

Canonical Equations of Motion --Hamiltonian Dynamics

- From previous discussion: If the PE U is independent of velocities (conservative system) then the linear momentum in **rectangular coordinates** has the form: $\mathbf{p}_i = (\partial L/\partial \mathbf{x}_i)$
- Extend this to the case where the Lagrangian is given in terms of generalized coordinates:

<u>DEFINE</u>: *The Generalized Momentum* (corresponding to the generalized coordinate \mathbf{q}_j): $\mathbf{p}_j \equiv (\partial L/\partial \dot{\mathbf{q}}_j)$.

 $\mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{j}} \equiv$ "Conjugate Momentum" to $\mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{j}}$.

Or, "Canonically Conjugate Momentum"

• (q,p) ≡ "conjugate" or "canonical" variables.

- Lagrange Eqtns of motion: s degrees of freedom $(\partial L/\partial q_j) - (d/dt)[(\partial L/\partial q_j)] = 0$ (j = 1,2,3, ... s)
- Gives s 2nd order, time dependent, differential eqtns.
- \Rightarrow The system motion is determined for all time when 2s initial values are specified: s q_j 's & s q_j 's
- We can represent the state of the system motion by the time dependent motion of a point in an abstract s-dimensional configuration space (coordinates = s generalized coords q_j).
- *PHYSICS:* In the Lagrangian Formulation of Mechanics, a system with s degrees of freedom = a problem in s INDEPENDENT variables q_j(t). The generalized velocities, q_j(t) are determined by taking the time derivatives of the q_j(t). The velocities are not independent variables!

CONTRAST!

- Hamiltonian Mechanics is a *fundamentally* <u>different</u> picture!
- It describes the system motion in terms of 1st order, time dependent equations of motion. The number of initial conditions is, of course, still 2s.
- $\Rightarrow \text{We must describe the system motion with } 2s$ independent 1st order, time dependent, differential equations expressed in terms of 2s independent variables.
- Choose s of these = s generalized coordinates q_i .
- The others = s generalized (conjugate) momenta p_i.

• Hamiltonian Mechanics:

- Describes the system motion in terms of s generalized coordinates q_j & s generalized momenta p_j. Gets 2s 1st order, time dependent equations of motion.
- Recall again the <u>**DEFINITION:</u>** Generalized Momentum associated with generalized coord q_j :</u>

$$\mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{j}} \equiv (\partial L / \partial \dot{\mathbf{q}}_{\mathbf{j}})$$

• (q,p) ≡ "conjugate" or "canonical" variables.

Legendre Transformations

- *Physically*, the Lagrange formulation assumes the coordinates q_j are independent variables & the velocities q_j are dependent variables & are only obtained by taking time derivatives of the q_j once the problem is solved.
- Mathematically, the Lagrange formalism treats q_j & q_j as independent variables. e.g., in Lagrange's eqtns, (∂L/∂q_j) means take the partial derivative of L with respect to q_j keeping all other q's & ALSO all q's constant. Similarly (∂L/∂q_j) means take the partial derivative of L with respect to q_j keeping all other q's & ALSO all q's constant.
- Treated as a pure mathematical problem, changing from the Lagrange formulation to the Hamilton formulation corresponds to changing variables from (q,q,t) (q,q, independent) to (q,p,t) (q,p independent)

- Lagrange's Equations are: $(\partial L/\partial q_j) = (d/dt)[(\partial L/\partial q_j)]$ (1)
- The generalized momentum is: $\mathbf{p}_{j} = (\partial L / \partial \dot{\mathbf{q}}_{j})$ (2)
- (1) & (2) together $\Rightarrow \dot{\mathbf{p}}_j = (\partial L/\partial q_j)$ (N's 2nd Law!!) (3)
- From previous discussion, the *Hamiltonian* is:

$$\mathbf{H} \equiv \sum_{j} \dot{\mathbf{q}}_{j} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\mathbf{q}}_{j}} \right) - L \qquad (4)$$

• Rewrite (4) using the generalized momentum definition (2):

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{H} = \sum_{j} \mathbf{p}_{j} \dot{\mathbf{q}}_{j} - L \qquad (5)$$

• (5) is the starting point for Hamiltonian Dynamics.

