

Deriving equations of motions of a double pendulum on a cart using the Lagrangian

Mirko van de Hoef

December 13, 2023

1 Introduction

This file is made to document the simulation of a double pendulum on a cart using lagrangian mechanics. In this file a double pendulum on a cart will be discussed.

2 The system

Where in figure 1:

- M : Mass of the cart [kg]
- m_1 : Mass of the first pendulum [kg]
- m_2 : Mass of the second pendulum [kg]
- θ_1 : Degrees first pendulum in reference to the cart [rad]
- θ_2 : Degrees second pendulum in reference to the cart [rad]
- ℓ_1 : Length of the first pendulum [m]
- ℓ_2 : Length of the second pendulum [m]
- x_c : Position of the cart [m]

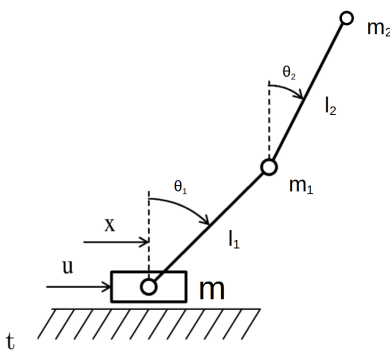


Figure 1: The pendulum

3 Lagrangian

Let the position and velocity of the pendulum be

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_1 &= \ell_1 \sin(\theta_1) + x_c & \dot{x}_1 &= \ell_1 \dot{\theta}_1 \cos(\theta_1) + \dot{x}_c \\
 y_1 &= -\ell_1 \cos(\theta_1) & \dot{y}_1 &= \ell_1 \dot{\theta}_1 \sin(\theta_1) \\
 x_2 &= \ell_1 \sin(\theta_1) + \ell_2 \sin(\theta_2) + x_c & \dot{x}_2 &= \ell_1 \dot{\theta}_1 \cos(\theta_1) + \ell_2 \dot{\theta}_2 \cos(\theta_2) + \dot{x}_c \\
 y_2 &= -\ell_1 \cos(\theta_1) - \ell_2 \cos(\theta_2) & \dot{y}_2 &= \ell_1 \dot{\theta}_1 \sin(\theta_1) + \ell_2 \dot{\theta}_2 \sin(\theta_2)
 \end{aligned}$$

To derive the equations of motion, the Lagrangian (1) will be used. First, T , the kinetic energy of the system will be calculated.

$$\mathcal{L} = T - V \quad (1)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 T &= \frac{1}{2} M \dot{x}_c^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_1 (\dot{x}_1^2 + \dot{y}_1^2) + \frac{1}{2} m_2 (\dot{x}_2^2 + \dot{y}_2^2) \\
 T &= \frac{1}{2} M \dot{x}_c^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_1 \left((\ell_1 \dot{\theta}_1 \cos(\theta_1) + \dot{x}_c)^2 + (\ell_1 \dot{\theta}_1 \sin(\theta_1))^2 \right) \\
 &\quad + \frac{1}{2} m_2 \left((\ell_1 \dot{\theta}_1 \cos(\theta_1) + \dot{x}_c + \ell_2 \dot{\theta}_2 \cos(\theta_2))^2 + (\ell_1 \dot{\theta}_1 \sin(\theta_1) + \ell_2 \dot{\theta}_2 \sin(\theta_2))^2 \right) \\
 T &= \frac{1}{2} M \dot{x}_c^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_1 (\dot{x}_c^2 + 2\ell_1 \dot{x}_c \dot{\theta}_1 \cos(\theta_1) + \ell_1^2 \dot{\theta}_1^2) + \frac{1}{2} m_2 (\dots) \\
 T &= \dots + \frac{1}{2} m_2 (\ell_1^2 \dot{\theta}_1^2 \cos^2(\theta_1) \\
 &\quad + 2\ell_1 \dot{\theta}_1 \cos(\theta_2) \dot{x}_c + 2\ell_1 \dot{\theta}_1 \cos(\theta_1) \ell_2 \dot{\theta}_2 \cos(\theta_2) \\
 &\quad + \dot{x}_c^2 + 2\dot{x}_c \ell_2 \dot{\theta}_2 \cos(\theta_2) + \ell_2^2 \dot{\theta}_2^2 \cos^2(\theta_2) \\
 &\quad + \ell_1^2 \dot{\theta}_1^2 \sin^2(\theta_1) + 2\ell_1 \ell_2 \dot{\theta}_1 \dot{\theta}_2 \sin(\theta_1) \sin(\theta_2) + \ell_2^2 \dot{\theta}_2^2 \sin^2(\theta_2)) \\
 T &= \dots + \frac{1}{2} m_2 (\dot{x}_c^2 + \ell_1^2 \dot{\theta}_1^2 + 2\ell_1 \ell_2 \dot{\theta}_1 \dot{\theta}_2 \cos(\theta_1 - \theta_2) + \ell_2^2 \dot{\theta}_2^2 + 2\dot{x}_c (\ell_1 \dot{\theta}_1 \cos(\theta_1) + \ell_2 \dot{\theta}_2 \cos(\theta_2))) \\
 T &= \frac{1}{2} (M + m_1 + m_2) \dot{x}_c^2 + \frac{1}{2} (m_1 + m_2) \ell_1^2 \dot{\theta}_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_2 \ell_2^2 \dot{\theta}_2^2 \\
 &\quad + m_2 \ell_1 \ell_2 \dot{\theta}_1 \dot{\theta}_2 \cos(\theta_1 - \theta_2) + (m_1 + m_2) \dot{x}_c \ell_1 \dot{\theta}_1 \cos(\theta_1) + m_2 \dot{x}_c \ell_2 \dot{\theta}_2 \cos(\theta_2)
 \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

