

Hamilton's Principle- Lagrangian and

Hamiltonian Dynamics

Sir Isaac Newton





Joseph-Louis Lagrange

Experience has shown that a particle's motion in an internal reference frame is

correctly described by the Newtonian equation (see Chapter 2) $F = \dot{p}$



This is a complicated system!



The Euler-Lagrange equations is given by $\frac{\partial L}{\partial x_i} - \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}_i} = 0, \quad i = 1,2,3$

2. Simple Harmonic Oscillator

The equation of motion

Substitute the Hooke's Law in Newtonian equation

$$-kx = F$$

$$-kx = m\ddot{x}$$

Let
$$\omega_0^2 = k/m$$

$$m\ddot{x} + kx = 0 \quad \Longrightarrow \quad \ddot{x} + \left(\frac{k}{m}\right)x = 0 \quad \Longrightarrow \quad \ddot{x} + \omega_0^2 x = 0$$

Example 7.1: Use the Lagrange equation to obtain the equation of

motion for one-dimensional harmonic oscillator.

Answer:

With the usual expressions for the kinetic and potential energies, we have

$$L = T - U$$

$$L = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2 - \frac{1}{2}kx^2$$



This is identical with the equation of motion obtained using Newtonian

mechanics (See Chapter 3).

3. The Simple Pendulum





mg



Example 7.2: Use the Lagrange equation to obtain the equation of motion

of Simple pendulum.

Answer:

The kinetic and potential energies of the system are given by:

$$T = \frac{1}{2}ml^2\dot{\theta}^2$$

 $U = mgl(1 - \cos\theta)$

$$L = T - U$$

$$L = \frac{1}{2}ml^{2}\dot{\theta}^{2} - mgl(1 - \cos\theta)$$

$$L = \frac{1}{2}ml^{2}\dot{\theta}^{2} - mgl(1 - \cos\theta)$$

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

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \theta} = -mgl\sin\theta$$

$$-mgl\sin\theta - ml^{2}\ddot{\theta} = 0$$

$$g\sin\theta + l\ddot{\theta} = 0$$

$$\frac{d}{dt}\left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\theta}}\right) = ml^{2}\ddot{\theta}$$

$$\ddot{\theta} + \left(\frac{g}{l}\right)\sin\theta = 0$$

This is a remarkable result!

It has been obtained by calculating the kinetic and potential energies in terms of

 θ rather than *x* and then applying a set of operations designed for use with rectangular rather than angular coordinates.

Another important characteristic of the method used in two preceding simple

examples is that nowhere in the calculation did there enter any statement **regarding**

force.

Example 7.3. Use the (x, y) coordinate system to find the kinetic energy T,

potential energy *U*, and the Lagrangian *L* for a simple pendulum (length *l*, mass

bob m) moving in x,y plane .Determine the transformation equations from the

(*x*, *y*) rectangular system to the coordinate θ . Find the equation of motion.

Answer:

The kinetic and potential energies and the Lagrangian become

$$T = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^{2} + \frac{1}{2}m\dot{y}^{2} \qquad \qquad U = mgy$$

$$L = T - U = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^{2} + \frac{1}{2}m\dot{y}^{2} - mgy$$

Inspection reveals that the motion can be better described by using θ and $\dot{\theta}$. Let's

transform *x* and *y* into the coordinate θ and then find *L* in terms of θ .

$$x = l\sin\theta \qquad \qquad y = -l\cos\theta$$

We now find for \dot{x} and \dot{y}

$$\dot{x} = l \dot{\theta} \cos \theta \qquad \qquad \dot{y} = l \dot{\theta} \sin \theta$$

$$L = \frac{m}{2} \left(l^2 \dot{\theta}^2 \cos^2 \theta + l^2 \dot{\theta}^2 \sin^2 \theta \right) + mgl \cos \theta$$

$$L = \frac{m}{2}l^{2}\dot{\theta}^{2} + mgl\cos\theta$$
$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \theta} - \frac{d}{dt}\left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\theta}}\right)$$
$$\ddot{\theta} + \left(\frac{g}{l}\right)\sin\theta = 0$$

7.4 Lagrange's Equations of motion in Generalized coordinates.

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial q_j} - \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_j} = 0, \qquad j = 1, 2, \dots, s$$

It is important to realize that the validity of Lagrange's equation requires the following two conditions:

1. The force acting on the system (apart from any forces of constraint) must be

derivable from the potential

2. The equations of constraint must be relations that connect the coordinates of the particles and may be functions of the time.

