

K.T.S.P. Mandal's  
**Hutatma Rajguru Mahavidyalaya**  
**Rajgurnagar-410505**

Third Year B.Science

V– Sem (2019 CBCS Pattern)  
As per the new syllabus

Subject- Classical Mechanics

Mr. N.D.Barne  
Department of Physics  
[nileshbarne11@gmail.com](mailto:nileshbarne11@gmail.com)

**Topic : Lagrangian Equation from D' Alembert's Principle**

# D'Alembert's principle of virtual work

If virtual work done by the **constraint forces** is ( $\vec{f}_c \cdot \delta \vec{r} = 0$ ) (from eq.-1),

$$(\vec{F}_e - m\vec{r}) \cdot \delta \vec{r} = 0$$

D'Alembert's principle of Virtual work

Now, for a general system of N particles having virtual displacements,  $\delta \vec{r}_1, \delta \vec{r}_2, \dots, \delta \vec{r}_N$ ,

$$\sum_{i=1}^N (\vec{F}_{ie} - m_i \vec{r}_i) \cdot \delta \vec{r}_i =$$

$\vec{F}_{ie} \rightarrow$  Applied force on  $i_{th}$  particle

Does not necessarily means that individual terms of the summation are zero as  $\vec{r}_i$  are not independent, they are connected by constrain relation

# Lagrange's equation from D'Alembert's principle

□ D'Alembert's principle,

$$\sum_{i=1}^N (\vec{F}_{ie} - m_i \vec{r}_i) \cdot \delta \vec{r}_i = 0$$

Constraint forces are out of the game! 😊

Now, no need of additional subscript, we shall simply write  $\vec{F}_i$  instead of  $\vec{F}_{ie}$

But How to express this relation so that individual terms in the summation are zero? 🤔

Switch to generalized coordinate system as they are independent!

Let's take the 1<sup>st</sup> term

$$\sum_i \vec{F}_i \cdot \delta \vec{r}_i = \sum_i \vec{F}_i \cdot \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\partial \vec{r}_i}{\partial q_j} \delta q_j = \sum_{j=1}^n \left( \sum_i \vec{F}_i \cdot \frac{\partial \vec{r}_i}{\partial q_j} \right) \delta q_j = \sum_{j=1}^n Q_j \delta q_j$$

$$Q_j = \sum_i \vec{F}_i \cdot \frac{\partial \vec{r}_i}{\partial q_j}$$

→ Generalized force

- Dimensions of  $Q_j$  is **not** always of force!
- Dimensions of  $Q_j \delta q_j$  is always of work!



# Lagrange's equation from D'Alembert's principle

□ 2<sup>nd</sup> Term: 
$$\sum_i m_i \dot{\mathbf{r}}_i \cdot \delta \mathbf{r}_i = \sum_i m_i \dot{\mathbf{r}}_i \cdot \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}_i}{\partial \mathbf{q}_j} \delta \mathbf{q}_j = \sum_{ij} m_i \dot{\mathbf{r}}_i \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}_i}{\partial \mathbf{q}_j} \delta \mathbf{q}_j$$

□ Bit of rearrangement in derivatives

$$\dot{\mathbf{r}}_i \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}_i}{\partial \mathbf{q}} = \frac{d}{dt} \left( \dot{\mathbf{r}}_i \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}_i}{\partial \mathbf{q}} \right) - \dot{\mathbf{r}}_i \cdot \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}_i}{\partial \mathbf{q}} \right)$$

Time and coordinate derivative can be interchanged!

$$= \frac{d}{dt} \left( \dot{\mathbf{r}}_i \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}_i}{\partial \mathbf{q}} \right) - \dot{\mathbf{r}}_i \cdot \left( \frac{\partial \dot{\mathbf{r}}_i}{\partial \mathbf{q}} \right)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}_i}{\partial \mathbf{q}_i} \right) = \left( \frac{\partial \dot{\mathbf{r}}_i}{\partial \mathbf{q}_i} \right)$$

dot cancellation!

$$= \frac{d}{dt} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} m_i \dot{\mathbf{r}}_i^2 \right\} - \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{q}} \left( \frac{1}{2} m_i \dot{\mathbf{r}}_i^2 \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial \dot{\mathbf{r}}_i}{\partial \mathbf{q}_j} = \frac{\partial \dot{\mathbf{r}}_i}{\partial \mathbf{q}_j}$$

