

**Topic: Modeling of Mechanical Systems using Lagrange**

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**Problem 1 (Clown - HS10)**

During a visit of the famous Circus Fantasticus you observe a clown, who balances on a ladder as depicted in Figure 1(a). The system can be modeled as follows: the ladder is a rigid body with length  $2l_1$ , mass  $m_1$ , center of gravity  $S_1$ , and moment of inertia  $\Theta_1$  with respect to its center of mass  $S_1$ . The clown is a rigid body with length  $2l_2$ , mass  $m_2$ , center of gravity  $S_2$ , and moment of inertia  $\Theta_2$  with respect to its center of mass  $S_2$ . The ladder is free to rotate about a frictionless pivot in the origin  $O$ . Furthermore, the clown is free to rotate about a frictionless pivot denoted as  $S_1$ . The force  $F$ , which is exerted by the clown's hand on the ladder, acts on the clown and the ladder as shown in Figure 1(b). Gravitational acceleration  $g$  acts in  $-y$  direction. Furthermore, no friction is assumed in any element of the system.

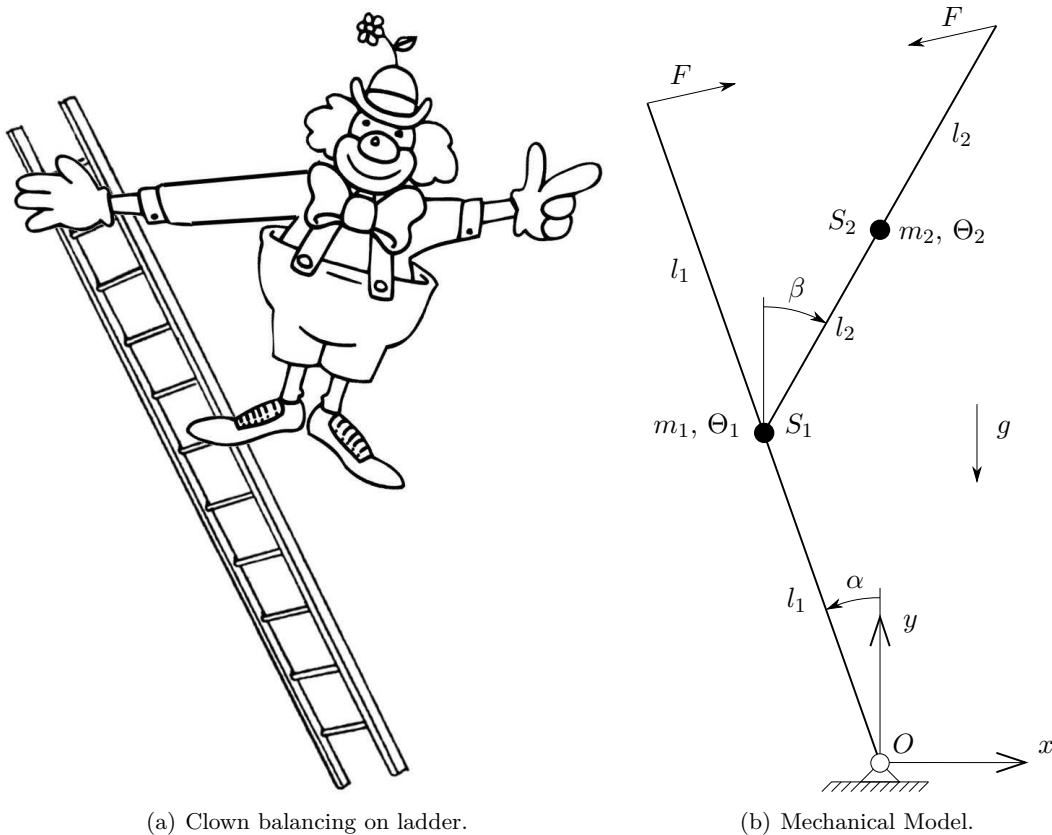


Figure 1: Clown on Ladder.

For brevity, the time dependency of the variables  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $F$  and  $g$  is not shown. Simplify the results as far as possible.

- a) The angles  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ , depicted in Figure 1(b), are possible minimal coordinates for this system. Please give a further option of minimal coordinates.
- b) Derive the potential energy of the ladder  $U_1$  as a function of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ .
- c) Derive the potential energy of the clown  $U_2$  as a function of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ .
- d) Derive the kinetic energy of the ladder  $T_1$  as a function of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ .
- e) Derive the kinetic energy of the clown  $T_2$  as a function of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ .  
(Hint:  $\cos(\alpha)\cos(\beta) - \sin(\alpha)\sin(\beta) = \cos(\alpha + \beta)$ .)
- f) Calculate the equations of motion by using Lagrange II with the minimal coordinates  $q = (\alpha \ \beta)^T$ :

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\beta}} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial \beta} = Q_2$$

where

$$L = L(q) = \sum_{i=1,2} T_i(q) - U_i(q)$$

is the Lagrange function. **Hint:** You **do not** have to derive  $Q_2 = Q_2(q, F)$ .

- g) From

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

the following equation of motion results:

$$Q_1 = \left( l_1^2 (m_1 + m_2) + \Theta_1 \right) \ddot{\alpha} - m_2 l_1 l_2 \left( \ddot{\beta} \cos(\alpha + \beta) - \dot{\beta}^2 \sin(\alpha + \beta) \right) - (m_1 + m_2) l_1 g \sin(\alpha) \quad .$$

Please calculate the inertia matrix  $M(q)$  of the system.

- h) Color the clown.

## Problem 2 (Disk on the Hills)

A disk of radius  $r$ , mass  $m$  and moment of inertia  $\Theta_C$  rolls without slipping on a circular profile of radius  $R$ . The center of the disk is connected to the vertical axis with a spring of stiffness  $k$  and zero unstretched length. The spring force acts always in the horizontal direction, while gravity acts in the vertical direction, as indicated in Figure 2. Denote with  $\psi$  the rotation angle of the disk about its center  $C$ . Denote with  $\theta$  the angular position of the center of the disk with respect to the center of the circular profile. Denote with  $O$  the contact point between disk and circular profile.

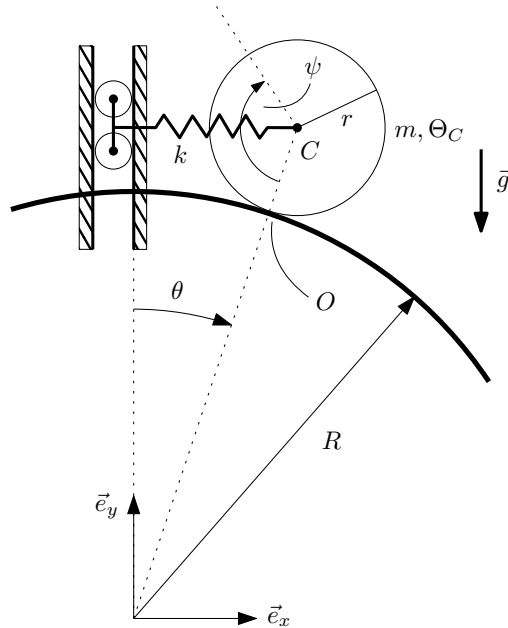


Figure 2: Disk on the hills

- Find an expression which describes the no-slip condition. Are  $\theta$  and  $\psi$  independent variables? How does this affect the analysis of the system?
- Find the system equation of motion using the Lagrange Formalism, as presented in the lecture.

**Hints:**

- Use  $\theta$  as generalized coordinate.
- The spring is unstretched when  $\theta = 0$ .
- No friction is assumed in any element of the system.