

Introduction to Superconducting Quantum Circuits

- Review of Classical Mechanics for Quantum Computing -

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Keywords in Classical Mechanics for Quantum Computing

Classical Mechanics: Newtonian

Conservative Force	Newton's Laws of Motion
Potential Energy	Kinetic Energy

Classical Mechanics: Lagrangian

Principle of Least Action	Euler-Lagrangian Equation
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Classical Mechanics: Hamiltonian

Phase Space	Canonical Momentum
Legendre Transformation	Poisson Bracket
Canonical Transformation	

Classical Mechanics: Simple Harmonic Oscillator

Ladder Operator

Introduction to Classical Mechanics

■ What is Classical Mechanics?

- Physical theory describing the motion of objects
- The development of classical mechanics involved **substantial change in the methods and philosophy of physics**

■ Why is Classical Mechanics Important for Studying Quantum Computing?

- Jargons, analogy, formula,...etc. of superconducting quantum circuits are based on quantum and classical mechanics
- In this lecture, we will briefly review selected topics in classical mechanics

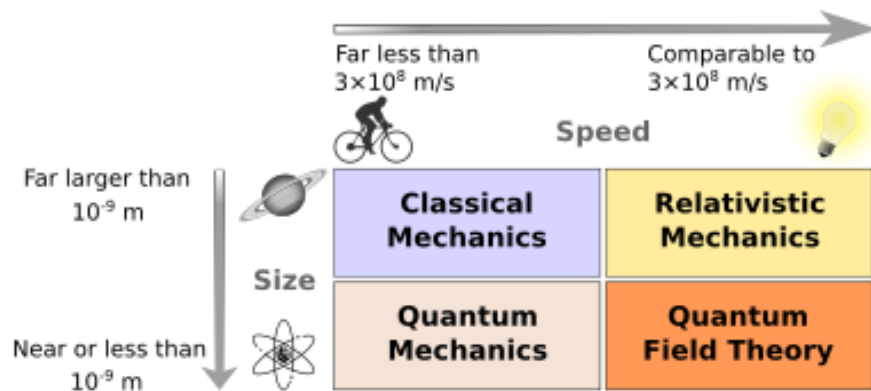
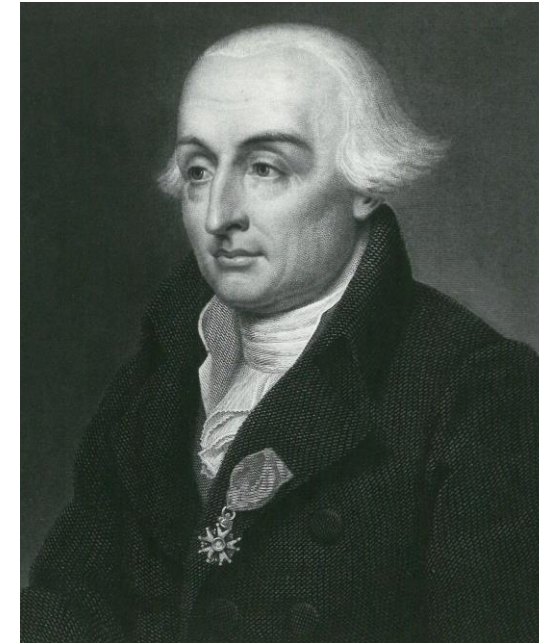


Fig. Domain of validity for classical mechanics



Isaac Newton (1642-1727)



Joseph-Louis Lagrange (1736-1810)



William Rowan Hamilton (1805-1865)

Image from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classical_mechanics

Brief Review of Newtonian Mechanics: (1) Newton's Laws of Motion

■ Newton's Laws of Motion

- Force \mathbf{F} : a vector quantity [N]
- Mass m : a scalar quantity [kg]
- Acceleration \mathbf{a} : a vector quantity [m/s^2]
- Velocity \mathbf{v} : a vector quantity [m/s]
- Momentum $\mathbf{p} = m\mathbf{v}$: a vector quantity
- Equation of motion: $\sum \mathbf{F} = m\mathbf{a}$

NOTE:

Electrical circuit variables (ex: charge) can be also represented by the above variables

■ Concept of Conservative Force

- The work done by conservative force depends only on the initial and final positions (independent of path)

