

Hamilton's Principle

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2nd century B.C. Hero of Alexandria reflection of light always takes the shortest path
1657 Fermat light ray always travels from one point to another in a medium by a path that requires the least time.

1747 Maupertuis dynamical motion takes place with minimum motion

1760 Lagrange

1828 Gauss least constraint

Hertz least curvature

1834, 1835 Hamilton

of all the possible paths along which a dynamical system may move from one point to another point within a specified time interval (consistent with any constraints), the actual path followed is that which minimizes the time integral of the difference between the kinetic and potential energies

$$\delta \int_{t_1}^{t_2} (T - U) dt = 0 \quad T = T\left(\frac{dx_i}{dt}\right) \quad U = U(x_i)$$

$\mathcal{L} = T - U = L(x_i, \frac{dx_i}{dt})$ Lagrange function

$$\Rightarrow \delta \int_{t_1}^{t_2} L(x_i, \dot{x}_i) dt = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_i} - \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}_i} = 0 \quad i=1,2,3\dots$$

example: HSM

$$L = T - U = \frac{1}{2} m \left(\frac{dx}{dt} \right)^2 - \frac{1}{2} k x^2$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial x} = -kx \quad \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}} = m \frac{d\dot{x}}{dt} \quad \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}} = m \frac{d^2x}{dt^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow m \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} + kx = 0$$

Generalized Coordinates

degrees of freedom $3n$

generalized coordinates q_j

generalized velocities \dot{q}_j

$x_{a,i} = x_{ai}(q_j, t)$ $\rightarrow N$ particles

$a = 1, 2, 3 \dots n$ $j = 1, 2, 3 \dots s$

$i = 1, 2, 3$

Lagrange's Equations of Motion in Generalized Coordinates

$$\mathcal{L} = T(x'_{ai}) - U(x_{ai}) = T(q_j, \dot{q}_j, t) - U(q_j, t)$$

$$= U(q_j, \dot{q}_j, t)$$

Hamilton's principle $\delta \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \mathcal{L}(q_j, \dot{q}_j, t) dt = 0$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial q_j} - \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{q}_j} = 0 \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, s$$

* the forces acting on the system must be derivable from potentials

* the equations of constraint must be relations that connect the coordinates of the particles and may be functions of the time \rightarrow holonomic constraints

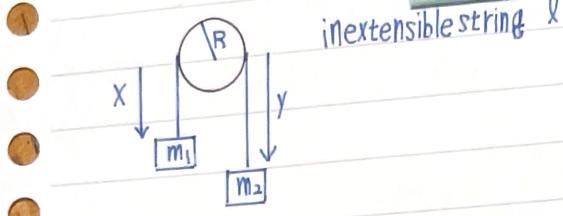
if the equations do not explicitly contain the time: fixed or scleronomous
moving constraints are rheonomic

the equation of constraint can be expressed as an equation that involves only the coordinates of the system and the time t : holonomic constraints

the equation of constraint independent of time: scleronomous or fixed

contains time explicitly: rheonomic

case I Atwood's machine



$$x + y + \pi R = l, \quad y = -x + \text{constant} \quad \frac{dy}{dt} = -\frac{dx}{dt}$$

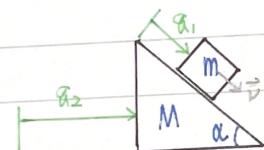
$$E_k = \frac{1}{2} m_1 \left(\frac{dx}{dt} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_2 \left(\frac{dy}{dt} \right)^2 = \frac{1}{2} (m_1 + m_2) \left(\frac{dx}{dt} \right)^2$$

$$\underline{U} = -m_1 g x - m_2 g y = -(m_1 - m_2) g x + \text{constant}$$

$$L = E_k - \underline{U} = \frac{1}{2} (m_1 + m_2) \left(\frac{dx}{dt} \right)^2 + (m_1 - m_2) g x$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial x} = \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}}, \quad (m_1 - m_2) g = (m_1 + m_2) \frac{d\dot{x}^2}{dt^2}, \quad \frac{d\dot{x}^2}{dt^2} = \frac{m_1 - m_2}{m_1 + m_2} g \text{ elastically measure for } g$$

case II a block sliding on a wedge



$$T_M = \frac{1}{2} M \frac{d\dot{q}_2}{dt} \quad \vec{v} = (v_x, v_y) = \left(\frac{d\dot{q}_1}{dt} \cos \alpha + \frac{d\dot{q}_2}{dt}, \frac{d\dot{q}_1}{dt} \sin \alpha \right)$$

$$T_m = \frac{1}{2} m (v_x^2 + v_y^2) = \frac{1}{2} m \left[\left(\frac{d\dot{q}_1}{dt} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{d\dot{q}_2}{dt} \right)^2 + 2 \frac{d\dot{q}_1}{dt} \frac{d\dot{q}_2}{dt} \cos \alpha \right]$$

$$T = T_m + T_M = \frac{1}{2} (M+m) \left(\frac{d\dot{q}_2}{dt} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{2} m \left[\left(\frac{d\dot{q}_1}{dt} \right)^2 + 2 \frac{d\dot{q}_1}{dt} \frac{d\dot{q}_2}{dt} \cos \alpha \right]$$

$$\underline{U} = -m g q_1 \sin \alpha$$

$$L = E_k - \underline{U} = \frac{1}{2} (M+m) \left(\frac{d\dot{q}_2}{dt} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{2} m \left[\left(\frac{d\dot{q}_1}{dt} \right)^2 + 2 \frac{d\dot{q}_1}{dt} \frac{d\dot{q}_2}{dt} \cos \alpha \right] + m g q_1 \sin \alpha$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial q_2} = \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_2}$$

$$M \frac{d\dot{q}_2}{dt} + m \left(\frac{d\dot{q}_2}{dt} + \frac{d\dot{q}_1}{dt} \cos \alpha \right) = \text{constant}$$

$$\frac{d^2 q_2}{dt^2} = -\frac{m}{M+m} \frac{d^2 q_1}{dt^2} \cos \alpha$$

$$\frac{d^2 q_1}{dt^2} = \frac{g \sin \alpha}{1 - \frac{m \cos^2 \alpha}{M+m}}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial q_1} = \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_1}$$

$$m g \sin \alpha = \frac{d}{dt} \left[M \left(\frac{d\dot{q}_1}{dt} + \frac{d\dot{q}_2}{dt} \cos \alpha \right) \right]$$

$$= M \left(\frac{d^2 q_1}{dt^2} + \frac{d^2 q_2}{dt^2} \cos \alpha \right)$$