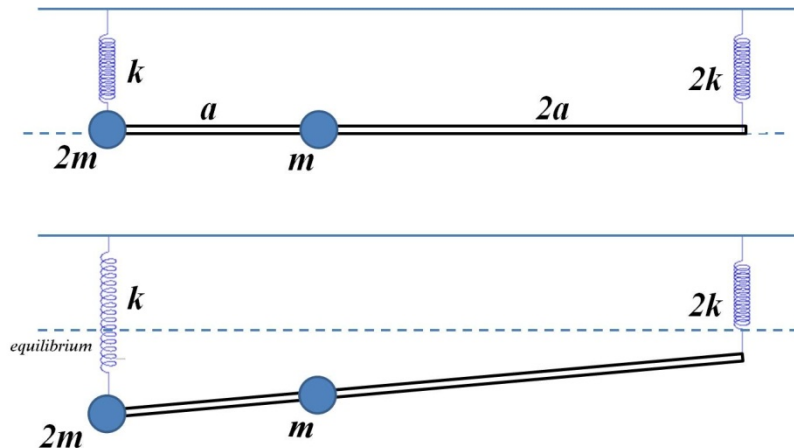


95.612. Classical Mechanics.

Midterm Exam #2. April 22, 2013

Open book exam.

1. (10 points) Consider the motion of a particle P of mass  $m$  moving in the plane under the influence of a force of magnitude  $\alpha m/r^2$  directed towards a fixed point O, where  $r$  is the distance from O to P. Where  $\alpha$  is a constant. Assume that the potential energy is zero as  $r \rightarrow \infty$ .
- Find a Lagrangian.
  - Find a Hamiltonian corresponding to this Lagrangian.
  - What quantities are conserved?
  - Find the equations of motion in the Hamiltonian formulation.
  - Write down the equation for  $r$
2. (15 points) Derive the equations of motion governing the free vibrations of the system shown in the figure. Assume the springs and the rigid bar to be massless. Consider only small oscillations.



- Write the Lagrangian of the system
- Find the normal mode frequencies  
 $\omega_1 = \sqrt{k/2m}$ ;  $\omega_2 = \sqrt{22k/m}$  ; (assume that  $\sqrt{1881} \approx 43$ )
- Find the normal mode eigenvectors and the general solution
- Construct the modal matrix  $\mathbf{A}$