

Linear Restoring Forces + SHM

Hooke's Law $(F_{sp})_x = -k(\Delta x)$

displacement from equilibrium = x

spring constant
(stiffer spring = larger k value)

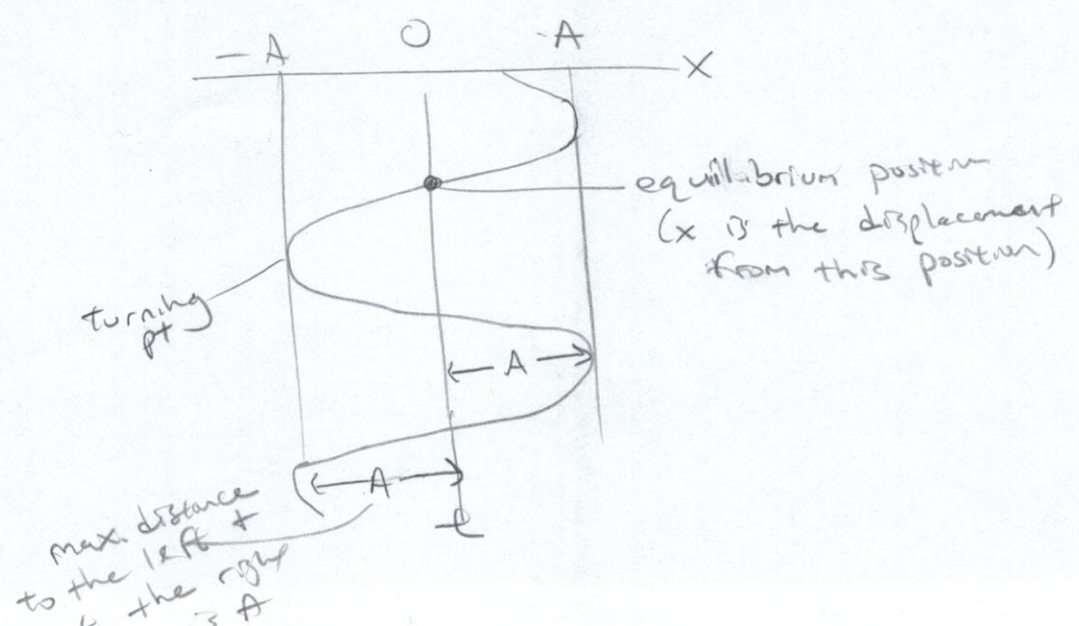
$(F_{sp})_x = -kx$

linear restoring force - the net force is toward the equilibrium position + is proportional to the distance from equilibrium

amplitude - the object's max. displacement from equilibrium (A)
($x = -A$ and $x = +A$)

★★ NOT the distance from the min. to the max. ★★

Oscillation about an equilibrium position w/ a linear restoring force is always (SHM).

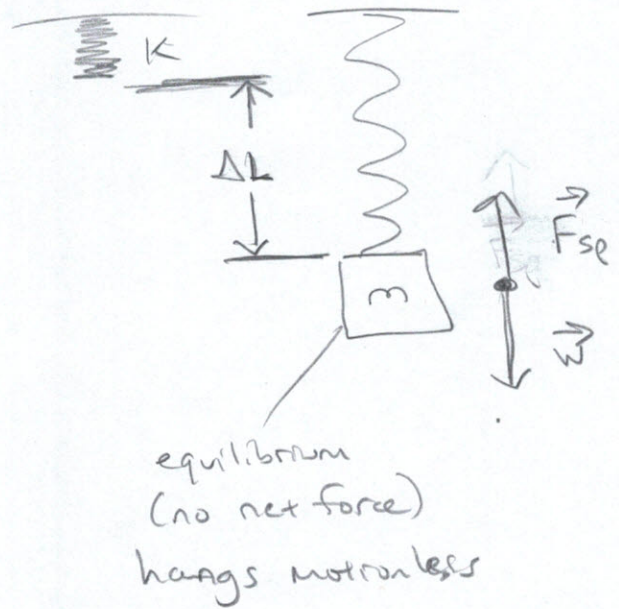


Vertical mass on a spring

(static-equilibrium problem)

- upward spring force balances the downward weight force of the block

$$(F_{sp})_y = k \Delta L$$



Newton's 1st law for the block in equilibrium

$$(F_{net})_y = (F_{sp})_y + w_y = k \Delta L - mg = 0$$

$$\Delta L = \frac{mg}{k}$$

the distance the spring stretches when the block is attached

block at position y the spring is stretched $\Delta L - y$

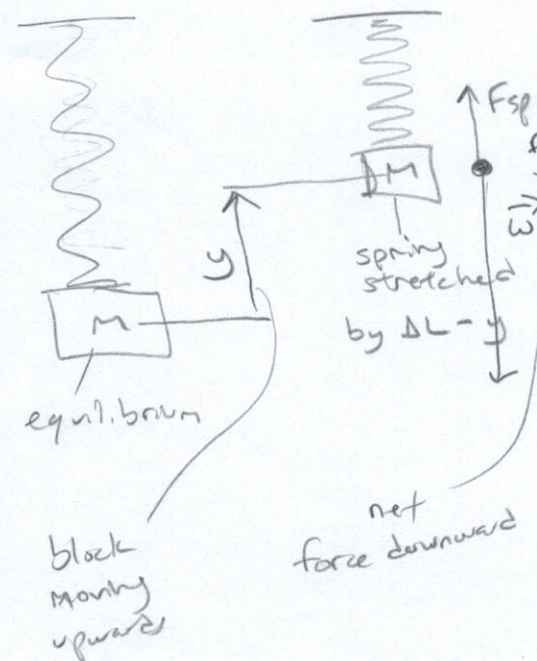
and an upwards spring force applies $F_{sp} = k(\Delta L - y)$

net force

$$(F_{net})_y = (F_{sp})_y + w_y = k(\Delta L - y) - mg = k(\Delta L - mg) - ky = 0$$

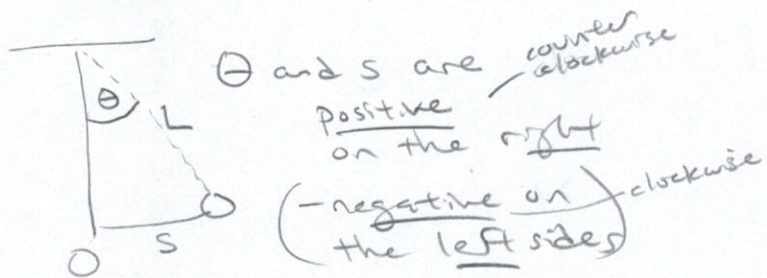
$$(F_{net})_y = -ky$$

Gravity doesn't affect the restoring force for displacement from the equilibrium position



The Pendulum

$$(F_{\text{net}})_t = \sum F_t = w_t = -mg \sin \theta$$



"restoring force" pulling the mass back to equilibrium position

$\sin \theta \approx \theta$ pendulum's oscillations at 10° (0.17 rad) or less

in radians

small angle approximation

undergoes SHM

arc length $\theta = \frac{s}{L}$

restoring force

$$(F_{\text{net}})_t = -mg \sin \theta \approx -mg \theta = -mg \frac{s}{L} = -\left(\frac{mg}{L}\right)s$$

