Classical Mechanics

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Calculation of the shortest length in a 2D Eucledian Space:

$$l = \int \sqrt{dx^2 dy^2}$$
$$l = \int \sqrt{1 + y'^2}$$
$$\delta l = \delta \int \sqrt{1 + y'^2}$$
$$l \to l + O(\delta y^2)$$

Energies:

Potential Energy

Energy associated with the body/particle due to virtue of its position or configuration.

Kinetic Energy

Energy associated with the body/particle due to virtue of its motion.

Generalized Coordinates:

Generalized coordinates are a set of coordinates which can fully describe the system. If there are no holonomic constraints, then the no. of Generalised coordinates requires is same as the Degrees of Freedom. They need not be Orthogonal coordinates and can be mixed(mixture of coordinate systems is allowed eq. from cartesian and spherical coordinate systems).

Advantages:

- If a Lagrangian is specified in generalised coordinates then its very easy to rewrite it in another coordinate system.
- It shows the generality of the equations, I mean, it shows that (for eq)Principle of Stationary Action doesn't depend upon the coordinate system used, be it Cartesian or Curviliear, the equations would correspond to the same thing.
- Its easier to handle holonomic constraints with Generalised Coordinates.

Diff from Ordinary Coordinate System

- Its difficult to handle constraints in ordinary coordinate systems.
- The dimensions of Generalised Coordinates may differ from dimensions of Ordinary Coordinate Systems.

Constraints:

A Constraint is nothing but a limitation on the range of motion of any particle/body, it can restrict the degrees of freedom of the particle/body.

Types of Constraints:

Holonomic Constraints: Constraints of the form $f(x_i, t) = 0$ are called holonomic constraints, these can be expressed using an equation. Holonomic constrains restricts the degrees of freedom, suppose a system has $3n$ degrees of freedom and m holonomic constraints then the dof would reduce to $3n - m$.

Examples:

- Consider a pendulum with a bob and an inextendable, massless string, then there will be two holonomic constraints, (i) The Length of the string $\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$, (ii) The Motion along y would be zero, $\dot{y} = 0$.

- Consider a small cube which can slide over a wedge, in this case, there will be 1 holonomic constraint, the cube cannot have motion along the y direction, $\dot{y} = 0$.

- In the famous Catenary problem, there will be 1 holonomic constraint and 2 boundary conditions, the constraint would be the length of the string.

Non-Holonomic Constraints: Constraints not of the form $f(x_i, t) = 0$ are called non-holonomic constraints, these can be expressed using an inequality or by a differential equation which can only be solved by solveing the problem first. These constraints are difficult to solve and require unique approach to each problem. Also, the no. of degrees of freedom remains same in this case.

Examples:

- A particle confined into a box of length a,b,c ,

$$\frac{-a}{2} \leq x \leq \frac{a}{2}, \frac{-b}{2} \leq y \leq \frac{b}{2}, \frac{-c}{2} \leq z \leq \frac{c}{2}$$

- A cylinder of radius R is rolling down a wedge with max height h, the constraint in this case will be the rolling condition $\dot{r} = \dot{\theta} R$.

Rheonomous Constraints: Time Dependent Constraints are called Rheonomous Constraints.

Examples:

- Gas Expanding/Contracting in a container (Constraint: Volume of the Gas).

- A pendulum whose length varies w.r.t time (Constraint: Length of the pendulum).

- A particle which should cling on to a curve only until a certain time $t = t_1$.

Scleronomous Constraints: Time Independent Constraints are called Scleronomous Constraints.

Examples:

- A pendulum with fixed length (Constraint: Length).

- A particle confined to the surface of a parabola (Constraint: Equation of Parabola).

Virtual Work Prinicple and D'Alembert's Principle:

Virtual infinitesimal displacements of a system refers to the change in config of the system when there is some arbitary small change in the coordinates, consistant with the forces and constraints imposed on the system at time instant t. This Virtual Displacement is different from actual displacement which takes time dt to complete.

Virtual Work is basically the work due to the virtual displacement, when the time interval $dt = 0$. It provides the work done when the system is static(in equilibrium).

D'Alembert Principle: The total virtual work of the impressed forces plus the inertial forces vanishes for reversible displacements.

