

We derive Hamilton's equations of motion.

The Hamiltonian is defined using the Lagrangian as follows:

$$H(\dot{q}_1, \dots, \dot{q}_N, \dot{p}_1, \dots, \dot{p}_N, t) = \sum_i \dot{p}_i \dot{q}_i - L(\dot{q}_1, \dots, \dot{q}_N, \dot{q}_1, \dots, \dot{q}_N, t)$$

We can therefore compute its total differential in two different ways:

$$dH = \sum_i \frac{\partial H}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \cdot d\dot{q}_i + \frac{\partial H}{\partial \dot{p}_i} \cdot d\dot{p}_i + \frac{\partial H}{\partial t} dt =$$

$$\sum_i d(\dot{p}_i \dot{q}_i) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \cdot d\dot{q}_i - \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_i} d\dot{q}_i - \frac{\partial L}{\partial t} dt =$$

$$\sum_i d(\dot{p}_i \dot{q}_i) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \cdot d\dot{q}_i - \dot{p}_i d\dot{q}_i - \frac{\partial L}{\partial t} dt$$

$$= \sum_i -\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \cdot d\dot{q}_i + \dot{q}_i \cdot d\dot{p}_i - \frac{\partial L}{\partial t} dt$$

As these two expressions for  $dH$  are independent, we can compare them term by term:

$$\frac{\partial H}{\partial \dot{q}_i} = -\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_i} = -\frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_i} = -\dot{p}_i,$$

$$\frac{\partial H}{\partial \vec{p}_i} = \dot{\vec{q}}_i ,$$

and

$$\frac{\partial H}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial L}{\partial t} .$$

Thus, Hamilton's equations of motion are given by

$$\frac{\partial H}{\partial \vec{q}_i} = -\dot{\vec{p}}_i , \quad \frac{\partial H}{\partial \vec{p}_i} = \dot{\vec{q}}_i , \quad \frac{\partial H}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial L}{\partial t}$$