■ Examples of Conservative Force

- Gravity, elastic spring, electrostatic force

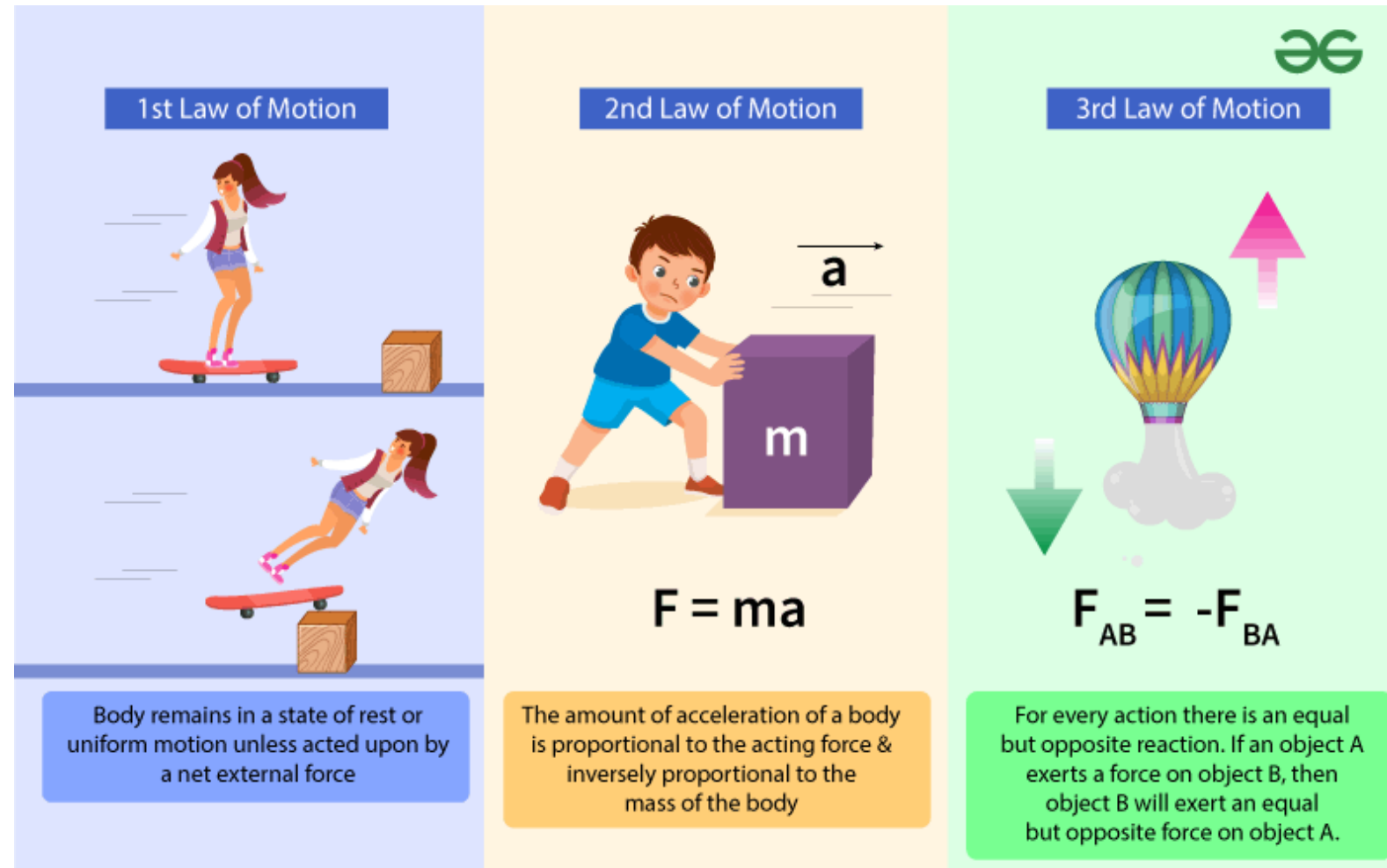


Fig. Definition, formula, and example of Newton's laws of motion.

Image from: <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/newtons-laws-of-motion/>

Brief Review of Newtonian Mechanics: (2) Potential and Kinetic Energy

■ Definition of Potential Energy

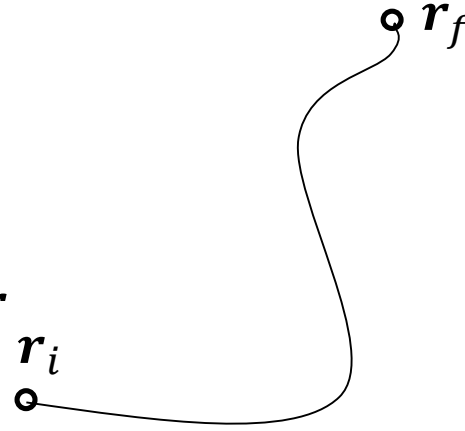
- Total work done by conservative forces, defined by virtue of an object's position relative to others

■ Formula of Potential Energy

- For conservative force \mathbf{F} and path between the initial point \mathbf{r}_i and the final point \mathbf{r}_f ,
- The difference of the potential energy U is: $U(\mathbf{r}_f) - U(\mathbf{r}_i) = -W$ (negative work) $= - \int_{\mathbf{r}_i}^{\mathbf{r}_f} \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}$



negative notation (typical, but not necessary)



■ Definition of Kinetic Energy

- Energy due to the motion

■ Formula of Kinetic Energy

- For a point object (assuming that its mass exist at one point) with mass m and velocity \mathbf{v} ,
- The kinetic energy T is: $T = \frac{1}{2} m \mathbf{v}^2 = \frac{\mathbf{p}^2}{2m}$

■ Law of Conservation of Energy

- The total energy (sum of U and T) of an isolated system remains constant
- The kinetic energy can be converted to the potential energy, vice versa

Brief Review of Newtonian Mechanics: (3) Harmonic Oscillator Example

■ Definition of Harmonic Oscillator

- Special type of periodic trigonometric oscillation towards the equilibrium point

■ Properties of Harmonic Oscillator

- Conservation of the total energy for ideal harmonic oscillators
- In real oscillators, damping (frictional or dragging force) exists

■ Example of Harmonic Oscillator: Mass on an Ideal Spring

- In Newtonian mechanics, the restoring force F at the distance x is

$$F = m \frac{d^2 x}{dt^2} = -kx$$

where k : spring constant [N/m]

- The above equation is the second-order differential equation
- The solution for x is

$$x(t) = c_1 \cos(\omega t) + c_2 \sin(\omega t)$$

where ω : angular frequency, defined as $\omega = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}$

