$0 = m(r^2 + k_G^2)(\dot{\theta})\ddot{\theta} + k_S(2r\theta)(2r\dot{\theta})$$

Then, dividing both sides by $\dot{\theta}$ and arranging our equation into standard form:

$$0 = \ddot{\theta} + \left(\frac{4 k_S r^2}{m(r^2 + k_G^2)} \right) \theta \implies 0 = \ddot{\theta} + 10.68 \theta$$