Derivation of Hamilton's Equations

- Lagrangian Dynamics: Assumes the Lagrangian $L = L(\mathbf{q}_j, \mathbf{q}_j, \mathbf{t})$ (is a function of generalized coordinates, generalized velocities, and time).
- Solve each $\mathbf{p}_j = (\partial L/\partial \dot{\mathbf{q}}_j)$ for the generalized velocities & get: $\dot{\mathbf{q}}_j = \dot{\mathbf{q}}_j(\mathbf{q}_k, \mathbf{p}_k, \mathbf{t})$
- In the Hamiltonian $\mathbf{H} = \sum_{j} \mathbf{p}_{j} \mathbf{q}_{j} \cdot \mathbf{L}$, make the change of variables from the set $(\mathbf{q}_{j}, \mathbf{q}_{j}, \mathbf{t})$ to the set $(\mathbf{q}_{k}, \mathbf{p}_{k}, \mathbf{t})$ & express the Hamiltonian as:

$$\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{q}_k, \mathbf{p}_k, t) = \sum_k \mathbf{p}_k \dot{\mathbf{q}}_k - L(\mathbf{q}_k, \dot{\mathbf{q}}_k, t)$$

- Hamiltonian Dynamics: Always write $\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{q}_k, \mathbf{p}_k, \mathbf{t}) = \sum_k \mathbf{p}_k \mathbf{q}_k - L(\mathbf{q}_k, \mathbf{q}_k, \mathbf{t})$
- This stresses that **Hamiltonian dynamics** considers the generalized coordinates & generalized momenta as the variables: (q_k, p_k, t) , whereas Lagrangian dynamics considers the generalized coordinates & generalized velocities as the variables: $(\mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{k}}, \mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{k}}, \mathbf{t})$. A vital & important point!! Please keep it in mind!

• A proper Hamiltonian (for use in Hamiltonian dynamics) is <u>ALWAYS</u> (!) written as a function of the generalized coordinates & momenta: $H = H(q_k, p_k, t)$. If you write it as a function of \dot{q}_i , it is <u>NOT</u> a Hamiltonian!!!

• A proper Lagrangian (for use in Lagrangian dynamics) is *ALWAYS* (!) written as a function of the generalized coordinates & velocities: $L \equiv L(q_j, \dot{q}_j, t)$

TO EMPHASIZE THIS

Consider a single free particle ($\vec{\mathbf{p}} = \mathbf{m}\vec{\mathbf{v}}$)

Energy = $\mathbf{K}\mathbf{E} = \mathbf{T} = (\frac{1}{2})\mathbf{m}\mathbf{v}^2$ only. So, $\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{T}$

But, if it is a **PROPER HAMILTONIAN**, can it be written $\mathbf{H} = \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{m}\mathbf{v}^2$?

NO!!!!!! H *must* be expressed in terms of the momentum **p**, not the velocity **v**! So the **PROPER HAMILTONIAN** is

$$H = [p^2/(2m)]$$
 !!!!!

Derivation of Hamilton's Equations of Motion

- The Hamiltonian is: $\mathbf{H} \equiv \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{q}_k, \mathbf{p}_k, \mathbf{t})$
- Take the total differential of **H**:
- $\mathbf{dH} = \sum_{k} [(\partial \mathbf{H} / \partial \mathbf{q}_{k}) \mathbf{dq}_{k} + (\partial \mathbf{H} / \partial \mathbf{p}_{k}) \mathbf{dp}_{k}] + (\partial \mathbf{H} / \partial \mathbf{t}) \mathbf{dt} \quad (1)$
- Also:

$$\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{q}_k, \mathbf{p}_k, \mathbf{t}) = \sum_k \mathbf{p}_k \, \dot{\mathbf{q}}_k \, - L(\mathbf{q}_k, \dot{\mathbf{q}}_k, \mathbf{t}) \qquad (2)$$

- The total differential of (2) is:
 - $\mathbf{dH} = \sum_{k} [\dot{\mathbf{q}}_{k} \, \mathbf{dp}_{k} + \mathbf{p}_{k} \, \mathbf{d\dot{q}}_{k}]$
 - $(\partial L/\partial q_k) dq_k (\partial L/\partial q_k) dq_k] (\partial L/\partial t) dt$ (3)

- We had: $\mathbf{p}_k = (\partial L / \partial \mathbf{q}_k)$ and $\mathbf{p}_k = (\partial L / \partial \mathbf{q}_k)$
- Put these into (3) & get: $d\mathbf{H} = \sum_{k} [\dot{\mathbf{q}}_{k} d\mathbf{p}_{k} + \mathbf{p}_{k} d\dot{\mathbf{q}}_{k} - \mathbf{p}_{k} d\mathbf{q}_{k} - \dot{\mathbf{p}}_{k} d\mathbf{q}_{k}] - (\partial L/\partial t) dt$ Or:
 - $\mathbf{dH} = \sum_{k} \left[\dot{\mathbf{q}}_{k} \, \mathbf{dp}_{k} \dot{\mathbf{p}}_{k} \, \mathbf{dq}_{k} \right] (\partial L / \partial t) \mathbf{dt} \qquad (4)$
- Compare (4) with (1) & get:

$$\dot{\mathbf{q}}_{k} = (\partial \mathbf{H}/\partial \mathbf{p}_{k}), \quad \dot{\mathbf{p}}_{k} = -(\partial \mathbf{H}/\partial \mathbf{q}_{k})$$