- The coefficients c_1 and c_2 can be determined by the initial conditions

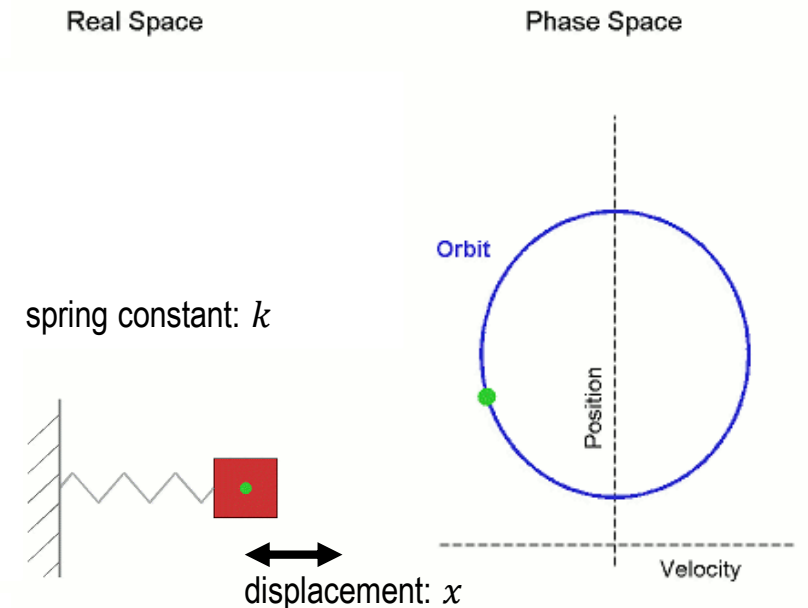


Fig. Motion of harmonic oscillator in real space and phase space.

Image from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simple_harmonic_motion

NOTE:

Harmonic oscillator is very important concept
for quantum mechanics AND superconducting circuits

Brief Review of Lagrangian Mechanics: (1) Principles of Least Action

■ Philosophy of Lagrangian Mechanics

- The fundamental idea of the Lagrangian mechanics is to reformulate the equations of motion in terms of the dynamical variables that describe the degrees of freedom (no explicit force terms)
- For complex physical systems, obtaining exact force is difficult

■ Characteristics of Lagrangian Mechanics

- Generalized coordinates $\{q_k\}$: fully specify the motion of the system \rightarrow potential energy $U(q, t)$
- Generalized velocity coordinates $\{\dot{q}_k\}$: total time derivatives of the generalized coordinates \rightarrow kinetic energy $T(\dot{q}, t)$
- Lagrangian $\mathcal{L}(q, \dot{q}, t) = T - U$: defined as the difference between the kinetic energy T and the potential energy U
- Lagrangian is scalar quantity! While complex vector calculation is required with Newtonian mechanics

■ Principles of Least Action

- Path taken between two states is the one for which the action is minimized
- The action S is defined as

$$S = \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \mathcal{L} dt = \int_{t_1}^{t_2} T - U dt$$

The path $x(t)$ that makes S stationary satisfies the Euler-Lagrange equation!

example: harmonic oscillator (in previous slide)
Describe the system with q and \dot{q} ONLY

- potential energy $U = \frac{1}{2} k x^2$ (here, q is x)
- kinetic energy $T = \frac{1}{2} m \dot{x}^2$
- Lagrangian $\mathcal{L} = T - U = \frac{1}{2} m \dot{x}^2 - \frac{1}{2} k x^2$

Brief Review of Lagrangian Mechanics: (2) Euler-Lagrangian Equation

■ Definition of Euler-Lagrangian Equation

- Second-order ODEs, whose solutions are stationary points of the given action

■ Formula of Euler-Lagrangian Equation

- For n -dimensional generalized coordinate vector $\mathbf{q} = \{q_1(t), \dots, q_n(t)\}$ and speed vector $\dot{\mathbf{q}} = \{\dot{q}_1(t), \dots, \dot{q}_n(t)\}$
- The Lagrangian \mathcal{L} is dependent on $\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}, t$ that $\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}, t)$ can be expressed
- The Euler-Lagrangian equations are defined as

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial q_i} - \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \right) = 0 \quad \text{where } i = 1, \dots, n$$

Derivation of the Euler-Lagrangian equation is beyond the scope of this lecture
(also, not necessary)

See Fowles, *Analytical Mechanics*, (2004) for the proof

example: harmonic oscillator

- $\mathcal{L} = T - U = \frac{1}{2} m \dot{x}^2 - \frac{1}{2} k x^2$
- The Euler-Lagrangian equation is
- $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial x} - \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{x}} \right) = -kx - \frac{d}{dt} (m\dot{x})$
 $= -kx - m\ddot{x} = 0$
- $\therefore kx + m\ddot{x} = 0$ (equation of motion)
- same result from Newtonian mechanics

■ Lagrangian in Quantum Computing

- The Lagrangian will be utilized as the fundamental analysis tool for superconducting quantum circuits
- To analyze superconducting qubits and resonators, deriving the Lagrangian is a key procedure

Brief Review of Lagrangian Mechanics: (3) Simple Pendulum Example

■ Simple Pendulum Problem using Newtonian Mechanics

- The total force \mathbf{F} on the object of mass m is

$$\mathbf{F} = m\mathbf{a} = -mg \sin \theta(t) \quad \text{where } g: \text{gravity [m/s}^2\text{]}$$

NOTE:

acceleration along the tangential axis (red line in the figure) ONLY

- Relation between the tangential axis (red) and the angle θ is

$$\begin{aligned} s &= l\theta, \\ \mathbf{a} &= \frac{d^2 s}{dt^2} = l \frac{d^2 \theta}{dt^2}, \end{aligned} \quad \text{where } l: \text{length of pendulum [m]}$$

- Thus, the equation of motion is $\therefore l \frac{d^2 \theta}{dt^2} + g \sin \theta = 0$

■ Simple Pendulum Problem using Lagrangian Mechanics

- Assuming the coordinates with respect to θ only, the kinetic energy, potential energy, and Lagrangian are

$$T = \frac{1}{2} m l^2 \dot{\theta}^2 \text{ and } U = -mgl \cos \theta \quad \longrightarrow \text{Lagrangian is } \mathcal{L}(\theta, \dot{\theta}, t) = T - U = \frac{1}{2} m l^2 \dot{\theta}^2 + mgl \cos \theta$$