# Lagrange's equation from D'Alembert's principle

□ Thus 2<sup>nd</sup> term becomes

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{i=1}^N m_i \mathbf{r}_i \cdot \delta \mathbf{r}_i &= \sum_{i,j} \left[ \frac{d}{dt} \left\{ \frac{d}{dq_j} \left( \frac{1}{2} \dot{\mathbf{r}}_i^2 \right) \right\} - \frac{\partial}{\partial q} \left( \frac{1}{2} \dot{\mathbf{r}}_i^2 \right) \right] \delta q \\
 &= \sum_j \left[ \frac{d}{dt} \left\{ \frac{\partial}{\partial \dot{q}_j} \left( \sum_i \frac{1}{2} \dot{\mathbf{r}}_i^2 \right) \right\} - \frac{\partial}{\partial q_j} \left( \sum_i \frac{1}{2} \dot{\mathbf{r}}_i^2 \right) \right] \\
 &= \sum_j \left\{ \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{q}_j} \right) - \frac{\partial T}{\partial q_j} \right\} \delta q_j
 \end{aligned}$$

The 1<sup>st</sup> term

$$\sum_i \mathbf{F}_i \cdot \delta \mathbf{r}_i = \sum_{j=1}^n Q_j \delta q_j$$

# Lagrange's equation from D'Alembert's principle

□ D'Alembert's principle in generalized coordinates becomes

$$\sum_j \left\{ \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\$T}{\$q} \right) - \frac{\$T}{\$q} \right\} \delta q_j = \sum_j Q_j \delta q_j$$

$$\sum_j \left[ \left\{ \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\$T}{\$q} \right) - \frac{\$T}{\$q} \right\} - Q_j \right] \delta q_j = 0$$



Well, we are very close to Lagrange's equation!

□ Since generalized coordinates  $q_j$  are all independent each term in the summation is zero

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\$T}{\$q} \right) - \frac{\$T}{\$q} = Q_j$$

$$- \left( \frac{\$V_i}{\$x_i} \hat{i} + \frac{\$V_i}{\$y_i} \hat{j} + \frac{\$V_i}{\$z_i} \hat{k} \right) \cdot \left( \frac{\$x_i}{\$q} \hat{i} + \frac{\$y_i}{\$q} \hat{j} + \frac{\$z_i}{\$q} \hat{k} \right)$$

$$= - \left( \frac{\$V_i}{\$x_i} \frac{\$x_i}{\$q_j} + \frac{\$V_i}{\$y_i} \frac{\$y_i}{\$q_j} + \frac{\$V_i}{\$z_i} \frac{\$z_i}{\$q_j} \right)$$

□ If all the forces are conservative, then  $\vec{F}_i = -\nabla V_i$

$$Q_j = \sum_i (-\nabla V_i) \cdot \frac{\$r_i}{\$q} = - \sum_i \frac{\$V_i}{\$q} = - \frac{\$}{\$q_i} \sum_i V_i = - \frac{\$V}{\$q}$$

Total potential

$$V = \sum_i V_i$$

# Lagrange's equation from D'Alembert's principle

Hence,

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\$T}{\$q} \right) - \frac{\$T}{\$q} = Q_j = - \frac{\$V}{\$q}$$

□ Assume that  $V$  does not depend on  $q_j$ , then  $\frac{\partial V}{\partial q_j} = 0$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left\{ \frac{\$}{\$q} (T - V) \right\} - \frac{\$(T - V)}{\$q} = 0$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial q} = 0$$

Where,

$$L(q_j, \dot{q}_j, t) = T(q_j, \dot{q}_j, t) - V(q_j, t)$$

We have reached to Lagrange's equation from D'Alembert's principle.

# Review of the steps we followed

- Started from Newton's law

$$m\ddot{\mathbf{r}} = \mathbf{F}_e + \mathbf{f}_c$$

- Taken dot product with virtual displacement to kick out constrain force from the game by using  $\mathbf{f}_c \cdot \delta \mathbf{r} = 0$ ; Arrive at D'Alembert's principle  $(\mathbf{F}_e - m\ddot{\mathbf{r}}) \cdot \delta \mathbf{r} = 0$

- Extended D'Alembert's principle for a system of particles;

$$\sum_{i=1}^N (\mathbf{F}_{ie} - m_i \ddot{\mathbf{r}}_i) \cdot \delta \mathbf{r}_i = 0$$

