

3. The Lagrangian of a system with generalised co-ordinates x and y is

$$L = \frac{1}{2} (\dot{x}^2 + \dot{y}^2 - 5x^2 - 4xy - 2y^2)$$

(a) Find the Euler-Lagrange equations for x and y .

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial x} &= \ddot{x} - \left(\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (-5x^2 - 4xy) \right) \\ &= \ddot{x} + 5x + 2y \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{y}} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial y} &= \ddot{y} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (-2y^2 - 4xy) \\ &= \ddot{y} + 2y + 2x \end{aligned}$$

(b) Write these Euler-Lagrange equations in the matrix form

$$\frac{d^2}{dt^2} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = -\mathbf{A} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$$

and find the two by two matrix \mathbf{A} .

$$\frac{d^2}{dt^2} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} + \mathbf{A} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{0}$$

$\rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} \end{pmatrix}$

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \ddot{x} \\ \ddot{y} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} A_{11}x + A_{12}y \\ A_{21}x + A_{22}y \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{0}$$

(c) Find the eigenvalues and the eigenvectors of the matrix A.

$$\det(\lambda - A) = 0$$

$$\det\left(\lambda - \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix}\right) = \det\begin{pmatrix} \lambda - 5 & -2 \\ -2 & \lambda - 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= (\lambda - 5)(\lambda - 2) - 4 = \lambda^2 - 7\lambda + 6$$

$$\lambda = \frac{+7 \pm \sqrt{49 - 24}}{2} = \frac{+7 \pm \sqrt{25}}{2}$$

$$= \frac{7 \pm 5}{2} \Rightarrow \begin{matrix} \lambda^{(1)} = 1 \\ \lambda^{(2)} = 6 \end{matrix}$$

$$A \vec{v} = \lambda \vec{v}$$

$$A \vec{v}^{(1)} = \lambda^{(1)} \vec{v}^{(1)} \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \vec{v}^{(1)} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \vec{v}^{(1)}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \vec{v}^{(1)} = 0 \Rightarrow 2v_1^{(1)} + v_2^{(1)} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{v}^{(1)} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \quad \left(\text{check: } \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \right)$$

Similarly for $\lambda^{(2)} = 6$:

$$\vec{v}^{(2)} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

(d) Use these to construct the general solution of the Euler-Lagrange equation for the real column vector

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{pmatrix} x(t) \\ y(t) \end{pmatrix} &= \vec{v}^{(1)} \left(\alpha^{(1)} \cos(\sqrt{\lambda^{(1)}} t) + \beta^{(1)} \sin(\sqrt{\lambda^{(1)}} t) \right) \\ &+ \vec{v}^{(2)} \left(\alpha^{(2)} \cos(\sqrt{\lambda^{(2)}} t) + \beta^{(2)} \sin(\sqrt{\lambda^{(2)}} t) \right) \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \left(\alpha^{(1)} \cos(t) + \beta^{(1)} \sin(t) \right) \\ &+ \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \left(\alpha^{(2)} \cos(\sqrt{6} t) + \beta^{(2)} \sin(\sqrt{6} t) \right) \end{aligned}$$

- (e) Initially the values of x and y and its derivative are $(x, y) = (2, 1)$ and $(\dot{x}, \dot{y}) = (0, 0)$. Find their subsequent values.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \dot{x}(0) \\ \dot{y}(0) \end{pmatrix} = \left[\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} [\alpha^{(1)} (-\sin(t)) + \beta^{(1)} \cos(t)] \right. \\ \left. + \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} [\alpha^{(2)} (-\sqrt{6} \sin(\sqrt{6}t)) + \beta^{(2)} (\sqrt{6} \cos(\sqrt{6}t))] \right]_{t=0}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \beta^{(1)} + \sqrt{6} \beta^{(2)} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \beta^{(1)} = \beta^{(2)} = 0 \quad (\text{by linear independence})$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x(0) \\ y(0) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \alpha^{(1)} + \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \alpha^{(2)}$$

Take the dot product with $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 0 \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} = 1 + 4 = 5$$

$$0 = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} = \overbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}}^5 \alpha^{(1)} + \overbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}}^0 \alpha^{(2)}$$

$$\Rightarrow 5 \alpha^{(1)} = 0 \Rightarrow \alpha^{(1)} = 0$$

Taking dot product with $\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 5$$

$$5 = 0 \cdot \alpha^{(1)} + \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \alpha^{(2)}$$

$$\Rightarrow z^{(1)} = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} x(t) \\ y(t) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \cos(\sqrt{6} t)$$