- From the Euler-Lagrangian equation,

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \theta} - \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{\theta}} \right) = -mgl \sin \theta - ml^2 \ddot{\theta} = 0 \quad \longrightarrow \therefore l \frac{d^2 \theta}{dt^2} + g \sin \theta = 0$$

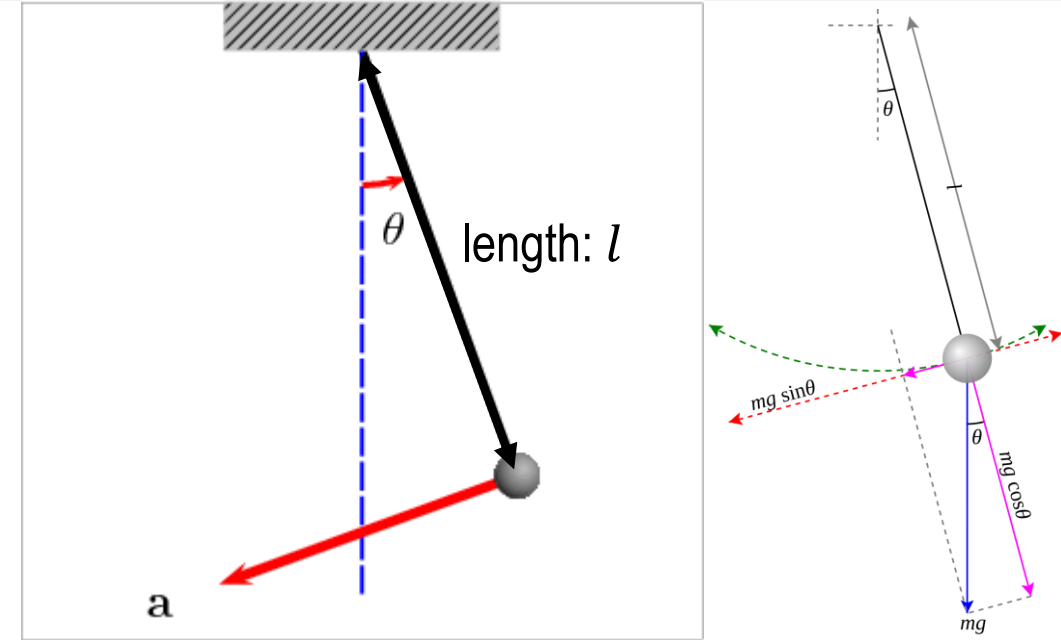


Fig. Motion of pendulum and force diagram under the gravity.

Image from: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pendulum_\(mechanics\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pendulum_(mechanics))

Brief Review of Hamiltonian Mechanics: Introduction

■ Philosophy of Hamiltonian Mechanics

- Recall that **Lagrangian mechanics** allows us to find the equations of motion in terms of generalized coordinates and velocities
- Extend the method using the **canonical momenta** (we will learn about this in the next slide) instead of generalized velocities

■ Characteristics of Hamiltonian Mechanics

- The Hamiltonian, denoted by \mathcal{H} , is the sum of kinetic energy T and potential energy U

$$\mathcal{H} = T + U$$

Recall that Lagrangian is defined as $\mathcal{L} = T - U$

- If the generalized coordinates for the system are time-independent, the Hamiltonian is also time-independent (conserved)
- The Hamiltonian is also scalar

■ Summary of Newtonian, Lagrangian, and Hamiltonian Mechanics

- Newtonian: directly based on forces and accelerations → intuitive approach but cumbersome for complex systems
- Lagrangian: difference between kinetic and potential energy → simplified problems with generalized coordinates
- Hamiltonian: total energy of the system → deeper insight into the conservation laws and symmetries of the system

Brief Review of Hamiltonian Mechanics: (1) Canonical Conjugate Momentum

■ Definition of Canonical Conjugate Momentum

- Canonical coordinates: can describe a physical system with generalized position quantities $\{q_i\}$ and velocity quantities $\{\dot{q}_i\}$
- Conjugate momentum: partial derivative of the Lagrangian, with respect to the generalized velocity

■ Formula of Canonical Conjugate Momentum

$$p_i = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{q}_i}$$

for n -dimensional generalized coordinates,
there will be n canonical conjugate momentum

■ Example of Canonical Conjugate Momentum for Harmonic Oscillator

- Coordinate q : x (and recall that the Lagrangian is $\mathcal{L}(x, \dot{x}) = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2 - \frac{1}{2}kx^2$)
- Momentum p : $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{x}} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{x}} = m\dot{x}$

■ Canonical Conjugate Momentum in Quantum Computing

- Assume a superconducting LC parallel circuit
- From the electrical circuit theory, flux $\Phi(t) = \int_{t_0}^t V(t')dt'$ and $Q(t) = CV(t)$
where t_0 : reference time
- Flux Φ = coordinate and charge Q = canonical conjugate momentum

NOTE: Quantum mechanical analysis of electrical circuits will be introduced later