- Converted this expression in generalized coordinate system that "every" term of this summation is zero to get

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{q}_j} \right) - \frac{\partial T}{\partial q_j} = Q_j$$

**This is a more general expression!**

- Now, with the assumptions: i) Forces are conservative,  $\mathbf{F}_i = -\nabla \mathbf{V}_i$ , hence  $Q_j = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial q_j}$  and ii) potential does not depend on  $\dot{q}_j$ , then  $\frac{\partial V}{\partial \dot{q}_j} = 0$

We get back our Lagrange's eqn.,

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_j} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial q_j} = 0$$



## Discussion on generalized force

- A system may experience both conservative, non-conservative forces  
i.e.  $\vec{F}_i = \vec{F}_i^c + \vec{F}_i^{nc}$

- Hence generalized force for the system

$$Q_j = \sum_i \vec{F}_i \cdot \frac{\partial \vec{r}_i}{\partial q_j} = \sum_i \left( \vec{F}_i^c + \vec{F}_i^{nc} \right) \cdot \frac{\partial \vec{r}_i}{\partial q_j} = \sum_i \vec{F}_i^c \cdot \frac{\partial \vec{r}_i}{\partial q_j} + \sum_i \vec{F}_i^{nc} \cdot \frac{\partial \vec{r}_i}{\partial q_j}$$
$$Q_j = Q_j^c + Q_j^{nc}$$

$$Q_j^c = \sum_i \vec{F}_i^c \cdot \frac{\partial \vec{r}_i}{\partial q_j}$$

- Generalized force corresponding to conservative part

$$Q_j^{nc} = \sum_i \vec{F}_i^{nc} \cdot \frac{\partial \vec{r}_i}{\partial q_j}$$

- Generalized force corresponding to non-conservative part

# Lagrange's equation with both conservative and non-conservative force

- If system may experience both conservative, non-conservative forces

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \right) - \frac{\partial T}{\partial q_i} = Q_j^c + Q_j^{nc}$$

- Generalized force corresponding to conservative force can be derived from potential  $Q_j^c = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial q_j}$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \right) - \frac{\partial T}{\partial q_i} &= -\frac{\partial V}{\partial q_i} + Q_j^{nc} \\ \frac{d}{dt} \left\{ \frac{\partial}{\partial \dot{q}_j} (T - V) \right\} - \frac{\partial (T - V)}{\partial q_j} &= Q_j^{nc} \\ \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial q_i} &= Q_j^{nc} \end{aligned}$$

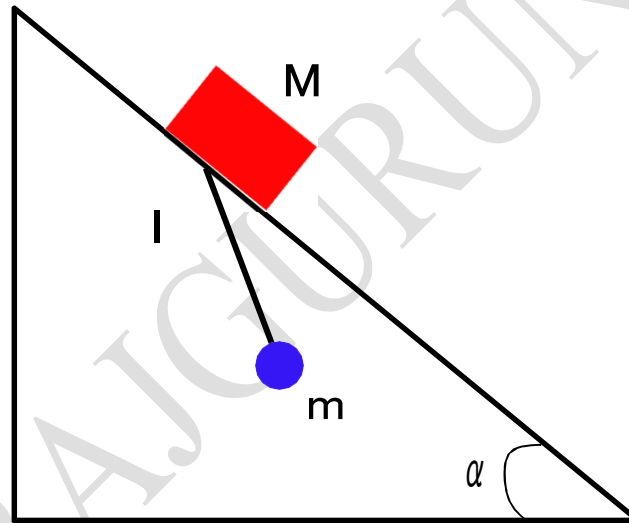
- Assume that  $V$  does not depend on  $q_j$ , then  $\frac{\partial V}{\partial q_j} = 0$