Example 7.4: Consider the case of projectile motion under gravity in two

dimensions (as was discussed in Chapter 2). Find the equations of motion in both

Cartesian and polar coordinates.



In Cartesian coordinate, we use xx (horizantoal) and y y (vertical).

$$T = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2 + \frac{1}{2}m\dot{y}^2$$

U = mgy

Where
$$U = 0$$
 at $y = 0$ $L = T - U = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2 + \frac{1}{2}m\dot{y}^2 - mgy$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x}: & \frac{\partial L}{\partial x} - \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}} = 0 \\ & 0 - \frac{d}{dt} m \dot{x} = 0 \\ & \ddot{x} = 0 \end{aligned}$$
$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{y}: & \frac{\partial L}{\partial y} - \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{y}} = 0 \\ & -mg - \frac{d}{dt} (m \dot{y}) = 0 \\ & \ddot{y} = -g \end{aligned}$$

$$L = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^{2} + \frac{1}{2}m\dot{y}^{2} - mgy$$

In polar coordinate, we use r (in radial direction) and θ (elevation angle from horizontal)

$$T = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{r}^2 + \frac{1}{2}m(r\dot{\theta})^2 \qquad \qquad U = mgr\sin\theta$$

Where U = 0 for $\theta = 0$

$$L = T - U = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{r}^{2} + \frac{1}{2}mr^{2}\dot{\theta}^{2} - mgr\sin\theta$$

$$r: \qquad \frac{\partial L}{\partial r} - \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{r}} = 0$$

$$mr\dot{\theta}^2 - mg\sin\theta - \frac{d}{dt}(m\dot{r}) = 0$$

$$r\dot{\theta}^2 - g\sin\theta - \ddot{r} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \theta} - \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\theta}} = 0$$

$$\theta: \qquad -mgr\cos\theta - \frac{d}{dt}(mr^2\dot{\theta}) = 0$$

$$-gr\cos\theta - 2r\dot{r}\theta - r^2\ddot{\theta} = 0$$

$$L = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{r}^2 + \frac{1}{2}mr^2\dot{\theta}^2 - mgr\sin\theta$$

Canonical Equations of Motion-Hamiltonian

In the previous section, we found that if the potential energy of a system is velocity independent, then the linear momentum components in rectangular coordinates are given by

$$p_i = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}}$$

By analogy, we extend this result to the case in which the Lagrangian is expressed in generalized coordinates and define the generalized momenta* according to

$$p_j = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q_j}}$$

Using the definition of the generalized momenta for the Hamiltonian may be written as

$$H = \sum p_j \, \dot{q}_j \, - L$$

$$\dot{q}_j = \dot{x} = v$$

 $p_j = p = linear momentum$



Example 7.5: Find the equations of motion for a system of particle moving in a

potential region where U = cx using Hamiltonian method.

If U = cx Particle gain height

$$H = T + U$$



$$m\frac{d}{dt}\left(\frac{\partial H}{\partial p}\right) + \frac{\partial H}{\partial x} = 0$$

$$\boxed{m\ddot{x} + c = 0} \qquad \text{OR} \qquad \boxed{\ddot{x} = -\frac{c}{m}}$$

Equation of motion

Example 7.6: Find the equations of motion for a system of simple Oscillator using

the Hamiltonian method.





Example 7.7: Find the equations of motion for a system of free fall particle using

the Hamiltonian method.

$$H = T + U$$

$$H = \frac{1}{2}mv^{2} + mgx$$

$$p = mv = m\dot{x}$$

$$p^{2} = m^{2}\dot{x}^{2}$$

$$H = \frac{p^{2}}{2m} + mgx$$



$$\frac{\partial H}{\partial x} = mg$$

$$\frac{\partial H}{\partial p} = \frac{p}{m} = \dot{x}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt}(\frac{\partial H}{\partial p}) = \ddot{x}$$

 ${\mathcal X}$

$$m\frac{d}{dt}\left(\frac{\partial H}{\partial p}\right) + \frac{\partial H}{\partial x} = 0$$

$$m\ddot{x} + mg = 0 \qquad \text{OR} \qquad \ddot{x} = -g \qquad Equation of motion$$



Example 7.8: Obtain Hamilton's equations of motion for one-dimensional harmonic

oscillator and use them to find the differential equation.