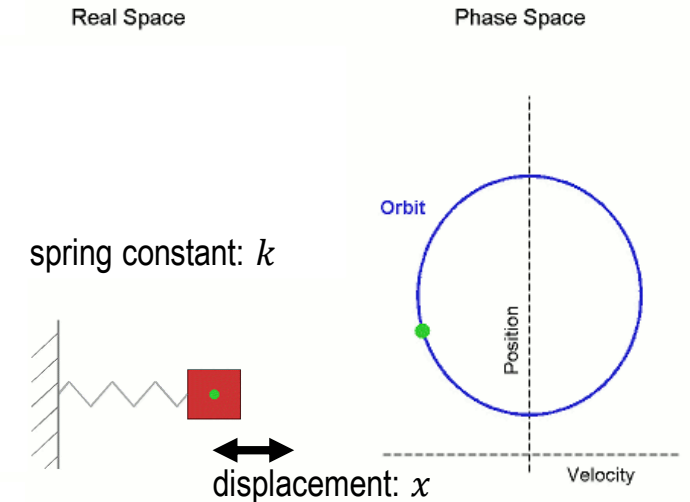


Fig. Motion of harmonic oscillator

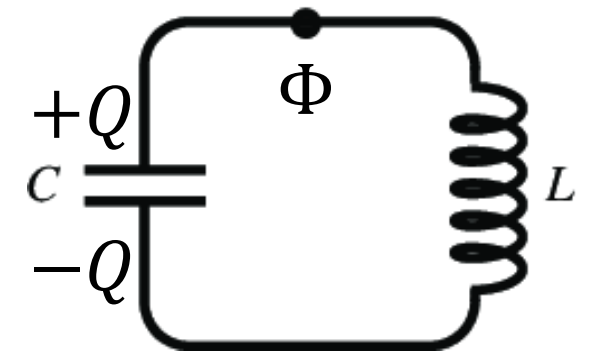


Fig. Parallel LC circuit

Brief Review of Hamiltonian Mechanics: (2) Phase Space

■ Definition of Phase Space

- A multidimensional space in which all possible states of a physical system can be represented
- The phase space can be defined by the generalized coordinates q_i and their canonical conjugate momenta p_i

■ Characteristics of Phase Space

- For n -dimensional generalized coordinates, the phase space has n -canonical coordinates and n -canonical momenta
- If the Lagrangian does not depend on the k^{th} coordinate variable q_k , q_k is cyclic canonical variable
- Without q_k dependence (q_k is cyclic), the following relations are satisfied

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial q_k} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad p_k = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{q}_k} = \text{constant}$$

■ Example of Phase Space: Harmonic Oscillator

- The Lagrangian is $\mathcal{L} = T - U = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2 - \frac{1}{2}kx^2$
- Generalized coordinate = $\{x\}$ and canonical conjugate momentum = $\{m\dot{x}\}$
- The corresponding phase space has $\{x, m\dot{x}\}$ canonical variables

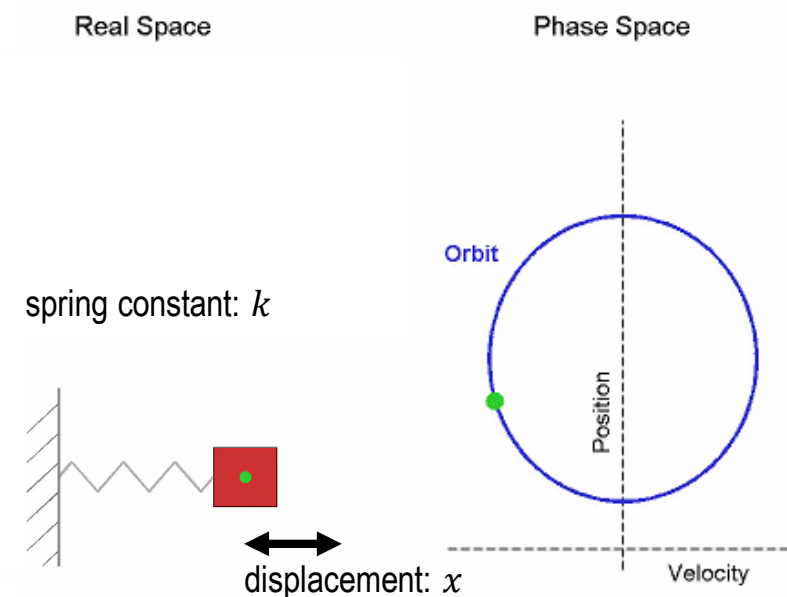


Fig. Motion of harmonic oscillator in real space and phase space.

Brief Review of Hamiltonian Mechanics: (3) Legendre Transformation

■ Definition of Legendre Transformation

- Transformation of the Lagrangian \mathcal{L} into the Hamiltonian \mathcal{H}

■ Formula of Legendre Transformation

- For n -generalized coordinates q_i and the corresponding momenta p_i , the Hamiltonian \mathcal{H} can be obtained as follows

Recall that $p_i = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{q}_i}$

$$\mathcal{H}(q_1, \dots, q_n, p_1, \dots, p_n, t) = \sum_{i=1}^n p_i \dot{q}_i - \mathcal{L}(q_1, \dots, q_n, \dot{q}_1, \dots, \dot{q}_n, t)$$

■ Characteristics of Legendre Transformation

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial q_i} = -\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial q_i} \text{ and } \frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial t}$$

$$-\dot{p}_i = \frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial p_i} \text{ and } \dot{q}_i = \frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial p_i}$$