$$L = T - V$$

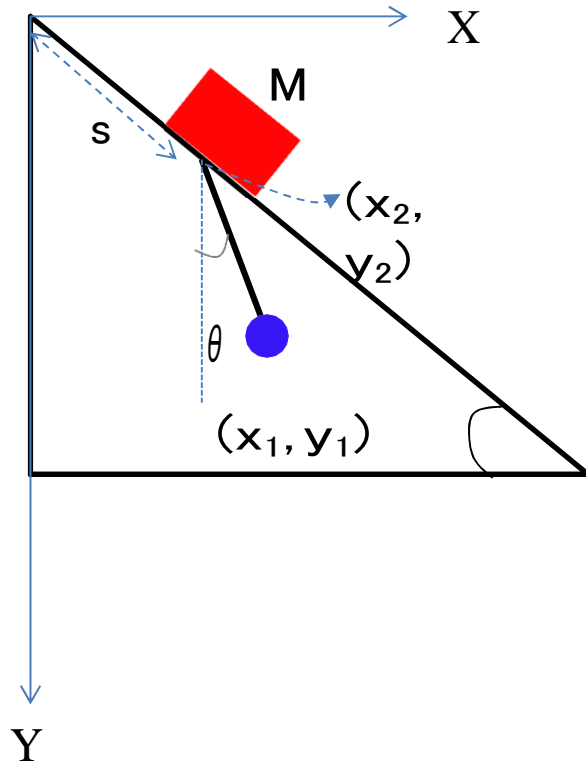
## More on Lagrange's equations

## Example-5

**Example 5:** A mass  $M$  slides down a frictionless plane inclined at angle  $\alpha$ . A pendulum, with length  $l$ , and mass  $m$ , is attached to  $M$ . Find the equations of motion. For small oscillation



## Example-5



Four constraints equations

$$z_1 = 0; z_2 = 0$$

$$y_2 = x_2 \tan \alpha$$

$$(y_2 - y_1)^2 + (x_2 - x_1)^2 = l^2$$

**Step-1:** Find the degrees of freedom and choose suitable generalized coordinates

Two particles  $N = 2$ , no. of constraints  $k \neq 4$

thus degrees of freedom  $= 3 \times 2 - 4 = 2$

Hence number of generalized coordinates must be two.

's' and 'θ' can serve as generalized coordinates (they are independent nature)

## Example-5 continued ....

**Step-2:** Find out transformation relations

$$\begin{aligned}x_2 &= s \cos \alpha ; y_2 = s \sin \alpha \\x_1 &= s \cos \alpha + l \sin \theta ; y_1 = s \sin \alpha + l \cos \theta\end{aligned}$$

All the constrains relations have been included in the problem through these relationship

**Step-3:** Write T and V in Cartesian

$$\begin{aligned}T &= \frac{1}{2}m(\dot{x}_1^2 + \dot{y}_1^2) + \frac{1}{2}M(\dot{x}_2^2 + \dot{y}_2^2) \\V &= -mgy_1 -\end{aligned}$$

**Step-4:** Convert

T and V in generalized coordinate using transformation

$$\begin{aligned}T &= \frac{1}{2}m[s^2 + l^2\theta^2 + 2ls\theta \cos(\alpha + \theta)] + \frac{1}{2} \\V &= -mg(s \sin \alpha + l \cos \theta) - Mgs \sin \alpha\end{aligned}$$

From transformation equation

$$\begin{aligned}x_2 &= s \cos \alpha ; y_2 = s \sin \alpha \\x_1 &= s \cos \alpha + l \cos \theta ; \\y_1 &= s \sin \alpha - l \sin \theta\end{aligned}$$

## Example-5 continued ....

**Step-5:** Write down Lagrangian

$$L = T - V$$

$$L = \frac{1}{2}m[\dot{s}^2 + l^2\dot{\theta}^2 + 2l\dot{s}\dot{\theta}\cos(\alpha + \theta)] + \frac{1}{2}M\dot{s}^2 + mg(s\sin\alpha + l\cos\theta) + Mgs\sin\alpha$$

**Step-5:** Write down Lagrange's equation for each generalized coordinates

$$\frac{d}{dt}\left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{s}}\right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial s} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{d}{dt}\left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\theta}}\right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial \theta} = 0$$

From 1<sup>st</sup> eqn

$$\frac{d}{dt}[m\dot{s} + ml\dot{\theta}\cos(\alpha + \theta) + M\dot{s}] - mg\sin\alpha - Mg\sin\alpha = 0$$

$$(m + M)\ddot{s} + ml\ddot{\theta}\cos(\alpha + \theta) - ml\dot{\theta}^2\sin(\alpha + \theta) - (m + M)g\sin\alpha = 0$$