 $(\partial \mathbf{H}/\partial \mathbf{t}) = -(\partial L/\partial \mathbf{t})$

Hamilton's Equations of Motion

 $\dot{\mathbf{q}}_{\mathbf{k}} = (\partial \mathbf{H} / \partial \mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{k}})$ $\dot{\mathbf{p}}_{\mathbf{k}} = - (\partial \mathbf{H} / \partial \mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{k}})$

- We also have: $(\partial \mathbf{H}/\partial \mathbf{t}) = -(\partial L/\partial \mathbf{t})$
- Use Hamilton's Equations in (1): $dH = \sum_{k} [(\partial H/\partial q_{k}) dq_{k} + (\partial H/\partial p_{k}) dp_{k}] + (\partial H/\partial t) dt (1)$
- From Hamilton's Equations, each term in the sum = 0 & (1) becomes: (dH/dt) = (∂H/∂t) (5)
- (5) ⇒ If there is no *explicit* time dependence in H,
 (∂H/∂t) = 0, then total time derivative (dH/dt) = 0 or H = constant in time. (H is conserved.) If conditions are such that H = E (total energy), then the total energy is conserved!

• Hamilton's Equations of Motion $\dot{q}_k = (\partial H / \partial p_k)$ $\dot{p}_k = - (\partial H / \partial q_k)$

- These are called the "canonical" equations of motion because of their (almost) symmetric appearance.
- The description of motion based on these is called Hamiltonian Dynamics.

• Hamilton's Equations of Motion

$$\dot{\mathbf{q}}_{\mathbf{k}} = (\partial \mathbf{H}/\partial \mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{k}}) \qquad \dot{\mathbf{p}}_{\mathbf{k}} = - (\partial \mathbf{H}/\partial \mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{k}})$$

Consider a system with 3n coordinates, m constraints & s = 3n - m degrees of freedom.

 \Rightarrow Lagrangian Dynamics description is in terms of s Lagrange's Eqtns of Motion (2nd order differential eqtns).

 $\Rightarrow \text{Hamiltonian Dynamics description is in terms of 2s}$ Hamilton's Eqtns of Motion (1st order differential eqtns).

 Since one can be derived from the other, obviously, the 2 descriptions are <u>100% equivalent</u>. They are also 100% equivalent to Newton's 2nd Law!

Discussion of Hamilton's Eqtns

• Hamiltonian: $H(q,p,t) = \sum_{k} q_{k} p_{k} - L(q,q,t)$ (a) <u>Hamilton's Equations of Motion:</u>

 $\dot{q}_k = (\partial H/\partial p_k) \ \ (b), \ \, \dot{p}_k = \text{-}(\partial H/\partial q_k) \ \ (c), \ \, \text{-}(\partial L/\partial t) = (\partial H/\partial t) \ \ (d)$

- 2n <u>1st order</u>, time dependent equations of motion replacing the n 2nd order Lagrange Equations of motion.
- (a): The formal definition of the Hamiltonian **H** in terms of the Lagrangian *L*. However, as we'll see, in practice, we often needn't know *L* first to be able to construct **H**.
- (b): $\mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{k}} = (\partial \mathbf{H} / \partial \mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{k}})$: Gives $\mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{k}}$'s as functions of $(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{t})$. \Rightarrow Given initial values, integrate to get $\mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{k}} = \mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{t}) \Rightarrow$ Form the "inverse" of relns of the eqtns $\mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{k}} = (\partial L / \partial \mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{k}})$ which give $\mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{k}} = \mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{q}, \mathbf{t})$. \Rightarrow "No new information".

• Hamiltonian: $H(q,p,t) = \sum_{k} \dot{q}_{k} p_{k} - L(q,\dot{q},t)$ (a) <u>Hamilton's Equations of Motion:</u>

 $\mathbf{q}_{k} = (\partial H/\partial p_{k})$ (b), $\mathbf{p}_{k} = -(\partial H/\partial q_{k})$ (c), $-(\partial L/\partial t) = (\partial H/\partial t)$ (d)

- (b): $\dot{\mathbf{q}}_k = (\partial H/\partial p_k)$: $\Rightarrow \dot{\mathbf{q}}_k = \dot{\mathbf{q}}_k(q,p,t)$. \Rightarrow "No new info".
 - Usually true in terms of SOLVING mechanics problems. However, within the Hamiltonian picture of mechanics, where H = H(q,p,t), obtained NO MATTER HOW (not necessarily by (a)), this has equal footing (& contains equally important information as (c)).
- (c): $\mathbf{p}_k = -(\partial H/\partial q_k)$: Integrate & get $\mathbf{p}_k = \mathbf{p}_k(q,p,t)$
- (d): $-(\partial L/\partial t) = (\partial H/\partial t)$: This is obviously only important in time dependent problems.

