

Absolutely! Let's derive Newton's second law $F = ma$ from the Euler-Lagrange equation step by step.

Euler-Lagrange Equation The Euler-Lagrange equation is given by:

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

where L is the Lagrangian, x is the position, and \dot{x} is the velocity.

Lagrangian for a Particle For a particle of mass m moving in a potential $V(x)$, the Lagrangian L is:

$$L = T - V = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2 - V(x)$$

Applying the Euler-Lagrange Equation 1. **Calculate $\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}}$:

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \dot{x}} \left(\frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2 - V(x) \right) = m\dot{x}$$

2. **Calculate $\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}} \right)$: ** $\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}} \right) = \frac{d}{dt} (m\dot{x}) = m\ddot{x}$

3. **Calculate $\frac{\partial L}{\partial x}$:

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2 - V(x) \right) = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial x}$$

Substitute into the Euler-Lagrange Equation Substitute these results into the Euler-Lagrange equation:

$$m\ddot{x} - \left(-\frac{\partial V}{\partial x} \right) = 0$$

which simplifies to:

$$m\ddot{x} = \frac{\partial V}{\partial x}$$

Newton's Second Law Recognize that $\frac{\partial V}{\partial x}$ is the force F acting on the particle:

$$F = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial x}$$

Thus, we have:

$$F = m\ddot{x}$$

or equivalently:

$$F = ma$$

And there you have it! Newton's second law $F = ma$ derived from the Euler-Lagrange equation. If you have any questions or need further clarification, feel free to ask!

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