From 2<sup>nd</sup> eqn

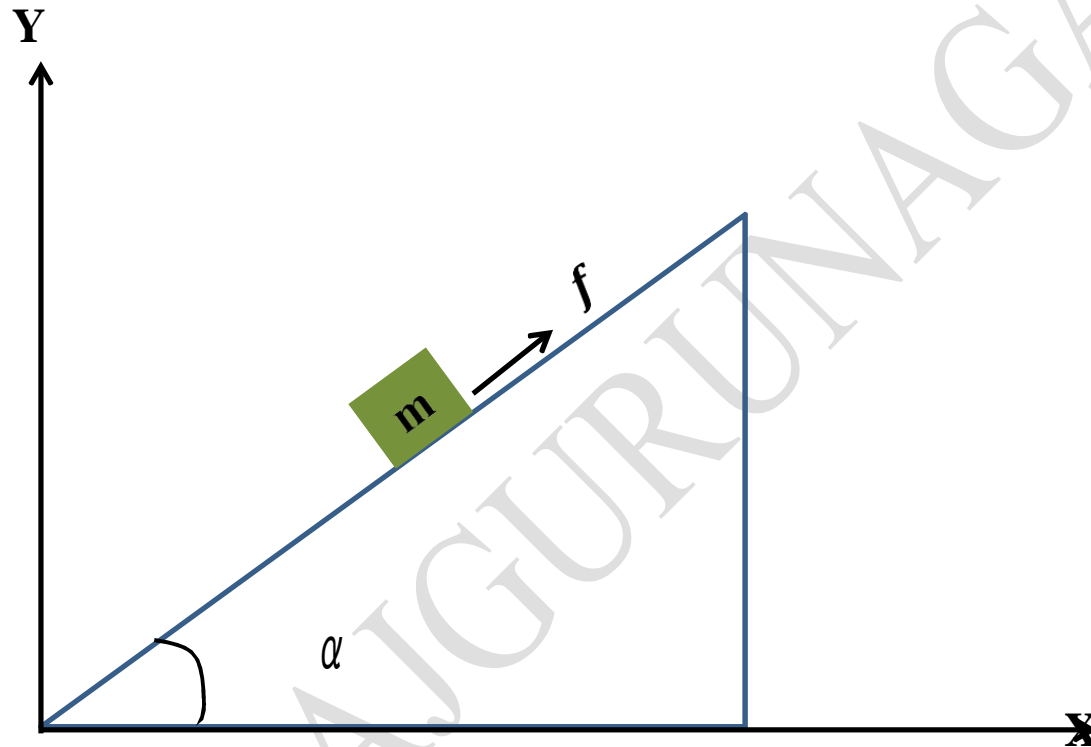
$$\frac{d}{dt}[ml^2\ddot{\theta} + mls\ddot{\theta}\cos(\alpha + \theta)] + mls\dot{\theta}\sin(\alpha + \theta) + mgl\sin\theta = 0$$

$$ml^2\ddot{\theta} + mls\ddot{\theta}\cos(\alpha + \theta) + mgl\sin\theta = 0$$