D'Alembert's Principle provides a more general form of the Hamiltonian Principle with the inclusion of holonomic constraints. It is basically the dynamic version of the static Principle of Virtual Works(since it assumes equilibrium).

Proof:

Consider the system is in equlibrium, then the virual work will be given by the dot product of the total force acting time the virtual displacement,

$$W_v = \sum_i \vec{F_i} \cdot \delta \vec{r_i} = 0$$

Here, $\vec{F_i}$ is made up of two forces, the applied force $\vec{F_i^a}$ and the force of constraints $\vec{f_i}$,
Hence, the Virtual Work becomes,

$$W_v = \sum_i \vec{F_i^a} \cdot \delta \vec{r_i} + \sum_i \vec{f_i} \cdot \delta \vec{r_i}$$

We now consider that the net work done due to the forces of constraints is zero,

$$\sum_i \vec{f_i} \delta \vec{r_i} = 0$$

Also, since the system is in equilibrium, the virtual work due to the applied forces should be *zero*.

$$\sum_i \vec{F_i^a} \cdot \delta \vec{r_i} = 0 \tag{1}$$

This is known as the Principle of Virtual Work,
   D'Alembert Principle
   From the 2nd Law of Motion, $\vec{F_i} = \dot{\vec{p_i}}$

$$\implies \vec{F_i} - \dot{\vec{p_i}} = 0$$

This works for the D'Alembert's principle which considers reverse forces,
From the Principle of Virtual Work,

$$\sum_i (\vec{F_i} - \dot{\vec{p_i}} = 0)$$

For, $F_i = F_i^a + f_i$ and considering that the virtual work from the forces of constraints vanishes,

$$\sum_i (\vec{F_i^a} - \dot{\vec{p_i}}) \cdot \delta \vec{r_i} = 0$$

But since the coordinates $\vec{r_i}$ are not independent of each other and are connected by constraints, we consider a set of independent generalised coordinates.

$$q_i = f(r_i)$$

Therefore, the virtual displacement $\delta \vec{r_i}$ is given by,

$$\delta r_i = \sum_j \frac{\partial r_i}{\partial q_j} \delta q_j$$

Hence, the Virtual Work Becomes,

$$W_v = \sum_{i,j} \vec{F_i} \cdot \frac{\partial r_i}{\partial q_j} \delta q_j$$

Let, $Q_j = \sum_i \vec{F_i} \cdot \frac{\partial r_i}{\partial q_j}$, where Q_j are called Generalised Forces(doesn't necessarily have dimensions of force).
For other term,

$$\sum_i \dot{\vec{p_i}} \cdot \delta \vec{r_j} = \sum_{i,j} m_i \ddot{\vec{r_i}} \cdot \frac{\partial r_i}{\partial q_j} \delta q_j$$

On Manupulations,

$$\sum_{i,j} m_i \ddot{\vec{r_i}} \cdot \frac{\partial r_i}{\partial q_j} \delta q_j = \sum_i [\frac{d}{dt}(m_i \dot{\vec{r_i}}) - m_i \dot{\vec{r_i}} \cdot \frac{d}{dt}(\frac{\partial \vec{r_j}}{\partial q_j})]$$

Since, the order of $\frac{d}{dt}$ and $\frac{\partial}{\partial}$ can be changed,

$$\frac{d}{dt}(\frac{\partial \vec{r_i}}{\partial q_j}) = \frac{\partial \vec{v}}{\partial q_j}$$

Therefore,

$$\sum_{i,j} m_i \ddot{\vec{r}}_i \cdot \frac{\partial r_i}{\partial q_j} \delta q_j = \sum_i [\frac{d}{dt}(m_i \vec{v}_i) - m_i \vec{v}_i \cdot \frac{\partial \vec{v}_i}{\partial q_j}]$$

On Manipulations,

$$\sum_j [\frac{d}{dt}(\frac{\partial \sum_i \frac{1}{2} m_i v_i^2}{\partial \dot{q}_j}) - \frac{\partial \sum_i \frac{1}{2} m_i v_i^2}{\partial q_j} - Q_j] \delta q_j$$

On identifing $T = \sum_i \frac{1}{2} m_i v_i^2$ as Kinetic Energy, the Equation of D'Alembert's Principle becomes,

$$\sum [\frac{d}{dt}(\frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{q}_j}) - \frac{\partial T}{\partial q_j} - Q_j] \delta q_j = 0 \tag{2}$$

Action Priciple: Euler-Lagrange Equation

Action is defined by $S = \int_a^b \mathcal{L}(q, \dot{q}, t) dt$ where $\mathcal{L}$ is called the Lagrangian and is defined to be a function of q, $\dot{q}$, and t.

