

Hamilton's equations in Cartesian Coordinates:

For generalized coordinates $q_1, q_2, \dots, q_k, \dots, q_n$ and generalized momenta $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_k, \dots, p_n$ respectively, the Hamilton's equations of motion are given by

$$\dot{q}_k = \frac{\partial H}{\partial p_k} \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

$$-\dot{p}_k = \frac{\partial H}{\partial q_k} \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

We obtain these equations in Cartesian coordinate.

The kinetic energy in Cartesian coordinate is

given by $T = \frac{1}{2} m (\dot{x}^2 + \dot{y}^2 + \dot{z}^2)$

Let the potential energy is $V = V(x, y, z)$.

The Lagrangian L is given by, $L = T - V$;

$$L = \frac{1}{2} m (\dot{x}^2 + \dot{y}^2 + \dot{z}^2) - V(x, y, z) \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

We know that generalized momentum can be defined by $p_k = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_k}$. Thus, from equation we obtain

$$p_x = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}} = m \dot{x}$$

$$\text{or } \dot{x} = \frac{p_x}{m} \quad \text{--- (4)}$$

Similarly, $\dot{y} = \frac{p_y}{m} \quad \text{--- (5)}$

$$\dot{z} = \frac{p_z}{m} \quad \text{--- (6)}$$

Hamiltonian H is given by

$$H = \sum_{k=x,y,z} p_k \dot{q}_k - L$$

or

$$H = p_x \dot{x} + p_y \dot{y} + p_z \dot{z} - \frac{1}{2} m (\dot{x}^2 + \dot{y}^2 + \dot{z}^2) + V(x, y, z)$$

From eqs. (4), (5) and (6)

$$H = p_x \left(\frac{p_x}{m} \right) + p_y \left(\frac{p_y}{m} \right) + p_z \left(\frac{p_z}{m} \right) - \frac{1}{2} m \left(\frac{p_x^2}{m^2} + \frac{p_y^2}{m^2} + \frac{p_z^2}{m^2} \right) + V(x, y, z)$$

or

$$H = \frac{p_x^2}{m} + \frac{p_y^2}{m} + \frac{p_z^2}{m} - \frac{1}{2m} (p_x^2 + p_y^2 + p_z^2) + V(x, y, z)$$

$$H = \frac{1}{2m} (p_x^2 + p_y^2 + p_z^2) + V(x, y, z) \quad \text{--- (7)}$$

Now Hamilton's equations in Cartesian coordinates are given by

$$\dot{x} = \frac{\partial H}{\partial p_x}$$

$$p_x = - \frac{\partial H}{\partial x}$$

or

$$\dot{x} = \frac{p_x}{m}, \quad p_x = - \frac{\partial V}{\partial x}$$

Similarly

$$\dot{y} = \frac{p_y}{m}, \quad p_y = - \frac{\partial V}{\partial y}$$

$$\dot{z} = \frac{p_z}{m}, \quad p_z = - \frac{\partial V}{\partial z}$$

--- (8)

The above equations (eq. 8) can be written as

$$m \ddot{x} = - \frac{\partial V}{\partial x}, \quad m \ddot{y} = - \frac{\partial V}{\partial y}, \quad m \ddot{z} = - \frac{\partial V}{\partial z}$$