

## Rotational oscillation of a disk

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**Solution:** The angular acceleration of the disc  $M$  the inertial moment of which is  $I = \frac{M}{2}R^2$ , is given by,

$$\frac{M}{2}R^2\vec{\alpha} = I\vec{\alpha} = \vec{\tau}_m + \vec{\tau}_k = \mathbf{R} \times m\mathbf{g} - \mathbf{R} \times k\mathbf{x} = (Rmg - Rkx)\hat{\mathbf{e}}_\theta .$$

As the body does not slide, the angle of the disc is linked to the mass displacement,  $x = R\theta$ . We get,

$$\alpha = \ddot{\theta} = \frac{2mg - 2kx}{MR} = \frac{2mg}{MR} + \frac{2k}{M}\theta .$$

Substituting  $\theta \equiv \tilde{\theta} - \frac{mg}{kR}$ :

$$\ddot{\tilde{\theta}} = \frac{2mg}{MR} - \frac{2k}{M} \left( \tilde{\theta} - \frac{mg}{kR} \right) = -\frac{2k}{M}\tilde{\theta} .$$

That is, we have a harmonic oscillation around the angle  $\theta_0 = \frac{mg}{kR}$  with frequency  $\omega_0 = \sqrt{\frac{2k}{M}}$ .