

# 1 Energy

Review: There are two requirements for conservation of angular momentum

1. Force is central
2. External torque is zero

**Kinetic Energy:**  $T = \frac{1}{2}mv^2 = \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{v}$ . Taking the time derivative

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{T} &= \frac{1}{2}(\dot{\mathbf{v}} \cdot \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \dot{\mathbf{v}}) \\ &= m\dot{\mathbf{v}} \cdot \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{v}\end{aligned}$$

and integrating over time  $t_1$  to  $t_2$

$$\int_{t_1}^{t_2} \dot{T} dt = \Delta T = \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{v} dt = \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r} = W(1 \rightarrow 2)$$

since  $\mathbf{v} \cdot dt = d\mathbf{r}$  and  $\mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}$  hints that this is a line integral.

**Example:**

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{F}(x, y) &= \mathbf{r} = x\hat{\mathbf{x}} + y\hat{\mathbf{y}} \\ d\mathbf{r} &= dx\hat{\mathbf{x}} + dy\hat{\mathbf{y}}\end{aligned}$$

(a)  $y = x$  from  $a = (0, 0)$  to  $b = (1, 1)$

$$\begin{aligned}\int_a^b \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r} &= \int_0^1 (x dx + y dy) \\ &= \int_0^1 x dx + \int_0^1 x dx = 1\end{aligned}$$

(b)  $y = x^2$  and  $dy = 2x dx$

$$\begin{aligned}\int_a^b \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r} &= \int_0^1 (x dx + x^2 dy) \\ &= \int_0^1 x dx + \int_0^1 2x^2 dx = 1\end{aligned}$$

thus the line integral is independent of the path.

**Conservative force**

1. Given  $\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r})$ , there is no dependence on  $\mathbf{v}$ ,  $t$ .
2.  $\int \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}$  is independent of the path.

$$U(\mathbf{r}) = -W(\mathbf{r}_0 \rightarrow \mathbf{r}) = -\int_{\mathbf{r}_0}^{\mathbf{r}} \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}'$$

For gravity

$$U_g(\mathbf{r}) = -\int_a^b \mathbf{F}_g \cdot d\mathbf{r} = -\int_a^b -mg dy' = mg(y_a - y_b)$$

**Work-Kinetic Energy Theorem:**

$$W(1 \rightarrow 2) = W(1 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}) + W(\mathcal{O} \rightarrow 2) = U(1) - U(2) = \Delta T$$

From this we have

$$\Delta T = T_2 - T_1 = U_1 - U_2$$

rearranging terms give the mechanical energy

$$T_2 + U_2 = T_1 + U_1 = E$$

and for  $N$  conservative forces in a system

$$E = T + U_1 + U_2 + \cdots + U_N$$

## Energy: Part 2

**Conservative Force: Potential Energy** The mechanical energy

$$E = T + U$$

is made up of the sum of the kinetic and potential energy. This is useful for

- obtaining equations of motion (EOM)

e.g. finding the EOM for a simple pendulum of mass  $m$ , length  $L$  and initial angle  $\theta$ . The kinetic energy is

$$T = \frac{1}{2}mL^2\dot{\theta}^2$$

where the magnitude of velocity is the tangential component  $v = L\omega = L\dot{\theta}$ . The potential energy is

$$U = -mgy = -mgL \cos \theta$$

and the conservation of energy tells us that the mechanical energy is constant

$$\begin{aligned} T + U &= \text{constant} = E \\ \frac{1}{2}mL^2\dot{\theta}^2 - mgL \cos \theta &= E \end{aligned}$$

and in the initial condition we know that the velocity is zero  $\dot{\theta} = 0$  and thus

$$-mgL \cos \theta_{max} = E$$

taking the time derivative of the energy equation gives

$$\begin{aligned} mL^2\dot{\theta}\ddot{\theta} + mgL \sin \theta \dot{\theta} &= 0 \\ \ddot{\theta} + \frac{g}{L} \sin \theta &= 0 \\ \ddot{\theta} &= -\frac{g}{L} \sin \theta \end{aligned}$$

taking the time derivative of the energy is a useful trick for finding the EOM when we are trying to solve for  $\dot{v}^2$ .

