

# System Dynamics and Vibrations

Prof. Gustavo Alonso

## Chapter 1: Elements of analytical dynamics Part 1

School of General Engineering  
Beihang University (BUAA)

# Introduction

## ➤ Newtonian mechanics (vectorial mechanics)

- Equations of motion for individual particles expressed in terms of physical coordinates and forces (represented both by vectors)
- Free-body diagram for each of the masses in the system
- Involve reaction forces and interacting forces (kinematical constraints) ➔ many equations and unknowns

# Introduction

- Analytical mechanics (Lagrange, variational approach)
  - Considers the systems as a whole → reaction and constraint forces are excluded
  - Dynamics problems formulated in terms of: kinetic energy, potential energy, virtual work of non-conservative forces
  - Equations of motion formulated in terms of generalized coordinates and generalized forces → broader and more abstract approach
  - The mathematical formulation is independent of any special system of coordinates

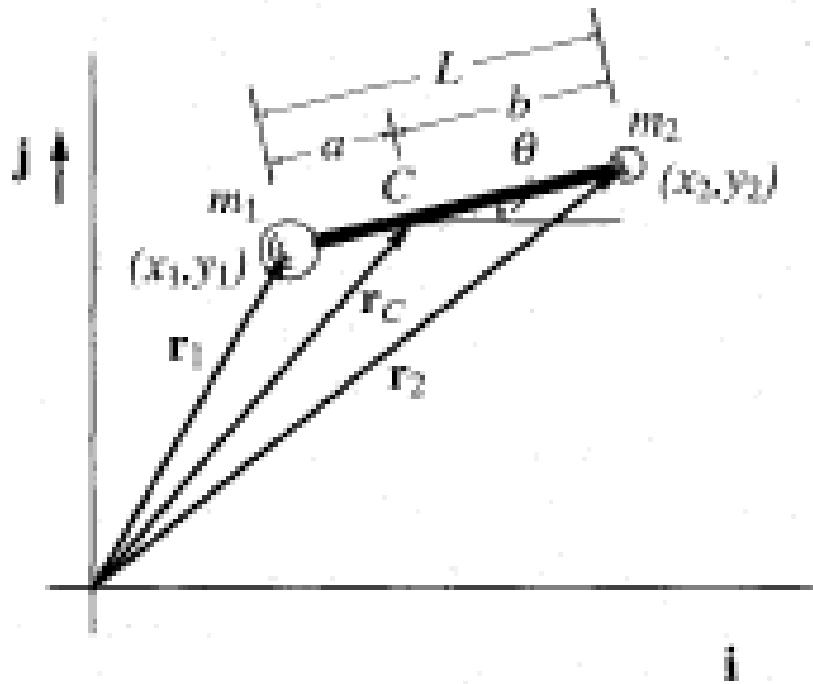
# Contents

- Introduction
- Degrees of freedom and generalized coordinates
- The principle of virtual work
- The principle of D'Alembert
- Lagrange's equations

# Degrees of freedom and generalized coordinates

- Equations of motion for a system by the Newtonian approach:
  - Isolate the masses
  - Draw one free-body diagram for each of the masses, including all forces acting upon it:
    - Applied forces
    - Reaction forces
    - Internal forces
  - We obtain normally more equations and unknowns than necessary
  - The motion is described in terms of physical coordinates: may not always be independent → equations of motion + constraint equations

# Degrees of freedom and generalized coordinates



- Movement in  $x, y$  – plane

- Position vectors:

$$\mathbf{r}_1 = x_1 \mathbf{i} + y_1 \mathbf{j}, \quad \mathbf{r}_2 = x_2 \mathbf{i} + y_2 \mathbf{j},$$

- $x_1, x_2, y_1, y_2$  are not independent

$$(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2 = L^2$$

➔ constraint equation (+ the equations of motion)

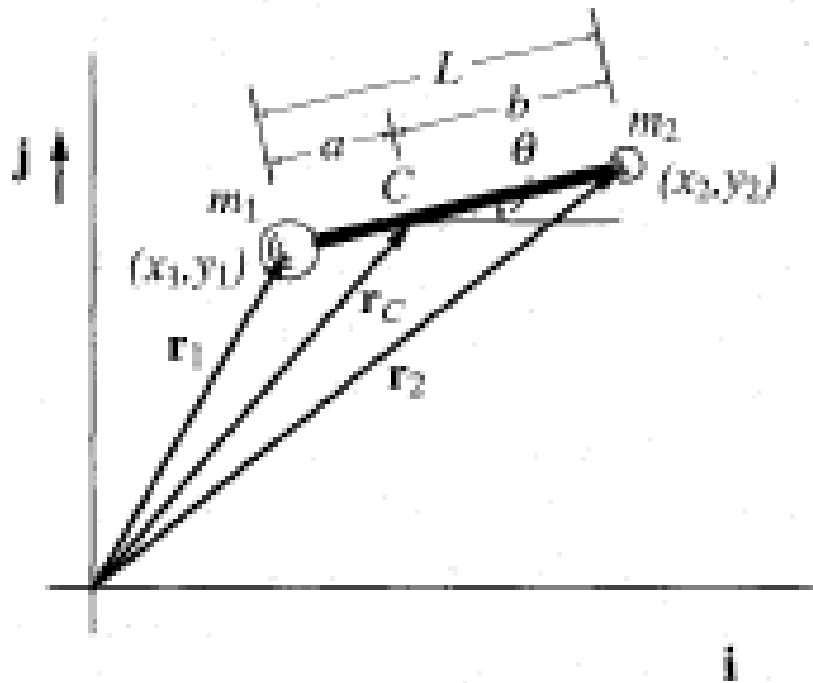
# Degrees of freedom and generalized coordinates