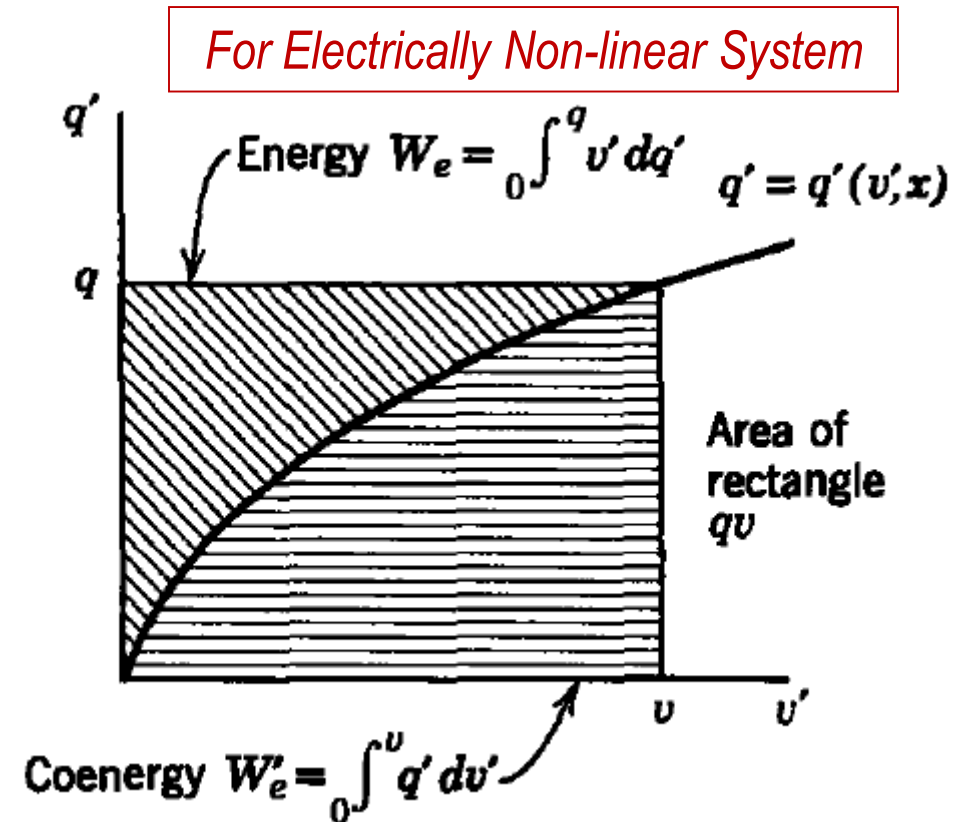
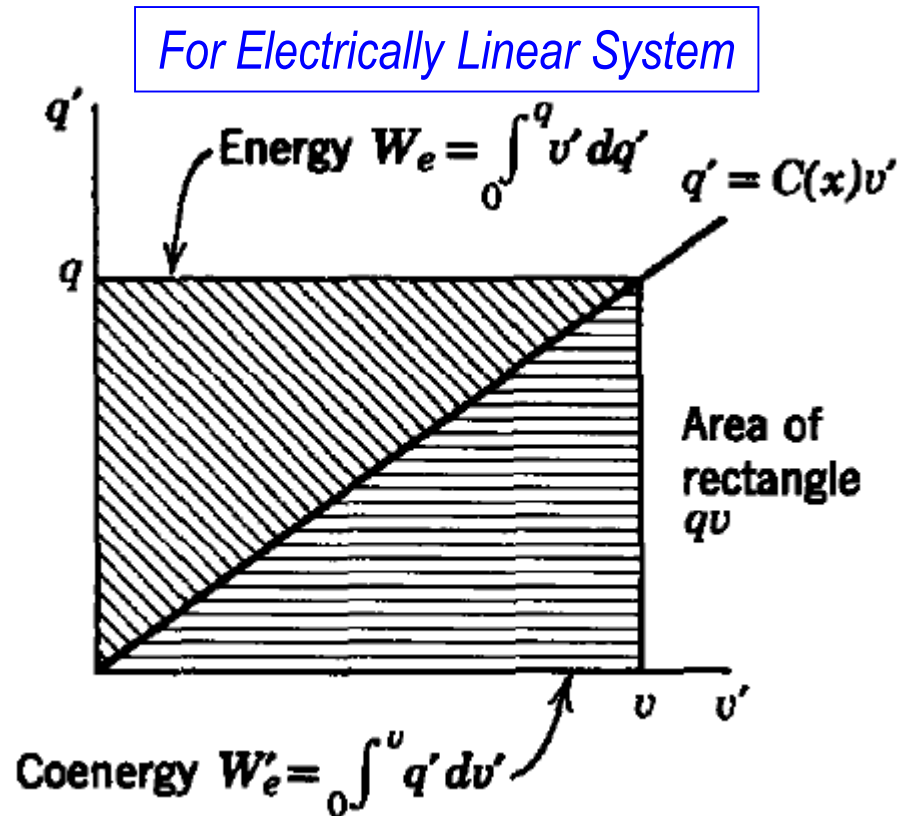
You can derive these relations from the Legendre transformation

■ Legendre Transformation in Quantum Computing

- Legendre transformation from the Lagrangian of superconducting quantum circuit to derive the circuit's Hamiltonian

Similar Technique in Electrical Engineering: Coenergy Method

- Comparison of Energy W_e and Coenergy W_e' between **Linear** and **Nonlinear** Systems
 - By definition, $W_e + W_e'$ is equal to qv in electric system and λi in magnetic system
 - Only in the **linear** system, $W_e = W_e'$; if a system is **non-linear**, $W_e \neq W_e'$
 - Even if a system is linear, the mathematical expression of W_e is completely different from that of W_e'



Brief Review of Hamiltonian Mechanics: (4) Poisson Bracket

■ Definition of Poisson Bracket

- An operator that measures the infinitesimal change of one observable quantity with respect to another in phase space

■ Formula of Poisson Bracket

- For two functions $f(q, p)$ and $g(q, p)$, the Poisson bracket is defined as

$$\{f, g\} = \sum_i \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial q_i} \frac{\partial g}{\partial p_i} - \frac{\partial f}{\partial p_i} \frac{\partial g}{\partial q_i} \right)$$

where for $i = 1, \dots, n$,
 q_i and p_i are the generalized coordinates and momenta

■ Characteristics of Poisson Bracket

- Anti-symmetry: $\{f, g\} = -\{g, f\}$
 - Linearity: $\{af + bg, h\} = a\{f, h\} + b\{g, h\}$
 - Leibniz Rule: $\{q_i, p_j\} = \delta_{ij}$
- where a and b : constants
where δ_{ij} : Kronecker-delta function

