Oscillation examples

Example 1



A stick of length L and mass m oscillates about an axis O (as shown above). The center of mass C of the stick is located a distance d away from point O. Initially the stick is released from rest at an angle θ_0 from the vertical.

- a) Draw an extended free body diagram of the stick.
- b) Derive the equation of motion.
- c) What is the solution of the equation of motion if the initial angle θ_0 is small (i.e. < 10°)? Sketch the graph $\theta(t)$.
- d) What are the amplitude, period, frequency, angular frequency, and phase constant of the motion?

Example 2



A mass m = 1kg is attached to a spring on a flat smooth surface. Initially, the spring is at its rest position (i.e. not stretched nor compressed) and the mass is given an initial velocity $v_0 = 1$ m/s to the left. The spring constant is k = 100 N/m.

- a) Derive the equation of motion.
- b) What is the solution of the equation of motion?
- c) What are the amplitude, period, frequency, angular frequency, and phase constant of the motion?
- d) At which location(s) is the velocity of the mass a maximum? A minimum?
- e) At which location(s) is the acceleration of the mass a maximum? A minimum?
- f) Plot x(t), v(t) and a(t) on the same graph.
- g) Find the kinetic energy, potential energy and mechanical energy as a function of time.
- h) For different initial conditions, the equation is found to be $x(t) = 2cos(\omega t + 60^\circ)cm$. Find the initial conditions x(t=0) and v(t=0).

Example 3

Repeat example 2 with the mass hanging from the ceiling. Initially the mass is at rest and is given an initial velocity $v_0 = 1$ m/s directed up.



Example 4: circular motion and simple harmonic motion

A mass m is hanging on a spring of spring constant k. The mass oscillates up and down with amplitude A. A disk is rotating next to the mass so that the two points A and B are always at the same height. What is the radius of the disk? What is the angular velocity of the disk (direction and magnitude)?

