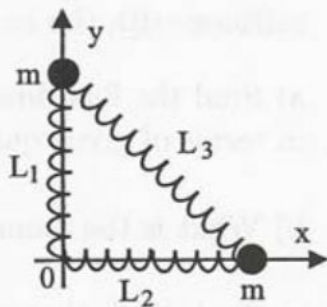


[4] (25 points) Two objects of mass  $m$  and negligible size are connected to the origin with springs of equilibrium (unstretched) length  $L_1 = L_2 = a$  and to each other by a third spring of equilibrium length  $L_3 = a\sqrt{2}$ . One mass is constrained to move only in the  $y$  direction and the other mass can only move in the  $x$  direction as shown. All three springs have negligible mass and the same spring constant  $k$ . Answer the following questions using coordinates  $q = x - a$  and  $r = y - a$  for small deviations from the equilibrium position (i.e. small  $|q|$  and  $|r|$ ). You may ignore friction and gravity.



- What is the potential energy  $U$  of this system?
- What is the kinetic energy  $T$  of this system?
- What are Lagrange's equations of motion for this system in simplified form (i.e. leave your answer as one or more differential equations)?
- What are the normal modes of this system?
- What are the natural frequencies of this system?