Then, for V , the potential energy of the system

$$\begin{aligned}
 V &= m_1 g(y_1) + m_2 g(y_2) \\
 V &= -m_1 g \ell_1 \cos(\theta_1) - m_2 g (\ell_1 \cos(\theta_1) + \ell_2 \cos(\theta_2)) \\
 V &= -(m_1 + m_2) g \ell_1 \cos(\theta_1) - m_2 g \ell_2 \cos(\theta_2)
 \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

Lastly, using (2) and (3) the Lagrangian, \mathcal{L} , can be formulated

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{L} &= \frac{1}{2} (M + m_1 + m_2) \dot{x}_c^2 + \frac{1}{2} (m_1 + m_2) \ell_1^2 \dot{\theta}_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_2 \ell_2^2 \dot{\theta}_2^2 \\
 &\quad + m_2 \ell_1 \ell_2 \dot{\theta}_1 \dot{\theta}_2 \cos(\theta_1 - \theta_2) + (m_1 + m_2) \dot{x}_c \ell_1 \dot{\theta}_1 \cos(\theta_1) + m_2 \dot{x}_c \ell_2 \dot{\theta}_2 \cos(\theta_2) \\
 &\quad + (m_1 + m_2) g \ell_1 \cos(\theta_1) + m_2 g \ell_2 \cos(\theta_2)
 \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

4 Solve for $\ddot{\theta}_1$

Using the Lagrangian equation (19)

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{q}} \right) = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial q} \quad (5)$$

Substituting (4) in equation (19) and solving for θ_1 gives:

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{\theta}_1} = (m_1 + m_2)\ell_1^2 \dot{\theta}_1 + m_2 \ell_1 \ell_2 \dot{\theta}_2 \cos(\theta_1 - \theta_2) + (m_1 + m_2)\dot{x}_c \ell_1 \cos(\theta_1) \quad (6)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{\theta}_1} \right) = & (m_1 + m_2)\ell_1^2 \ddot{\theta}_1 + m_2 \ell_1 \ell_2 \ddot{\theta}_2 \cos(\theta_1 - \theta_2) - m_2 \ell_1 \ell_2 \dot{\theta}_2 \sin(\theta_1 - \theta_2)(\dot{\theta}_1 - \dot{\theta}_2) \\ & + (m_1 + m_2)\ddot{x}_c \ell_1 \cos(\theta_1) - (m_1 + m_2)\dot{x}_c \ell_1 \sin(\theta_1)\dot{\theta}_1 \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \theta_1} = -m_2 \ell_1 \ell_2 \dot{\theta}_1 \dot{\theta}_2 \sin(\theta_1 - \theta_2) - (m_1 + m_2)g \ell_1 \sin(\theta_1) - (m_1 + m_2)\dot{x}_c \ell_1 \dot{\theta}_1 \sin(\theta_1) \quad (8)$$

Which give the following differential equation:

$$\begin{aligned} & (m_1 + m_2)\ell_1^2 \ddot{\theta}_1 + m_2 \ell_1 \ell_2 \ddot{\theta}_2 \cos(\theta_1 - \theta_2) - m_2 \ell_1 \ell_2 \dot{\theta}_2 \sin(\theta_1 - \theta_2)(\dot{\theta}_1 - \dot{\theta}_2) \\ & + (m_1 + m_2)\ddot{x}_c \ell_1 \cos(\theta_1) - (m_1 + m_2)\dot{x}_c \ell_1 \sin(\theta_1)\dot{\theta}_1 + m_2 \ell_1 \ell_2 \dot{\theta}_1 \dot{\theta}_2 \sin(\theta_1 - \theta_2) \\ & + (m_1 + m_2)g \ell_1 \sin(\theta_1) + (m_1 + m_2)\dot{x}_c \ell_1 \dot{\theta}_1 \sin(\theta_1) = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

