

Contents

1 Bird's-Eye View of Classical Mechanics	17
Part I What Everybody Ought to Know About Classical Mechanics	
2 Fundamental Concepts	25
2.1 Basic Quantities	26
2.1.1 Mass	28
2.1.2 Momentum and Angular Momentum	29
2.1.3 Energy	32
2.2 Equations of Motion	41
2.3 Mathematical Arenas	49
2.3.1 Configuration Space	50
2.3.2 Phase Space	54
3 Newtonian Mechanics	59
4 Lagrangian Mechanics	67
4.1 Action and the Lagrangian	73
4.2 Variational Calculus	81
4.3 The Euler-Lagrange Equation	86
4.3.1 Meaning of the Euler-Lagrange Equation . .	90
5 Hamiltonian Mechanics	93
5.1 Hamilton's Equations	95
5.1.1 Meaning of Hamilton's Equations	104
5.2 Hamilton's General Equation	107
6 Summary	113

Part II Essential Systems and Tools

7	Algorithms and Tools	121
7.1	The Newtonian Algorithm	125
7.2	The Lagrangian Algorithm	127
7.2.1	Constraints	130
7.2.2	Point Transformations and Generalized Co- ordinates	134
7.2.3	Gauge Transformations	141
7.3	The Hamiltonian Algorithm	148
7.3.1	Canonical Transformations and Canonical Co- ordinates	152
7.3.2	Canonical Point and Gauge Transformations	160
7.3.3	Infinitesimal Canonical Transformation . . .	169
7.3.4	Generating Functions	172
8	The Harmonic Oscillator	181
8.1	Newtonian Description	184
8.2	Lagrangian Description	187
8.3	Hamiltonian Description	188
8.4	Solving the Equation of Motion	190
8.5	Solving the Harmonic Oscillator Using a Canonical Transformation	196
9	The Pendulum	201
9.1	Newtonian Description	203
9.2	Lagrangian Description	207
9.3	Hamiltonian Description	211
9.4	Solving the Equation of Motion	213
Part III Get an Understanding of Classical Mechanics You Can Be Proud Of		
10	Noether's Theorem	223
10.1	Symmetries	224
10.1.1	Symmetries of Physical Systems	224
10.2	Noether's Theorem Intuitively	228
10.3	Noether's Theorem in the Hamiltonian Formalism	232
10.3.1	Noether's Extended Theorem	239
10.3.2	Noether's Converse Theorem	241

10.4 Noether's Theorem in the Lagrangian Formalism	242
10.4.1 Noether's Extended Theorem	245
10.5 Summary	248
11 Additional Formulations of Classical Mechanics	251
11.1 Hamilton-Jacobi Mechanics	252
11.1.1 Meaning of Hamilton's Principal Function	255
11.1.2 Harmonic Oscillator	257
11.2 Statistical Mechanics	261
11.2.1 Probability Density	264
11.2.2 Conservation of Phase Space Paths	267
11.2.3 Liouville's Equation	274
11.2.4 Liouville's Theorem	275
11.2.5 Summary and Comments	280
11.3 Koopman-von Neumann Mechanics	287
11.3.1 Hilbert Space	287
11.3.2 Koopman-von Neumann Equation	290
12 The Origins of Classical Mechanics	295
12.1 The Cube of Physics	297
12.2 The Origin of the Least Action Principle	300
12.2.1 The Origin of the Classical Path	304
12.2.2 The Origin of the Hamilton-Jacobi Equation	308
12.3 The Origin of the Classical Lagrangian	311
12.3.1 Special Relativity	313
12.3.2 Time Dilation	314
12.3.3 The Lagrangian of Special Relativity	318
12.3.4 The Free Classical Lagrangian	320
12.3.5 Understanding the Minus Sign	322
12.3.6 General Relativity	323
12.4 Lagrangians in Modern Physics	332
13 Further Reading Recommendations	335

One Last Thing

Part IV Appendices

A Calculus	343
A.1 Product Rule	344

A.2	Integration by Parts	345
A.3	Total and Partial Derivatives	345
A.4	Chain Rule	348
B	The Legendre Transform	351
C	Lagrange Multipliers	359
D	Invariance, Covariance and Functional Form	367
E	Active vs. Passive Transformations and Symmetries vs. Redundancies	373
F	Taylor Expansion	377
G	Vector Calculus	381
G.1	The Dot Product	381
G.2	The Cross Product	384
Bibliography		387
Index		391