

Case I. Conservative System :

We consider a conservative system and use above set of equations (8) to obtain Lagrange's equations of motion. For a conservative system, forces \mathbf{F}_i are derivable from potential function V , which is the function of coordinates only. That is $V = V(\mathbf{r})$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{F}_i &= -\nabla_i V \\ &= -\frac{\partial V}{\partial \mathbf{r}_i}\end{aligned}$$

Then generalised force can be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned}Q_j &= \sum_i \mathbf{F}_i \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}_i}{\partial q_j} = -\sum_i \nabla_i V \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}_i}{\partial q_j} \\ &= -\sum_i \frac{\partial V}{\partial \mathbf{r}_i} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}_i}{\partial q_j} \\ &= -\frac{\partial V}{\partial q_j}\end{aligned}$$

Eqs. (8) are now

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

or

$$\left[\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{q}_j} \right) - \frac{\partial (T - V)}{\partial q_j} \right] = 0$$

or

$$\left[\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial (T - V)}{\partial \dot{q}_j} \right) - \frac{\partial (T - V)}{\partial q_j} \right] = 0,$$

since V is not a function of \dot{q}_j . Recognising $(T - V)$ as L , the Lagrangian for the conservative system, equations become

$$\left[\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_j} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial q_j} \right] = 0, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, n \quad \dots (9)$$

which are known as Lagrange's equations of motion (of the second kind) for conservative system.

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