## Problems with generalized force

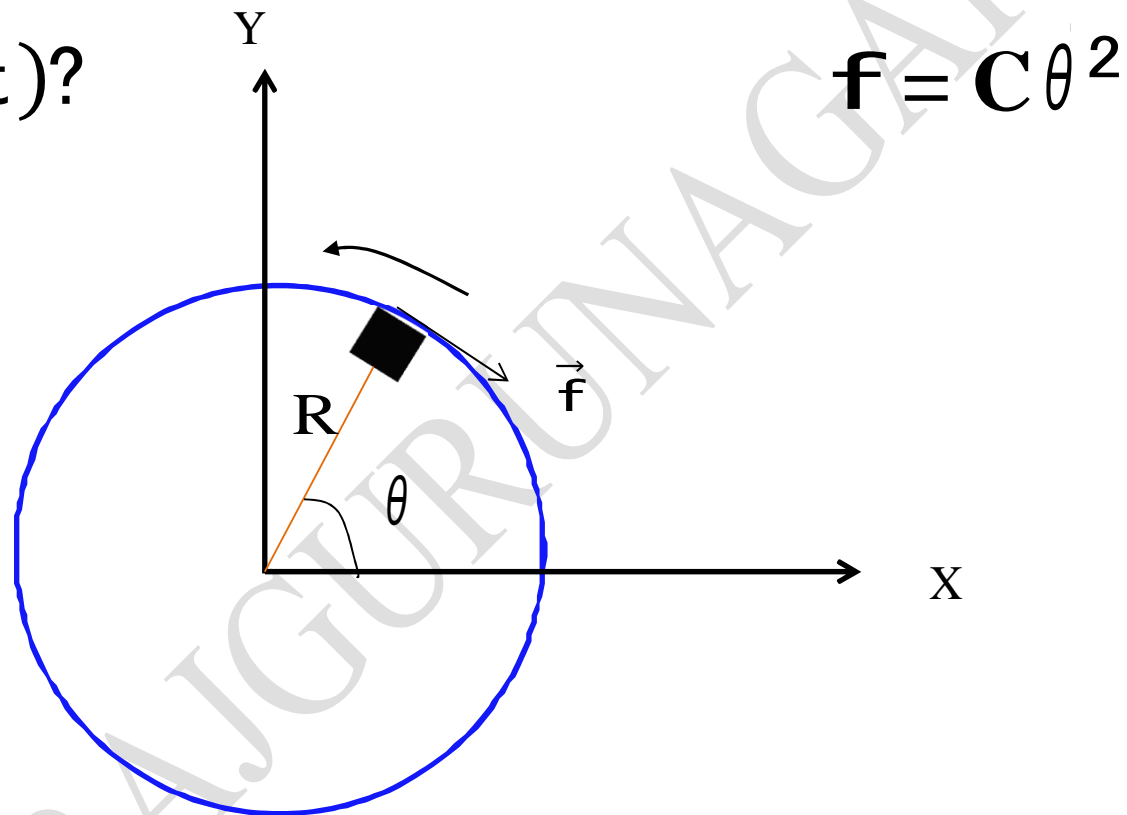


## Example-6

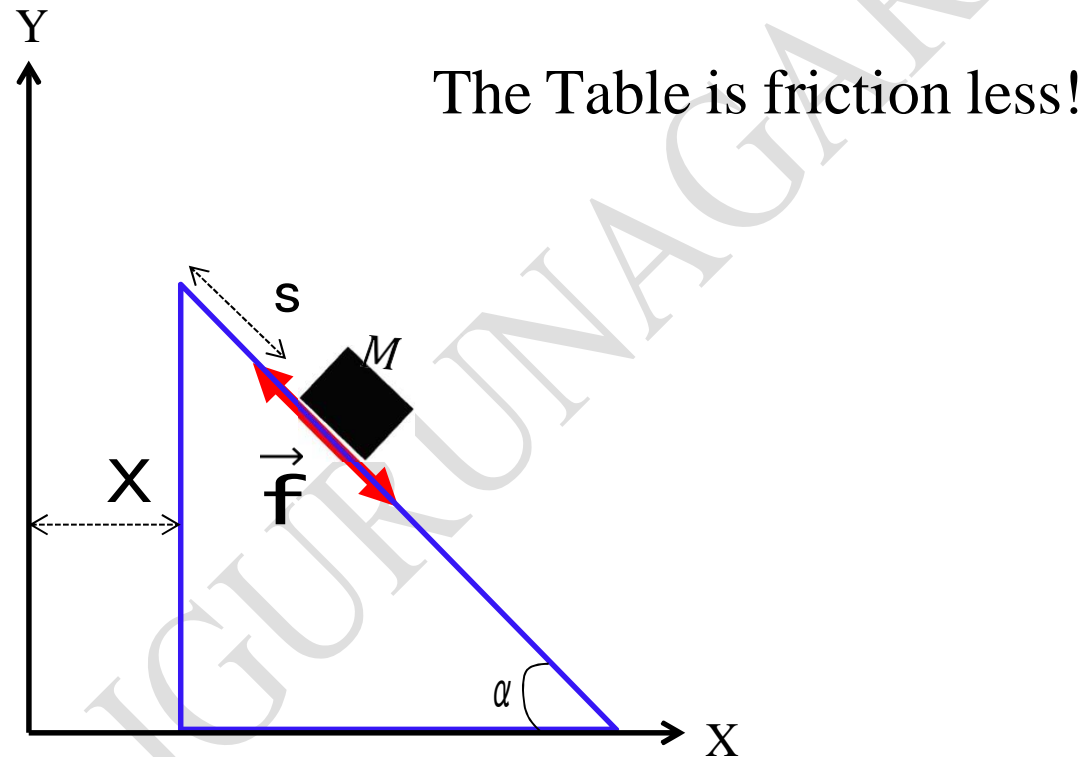


## Example-7; Ring & mass on horizontal plane

Find  $\theta(t)$ ?



## Example-8; Wedge & Block under friction, $f$



Generalized coordinate  $(X, s)$

HRM RAJGURUNAGAR