- A better choice of coordinates obviates the difficulties of working with too many coordinates and constraint equations
- For a system of  $N$  mass particles with positions defined by the radius vectors  $\mathbf{r}_i (x_i, y_i, z_i)$  in a three-dimensional space:

$$n = 3N - c$$

- $c$  number of constraints
- $n$  number of **degrees of freedom of the system**

# Degrees of freedom and generalized coordinates



- Much simpler in generalized coordinates:

$$\mathbf{r}_C = \mathbf{r}_C(x_C, y_C)$$

$$\theta$$

- Three independent coordinates:

$$x_C, y_C, \theta$$

- No constraint equation is needed

$$\mathbf{r}_1 = \mathbf{r}_C - a(\cos \theta \mathbf{i} + \sin \theta \mathbf{j}), \quad \mathbf{r}_2 = \mathbf{r}_C + b(\cos \theta \mathbf{i} + \sin \theta \mathbf{j}),$$

$$a = \frac{m_2 L}{m_1 + m_2},$$

$$b = \frac{m_1 L}{m_1 + m_2},$$



# Degrees of freedom and generalized coordinates

- Independent coordinates are normally called generalized coordinates:  $q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n$
- Coordinate transformation:

$$x_1 = x_1(q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n)$$

$$y_1 = y_1(q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n)$$

$$z_1 = z_1(q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n)$$

$$x_2 = x_2(q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n)$$

.....

$$z_N = z_N(q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n)$$

# Degrees of freedom and generalized coordinates

- Generalized coordinates  $q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n$  are not unique for a given system
- Normally only one or two sets may represent a suitable choice  $\rightarrow$  the equations of motion in terms of these coordinates have the simplest form
- In vibrations, this choice is obvious for most of the cases

# Contents

- Introduction
- Degrees of freedom and generalized coordinates
- The principle of virtual work
- The principle of D'Alembert
- Lagrange's equations

# The principle of virtual work

- Basically a statement of the **static equilibrium** of a mechanical system
- The first variational principle of mechanics
- Tool to transition from Newtonian mechanics to Lagrangian mechanics
- New concepts:
  - Virtual displacements
  - Constraint forces

# The principle of virtual work

- System of  $N$  particles in a three-dimensional space
- We define **virtual displacements** as *infinitesimal changes in the coordinates  $x_1, y_1, z_1, x_2, \dots, z_n$*

$$\delta x_1, \delta y_1, \delta z_1, \delta x_2, \dots, \delta z_N$$

- Virtual displacements must be:
  - Consistent with the system constraints, but
  - Arbitrary

# The principle of virtual work

- Virtual displacements represent small variations in the coordinates resulting from imagining the system in a slightly displaced position:
  - Virtual displacements take place instantaneously  $\rightarrow \delta t = 0$
- Symbol  $\delta$  emphasizes the virtual character of the instantaneous variations
- Symbol  $d$  represents actual differentials of position coordinates taking place in the time interval  $dt$  (forces can change in that time interval)
  - Virtual displacements, being infinitesimal, obey the rules of differential calculus

# The principle of virtual work

- We assume that every one of the  $N$  particles in the system is acted upon by the resultant force

$$\mathbf{R}_i = \mathbf{F}_i + \mathbf{f}_i, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N$$

$\mathbf{F}_i$  is an applied force (gravitational force, aerodynamic lift and drag, magnetic forces, etc.)

