

Fundamentals of Planetary Science Homework 2

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Kepler's Laws Derived from Newton's Laws

Starting from the Lagrangian formalism:

$$\begin{aligned}T &= \frac{1}{2}m\dot{r}^2 + \frac{1}{2}mr^2\dot{\theta}^2 \\V &= -\frac{GMm}{r} \\ \mathcal{L} = T - V &= \frac{1}{2}m\dot{r}^2 + \frac{1}{2}mr^2\dot{\theta}^2 + \frac{GMm}{r}\end{aligned}$$

Applying the Euler-Lagrange equations:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{dt}\frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial\dot{r}} &= \frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial r} \\ m\ddot{r} &= mr\dot{\theta}^2 - \frac{GMm}{r^2} \\ \frac{d}{dt}\frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial\dot{\theta}} &= \frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial\theta} \\ \frac{d}{dt}(mr^2\dot{\theta}) &= 0 \Rightarrow mr^2\dot{\theta} = L \quad (\text{Conservation of angular momentum})\end{aligned}$$

Hamiltonian:

$$\begin{aligned}H &= \sum \dot{q} \frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial\dot{q}} - \mathcal{L} \\ &= \frac{1}{2}m\dot{r}^2 + \frac{1}{2}mr^2\dot{\theta}^2 - \frac{GMm}{r} \\ &= \frac{1}{2}m\dot{r}^2 + \frac{1}{2}mr^2 \frac{L^2}{m^2r^4} - \frac{GMm}{r} \\ &= \frac{1}{2}m\dot{r}^2 + \left(\frac{L^2}{2mr^2} - \frac{GMm}{r} \right) = T + U_{\text{eff}}\end{aligned}$$

Using energy conservation $E = H$:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dr}{dt} &= \sqrt{\frac{2}{m}}\sqrt{E - U} \\ dt &= \frac{d\theta}{\dot{\theta}} = \frac{mr^2 d\theta}{L} \\ \frac{dr}{\sqrt{\frac{2}{m}(E - U_{\text{eff}})}} &= \frac{mr^2 d\theta}{L}\end{aligned}$$

Transforming variables:

$$\begin{aligned}
d\theta &= \frac{L}{m} \frac{\frac{dr}{r^2}}{\sqrt{\frac{2E}{m} - \frac{L^2}{m^2 r^2} + \frac{2GM}{r}}} \\
&= \frac{L}{m} \frac{-d\frac{1}{r}}{\sqrt{-\frac{L^2}{m^2} \left(\frac{1}{r} - \frac{2GMm^2}{L^2} \frac{1}{r}\right) + \frac{2E}{m}}} \\
&= \frac{L}{m} \frac{-d\frac{1}{r}}{\sqrt{-\frac{L^2}{m^2} \left(\frac{1}{r} - \frac{GMm^2}{L^2}\right)^2 + \frac{G^2 M^2 m^4}{L^4} + \frac{2Em}{L^2}}} \\
&= \frac{-d\frac{1}{r}}{\sqrt{-(\frac{1}{r} - \frac{GMm^2}{L^2})^2 + \frac{G^2 M^2 m^4}{L^4} + \frac{2Em}{L^2}}} \\
&= \frac{-du}{\sqrt{A^2 - u^2}}
\end{aligned}$$

Let $u = A \cos \varphi$, we get the conic solution:

$$\begin{aligned}
d\theta &= \frac{\sin \varphi d\varphi}{\sin \varphi} \\
\theta &= \arccos \cos \varphi \\
\cos \theta &= \cos \varphi = \frac{\frac{1}{r} - \frac{GMm^2}{L^2}}{\sqrt{\frac{G^2 M^2 m^4}{L^4} + \frac{2Em}{L^2}}} \\
r &= \frac{1}{\frac{GMm^2}{L^2} + \sqrt{\frac{G^2 M^2 m^4}{L^4} + \frac{2Em}{L^2}} \cos \theta} \\
&= \frac{\frac{L^2}{GMm^2}}{1 + \sqrt{1 + \frac{2EL^2}{G^2 M^2 m^3}} \cos \theta} \quad (\text{First Law}) \\
&= \frac{p}{1 + e \cos \theta}
\end{aligned}$$

For ellipse:

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{p}{1+e} &= a - c \\
\frac{p}{1-e} &= a + c \\
2a &= \frac{p}{1+e} + \frac{p}{1-e} = p \frac{2}{1-e^2} \Rightarrow a = \frac{p}{1-e^2} \\
b &= \sqrt{a^2 - a^2 e^2} = a \sqrt{1 - e^2} = \frac{p}{\sqrt{1 - e^2}}
\end{aligned}$$

For period:

$$\begin{aligned}
P &= \frac{L^2}{GMm^2} \\
e &= \sqrt{1 + \frac{2EL^2}{G^2 M^2 m^3}}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& mr^2\dot{\theta} = L \\
& \frac{1}{2}r^2\dot{\theta} = \frac{L}{2m} = \frac{dS}{dt} = \frac{\pi ab}{T} \quad (\text{Second law}) \\
& T = \frac{\pi ab \cdot 2m}{L} = \frac{2\pi ma^2\sqrt{1-e^2}}{L} = \frac{2\pi m \cdot a^{3/2}}{\sqrt{GM} \cdot m} \\
& \frac{T^2}{a^3} = \frac{4\pi^2}{GM} \quad (\text{Third Law})
\end{aligned}$$