

**PROGRAMME: B.Sc. PHYSICS  
HONOURS**

**SEMESTER - V**

**Course: CLASSICAL DYNAMICS  
(DSE-2)**

**Lecture Note: 2**

Generalized Co-ordinate  $\Rightarrow$ 

It is the number of independent co-ordinate necessary to describe the configuration of a dynamical system. For a system of  $s$  number of degree of freedom having holonomic constraint the number of independent co-ordinate (generalized) is equal to the number of degree of freedom.

These co-ordinate are generally denoted as  $q_1, q_2, q_3, \dots, q_s = \{q_j\}$

where  $j = 1, 2, 3, \dots, s$ .

It may or may not have the dimension of length. ✓

The position vector of the  $i$ th particle

$$\vec{r}_i = \vec{r}_i(q_1, q_2, q_3, \dots, q_s, t)$$

For <sup>Scleronomous</sup> holonomic constraint  $\vec{r}_i$  is not explicitly function of time  $t$ .

ie.  $\boxed{\frac{\partial \vec{r}_i}{\partial t} = 0}$  ✓

## Principle of Virtual work:-

Any imaginary displacement which is consistent with the constraint relation at a given instant is called Virtual displacement.

Let us consider a system of  $N$  particles moving from one configuration space, defined by co-ordinates to another configuration at a given instant of time.

i.e. no real change in time, considered with the external forces and the constraint imposed on the system, is then imagine to be displaced by an infinitesimal vector  $\delta \vec{r}_i$  which called virtual displacement. It is different from actual displacement  $d\vec{r}_i$  which occurs in a time interval  $dt$  during which external forces and constraint may change.

$$\delta \vec{r}_i = d\vec{r}_i / dt = 0$$

For a system to be in equilibrium the resultant force acting on each particle must be zero.

$$\vec{F}_i = 0$$

$\vec{F}_i$  being the force on  $i$ th particle.

The virtual work done by the force  $\vec{F}_i$  due to virtual displacement  $\delta \vec{r}_i$  of the  $i$ th particle

$$\vec{F}_i \cdot \delta \vec{r}_i = 0 \quad \text{for equilibrium}$$

For all the particles of the system the condition of equilibrium is then

$$\sum_i \vec{F}_i \cdot \delta \vec{r}_i = 0$$

$$\text{But } \vec{F}_i = \vec{F}_i^{(a)} + \vec{f}_i$$

where  $\vec{F}_i^{(a)}$  is the applied external force and  $\vec{f}_i$  is the force due to constraint.

In most of the case the force due to constraint does no work. (It is not true for frictional forces)

$$\therefore \vec{f}_i \cdot \delta \vec{r}_i = 0$$

So the condition of equilibrium is then

$$\delta W = \sum_i \vec{F}_i^{(a)} \cdot \delta \vec{r}_i = 0$$

It should be noted that  $\delta \vec{r}_i$  is not independent but connected by force due to constraint.

Thus a system to be equilibrium if and only if the total virtual work done by the applied forces on the particle is zero, provided there is no frictional force. This is known as Principle of Virtual Work.

## D'Alembert's Principle :-

The principle of virtual work done may be extended for the case of Dynamics. The equation of motion of the  $i$ th particle

$$\vec{F}_i = \frac{d\vec{p}_i}{dt} = \vec{\dot{p}}_i$$

where  $\vec{p}_i$  is the linear momentum of the  $i$ th particle.

$$\therefore \vec{F}_i + (-\vec{\dot{p}}_i) = 0$$

Thus a moving particle will be in equilibrium under the force

$\vec{F}_i + (-\vec{\dot{p}}_i) = 0$  i.e. under the actual force  $\vec{F}_i$  plus a reverse effective force  $(-\vec{\dot{p}}_i)$ . In this way

the dynamics is reduced to statics.

Hence the condition of equilibrium for a system of particles in dynamics is

$$\sum (\vec{F}_i - \vec{\dot{p}}_i) \cdot \delta \vec{r}_i = 0$$

$$\vec{F}_i = \vec{F}_i^{(a)} + \vec{f}_i$$

If the force due to constraint does no work, then the condition of equilibrium in dynamics

$$\sum (\vec{F}_i^{(a)} - \vec{\dot{p}}_i) \cdot \delta \vec{r}_i = 0$$

This is called D'Alembert Principle.