■ Poisson Bracket and Hamiltonian Dynamics

- For any function $f(q, p)$ in phase space, its time evolution is

$$\frac{df}{dt} = \{f, \mathcal{H}\} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial t}$$

NOTE: The Poisson bracket is the classical analogy of the commutator in quantum mechanics

Brief Review of Hamiltonian Mechanics: (5) Canonical Transformation

■ Definition of Canonical Transformation

- A **generalized coordinate transformation** that changes the generalized coordinates q_i and conjugate momenta p_i in \mathcal{H} to a new set of coordinates Q_i and momenta P_i in \mathcal{H}' , which satisfy canonical relations
- For generating function F (mapping function), the transformed Hamiltonian is

$$\mathcal{H}'(Q_1, \dots, Q_n, P_1, \dots, P_n) = \mathcal{H}(q_1, \dots, q_n, p_1, \dots, p_n) + \frac{\partial F}{\partial t}$$

■ Formula of Canonical Transformation

- Type 1: $F_1(q, Q, t)$

$$p_i = -\frac{\partial F_1}{\partial q_i}, P_i = \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial Q_i}$$

Trivial example of $F_1 = \sum q_i Q_i$
where $Q_i = p_i$ and $P_i = -q_i$

- Type 2: $F_2(q, P, t) - \sum Q_i P_i$

$$p_i = \frac{\partial F_2}{\partial q_i}, Q_i = -\frac{\partial F_2}{\partial P_i}$$

Trivial example of $F_2 = \sum q_i P_i$
where $Q_i = q_i$ and $P_i = p_i$

- Type 3: $F_3(p, Q, t) + \sum q_i p_i$

$$q_i = -\frac{\partial F_3}{\partial p_i}, P_i = \frac{\partial F_3}{\partial Q_i}$$

Trivial example of $F_3 = \sum p_i Q_i$
where $Q_i = -q_i$ and $P_i = -p_i$

- Type 4: $F_4(p, P, t) + \sum q_i p_i - \sum Q_i P_i$

$$q_i = -\frac{\partial F_4}{\partial p_i}, Q_i = \frac{\partial F_4}{\partial P_i}$$

Trivial example of $F_4 = \sum p_i P_i$
where $Q_i = p_i$ and $P_i = -q_i$

Brief Review of Hamiltonian Mechanics: (6) Simple Harmonic Oscillator

■ Example of Canonical Transformation

- Kinetic energy T , potential energy U , and Lagrangian \mathcal{L} of the system are

$$T = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2, U = \frac{1}{2}kx^2, \mathcal{L}(x, \dot{x}) = T - U = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2 - \frac{1}{2}kx^2$$

- Canonical momentum p and Hamiltonian \mathcal{H} of the system are

$$p = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{x}} = m\dot{x} \quad \mathcal{H} = p\dot{x} - \mathcal{L},$$

$$\therefore \mathcal{H}(x, p) = \frac{kx^2}{2} + \frac{p^2}{2m} = \frac{m\omega^2 x^2}{2} + \frac{p^2}{2m} \quad \text{where } \omega \equiv \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}} \text{ oscillator's eigenfrequency}$$

- Let the generating function $F_1(q, Q) = \frac{m\omega q^2}{2} \cot Q$,

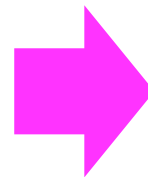
$$p = \frac{\partial F_1(q, Q)}{\partial q_i} = m\omega q \cot Q,$$

$$P = -\frac{\partial F_1(q, Q)}{\partial Q} = \frac{m}{2} \frac{\omega q^2}{\sin^2 Q},$$



$$q = \sqrt{\frac{2P}{m\omega}} \sin Q,$$

$$p = \sqrt{2m\omega P} \cos Q,$$



$$\mathcal{H}'(P, Q) = \omega P (\cos^2 Q + \sin^2 Q)$$

$$\therefore \mathcal{H}' = \omega P$$

Implies that Q is a cyclic coordinate for \mathcal{H}'
and the Hamiltonian means the total energy

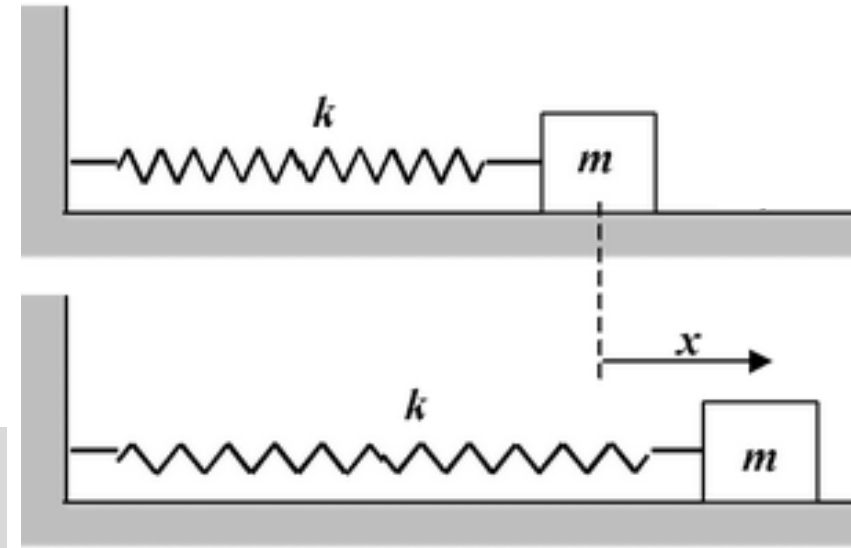
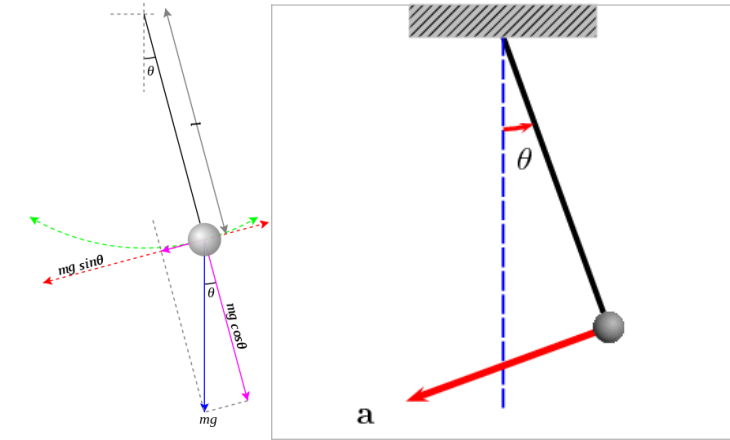