Recipe for Hamiltonian Mechanics

• Hamiltonian: $H(q,p,t) = \sum_{k} \dot{q}_{k} p_{k} - L(q,\dot{q},t)$ (a) <u>Hamilton's Equations of Motion:</u>

 $\dot{\mathbf{q}_i} = (\partial \mathbf{H}/\partial \mathbf{p}_i)$ (b), $\dot{\mathbf{p}_i} = -(\partial \mathbf{H}/\partial \mathbf{q}_i)$ (c), $-(\partial L/\partial t) = (\partial \mathbf{H}/\partial t)$ (d)

• <u>Recipe:</u>

- **1.** Set up the Lagrangian, L = T U = L(q,q,t)
- **2.** Compute s conjugate momenta using: $\mathbf{p}_k \equiv (\partial L/\partial \dot{\mathbf{q}}_k)$
- 3. Form the Hamiltonian **H** from (a).

This will be of the "mixed" form $\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{q},\mathbf{q},\mathbf{p},\mathbf{t})$

- **4.** Invert **s** $\mathbf{p}_k \equiv (\partial L/\partial \dot{\mathbf{q}}_k)$ to get $\dot{\mathbf{q}}_k \equiv \dot{\mathbf{q}}_k(\mathbf{q},\mathbf{p},\mathbf{t})$.
- **5.** Apply the results of **4**. to eliminate \mathbf{q}_k from **H** to get a *proper Hamiltonian* $\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{q},\mathbf{p},\mathbf{t})$.

Then & only then can you properly & correctly use (b) & (c) to get the equations of motion!

- If you think that this is a long, tedious process, you aren't alone!
 - This requires that you set up the Lagrangian first!
 - If you already have the Lagrangian, why not go ahead & do Lagrangian dynamics instead of going through all of this to do Hamiltonian dynamics?
 - Further, combining the 2s 1st order differential equations of motion

 $\dot{\mathbf{q}}_{\mathbf{k}} = (\partial \mathbf{H} / \partial \mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{k}})$ (b) & $\dot{\mathbf{p}}_{\mathbf{k}} = -(\partial \mathbf{H} / \partial \mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{k}})$ (c)

gives the **SAME s** 2nd order differential equations of motion that Lagrangian dynamics gives!

• However, fortunately, for many physical systems of interest, it's possible to considerably shorten this procedure, even eliminating many steps completely!

Hamiltonian Dynamics Recipe (Comments)

- 1. In simple cases, its often possible to directly set up **H** in terms of generalized coordinates & momenta: $H(q_k, p_k, t)$. This is because the identification of the generalized momenta p_k is easy.
- Unfortunately, in more complicated cases, where identification of the p_k is more difficult, it actually might be necessary to first set up the Lagrangian *L*, & then calculate p_k with p_k = (∂L/∂q̇_k)
 Only after you have H = H(q_k,p_k,t) can you apply Hamilton's Eqtns! q̇_k = (∂H/∂p_k), ṗ_k = (∂H/∂q_k)

• *In many cases*, we know that

\Rightarrow H = T + U

That is, in many cases, the Hamiltonian is automatically the total mechanical energy E

If that is the case, we can *skip many steps* of the recipe. Instead: 1) Write H = T + U *immediately*. Express T in terms of the <u>MOMENTA</u> p_k (<u>not</u> the velocities q_k). Often it's easy to see how the p_k depend on the q_k & thus its easy to do this. Once this is done, we can go ahead & do Hamiltonian Dynamics without ever having written the Lagrangian.

Example 7.11

Use the Hamiltonian method to find the equations of motion of a particle of mass **m**, constrained to move on the surface of a cylinder defined by $x^2 + y^2 = \mathbf{R}^2$. The particle is subject to a force directed towards the origin and proportional



y

to the distance of the particle from the origin: $\vec{\mathbf{F}} = - \vec{\mathbf{kr}}$. Worked on the board!

Comments

- We could have done this problem with Lagrangian mechanics! In fact, in this case, Lagrange's Equations are easier to get than Hamilton's Equations.
- This is often true! The Lagrangian Method often leads more easily to the equations of motion than the Hamiltonian Method. (In my opinion, almost always!)
- In the Hamiltonian method, $q_k \& p_k$ are considered independent. In the Lagrangian Method q_k , \dot{q}_k are not.
 - \Rightarrow The Hamiltonian Method sometimes has a practical advantage over the Lagrangian Method.
 - e. g., Useful in celestial mechanics: Looking at motions of bodies due to perturbations of other bodies.
- In general, main power of **Hamiltonian** formulation is its use as a basis for sub-areas of physics beyond classical mechanics.
 - Quantum mechanics and beyond!