

Exercise 1 - Euler-Lagrange Modelling

Consider the cart-pole system shown in Figure 1. Derive the equations of motions of the cart-pole system using the Euler-Lagrange modelling symbolically. Parameters can be selected as $m = 1$ kg, $M = 10$ kg, $l = 0.5$ m for simulation purposes.

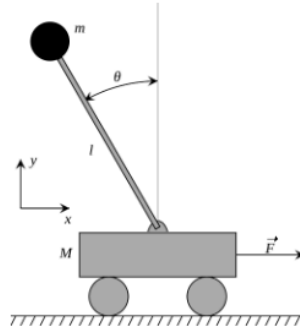


Figure 1: Sketch of cart-pole system.

(1) Coordinates/Kinematics

1) Choose generalized coordinates

Use

$$q = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ \theta \end{bmatrix}, \quad \dot{q} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x} \\ \dot{\theta} \end{bmatrix}$$

- x = cart position (horizontal)
- θ = pole angle (I'll assume **measured from vertical**, like the figure)

2) Kinematics (position of each COM)

Cart COM (just moves in x , $y=0$):

$$p_c = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Pole point-mass COM at distance l from pivot:

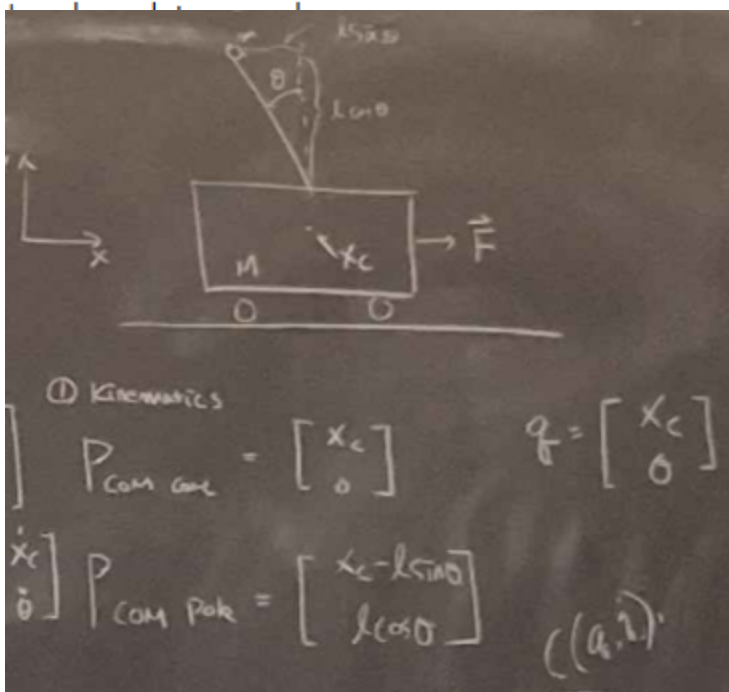
A clean common choice (pivot at cart top/center) is:

$$p_p = \begin{bmatrix} x + l \sin \theta \\ l \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$$

(Your sign on the $l \sin \theta$ term was opposite; that's not "wrong" if your θ sign convention matches it, but you must be consistent everywhere.)

Velocity via Jacobian:

$$\dot{p} = J(q)\dot{q}, \quad J = \frac{\partial p}{\partial q}$$



(2) Jacobian/Energies

3) Energies (this is where your code mainly broke)



Potential energy

Gravity in 2D: easiest is **just use** $V = mgy$.

- Cart: $V_c = Mg \cdot 0 = 0$
- Pole: $V_p = mg(l \cos \theta)$

So:

$$V = mgl \cos \theta$$

What went wrong in your code: you did something like `1/2*M*(g*theta')*P_com_cart` which is not the formula for gravitational potential energy. There's no `1/2`, and you want a **dot product** with the gravity direction, or simply mgy .

