

# Chapter 6 & 7 $\rightarrow$ Principle of Least Action and the Lagrangian



$\rightarrow$  "generalized coordinates"  
 $\rightarrow$  Principle of Least Action

$$T = \frac{1}{2}mv^2 = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2$$

$$U = mgx$$

$$\int_{t_1}^{t_2} \left( \underbrace{\frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^2}_{v(t)} - \underbrace{mgx}_{x(t)} \right) dt$$

what is  $x(t)$  and  $\dot{x}(t)$   
 $\hookrightarrow$  so this integral is smallest

Lagrangian

$$L = T - U$$

Action

$$S = \int_{t_1}^{t_2} L(x(t), \dot{x}(t), t) dt$$
$$= \int_{t_1}^{t_2} L(x, \dot{x}, t) dt$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{x}} \right) - \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial x} = 0$$

$$\boxed{\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{x}} \right) = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial x}}$$

Euler - Lagrange  
Equation

$$= \frac{1}{2} m (\dot{x}^2 + \dot{y}^2 + \dot{z}^2) = \frac{1}{2} m v^2$$

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} m \dot{x}^2 + \frac{1}{2} m \dot{y}^2 + \frac{1}{2} m \dot{z}^2 - U(x, y, z)$$

↳ 1D motion

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

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{x}} \right) = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial x}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial \dot{x}} \left( \frac{1}{2} m \dot{x}^2 - U(x) \right) \right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \frac{1}{2} m \dot{x}^2 - U(x) \right)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} (m \dot{x}) = - \frac{dU}{dx}$$

$$m\ddot{x} = -\frac{dU}{dx}$$

→ In 3D

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt}\left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{x}}\right) &= \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial x} \\ m\ddot{x} &= -\frac{\partial U}{\partial x} \end{aligned} \right|$$

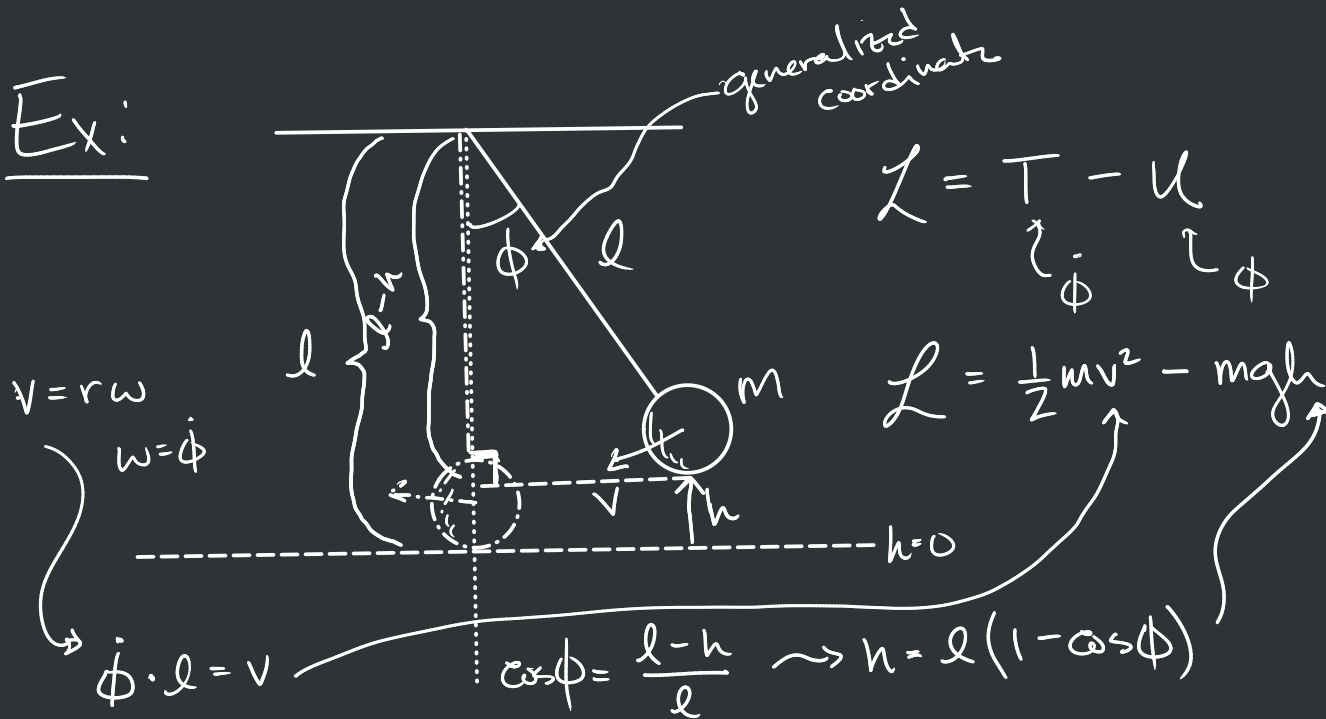
$$\left. \begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt}\left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{y}}\right) &= \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial y} \\ m\ddot{y} &= -\frac{\partial U}{\partial y} \end{aligned} \right|$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt}\left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{z}}\right) &= \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial z} \\ m\ddot{z} &= -\frac{\partial U}{\partial z} \end{aligned} \right|$$

$$m\ddot{x}\hat{x} + m\ddot{y}\hat{y} + m\ddot{z}\hat{z} = -\frac{\partial U}{\partial x}\hat{x} - \frac{\partial U}{\partial y}\hat{y} - \frac{\partial U}{\partial z}\hat{z}$$

$$\underbrace{\sum \vec{F}} = m\ddot{\vec{r}} = -\underbrace{\vec{\nabla} U} = \sum \vec{F}$$

Ex:



$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2}ml^2\dot{\phi}^2 - mgl(1 - \cos \phi)$$

→ apply the Euler-Lagrange equation