

A point mass  $m$  glides without friction on a cycloid, which is given by  $x = a(\theta - \sin \theta)$  and  $y = a(1 + \cos \theta)$  ( $0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$ ). The apparatus sits in a uniform vertical gravitational field and the motion of the point mass  $m$  is in the  $x$ - $y$  plane.

- (a) Express the Lagrangian in terms of  $\theta$  and  $\dot{\theta}$ .
- (b) Determine the equation of motion.
- (c) Let  $u = \cos(\theta/2)$ . Without assuming a small displacement of the point mass from the bottom of the cycloid, show that the exact solution for  $u$  satisfies the equation

$$\frac{d^2 u}{dt^2} + \frac{g}{4a} u = 0.$$

- (d) Find the general solution for  $u(t)$ .