**Last time** we found the potential energy for a position  $\mathbf{r}$  in a conservative force field  $\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r})$  is

$$U(\mathbf{r}) = -W(\mathbf{r}_0 \rightarrow \mathbf{r}) = -\int_{\mathbf{r}_0}^{\mathbf{r}} \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}'$$

from the fundamental theorem of calculus (derivatives and integrals are inverses) we want to find a function where the derivative equals the conservative force: First we take an infinitesimal change in the position  $\mathbf{r} \rightarrow \mathbf{r} + d\mathbf{r}$  and the change in potential energy is

$$\begin{aligned} U(\mathbf{r} + d\mathbf{r}) &= -\int_{\mathbf{r}_0}^{\mathbf{r}+d\mathbf{r}} \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}' \\ &= -\int_{\mathbf{r}_0}^{\mathbf{r}} \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}' - \int_{\mathbf{r}}^{\mathbf{r}+d\mathbf{r}} \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}' \\ &= U(\mathbf{r}) - \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r}) \cdot d\mathbf{r} \end{aligned}$$

where we know that the force is constant over a small distance. Moving the terms gives

$$\begin{aligned} U(\mathbf{r} + d\mathbf{r}) - U(\mathbf{r}) &= -\mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r} \\ &= -(F_x dx + F_y dy + F_z dz) \end{aligned}$$

where we use Cartesian Coordinates, and we know that the gradient of potential is

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla U &= \hat{\mathbf{x}} \frac{\partial U}{\partial x} + \hat{\mathbf{y}} \frac{\partial U}{\partial y} + \hat{\mathbf{z}} \frac{\partial U}{\partial z} \\ &= -(F_x \hat{\mathbf{x}} + F_y \hat{\mathbf{y}} + F_z \hat{\mathbf{z}}) = -\mathbf{F} \end{aligned}$$

**Example 3: 1D motion** If we know what  $U$  is as a function of  $x$ , we can find the force! At points where  $E = U$  we call these classical turning points. At a region of a relative minimum, a particle below the threshold of the turning point will oscillate between the two turning points. And at  $E > U_{max}$  the particle is unbound and will escape the forces that attracted it.

**Example 4:**

$$E = T + U(x) \text{ is constant}$$

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

$$\dot{x}^2 = \frac{2}{m} (E - U(x))$$

$$\dot{x} = \pm \sqrt{\frac{2}{m} (E - U(x))}$$

using separation of variables

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dx}{dt} &= \sqrt{\frac{2}{m} (E - U(x))} \\ \sqrt{\frac{m}{2}} dt &= \frac{dx}{\sqrt{E - U(x)}} \\ \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \sqrt{\frac{m}{2}} dt &= \int_{x_1}^{x_2} \frac{dx}{\sqrt{E - U(x)}} \\ (t_2 - t_1) &= \sqrt{\frac{2}{m}} \int_{x_1}^{x_2} \frac{dx}{\sqrt{E - U(x)}} \end{aligned}$$

where the sign of the velocity is positive within the oscillating bounds of the turning points and changes sign as the particle moves past the turning point.

## Energy: Part 3

**Last time:** Conservative force as a negative gradient of potential:

$$\mathbf{F} = -\nabla U$$

with classical turning points at  $E = U$ .

### Conditions of a conservative force

- Only depends on position  $\mathbf{r}$  (or just constant)
- Work done is path independent (this is sometimes hard to check)  $\Leftrightarrow \nabla \times \mathbf{F} = 0$

**What is curl?** In 3D Cartesian coordinates

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \times \mathbf{F} &= \begin{vmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{x}} & \hat{\mathbf{y}} & \hat{\mathbf{z}} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ F_x & F_y & F_z \end{vmatrix} \\ &= \left( \frac{\partial F_z}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial F_y}{\partial z} \hat{\mathbf{x}} + \frac{\partial F_x}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial F_z}{\partial x} \hat{\mathbf{y}} + \frac{\partial F_y}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial F_x}{\partial y} \hat{\mathbf{z}} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Mathematically we know that if the force vector is a gradient of a scalar potential

$$\mathbf{F} = \nabla \phi = -\nabla U \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \nabla \times \mathbf{F} = 0$$