Suppose, if we assume Action be a line and if we introduce infintisimal variation in it, then the variation of the Action will only be Zero for extremum positions.

$$\delta S = \delta \int \mathcal{L}(q, \dot{(q)}, t) dt$$

Since, δ and $\int$ commute, the position of both can be interchanged.

$$\delta S = \int \delta \mathcal{L}(q, \dot{(q)}, t) dt$$

From the first principles,

$$\delta S = \int dt \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial q} \delta q + \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{q}} \delta \dot{q} + \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial t} \delta t)$$

Assuming, the δt is 0.

$$\delta S = \int dt \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial q} \delta q + \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{q}} \delta \dot{q}$$

But, $\delta S = 0$

$$\therefore \int dt \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial q} \delta q + \frac{\partial \ Lagr}{\partial \dot{q}} \delta \dot{q} = 0$$

$$\int dt \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial q} \delta q + \frac{\partial \ Lagr}{\partial \dot{q}} \delta \frac{dq/dt}{=} 0$$

Since, δ and $\frac{d}{dt}$ commute,

$$\int dt \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial q} \delta q + \frac{\partial \ Lagr}{\partial \dot{q}} \frac{d}{dt} \delta q = 0$$

$$Using, \ \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{q}} \frac{d}{dt} \delta q = \frac{d}{dt}(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{q}} \delta q) - \frac{d}{dt}(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{q}}) \delta q$$

$$\int dt \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial q} \delta q + \frac{d}{dt}(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{q}} \delta q) - \frac{d}{dt}(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{q}}) \delta q = 0$$

For Integral from a to b, $\int_a^b dt \delta q = 0$, then

$$\int_a^b dt \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial q} \delta q - \frac{d}{dt}(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{q}}) \delta q = 0$$

Diff both sides by $\frac{d}{dt}$,

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial q} \delta q - \frac{d}{dt}(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{q}}) \delta q = 0 \tag{3}$$

Obtained is nothing but the Euler-Lagrange Equation.

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Suppose, $\mathcal{L}$ is not a functin of q(Generally, the potential term is zero),

$$\implies \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial q} = 0$$

$$\therefore \frac{d}{dt}\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{q}} = 0$$

$$\implies \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{q}} = k \quad where\ k\ is\ a\ constant$$

Suppose, $\mathcal{L}$ is not a function of $\dot{q}$(Generally, the Kinetic Energy term is Zero), then

$$\ddot{q}\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}} + \dot{q}\frac{\partial L}{\partial q} - \frac{d}{dt}(\dot{q}\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}}) = 0$$

Conditional Variation:

Suppose $I = \int_a^b F(y, y', x)dx$ with Constrint $J = \int_a^b G(y, y', x)dx$, then,

Consider, $K = I + \lambda J$

$$\therefore K = \int_a^b (F(y, y', x) + \lambda G(y, y', x))dx$$

Since, constrain (J) is a fixed function, then $\delta J = 0$.

$$\implies \delta K = \delta I$$

$$\mathcal{L} = F(y, y', x) + \lambda G(y, y', x)$$

where λ is underdetermined Lagrangian constant.

Conservation Laws and Symmetries:

Nother's Theorem For every symmetry, there always exists a conserved quantity.
If a $\mathcal{L}$ does not expcilitly depend on a coordinate $\rightarrow$ Conservation Law.