Kinetic energy

- Cart: $T_c = \frac{1}{2}M\dot{x}^2$
- Pole (point mass at COM): $T_p = \frac{1}{2}m\|\dot{p}_p\|^2$

Compute \dot{p}_p :

$$\dot{p}_p = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x} + l \cos \theta \dot{\theta} \\ -l \sin \theta \dot{\theta} \end{bmatrix}$$

Then

$$\|\dot{p}_p\|^2 = (\dot{x} + l \cos \theta \dot{\theta})^2 + (l \sin \theta \dot{\theta})^2 = \dot{x}^2 + 2l \cos \theta \dot{x} \dot{\theta} + l^2 \dot{\theta}^2$$

So:

$$T = \frac{1}{2}(M + m)\dot{x}^2 + ml \cos \theta \dot{x} \dot{\theta} + \frac{1}{2}ml^2 \dot{\theta}^2$$

What went wrong in your code: you were multiplying \downarrow vectors elementwise and never did $v^T v$. Kinetic energy must be scalar.

② Jacobian

$$\dot{P}_{con, rot} = \frac{\partial P_{con, rot}}{\partial \dot{q}} \dot{q} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_c \\ \dot{\theta} \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{①}$$

$$\dot{P}_{con, pde} = \frac{\partial P_{con, pde}}{\partial \dot{q}} \dot{q} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -l \cos \theta \\ 0 & -l \sin \theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_c \\ \dot{\theta} \end{bmatrix}$$

↓
Jacobian

$$E_{pot} = - \sum_{i=1}^n m_i g^T p_{i,0}(q)$$

$$E_{pot} = - \left(M \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -g \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_c \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + m \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -g \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_c - l \sin \theta \\ l \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

$$E_{kin} = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{2} m_i \dot{q}^T J_{i,0}^T J_{i,0} \dot{q}$$

$$L = E_{kin} - E_{pot}$$

$$\boxed{\frac{1}{2} m v^2}$$

$$\boxed{|B(\dot{q})|}$$

4) Lagrangian and Euler-Lagrange

$$L = T - V$$

Euler-Lagrange with generalized forces $Q = [F, 0]^T$:

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

This gives the standard coupled equations:

$$(M + m)\ddot{x} + ml \cos \theta \ddot{\theta} - ml \sin \theta \dot{\theta}^2 = F$$

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

That's already a valid "symbolic derivation" result.

Handwritten derivation of the Lagrangian and Euler-Lagrange equations for a cart-pendulum system.

The Lagrangian is given by:

$$L = E_{\text{kin}} - E_{\text{pot}}$$

The kinetic energy is calculated as:

$$= \frac{1}{2} M \dot{x}^T \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \dot{x} + \frac{1}{2} m \dot{\theta}^T J_{\text{pde}}^T J_{\text{pde}} \dot{\theta} - mgl \cos \theta$$

The potential energy is:

$$= \frac{1}{2} \dot{\theta}^T \left(\begin{bmatrix} M+m & -ml \cos \theta \\ -ml \cos \theta & ml^2 \end{bmatrix} \right) \dot{\theta} - mgl \cos \theta$$

The matrix is identified as $B(\theta)$.

The Euler-Lagrange equation is written as:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}} - \frac{\partial L}{\partial q} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ u \end{bmatrix}$$

Downward arrow indicates the resulting equation:

$$B(\theta) \ddot{q} + c(\theta, \dot{\theta}) \dot{q} + g(\theta) = 0$$

Find $B(\theta)$, $c(\theta, \dot{\theta})$, $g(\theta)$

$$B(q)\ddot{q} + B(q)\dot{q} - \frac{\partial L}{\partial q} = B(q)\ddot{q} + \begin{bmatrix} m l \sin \theta^2 \\ m l \sin \theta \dot{\theta} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_c \\ \dot{\theta} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -m l \sin \theta \dot{x}_c - m g l \sin \theta \end{bmatrix} = B(q)\ddot{q} + \begin{bmatrix} m l \sin \theta^2 \\ m l \sin \theta \dot{\theta} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_c \\ \dot{\theta} \end{bmatrix} - m g l \sin \theta$$

$$] = B(q)\ddot{q} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & m l \sin \theta \dot{\theta} \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_c \\ \dot{\theta} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -m g l \sin \theta \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ u \end{bmatrix}$$

\downarrow
 $\alpha(q)$