

Goldstein 2.10.

$$y = at + bt^2, \quad \dot{y} = a + 2bt$$

$$\Rightarrow T = \frac{m}{2}(a+2bt)^2, \quad V = mg(at + bt^2)$$

$$\Rightarrow L = \frac{m}{2}(a+2bt)^2 - mg(at + bt^2)$$

Clearly, we have taken a, b as coordinates.

The constraint is:

$$a \sqrt{\frac{2y_0}{g}} + b \left(\frac{2y_0}{g} \right) - y_0 = 0.$$

Then

$$\int_{t_0}^{t_1} \left\{ L + \lambda(a, b, t) \left[a \sqrt{\frac{2y_0}{g}} + b \left(\frac{2y_0}{g} \right) - y_0 \right] \right\} dt = 0$$

This suggests we look for eqm in the form of Lagr with Lagr multipliers considered. Since a, b don't appear in the Lagr, we clearly have eqms:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{\partial L}{\partial a} = 0 = m(a+2bt) - mgt + \lambda \sqrt{\frac{2y_0}{g}} \\ \frac{\partial L}{\partial b} = 0 = m(a+2bt)(2t) - mgt^2 + \lambda \left(\frac{2y_0}{g} \right) \\ a \sqrt{\frac{2y_0}{g}} + b \left(\frac{2y_0}{g} \right) - y_0 = 0 \end{array} \right.$$

3 equations, for 3 coordinates a, b, λ .

The constraint equation gives

$$a = \left[y_0 - b \left(\frac{2y_0}{g} \right) \right] / \sqrt{\frac{2y_0}{g}}$$
$$= y_0 \sqrt{\frac{g}{2y_0}} - b \sqrt{\frac{2y_0}{g}}$$

At $t=0$, the other two equations give

$$\begin{cases} ma + \lambda \sqrt{\frac{2y_0}{g}} = 0 \\ \lambda \left(\frac{2y_0}{g} \right) = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{a = 0}$$

Solving for b : $b \sqrt{\frac{2y_0}{g}} = y_0 \sqrt{\frac{g}{2y_0}}$

$$\Rightarrow b = y_0 \frac{g}{2y_0}$$

$$= \boxed{\frac{g}{2}}$$

$$= 0 \left[\frac{g}{2} - \left(\frac{g}{2} \right) \right]$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{g}{2} = \left[\frac{g}{2} - \left(\frac{g}{2} \right) \right]$$

Davidson Cheung

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