

Homework set VII

- 1) Show that an upward pendulum is stable for $a^2 \omega^2 > 2gl$ if its support point oscillates as $x = a \cos \omega t$ and $\omega \gg \sqrt{g/l}$ (see problem 1, §30 of LL)
- 2) A uniform disk of mass M and radius a rolls without slipping in a fixed circular trough of radius $b > a$. The gravitational acceleration is g . Find the Lagrangian of the system and determine the frequency of small oscillations of the disk about its equilibrium position.
- 3) Consider the diff. eq. $\ddot{x} + \omega^2 x = -\frac{3}{4} a^2 \cos \omega t - \frac{1}{4} a^3 \cos 3\omega t$ with initial conditions $x_1(0) = 0$ $\dot{x}_1 = 0$
 - a) Find the general solution of the homogeneous equation
 - b) Find a special solution of the inhomogeneous equation of the form $x = A t \sin \omega t + B \cos \omega t$
 - c) The general solution is given by the sum of a) and b). Determine the integration constants from the initial cond.
- 4) Consider the anharmonic oscillator with $V(x) = x^2 + \epsilon x^4$ $\epsilon \ll 1$ and $m = 1$
 - a) Obtain an expression for the period of the oscillator.
 - b) Calculate the period to $O(\epsilon)$. Show that your result agrees with the formula we found in class ($\omega_0 \omega_1 = \frac{3}{8} a^2$, see LL 28.13)