Which simplifies to:

$$\begin{aligned} & (m_1 + m_2)\ell_1 \ddot{\theta}_1 + m_2 \ell_2 \ddot{\theta}_2 \cos(\theta_1 - \theta_2) + m_2 \ell_2 \dot{\theta}_2^2 \sin(\theta_1 - \theta_2) \\ & + (m_1 + m_2)\ddot{x}_c \cos(\theta_1) + (m_1 + m_2)g \sin(\theta_1) = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

With the differential equation solved for $\ddot{\theta}_1$:

$$\frac{m_2 \ell_2 \ddot{\theta}_2 \cos(\theta_1 - \theta_2) + m_2 \ell_2 \dot{\theta}_2^2 \sin(\theta_1 - \theta_2) + (m_1 + m_2)\ddot{x}_c \cos(\theta_1) + (m_1 + m_2)g \sin(\theta_1)}{-(m_1 + m_2)\ell_1} = \ddot{\theta}_1 \quad (11)$$

5 Solve for $\ddot{\theta}_2$

Using the Lagrangian equation (19)

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{q}} \right) = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial q} \quad (12)$$

Substituting (4) in equation (19) and solving for θ_1 gives:

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{\theta}_1} = m_2 \ell_1 \ell_2 \dot{\theta}_1 \cos(\theta_1 - \theta_2) + m_2 \ell_2^2 \dot{\theta}_2 + m_2 \dot{x}_c \ell_2 \cos(\theta_2) \quad (13)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{\theta}_1} \right) &= m_2 \ell_1 \ell_2 \ddot{\theta}_1 \cos(\theta_1 - \theta_2) - m_2 \ell_1 \ell_2 \dot{\theta}_1 \sin(\theta_1 - \theta_2) (\dot{\theta}_1 - \dot{\theta}_2) \\ &\quad + m_2 \ell_2^2 \ddot{\theta}_2 + m_2 \ddot{x}_c \ell_2 \cos(\theta_2) - m_2 \dot{x}_c \ell_2 \sin(\theta_2) \dot{\theta}_2 \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \theta_1} = -m_2 \ell_1 \ell_2 \dot{\theta}_1 \dot{\theta}_2 \sin(\theta_1 - \theta_2) - m_2 \dot{x}_c \dot{\theta}_2 \ell_2 \sin(\theta_2) - m_2 g \ell_2 \sin(\theta_2) \quad (15)$$

Which give the following differential equation:

$$\begin{aligned} &m_2 \ell_1 \ell_2 \ddot{\theta}_1 \cos(\theta_1 - \theta_2) - m_2 \ell_1 \ell_2 \dot{\theta}_1 \sin(\theta_1 - \theta_2) (\dot{\theta}_1 - \dot{\theta}_2) \\ &+ m_2 \ell_2^2 \ddot{\theta}_2 + m_2 \ddot{x}_c \ell_2 \cos(\theta_2) - m_2 \dot{x}_c \ell_2 \sin(\theta_2) \dot{\theta}_2 + m_2 \ell_1 \ell_2 \dot{\theta}_1 \dot{\theta}_2 \sin(\theta_1 - \theta_2) \\ &+ m_2 \dot{x}_c \dot{\theta}_2 \ell_2 \sin(\theta_2) + m_2 g \ell_2 \sin(\theta_2) = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

Which simplifies to:

$$m_2 \ell_2 \ddot{\theta}_2 + m_2 \ell_1 \ddot{\theta}_1 \cos(\theta_1 - \theta_2) - m_2 \ell_1 \dot{\theta}_1^2 \sin(\theta_1 - \theta_2) + m_2 \ddot{x}_c \cos(\theta_2) + m_2 g \sin(\theta_2) = 0 \quad (17)$$

With the differential equation solved for $\ddot{\theta}_1$:

$$\frac{m_2 \ell_1 \ddot{\theta}_1 \cos(\theta_1 - \theta_2) - m_2 \ell_1 \dot{\theta}_1^2 \sin(\theta_1 - \theta_2) + m_2 \ddot{x}_c \cos(\theta_2) + m_2 g \sin(\theta_2)}{-m_2 \ell_2} = \ddot{\theta}_2 \quad (18)$$

6 Solve for \ddot{x}_c

Using the Lagrangian equation (19)

