

2. A system is described by the Lagrangian

$$L = \frac{1}{2}\dot{q}_1^2 + \frac{1}{2}q_1^2(\dot{q}_2^2 + \dot{q}_3^2) - \frac{1}{2}(q_2^2 + q_3^2).$$

Find the equations of motion for the system, and use these to show that $q_1^2(\dot{q}_2q_3 - \dot{q}_3q_2)$ is conserved.

Euler-Lagrange:

$$\frac{d}{dt}(q_1\dot{q}_1) - q_1(\dot{q}_2^2 + \dot{q}_3^2) = 0$$

$$\frac{d}{dt}(q_1^2\dot{q}_2) - (-q_2) = 0$$

$$\frac{d}{dt}(q_1^2\dot{q}_3) + q_3 = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt}(q_1^2(\dot{q}_2q_3 - \dot{q}_3q_2)) &= \frac{d}{dt}(q_1^2\dot{q}_2)q_3 + q_1^2\dot{q}_2\dot{q}_3 \\ &\quad - \frac{d}{dt}(q_1^2\dot{q}_3)q_2 - q_1^2\dot{q}_3\dot{q}_2 \\ &= -q_2(q_3 + q_1^2\dot{q}_2\dot{q}_3 - (-q_3)q_2 - q_1^2\dot{q}_3\dot{q}_2) \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$