Translation Symmetry:

Suppose, a particle is at q_i with a velocity of $\dot{q}_i$ at t and has $\mathcal{L} = k\dot{q}_i{}^2$. Consider a coordinate transformation where $q_i^* = q_i + \delta$, where δ is an infintisimal variation, then

$$q_i^* = q_i + \delta$$
$$\dot{q}_i^* = \dot{q}_i$$
$$\therefore \delta\mathcal{L} = 0$$

By applying the Euler-Lagrange Eq.,

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_i} = 2k\dot{q}_i = 0$$

$$\implies \dot{P}_i = 0$$

$$P_i = Constant$$

Thus, Linear Momentum is conserved.

Rotational Symmetry:

Suppose, a particle is at x,y has a $\mathcal{L} = k(\dot{x}^2 + \dot{y}^2) - V(x^2 + y^2)$, where $k = \frac{1}{2}m$
Consider a rotation by δ angle, then

$$x' = x\cos\delta + y\sin\delta$$
$$y' = -x\sin\delta + y\cos\delta$$

Assuming, δ to be infintisimal, then

$$\sin\delta \sim \delta \ and \ \cos\delta \sim 1$$

$$\therefore x' = x + y\delta \ and \ y' = -x\delta + y$$

Hence, the variation in x is $\delta x = y\delta$ and variation in y is $\delta y = -x\delta$

$$\delta\dot{x} = y\delta \ and \ \delta\dot{y} = -x\delta$$

Therefore, the variation in $x^2 + y^2$is

$$\delta(x^2 + y^2) = 2x\delta x + 2y\delta y$$
$$= 2xy\delta - 2xy\delta \tag{4}$$
$$= 0$$

Hence, the variation in V should also be 0.
For Variation in the Kinetic Term,

$$\delta(\dot{x^2} + \dot{y^2}) = 2\dot{x}\delta\dot{x} + 2\dot{y}\delta\dot{y}$$
$$= 2\dot{x}\dot{y}\delta - 2\dot{x}\dot{y}\delta \tag{5}$$
$$= 0$$

Hence, the variation is Kinetic Term is also Zero.
Therefore, Variation in $\mathcal{L}$ is Zero.
Thus, for infinitisimal rotation of the system, the Lagrangian is Invarient.

Generalization:

Assuming, q_i and $\dot{q}_i$ as the generalized coordinates.
Suppose, a variation is brought in q,
$$\delta q = f_i(q)\delta$$
where δ is nothing but a small change, and is a constant.
Consider $\epsilon = \delta$ to reduce the clutter in notation.
It is to be noted that this infintisimal change can be stacked up to form a finite change, still these eqs will hold up, since, if $V(x, y)$ is the potential and $\delta V = \frac{\partial V}{\partial x}\delta x = 0, \implies \frac{\partial V}{\partial x}$ is 0 at all points.
Now,

$$\delta q = f_i(q)\epsilon \tag{6}$$
$$\delta\dot{q} = \frac{d}{dt}(f_i(q)\epsilon) \tag{7}$$

Then,

$$\delta\mathcal{L} = \frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial q_i}\delta q_i + \frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial\dot{q}_i}\delta\dot{q}_i + \frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial t}\delta t$$

Assuming, $\mathcal{L}$ is Independent of time. (Assuming time symmetry)

$$\delta\mathcal{L} = \frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial q_i}\delta q_i + \frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial\dot{q}_i}\delta\dot{q}_i$$

Since, $\frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial\dot{q}}$ is nothing but the cannonical conjugate of Momentum and $\frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial q_i} = \frac{d}{dt}\frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial\dot{q}}(3)$

$$\delta\mathcal{L} = \dot{P}_i\delta q_i + P_i\delta\dot{q}_i \tag{8}$$

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Using, (6) and (7)

$$\delta\mathcal{L} = \dot{P}_i f_i(q)\epsilon + P_i \frac{d}{dt}(f_i(q)\epsilon)$$

$$\delta\mathcal{L} = \epsilon \frac{d}{dt}(P_i f_i(q))$$

Assuming, there is a symmetry, then $\delta\mathcal{L} = 0$,

$$\implies \epsilon \frac{d}{dt}P_i f_i(q) = 0$$

$$\frac{d}{dt}P_i f_i(q) = 0$$

Therefore, the **conserved quantity** is,

$$Q = P_i f_i(q) \tag{9}$$

Time Symmetry:

When $\mathcal{L}$ doesn't expcilitly depend upon t, or $\mathcal{L} = \sum_i \mathcal{L}(q_i, \dot{q}_i)$). ($\sum_i$ is ommited in later text to reduce the clutter)

$$\frac{d\mathcal{L}}{dt} = \frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial q_i}\dot{q}_i + \frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial\dot{q}_i}\ddot{q}_i$$

But, since $P_i = \frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial\dot{q}_i}$ and $\dot{P}_i = \frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial q_i}$,

$$\frac{d\mathcal{L}}{dt} = \dot{P}_i q_i + P_i \ddot{q}_i$$

$$\frac{d\mathcal{L}}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt}(P_i \dot{q}_i)$$

Therefore, the conserved quantity is,

$$\frac{d}{dt}(\mathcal{L} - P_i \dot{q}_i) = 0 \tag{10}$$

which is nothing but the total energy, called Hamiltonian.

$$-H = \mathcal{L} - P_i \dot{q}_i$$
$$\implies H = P_i \dot{q}_i - \mathcal{L} \tag{11}$$

Hamiltonian of a particle moving linearly in a potential field:

For such a particle, $\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2 - V(x)$, where $V(x)$ is the potential energy at position x.

$$\therefore H = m\dot{x}^2 - \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2 + V(x)$$

$$\implies H = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2 + V(x)$$

Assuming Time Dependence:

Suppose, the $\mathcal{L}$ depends upon time.

$$\therefore \frac{d\mathcal{L}}{dt} = \frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial q_i}\dot{q}_i + \frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial\dot{q}_i}\ddot{q}_i + \frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial t}$$

$$\implies \frac{d\mathcal{L}}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt}(P_i \dot{q}_i) + \frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial t}$$

$$\frac{d\mathcal{L} - P_i \dot{q}_i}{dt} = \frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial t}$$

$$\frac{dH}{dt} = -\frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial t} \tag{12}$$

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Lagrangian in a Rotational Transformation:

Suppose, a particle is at x,y has a $\mathcal{L} = k(\dot{x}^2 + \dot{y}^2)$, where $k = \frac{1}{2}m$.
Consider a coordinate system, x', y', with the same origin but rotating with ω angular velocity.
Therefore, for the transformation eqs. will be,

$$x' = x \cos \omega t + y \sin \omega t \tag{13}$$
$$y' = -x \sin \omega t + y \cos \omega t \tag{14}$$

Using (13) and (14),

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2}m(\dot{x}^2 + \dot{y}^2) + \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2(x^2 + y^2) + m\omega(\dot{x}y - x\dot{y}) \tag{15}$$

Since, $\mathcal{L} = T - V$, the first term refers to the original $\mathcal{L}$ which is nothing but the Kinetic Energy, the second terms seems to be similar to Potential Energy and the third term corresponds to Correlios Force.

Hamiltonian:

Consider a $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}(q, \dot{(q)}, t)$.
Then, then H is defined by,

$$H = \sum_i P_i \dot{q}_i - \mathcal{L} \tag{16}$$

For small variation in H,

$$\delta H = \frac{\partial H}{\partial P} \delta P + \frac{\partial H}{\partial q} \delta q \tag{17}$$

$$\delta H = \sum_i \delta P_i \dot{q}_i - \delta \mathcal{L}$$

$$\delta H = \sum_i \delta(P_i)\dot{q}_i + P_i \delta(\dot{q}_i) - \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial q_i} \delta q_i - \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \delta \dot{q}_i$$

Using (8), the 2nd and 4th turn cancels each other out,

$$\delta H = \sum_i \dot{q}_i \delta(P_i) - \dot{P}_i \delta(q_i)$$

Comparing this equation, with (17), (Dropping $\sum$ notation to increase clarity.)

$$\frac{\partial H}{\partial P} = \dot{q} \tag{18}$$
$$\frac{\partial H}{\partial q} = -\dot{P} \tag{19}$$

Note: The no. of Hamiltonian equations is double the Lagrangian equations.
The Hamiltonian eqs are 1st Order Differential Equations where as the Lagrangian eqs are 2nd Order.