

Multiple particles - i.e. "systems of particles" $\alpha = 1, 2, \dots, N$

The work done by the external force on particle α

$\vec{F}_\alpha^{\text{ext}} \cdot d\vec{r}_\alpha \dots$ exactly as before if this force is conservative $\Rightarrow \vec{F}_\alpha^{\text{ext}} = -\vec{\nabla}_\alpha U_\alpha(\vec{r}_\alpha)$

derivatives wrt coordinates of particle α

Force forces between particles in the system: Newton 3

$\vec{F}_{\alpha\beta} = -\vec{F}_{\beta\alpha}$ [Force on particle α due to particle β is the opposite of the force on particle β due to particle α]

This relative force can only depend on the relative positions of the 2 particles not, for example, the choice of origin. The combined work done by this shared force as α & β move a bit:

$$\vec{F}_{\alpha\beta} \cdot d\vec{r}_\alpha + \vec{F}_{\beta\alpha} \cdot d\vec{r}_\beta = \vec{F}_{\alpha\beta} \cdot d(\vec{r}_\alpha - \vec{r}_\beta)$$

Proceed as before to find the shared potential:

$$U_{\alpha\beta}(\vec{r}_\alpha - \vec{r}_\beta). \quad \text{Then } \vec{F}_{\alpha\beta} = -\vec{\nabla}_\alpha U_{\alpha\beta}$$

$$\vec{F}_{\beta\alpha} = -\vec{\nabla}_\beta U_{\alpha\beta}$$

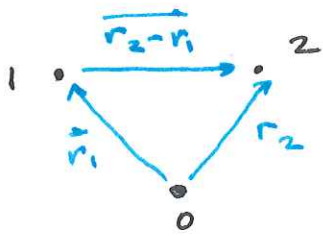
Total PE is the sum over all such pairs of

particles.
$$\sum_\alpha \sum_{\beta > \alpha} U_{\alpha\beta}(\vec{r}_\alpha - \vec{r}_\beta)$$

Also add in the PE from external forces

$$\sum_\alpha U_\alpha(\vec{r}_\alpha)$$

Long Example: Gravity between 2 particles



Force on ① in direction of $\vec{r}_2 - \vec{r}_1$
with magnitude $\frac{GM_1 M_2}{|\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2|^2}$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{F}_{12} = \frac{GM_1 M_2}{|\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2|^3} (\vec{r}_2 - \vec{r}_1)$$

↑ inverse square
← yes cube

$$\vec{F}_{21} = \frac{GM_1 M_2}{|\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2|^3} (\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2)$$

← equal opposite

$$U = \frac{-GM_1 M_2}{|\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2|} = -GM_1 M_2 \left[(x_1 - x_2)^2 + (y_1 - y_2)^2 + (z_1 - z_2)^2 \right]^{-1/2}$$

$$(\vec{F}_{12})_x = -\frac{\partial U}{\partial x_1} = GM_1 M_2 \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) \left[\right]^{-3/2} 2(x_1 - x_2)$$

$$= \frac{GM_1 M_2}{|\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2|^3} (x_2 - x_1) \quad \text{check}$$

$$(\vec{F}_{21})_y = -\frac{\partial U}{\partial x_2} = GM_1 M_2 \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) \left[\right]^{-3/2} 2(x_1 - x_2)(-1)$$

$$= \frac{GM_1 M_2}{|\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2|^3} (x_1 - x_2) \quad \text{check}$$

Thus $U = \frac{-GM_1 M_2}{|\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2|}$ is the shared PE for this pair.

For the total PE in our solar system we need to sum similar terms for every pair of planets.

Result: $\vec{F}_{AB} = -\nabla_A U_{AB}(\vec{r}_A - \vec{r}_B)$

$\vec{F}_{BA} = -\nabla_B U_{AB}(\vec{r}_A - \vec{r}_B)$

Elastic Collision Between 2 particles

means KE conserved
 implies no external force so momentum conserved

$$T = \frac{1}{2} M V_{cm}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \mu (\vec{v}_1 - \vec{v}_2)^2$$

↑ unchanged since elastic
 ↑ unchanged since momentum conserved
 ↑ THIS MUST BE UNCHANGED ALSO!

Note: this formula applies equally well to before & after collision

1d elastic collisions as in 191:

[prime now denotes post collision NOT from CM]

$$m_1 v_1 + m_2 v_2 = m_1 v_1' + m_2 v_2' \rightarrow m_1 (v_1 - v_1') = m_2 (v_2' - v_2)$$

$$m_1 v_1^2 + m_2 v_2^2 = m_1 v_1'^2 + m_2 v_2'^2 \rightarrow m_1 (v_1^2 - v_1'^2) = m_2 (v_2'^2 - v_2^2)$$

$(v_1 - v_1')(v_1 + v_1')$ $(v_2' - v_2)(v_2' + v_2)$

2 linear equations

$$m_1 v_1 + m_2 v_2 = m_1 v_1' + m_2 v_2'$$

$$v_1 - v_2 = -v_1' + v_2'$$

so $v_1 + v_1' = v_2' + v_2$

or $v_1 - v_2 = v_2' - v_1'$

i.e. relative velocity changes sign.

Special case $v_2 = 0$

$$m_1 v_1 = m_1 v_1' + m_2 v_2'$$

$$m_1 v_1 = -m_1 v_1' + m_2 v_2'$$

$$m_1 v_1 = m_1 v_1' + m_2 v_2'$$

$$-m_2 v_1 = -m_2 v_1' + m_2 v_2'$$

$$2m_1 v_1 = (m_1 + m_2) v_2'$$

$$(m_1 - m_2) v_1 = (m_1 + m_2) v_1'$$

$$\frac{2m_1}{(m_1 + m_2)} v_1 = v_2'$$

$$\frac{(m_1 - m_2)}{(m_1 + m_2)} v_1 = v_1'$$

↳ if $m_2 \ll m_1$
 (eg baseball & bat)

$$v_2' = 2v_1$$

in equal mass collision $v_2' = v_1$
 $v_1' = 0$

note: post collision is forward iff $m_1 > m_2$