Fig. Motion of mass on a spring (harmonic oscillator)

NOTE: The above generating function will be utilized
to solve quantum mechanical harmonic oscillator

Brief Review of Classical Mechanics: Simple Pendulum Example

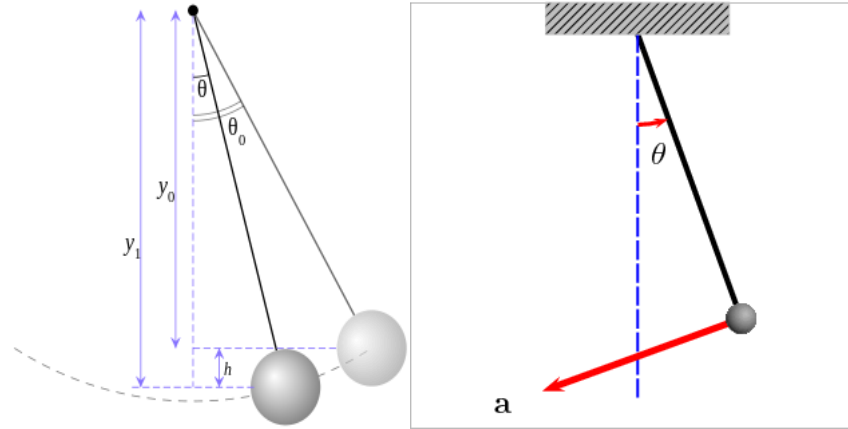
■ Newtonian Mechanics



Newton's Force equation

- Equation of motion: $F = ma$
 $\therefore F = -mg \sin \theta$
- From force vector analysis,
 $s = l\theta,$
 $v = \frac{ds}{dt},$
 $a = \frac{d^2s}{dt^2} = l\ddot{\theta}$
 $\therefore l\ddot{\theta} = -g \sin \theta$

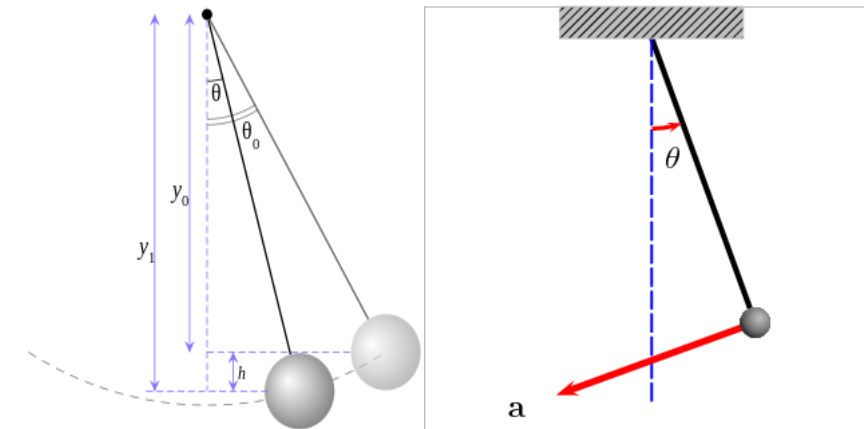
■ Lagrangian Mechanics



Generalized coordinate θ and velocity $\dot{\theta}$

- Potential energy: $U = -mgl \cos \theta$
- Kinetic energy: $T = \frac{1}{2}m(l\dot{\theta})^2$
- Lagrangian: $\mathcal{L} = T - U$
 $\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2}m(l\dot{\theta})^2 + mgl \cos \theta$
- The Euler-Lagrangian equation: $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \theta} - \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{\theta}} \right) = 0$
 $\therefore g \sin \theta + l\ddot{\theta} = 0$

■ Hamiltonian Mechanics



From the Lagrangian,

- Canonical conjugate momentum: $p = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{q}} = ml^2 \dot{\theta}$
- Legendre transformation: $\mathcal{H} = \sum_{i=1} p_i \dot{q}_i - \mathcal{L}$
 $\mathcal{H} = ml^2 \dot{\theta}^2 - \mathcal{L}$
 $= \frac{1}{2}m(l\dot{\theta})^2 - mgl \cos \theta$
- From the Hamiltonian's characteristic: $-\dot{p} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial q}$
 $-ml^2 \ddot{\theta} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial \theta}$
 $\therefore g \sin \theta + l\ddot{\theta} = 0$

See Also...

■ Textbooks:

[1] Grant R. Fowles and George L. Cassiday, *Analytical Mechanics*, Cengage Learning, 2004.  * recommended

■ Open Courses:

[1] Iain W. Stewart, *Advanced Classical Mechanics*, MIT OCW, 2014. [Online Available]

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[2] Sunil Golwala, *Lecture Notes on Classical Mechanics for Physics 106ab*, 2007 [Online Available]

https://sites.astro.caltech.edu/~golwala/ph106ab/ph106ab_notes.pdf