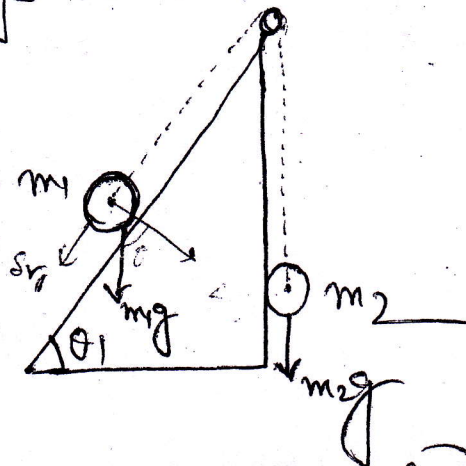
It states that the total work done by the applied and reverse effective force due to a virtual ~~work~~ displacement  $\delta \vec{r}_i$  is zero.

### Advantages:-

- i) It does not involve force due to Constraint.
- ii) It is true for Scleronomic and rheonomic constraints.

### Some application of D'Alembert Principle:-

- i) Single inclined plane:-



Let two masses  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  are moving in a single inclined plane as shown in fig. They are joined by inextensible string of length  $l$ . Let  $\vec{r}_1$  and  $\vec{r}_2$  are the position vector of two masses with respect to point O. By D'Alembert principle the condition of equilibrium of the system

$$\sum_i (\vec{F}_i^{(a)} - \vec{F}_i^{(e)}) \cdot \delta \vec{r}_i = 0$$

where  $\delta \vec{r}_i$  = Virtual displacement  
 $-\vec{F}_i$  = reverse effective force  
 $\vec{F}_i^{(a)}$  = applied external force.

So  $(\vec{F}_1^{(a)} - \vec{F}_1) \cdot \delta \vec{r}_1 + (\vec{F}_2^{(a)} - \vec{F}_2) \cdot \delta \vec{r}_2 = 0$  — (1)

$$\vec{F}_1^{(a)} = m_1 g$$

$$r_1 + r_2 = \text{const.}$$

$$\vec{F}_2^{(a)} = m_2 g$$

$$\text{or } \dot{r}_1 = -\dot{r}_2$$

$$\text{or } \ddot{r}_1 = -\ddot{r}_2$$

$$\text{also } \delta r_1 = -\delta r_2$$

So from (1) we get

~~$m_1 g \sin \theta_1$~~

$$(m_1 g - m_1 \ddot{r}_1) \cdot \delta r_1 + (m_2 g - m_2 \ddot{r}_2) \cdot \delta r_2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow m_1 g \sin \theta_1 - m_1 \ddot{r}_1 \delta r_1 + m_2 g \delta r_2 - m_2 \ddot{r}_2 \delta r_2 = 0$$

$$\text{or } \Rightarrow (m_1 g \sin \theta_1 - m_2 g) \delta r_1 - \ddot{r}_1 (m_1 + m_2) \delta r_1 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \ddot{r}_1 = \frac{(m_1 g \sin \theta_1 - m_2 g)}{(m_1 + m_2)}$$

for equilibrium  $\ddot{r}_1 = 0$

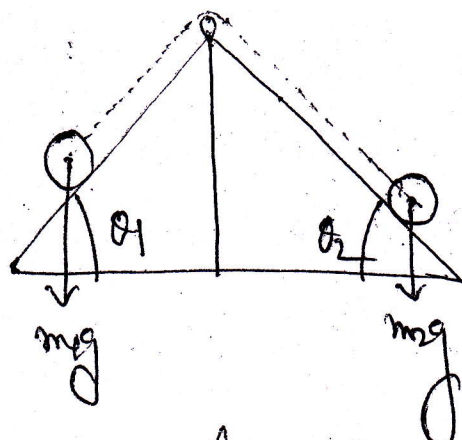
$$\therefore m_1 g \sin \theta_1 = m_2 g$$

$$\text{or } m_1 \sin \theta_1 = m_2$$

$$\text{or } \boxed{\frac{m_2}{m_1} = \sin \theta_1}$$

It is the condition of equilibrium.

