

We want to write down the Lagrangian for a single particle in terms of coordinates \mathbf{r} and $\dot{\mathbf{r}} \equiv \mathbf{v}$ that are measured w.r.t. a rotating frame (having rotational velocity vector $\boldsymbol{\Omega}$ w.r.t. the inertial frame, but same origin as inertial frame) and see that the expected pseudoforces emerge from the equation of motion.

To write the kinetic energy w.r.t. the inertial (non-rotating) frame, we use

$$\left(\frac{d\mathbf{r}}{dt}\right)_{\text{space}} = \left(\frac{d\mathbf{r}}{dt}\right)_{\text{body}} + \boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{r}$$

which gives us

$$\mathbf{v}_o = \mathbf{v} + \boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{r} = \dot{\mathbf{r}} + \boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{r}$$

where \mathbf{v}_o is the velocity in the inertial (“space”) frame, while \mathbf{v} is the velocity in the rotating (“body”) frame. Now we can use \mathbf{v}_o to write the KE w.r.t. the inertial frame:

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2}m|\mathbf{v}_o|^2 - U(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{2}m|\dot{\mathbf{r}} + \boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{r}|^2 - U(\mathbf{r})$$

Writing out the KE component by component (i=x,y,z):

$$\mathcal{L} = \left[\sum_i \frac{m}{2} (\dot{\mathbf{r}} + \boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{r})_i^2 \right] - U(\mathbf{r})$$

Now pick coordinate n and differentiate \mathcal{L} . As usual, $\partial A^2 / \partial r_n = (2A)(\partial A / \partial r_n)$.

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial r_n} = \left[\sum_i m (\dot{\mathbf{r}} + \boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{r})_i \frac{\partial}{\partial r_n} (\dot{\mathbf{r}} + (\boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{r})_i) \right] - \frac{\partial U(\mathbf{r})}{\partial r_n}$$

where I rewrote $(\dot{\mathbf{r}} + \boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{r})_i$ as $\dot{r}_i + (\boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{r})_i$. The derivative of the first term is zero: $\partial \dot{r}_i / \partial r_n = 0$. We can write out the second term using the Cartesian Einstein notation as

$$(\boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{r})_i = \sum_{jk} \Omega_j r_k \epsilon_{ijk}$$

whose derivative is

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial r_n} (\boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{r})_i = \sum_{jk} \Omega_j \left(\frac{\partial r_k}{\partial r_n} \right) \epsilon_{ijk} = \sum_{jk} \Omega_j \delta_{kn} \epsilon_{ijk} = \sum_j \Omega_j \epsilon_{ijn}$$

Now we can plug this in to $\partial \mathcal{L} / \partial r_n$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial r_n} = \left[\sum_i m (\dot{\mathbf{r}} + \boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{r})_i \left(\sum_j \Omega_j \epsilon_{ijn} \right) \right] - (\nabla U)_n$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial r_n} = \left[\sum_{ij} m(\dot{\mathbf{r}} + \boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{r})_i \Omega_j \epsilon_{ijn} \right] - (\nabla U)_n$$

Then using $\sum_{ij} A_i B_j \epsilon_{ijn} = (\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B})_n$ we rewrite this as a cross-product:

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial r_n} = m [(\dot{\mathbf{r}} + \boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{r}) \times \boldsymbol{\Omega}]_n - (\nabla U)_n$$

and then distribute

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial r_n} = m(\mathbf{v} \times \boldsymbol{\Omega})_n + m((\boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{r}) \times \boldsymbol{\Omega})_n - (\nabla U)_n$$

Now let's go back and differentiate \mathcal{L} w.r.t. \dot{r}_n (dropping the potential term since $\partial U / \partial \dot{r}_n = 0$)

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{r}_n} = \sum_i m(\dot{\mathbf{r}} + \boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{r})_i \frac{\partial}{\partial \dot{r}_n} (\dot{r}_i + (\boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{r})_i)$$

Then use $\partial \dot{r}_i / \partial \dot{r}_n = \delta_{in}$ and $\partial r_i / \partial \dot{r}_n = 0$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{r}_n} = \sum_i m(\dot{\mathbf{r}} + \boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{r})_i \delta_{in} = m(\dot{\mathbf{r}} + \boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{r})_n = m v_n + m(\boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{r})_n$$

Now take the time derivative:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{r}_n} = m a_n + m(\dot{\boldsymbol{\Omega}} \times \mathbf{r})_n + m(\boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{v})_n$$

So the Lagrange equation of motion for component r_n reads

$$m a_n + m(\dot{\boldsymbol{\Omega}} \times \mathbf{r})_n + m(\boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{v})_n = m(\mathbf{v} \times \boldsymbol{\Omega})_n + m((\boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{r}) \times \boldsymbol{\Omega})_n - (\nabla U)_n$$

Combining the components into vectors,

$$m\mathbf{a} + m\dot{\boldsymbol{\Omega}} \times \mathbf{r} + m\boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{v} = m\mathbf{v} \times \boldsymbol{\Omega} + m(\boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{r}) \times \boldsymbol{\Omega} - \nabla U$$

Then permute to flip signs, and use $\mathbf{F} = -\nabla U$

$$m\mathbf{a} - m\mathbf{r} \times \dot{\boldsymbol{\Omega}} - m\mathbf{v} \times \boldsymbol{\Omega} = m\mathbf{v} \times \boldsymbol{\Omega} + m(\boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{r}) \times \boldsymbol{\Omega} + \mathbf{F}$$

and rearrange to get vector sum of real force and the three pseudo-forces: “azimuthal” (a.k.a. Euler) force, Coriolis force, and centrifugal force.

$$m\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{F} + m\mathbf{r} \times \dot{\boldsymbol{\Omega}} + 2m\mathbf{v} \times \boldsymbol{\Omega} + m(\boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{r}) \times \boldsymbol{\Omega}$$