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{q}} \right) = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial q} \quad (19)$$

Substituting (4) in equation (19) and solving for θ_1 gives:

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{x}_c} = (M + m_1 + m_2)\dot{x}_c + (m_1 + m_2)\ell_1\dot{\theta}_1 \cos(\theta_1) + m_2\ell_2\dot{\theta}_2 \cos(\theta_2) \quad (20)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{x}_c} \right) &= (M + m_1 + m_2)\ddot{x}_c + (m_1 + m_2)\ell_1\ddot{\theta}_1 \cos(\theta_1) \\ &\quad - (m_1 + m_2)\ell_1\dot{\theta}_1^2 \sin(\theta_1) + m_2\ell_2\ddot{\theta}_2 \cos(\theta_2) - m_2\ell_2\dot{\theta}_2^2 \sin(\theta_2) \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial x_c} = 0 \quad (22)$$

Which give the following differential equation:

$$\begin{aligned} &(M + m_1 + m_2)\ddot{x}_c + (m_1 + m_2)\ell_1\ddot{\theta}_1 \cos(\theta_1) \\ &\quad - (m_1 + m_2)\ell_1\dot{\theta}_1^2 \sin(\theta_1) + m_2\ell_2\ddot{\theta}_2 \cos(\theta_2) - m_2\ell_2\dot{\theta}_2^2 \sin(\theta_2) = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

With the differential equation solved for \ddot{x}_c :

$$\frac{(m_1 + m_2)\ell_1\ddot{\theta}_1 \cos(\theta_1) - (m_1 + m_2)\ell_1\dot{\theta}_1^2 \sin(\theta_1) + m_2\ell_2\ddot{\theta}_2 \cos(\theta_2) - m_2\ell_2\dot{\theta}_2^2 \sin(\theta_2)}{-M + m_1 + m_2} = \ddot{x}_c \quad (24)$$

7 Liniearize using small angle approxiomation for: $\ddot{x}_c, \ddot{\theta}_1, \ddot{\theta}_2$

$$(M + m_1 + m_2)\ddot{x}_c + (m_1 + m_2)\ell_1\ddot{\theta}_1 + m_2\ell_2\ddot{\theta}_2 = F \quad (25)$$

$$(m_1 + m_2)\ell_1\ddot{\theta}_1 + m_2\ell_2\ddot{\theta}_2 + (m_1 + m_2)\ddot{x}_c - (m_1 + m_2)g\theta_1 = 0 \quad (26)$$

$$m_2\ell_2\ddot{\theta}_2 + m_2\ell_1\ddot{\theta}_1 + m_2\ddot{x}_c - m_2g\theta_2 = 0 \quad (27)$$

Or in matrix form:

$$\begin{bmatrix} (M + m_1 + m_2) & (m_1 + m_2)\ell_1 & m_2\ell_2 \\ (m_1 + m_2) & (m_1 + m_2)\ell_1 & m_2\ell_2 \\ m_2 & m_2\ell_1 & m_2\ell_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \ddot{x}_c \\ \ddot{\theta}_1 \\ \ddot{\theta}_2 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -(m_1 + m_2)g & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -g \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_c \\ \theta_1 \\ \theta_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} F \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (28)$$

With state vector equalling:

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} x_c \\ \theta_1 \\ \theta_2 \\ \dot{x}_c \\ \dot{\theta}_1 \\ \dot{\theta}_2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{or} \quad \dot{X} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}_c \\ \dot{\theta}_1 \\ \dot{\theta}_2 \\ \ddot{x}_c \\ \ddot{\theta}_1 \\ \ddot{\theta}_2 \end{bmatrix} \quad (29)$$

Now write the second-order into the first-order form: $M\dot{X} + NX = F$:

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & (M + m_2 + m_1) & (m_1 + m_2)\ell_1 & m_2\ell_2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & (m_1 + m_2) & (m_1 + m_2)\ell_1 & m_2\ell_2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & m_2 & m_2\ell_1 & m_2\ell_2 \end{bmatrix}, N = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & (m_1 + m_2)g & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & g & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, F = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (30)$$

Using the following formula for calculating the A and B matrix for the state space:

$$A = M^{-1}N, B = M^{-1}F \text{ (voeg bron in)} \quad (31)$$

Resulting in the following matrices:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & \frac{-g(m_1+m_2)}{M} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{g(M+m_1)(m_1+m_2)}{(Ml_1m_1)} & \frac{-gm_2}{(l_1m_1)} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{-g(m_1+m_2)}{(l_2m_1)} & \frac{g(m_1+m_2)}{(l_2m_1)} & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1/M \\ -1/Ml_1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad D = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$