i) Double inclined plane  $\rightarrow$



In this case for equilibrium

$$(m_1 \sin \theta_1 - m_2 \sin \theta_2)g = 0$$

$$\text{or } \frac{m_1}{m_2} = \frac{\sin \theta_2}{\sin \theta_1}$$

$$\text{or } \boxed{\frac{m_1}{m_2} = \frac{\sin \theta_2}{\sin \theta_1}}$$

It is the condition of equilibrium of double inclined plane.

ii) Two heavy particles of weight  $w_1$  and  $w_2$  are connected by a light inextensible string and hang over a fixed smooth circular cylinder of radius  $R$ , the axis of which is horizontal. Find the condition of equilibrium of the system by applying the principle of virtual work.

Ans:

According to principle of virtual work

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{F}_i \cdot \delta \mathbf{r}_i = 0$$

Here  $i = 1, 2$  and therefore

$$(w_1 \sin \theta_1 \delta r_1 + w_2 \sin \theta_2 \delta r_2) = 0$$

But  $\delta r_1 = R \delta \theta$   
 $\delta r_2 = R \delta \phi$

$\therefore W_1 \delta \sin \theta \delta \theta + W_2 \delta \sin \phi \delta \phi = 0$

But  $\theta + \phi = \text{const.}$   
 $\delta \theta = -\delta \phi$

$\therefore (W_1 \sin \theta - W_2 \sin \phi) \delta \theta = 0$

So  $\Rightarrow W_1 \sin \theta - W_2 \sin \phi = 0$

$\Rightarrow \boxed{\frac{W_1}{W_2} = \frac{\sin \phi}{\sin \theta}}$

It is the condition of equilibrium.

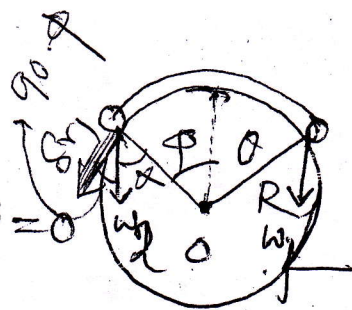
Deduction of Lagrange's equation for a holonomic and conservative system

The Lagrangian equation is

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_j} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial q_j} = 0 \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

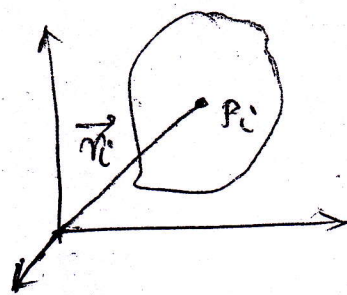
Let us consider a system of  $N$  number of particles have  $f$  number of degree of freedom. The state of system is specified by ' $f$ ' number of generalized co-ordinates

$(q_1, q_2, \dots, q_f)$ . The position vector of the  $i$ th particle  $\vec{r}_i$  may be expressed as a function of generalized co-ordinates and time.



$$\vec{r}_i = \vec{r}_i(q_1, q_2, \dots, q_f, t)$$

Where,  $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, N$



The velocity of the  $i$ th particle

$$\vec{v}_i = \frac{d\vec{r}_i}{dt}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{v}_i = \sum_{j=1}^f \frac{\partial \vec{r}_i}{\partial q_j} \dot{q}_j + \frac{\partial \vec{r}_i}{\partial t} \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

The virtual displacement of the  $i$ th particle

$$\delta \vec{r}_i = \sum_{j=1}^f \frac{\partial \vec{r}_i}{\partial q_j} \delta q_j + 0 \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

There is no time variation because virtual displacement is the displacement of the coordinate only.

$$\delta t = 0$$

The virtual work done by the external force  $\vec{F}_i$  due to virtual displacement

$$\delta W = \sum_i^N \vec{F}_i \cdot \delta \vec{r}_i$$

$$= \sum_{ij} \vec{F}_i \cdot \left( \frac{\partial \vec{r}_i}{\partial q_j} \right) \delta q_j$$

$$\Rightarrow \delta W = \sum_j Q_j \delta q_j \quad \text{--- (4)}$$

Where,  $Q_j = \sum_i (\vec{F}_i \cdot \frac{\partial \vec{r}_i}{\partial q_j})$ , known as