$\mathbf{f}_i$  is a constraint force (for example the force that keeps a particle confined to a given surface)

# The principle of virtual work

- For a system in equilibrium every particle must be at rest
- Then:

$$\mathbf{R}_i = \mathbf{F}_i + \mathbf{f}_i = \mathbf{0}, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N$$

$$\overline{\delta W_i} = \mathbf{R}_i \cdot \delta \mathbf{r}_i = 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N$$

$\overline{\delta W_i}$  represents the virtual work performed by the resultant force vector  $\mathbf{R}_i$  over the virtual displacement vector  $\delta \mathbf{r}_i$  of particle  $i$



# The principle of virtual work

- Summing up over  $i$ :

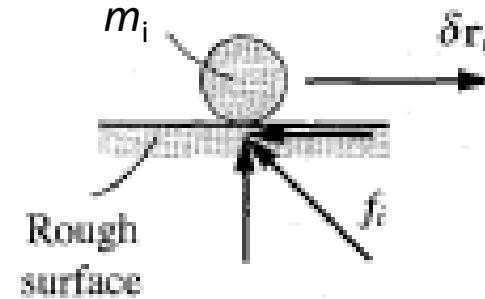
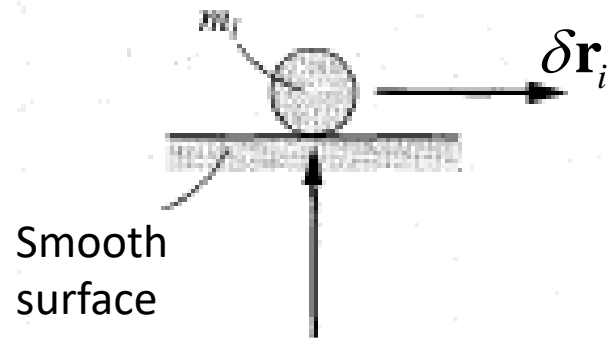
$$\overline{\delta W} = \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{R}_i \cdot \delta \mathbf{r}_i = 0$$

➔ the virtual work for the entire system must vanish

$$\overline{\delta W} = \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{F}_i \cdot \delta \mathbf{r}_i + \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{f}_i \cdot \delta \mathbf{r}_i = 0$$

# The principle of virtual work

- We limit ourselves to systems for which the virtual work performed by the constraint forces is zero:



# The principle of virtual work

- We limit ourselves to systems for which the virtual work performed by the constraint forces is zero:
  - Particle or body on a smooth surface (no friction)
  - Other examples:
    - Articulated bodies
    - Bodies forced to be in contact
    - Bodies rolling and pivoting (without sliding) one on each other
- ➔ solid mechanics

# The principle of virtual work

- We limit ourselves to systems for which the virtual work performed by the constraint forces is zero:

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{f}_i \cdot \delta \mathbf{r}_i = 0$$

- Therefore:

$$\overline{\delta W} = \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{F}_i \cdot \delta \mathbf{r}_i = 0$$

➔ **Principle of virtual work**: the work performed by the applied forces through infinitesimal virtual displacements compatible with the system constraints is zero

# The principle of virtual work

- When the **virtual displacements are all independent**:
- We can invoke the arbitrariness of the virtual displacements  
→ equation  $\overline{\delta W} = \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{F}_i \cdot \delta \mathbf{r}_i = 0$

can be satisfied for all possible values of  $\delta \mathbf{r}_i$

only if  $\mathbf{F}_i = \mathbf{0}, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N \quad \rightarrow \textbf{\underline{Equilibrium conditions}}$

# The principle of virtual work

- If the coordinates  $\mathbf{r}_i$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$ ) are not independent (but related by constraint equations):
  - ➔ It is more convenient to switch to generalized coordinates  $q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n$

We can express  $\mathbf{r}_i = \mathbf{r}_i(q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n) \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N$

- ➔ generalized coordinates are independent by definition

# The principle of virtual work

- Virtual displacements are:

$$\delta \mathbf{r}_i = \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}_i}{\partial q_1} \delta q_1 + \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}_i}{\partial q_2} \delta q_2 + \dots + \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}_i}{\partial q_n} \delta q_n = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}_i}{\partial q_k} \delta q_k, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N$$

$$\delta q_k \quad (k = 1, 2, \dots, n)$$

are virtual generalized displacements, all independent

# The principle of virtual work

$$\overline{\delta W} = \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{F}_i \cdot \delta \mathbf{r}_i = \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{F}_i \cdot \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}_i}{\partial q_k} \delta q_k = \sum_{k=1}^n \left( \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{F}_i \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}_i}{\partial q_k} \right) \delta q_k = \sum_{k=1}^n Q_k \delta q_k = 0$$

where

$$Q_k = \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{F}_i \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}_i}{\partial q_k}, \quad (k = 1, 2, \dots, n)$$

are known as **generalized forces**



# The principle of virtual work

- Being  $\delta q_k$  ( $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) all independent, and therefore entirely arbitrary
- Letting  $\delta q_1 = 1, \delta q_2 = \delta q_3 = \dots = \delta q_n = 0$

$$\overline{\delta W} = \sum_{k=1}^n Q_k \delta q_k = 0 \Rightarrow Q_1 = 0$$

- Repeating the argument with  $k = 2, 3, \dots, n$  in sequence  
➔ we obtain the equilibrium conditions:

$$Q_k = 0, \quad (k = 1, 2, \dots, n)$$