The curl of a gradient is always zero! Short ‘proof’:

$$F_x = -\frac{\partial U}{\partial x} \quad F_y = -\frac{\partial U}{\partial y} \quad F_z = -\frac{\partial U}{\partial z}$$

and the curl

$$\begin{vmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{x}} & \hat{\mathbf{y}} & \hat{\mathbf{z}} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ -\frac{\partial U}{\partial x} & -\frac{\partial U}{\partial y} & -\frac{\partial U}{\partial z} \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

Proving that the line integral is path independent is a little difficult, but in general we know that the two different paths  $a$  and  $b$  from points 1 to 2 we can write the work as

$$\int_1^2 \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}_2 - \int_1^2 \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}_1 = \oint_{a-b} \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r} = \int_A (\nabla \times \mathbf{F}) \cdot d\mathbf{A} = 0$$

where we invoke Stokes’ Theorem to find the integral of the curl over the surface  $A$  is zero.

**Conservative Force:**  $\mathbf{F} = x\hat{\mathbf{x}} + y\hat{\mathbf{y}}$  is conservative, but is

$$\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r}) = F(\mathbf{r})\hat{\mathbf{r}}$$

a central force always conservative? We will need to check the curl of the force to find out. But first we define spherical coordinates  $(r, \theta, \phi)$

$$\begin{aligned} x &= r \sin \theta \cos \phi \\ y &= r \sin \theta \sin \phi \\ z &= r \cos \theta \end{aligned}$$

and the central force in spherical coordinates is

$$\mathbf{F} = F(\mathbf{r})\hat{\mathbf{r}} + 0\hat{\theta} + 0\hat{\phi}$$

the curl in spherical coordinates is

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla \times \mathbf{F} &= \frac{1}{r^2 \sin \theta} \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (F_\phi \sin \theta) - \frac{\partial F_\theta}{\partial \phi} \right] \hat{\mathbf{r}} \\ &+ \frac{1}{r} \left[ \frac{1}{\sin \theta} \frac{\partial F_r}{\partial \phi} - \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r F_\phi) \right] \hat{\theta} \\ &+ \frac{1}{r} \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r F_\theta) - \frac{\partial F_r}{\partial \theta} \right] \hat{\phi}\end{aligned}$$

And since

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial \theta} = \frac{\partial F}{\partial \phi} = 0$$

the curl is zero  $\nabla \times \mathbf{F} = 0$  and thus  $\mathbf{F}$  is a conservative central force.

**Gravity Conservative?** The force due to gravity

$$\mathbf{F}_g = -\frac{GMm}{r^2}\hat{\mathbf{r}} = -\frac{GMm}{r^3}\mathbf{r}$$

is a central force as it only depends on  $\mathbf{r}$ . e.g. for a two mass system:

$$\mathbf{F}_{12} = -\frac{Gm_1m_2}{|\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2|^3}(\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2)$$

Using Translational Invariance, we can shift the origin to the center of  $m_2$

$$\mathbf{r}_2 = 0 \quad \mathbf{F}_{12} = -\frac{Gm_1m_2}{\mathbf{r}_1^3}\mathbf{r}_1$$

or

$$F_{12} = -\nabla_1 U = -\left(\frac{\partial U}{\partial x_1}, \frac{\partial U}{\partial y_1}, \frac{\partial U}{\partial z_1}\right)$$

where the potential energy due to the interaction between 1 and 2 is

$$U_{12} = -\frac{Gm_1m_2}{|\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2|}$$

from newtons 3rd law, the force on 2 due to 1 is

$$\mathbf{F}_{12} = -\mathbf{F}_{21}$$

so

$$\begin{aligned}-\nabla_1 U_{12} &\rightarrow \mathbf{F}_{21} = \nabla_1 U_{12} \\ \nabla_1 U_{12}(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2) &= -\nabla_2 U_{12}(\mathbf{r}_2, \mathbf{r}_1) \\ u_{12}(\mathbf{x}) \quad \mathbf{x} &= \mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2 \\ \nabla_1 U_{12}(\mathbf{x}) &= \nabla_x U_{12}(\mathbf{x}) = -\nabla_2 U_{12}(\mathbf{x})\end{aligned}$$

so

$$\mathbf{F}_{12} = -\nabla_1 U_{12} \quad \mathbf{F}_{21} = -\nabla_2 U_{12}$$

and for  $N$  particles

$$\mathbf{F}_i = -\nabla_i U \quad U = \sum_{i,j} U_{ij} + \sum_i U_i^{\text{ext}}$$