Component of generalized force. It may or may not have the dimension of length

From D'Alembert Principle the condition of equilibrium for the system of  $N$  particles is

$$\sum (\vec{F}_i - m_i \vec{r}_i) \cdot \delta \vec{r}_i = 0 \quad \text{--- (5)}$$

Then 2nd term of eqn (5)

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_i m_i \vec{r}_i \cdot \delta \vec{r}_i \\ &= \sum_{ij} m_i \vec{r}_i \cdot \frac{\partial \vec{r}_i}{\partial q_j} \delta q_j \\ &= \sum_{ij} \delta q_j \left[ \frac{d}{dt} (m_i \vec{r}_i \cdot \frac{\partial \vec{r}_i}{\partial q_j}) - m_i \vec{r}_i \cdot \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial \vec{r}_i}{\partial q_j} \right) \right] \quad \text{--- (6)} \end{aligned}$$

Differentiating partially eqn (6) with respect to  $q_j$  we get

$$\frac{\partial U_i}{\partial q_j} = \frac{\partial}{\partial q_j} \left[ \sum \left( \frac{\partial \vec{r}_i}{\partial q_j} \dot{q}_j + \frac{\partial \vec{r}_i}{\partial t} \right) \right] = \frac{\partial \vec{r}_i}{\partial q_j} \dot{q}_j$$

\* For holonomic case  $\frac{\partial \vec{r}_i}{\partial q_j} = 0$  independent of velocity  $\dot{q}_j$

so the constraint are holonomic and

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial U_i}{\partial q_j} &= \frac{\partial^2 \vec{r}_i}{\partial q_j \partial q_1} \dot{q}_1 + \frac{\partial^2 \vec{r}_i}{\partial q_j \partial q_2} \dot{q}_2 + \dots \\ &+ \frac{\partial^2 \vec{r}_i}{\partial q_j \partial t} \quad \text{--- (8)} \end{aligned}$$

in the analogy to eqn (2)

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial \vec{r}_i}{\partial \dot{q}_j} \right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial \dot{q}_j} \left( \frac{d \vec{r}_i}{dt} \right) = \frac{\partial \vec{v}_i}{\partial \dot{q}_j} \quad (9)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial \vec{r}_i}{\partial \dot{q}_j} \right) = \frac{\partial \vec{v}_i}{\partial \dot{q}_j} \quad (10)$$

Hence eqn (6) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum m_i \vec{r}_i \cdot \delta \vec{r}_i \\ &= \sum \delta q_j \left[ \frac{d}{dt} (m_i \vec{v}_i \cdot \frac{\partial \vec{v}_i}{\partial \dot{q}_j}) - m_i \vec{v}_i \cdot \left( \frac{\partial \vec{v}_i}{\partial \dot{q}_j} \right) \right] \\ & \quad \text{[using relation (7) and (10)]} \\ & \quad \quad \quad (11) \end{aligned}$$

Now eqn (5) gives

$$\begin{aligned} \sum \delta q_j \left[ Q_j - \frac{d}{dt} \left\{ \frac{\partial}{\partial \dot{q}_j} \left( \sum \frac{1}{2} m_i v_i^2 \right) \right\} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{\partial}{\partial q_j} \sum \frac{1}{2} m_i v_i^2 \right] = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

The total K.E. of the system

$$T = \sum \frac{1}{2} m_i v_i^2$$

$$\therefore \sum \delta q_j \left[ Q_j - \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{q}_j} \right) + \frac{\partial T}{\partial q_j} \right] = 0 \quad (13)$$

As  $q_j$  is independent and  $\delta q_j$  is arbitrary, we must have

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{q}_j} \right) - \frac{\partial T}{\partial q_j} = Q_j \quad (14)$$

This is the general form of Lagrangian equation, true for both conservative and non-conservative system.

