Chapter 2 Variational Principles and Lagrange's Equations

$$L=-\frac{m}{2}q\ddot{q}-\frac{k}{2}q^2.$$

Do you recognize the equations of motion?

- 13. A heavy particle is placed at the top of a vertical hoop. Calculate the reaction of the hoop on the particle by means of the Lagrange's undetermined multipliers and Lagrange's equations. Find the height at which the particle falls off.
- 14. A uniform hoop of mass m and radius r rolls without slipping on a fixed cylinder of radius R as shown in the figure. The only external force is that of gravity. If the smaller cylinder starts rolling from rest on top of the bigger cylinder, use the method of Lagrange mulipliers to find the point at which the hoop falls off the cylinder.



- 15. A form of the Wheatstone impedance bridge has, in addition to the usual four resistances, an inductance in one arm and a capacitance in the opposite arm. Set up L and \mathcal{F} for the unbalanced bridge, with the charges in the elements as coordinates. Using the Kirchhoff junction conditions as constraints on the currents, obtain the Lagrange equations of motion, and show that eliminating the λ 's reduces these to the usual network equations.
- 16. In certain situations, particularly one-dimensional systems, it is possible to incorporate frictional effects without introducing the dissipation function. As an example, find the equations of motion for the Lagrangian

$$L = e^{\gamma t} \left(\frac{m \dot{q}^2}{2} - \frac{k q^2}{2} \right).$$

How would you describe the system? Are there any constants of motion? Suppose a point transformation is made of the form

$$s = e^{\gamma t} q$$
.

What is the effective Lagrangian in terms of s? Find the equation of motion for s. What do these results say about the conserved quantities for the system?

17. It sometimes occurs that the generalized coordinates appear separately in the kinetic energy and the potential energy in such a manner that T and V may be written in the form

$$T = \sum_{i} f_i(q_i) \dot{q}_i^2$$
 and $V = \sum_{i} V_i(q_i).$