

(3) Particle moving near the surface of earth:-

Let z -axis be along upward vertical direction, then kinetic energy is

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

Further the applied force on the body is its weight acting in negative z -direction i.e.

$$F = F_z = -mg = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial z}$$

This gives $V = mgz$, on setting additive constant to zero. Now Lagrangian is

$$L = T - V \\ = \frac{1}{2} m (\dot{x}^2 + \dot{y}^2 + \dot{z}^2) - mgz,$$

$$\text{so that, } \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}} = \frac{\partial T}{\partial \dot{x}} = p_x = m\dot{x}$$

giving, $\dot{x} = \frac{p_x}{m}$

Similarly,

$$p_y = m\dot{y}$$

$$\dot{y} = \frac{p_y}{m}$$

$$p_z = m\dot{z}$$

$$\dot{z} = \frac{p_z}{m}$$

Hamiltonian for such a system is conserved, i.e.

$$H = T + V$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} m (\dot{x}^2 + \dot{y}^2 + \dot{z}^2) + mgz$$

$$= \frac{1}{2m} (p_x^2 + p_y^2 + p_z^2) + mgz$$

giving equations of motion

$$\dot{p}_x = -\frac{\partial H}{\partial x} = 0$$

$$\dot{p}_y = -\frac{\partial H}{\partial y} = 0$$

$$\dot{p}_z = -\frac{\partial H}{\partial z} = -mg$$

$$\dot{x} = \frac{\partial H}{\partial p_x} = \frac{p_x}{m}$$

$$\dot{y} = \frac{\partial H}{\partial p_y} = \frac{p_y}{m}$$

$$\dot{z} = \frac{\partial H}{\partial p_z} = \frac{p_z}{m}$$

and

From eq. (2) on using eq. (1), we get

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \ddot{x} - \frac{p_x}{m} &= 0 \\ \ddot{y} - \frac{p_y}{m} &= 0 \\ \ddot{z} - \frac{p_z}{m} &= -g \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (3)$$

which shows that acceleration along z-direction is the acceleration due to gravity and is true.

(4) Particle in a Central field of force:

In such a field, force is always directed towards the centre. Potential energy is the function of co-ordinates and the system is conservative so that Hamiltonian represents the total energy.

As the motion is always confined in a plane, we consider it in r, θ co-ordinates.

Kinetic energy is

$$T = \frac{1}{2} m (\dot{r}^2 + r^2 \dot{\theta}^2)$$

and potential energy is

$$V = V(r)$$

So that Lagrangian is

$$L = T - V = \frac{1}{2} m (\dot{r}^2 + r^2 \dot{\theta}^2) - V(r)$$

Momenta are then

$$p_r = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{r}} = m \dot{r} \quad \text{giving} \quad \dot{r} = \frac{p_r}{m}$$

$$p_\theta = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\theta}} = m r^2 \dot{\theta}, \quad \text{or} \quad \dot{\theta} = \frac{p_\theta}{m r^2}$$

Hamiltonian is

$$H = T + V$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} m (\dot{r}^2 + r^2 \dot{\theta}^2) + V(r)$$

$$= \frac{p_r^2}{2m} + \frac{p_\theta^2}{2m r^2} + V(r)$$

It follows therefore that

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \dot{r} &= -\frac{\partial H}{\partial p_r} = \frac{p_r}{m} \\ \dot{p}_r &= -\frac{\partial H}{\partial r} = -\frac{p_\theta^2}{m r^3} - \frac{\partial V}{\partial r} \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (1)$$

$$\text{and,} \quad \left. \begin{aligned} \dot{\theta} &= \frac{\partial H}{\partial p_\theta} = \frac{p_\theta}{m r^2} \\ \dot{p}_\theta &= \frac{\partial H}{\partial \theta} = 0 \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (2)$$

which are the desired equations of motion further from eq. (2), we can write

$$\ddot{r} = \frac{\dot{p}_r}{m} = \frac{p_\theta^2}{m^2 r^3} - \frac{1}{m} \frac{\partial V}{\partial r}$$

$$\text{or, } m\ddot{r} = \frac{p_\theta^2}{mr^3} - \frac{\partial V}{\partial r} \quad (3)$$

We put $-\frac{\partial V}{\partial r} = f(r) = \text{radial force}$

$$\text{and, } \frac{p_\theta^2}{mr^3} = \frac{(mr^2\dot{\theta})^2}{mr^3} = mr\dot{\theta}^2 \quad (\text{using eq. 2})$$

$$= \frac{m(\dot{r}\dot{\theta})^2}{r}$$

$$= \frac{mv_\theta^2}{r} = \text{Centrifugal force}$$

Therefore, we have from eq. (3), that

$$m\ddot{r} = \frac{mv_\theta^2}{r} + f(r),$$

representing an equation of motion involving the actual force $F(r)$ and a centrifugal force $\frac{mv_\theta^2}{r}$. Since in central force

motion whole of the force is along the radius vector, the latter is termed as fictitious force.