If the system is conservative then  $\vec{F}_i$  is -ve gradient of some scalar potential  $V$ , known as potential energy of the system, i.e.

$$\vec{F}_i = -\vec{\nabla}_i V = -\hat{i} \frac{\partial V}{\partial x_i} - \hat{j} \frac{\partial V}{\partial y_i} - \hat{k} \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_i}$$

The generalised component of force for conservative system becomes

$$\begin{aligned} Q_j &= \sum_i \vec{F}_i \cdot \frac{\partial \vec{r}_i}{\partial q_j} \\ &= - \sum_i \vec{\nabla}_i V \cdot \frac{\partial \vec{r}_i}{\partial q_j} \\ &= - \sum_i \left\{ \frac{\partial V}{\partial x_i} \frac{\partial x_i}{\partial q_j} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial y_i} \frac{\partial y_i}{\partial q_j} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial z_i} \frac{\partial z_i}{\partial q_j} \right\} \\ &= - \sum_i \frac{\partial V}{\partial q_j} \\ &= - \frac{\partial V(x_i, y_i, z_i)}{\partial q_j} \\ &= - \frac{dV}{dq_j} \end{aligned}$$

Hence from eqn (14)

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{q}_j} \right) - \frac{\partial T}{\partial q_j} = - \frac{\partial V}{\partial q_j}$$

$$\text{or } \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial}{\partial \dot{q}_j} (T-V) - \frac{\partial}{\partial q_j} (T-V) = 0$$

As  $V$  is not function of  $\dot{q}_j$ , but

$$V = V(q_j)$$

The quantity  $(T-V)$  is called Lagrangian of the system.

$$\therefore \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_j} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial q_j} = 0 \quad \text{--- (15)}$$

This is called Lagrangian equation for conservative holonomic system.

It is the equation of motion in classical mechanics. It is also equivalent to Newton's equation of motion but its form is different.

As the number of generalised coordinates is  $f'$ , there are  $f'$  number of Lagrangian equations.

Newton's equation of motion from Lagrangian equation:

The general form of the Lagrangian equation

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{q}_j} \right) - \frac{\partial T}{\partial q_j} = Q_j \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

Here  $q_1 = x$ ,  $q_2 = y$ ,  $q_3 = z$  and generalised force components are  $Q_1 = \vec{F}_x$ ,  $Q_2 = \vec{F}_y$ ,  $Q_3 = \vec{F}_z$

The kinetic energy  $T$  is

$$T = \frac{1}{2}m[\dot{x}^2 + \dot{y}^2 + \dot{z}^2]$$

For  $x$  co-ordinate  $eq$  ① takes the form

$$\frac{d}{dt}\left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{x}}\right) - \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} = F_x \quad \text{--- ②}$$

But  $\frac{\partial T}{\partial x} = 0$ , and  $\frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{x}} = m\dot{x}$  //

Substituting in ② we get

$$\frac{d}{dt}(m\dot{x}) = F_x \text{ or } F_x = \frac{dp_x}{dt}$$

where  $p_x = m\dot{x}$  is the component of linear momentum. Similarly we can obtain

$$F_y = \frac{dp_y}{dt}, \text{ and } F_z = \frac{dp_z}{dt}$$

Thus we get

$$\vec{F} = \frac{d\vec{p}}{dt}$$

which is Newton's equation of motion.

Cyclic Co-ordinate :-

The Lagrangian  $L$  of a system is a function of generalised co-ordinate  $q_j$  and generalised velocity  $\dot{q}_j$  and may contain time i.e.

$$L = L(q_j, \dot{q}_j, t)$$

where  $j = 1, 2, \dots, f$ .

Sometimes in physical problem if it may occur that the Lagrangian is not function of a particular

generalised coordinate is

$$L \neq L(q_j)$$

ie form

Such coordinate is called the cyclic coordinate. So for a cyclic coordinate  $q_k$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial q_k} = 0 \quad \checkmark$$

From Lagrange's equation with respect to cyclic coordinate

$q_k$  we have

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_k} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial q_k} = 0$$

$$\text{or } \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_k} \right) = 0$$

$$\text{or } \frac{\partial L}{\partial q_k} = \text{a conserved quantity.} \\ \text{or a constant of motion.}$$

tion.

$$= p_k \text{ known as}$$

generalized momentum.

So if the Lagrangian  $L$  of a system is not function of  $q_k$  i.e.  $q_k$  is cyclic, then the corresponding

generalized momentum or conjugate momentum ( $p_k$ ) is conserved quantity.

It is the consequence of translational symmetry of Lagrangian.

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