



2234-6

Meeting of Modern Science and School Physics: College for School Teachers of Physics in ICTP

27 April - 3 May, 2011

Method of virtual displacements

Alexei Chernoutsan Russian State University of Oil and Gas Moscow Russian Federation

Alexey Chernoutsan Gubkin Russian State University of Oil & Gas, Head of Physics Department, Deputy Chief Editor (physics) of Kvant magazine.



METHOD OF VIRTUAL DISPLACEMENTS





A.B. Migdal 1911 - 1991



What are virtual displacements?

Any possible displacements, compatible with constraints.

For *N* point masses and *s* constraints there are 3N - s degrees of freedom, i.e. 3N - s independent virtual displacements.

What are ideal constraints?

The constraints which don't lead to energy loss, i.e. the work of constraint reactions for any virtual displacements is equal to zero: $\sum \vec{R}_i \delta \vec{r}_i = 0$



Principle of virtual displacements

- For a mechanical system with ideal constraints to be in equilibrium, it is necessary and sufficient that the sum of elementary works of active forces $\vec{F_i}$ on any virtual displacement of system be zero $\sum \vec{F_i} \delta \vec{r_i} = 0$
- If some forces are conservative, then their work is equal to $-dE_p$, so $\sum \vec{F_i} \delta \vec{r_i} = dE_p$

Some mechanical problems Statics 1

The rod of mass *m* is in equilibrium. Find *F*.

Virtual rotation for small angle. $\delta r_2 = 2\delta r_1$ $\vec{F} \cdot \delta \vec{r_2} + m\vec{g} \cdot \delta \vec{r_1} = 0$ $F \cdot 2\delta r_1 \cos \alpha - mg \cdot \delta r_1 \sin \alpha = 0$ \vec{F}

$$F = \frac{1}{2}mg \cdot \tan\alpha$$



Statics 2 a more difficult problem



Find *F* in equilibrium.

Instead of 5 equations for

$$N_{1x}, N_{2x}, N_{1y}, N_{2y}, F$$

only one equation.

Virtual rotation at small angle.

$$F\cos\beta\cdot(l\delta\alpha)\sin\alpha+F\sin\beta\cdot(l\delta\alpha)\cos\alpha-$$

$$-2mg \cdot \left(\frac{l}{2}\delta\alpha\right)\cos\alpha - mg \cdot (l\delta\alpha)\cos\alpha = 0$$
$$F = \frac{2mg\cos\alpha}{\sin(\alpha + \beta)}$$

Statics 3 two degrees of freedom

 \vec{F} is horizontal. Find α and β in equilibrium.



 $\delta x_3 = l\delta\alpha\cos\alpha + l\delta\beta\cos\beta.$

$$\delta\alpha \left(Fl\cos\alpha - mg\frac{l}{2}\sin\alpha - mgl\sin\alpha \right) + \delta\beta \left(Fl\cos\beta - mg\frac{l}{2}\sin\beta \right) = 0,$$

$$\tan \alpha = \frac{2F}{3mg} \qquad \tan \beta = \frac{2F}{mg}$$



Statics 4 no degrees of freedom

Find the reaction *F* of horizontal rod.

Substitute the rod by two forces. There is now one degree of freedom. Virtually increase α by $\delta \alpha$.

$$2F \cdot \delta x - 2mg \cdot \delta y_1 - 2mg \cdot \delta y_2 - 2mg \cdot \delta y_3 - 2mg \cdot \delta y_4 - Mg \cdot \delta y_5 = 0$$

$$\delta x = (l\delta\alpha)\cos\alpha, \quad \delta y_1 = \left(\frac{l}{2}\delta\alpha\right)\sin\alpha, \quad \delta y_2 = 3\delta y_1, \quad \delta y_3 = 5\delta y_1,$$

$$\delta y_4 = 7\delta y_1, \quad \delta y_5 = 8\delta y_1.$$

$$F = (8m + 2M)g \cdot \tan \alpha$$

Statics 5 no degrees of freedom

Rope of mass *m* on a smooth cone. Find tension *T*.



Virtually increase the rope length by
$$\delta l = 2\pi \delta r$$
.
It will descend at $\delta h = \delta r \cot \alpha$.
 $T \cdot \delta l - mg \cdot \delta h = 0$;
 $T \cdot 2\pi \delta r - mg \cdot \delta r \cot \alpha = 0$;
 $\left[T = \frac{mg \cot \alpha}{2\pi} \right]$

Statics 6 An ideal press



Press with step *h*. Find the active force *N*.

$$2F \cdot l\delta\alpha - N \cdot \delta y = 0;$$

$$\delta y = h \frac{\delta \alpha}{2\pi}$$



Application to dynamic problems (d'Alembert-Lagrange principle)

For every mass in a system with ideal constraints

$$\vec{F}_i + \vec{R}_i = m_i \vec{a}_i \implies \vec{F}_i + \vec{R}_i + \vec{\Phi}_i = 0$$

$$(\vec{\Phi}_i = -m_i \vec{a}_i - \bigcup$$

Forces of inertia)

$$\sum_{i} \left(\vec{F}_{i} + \vec{\Phi}_{i} \right) \cdot \delta \vec{r}_{i} = 0$$



Dynamics 1

Find a_{1}, a_{2} $x_1 + 2x_2 = \text{const}$ $\delta x_1 + 2\delta x_2 = 0$ $a_1 + 2a_2 = 0$ $m_1g \cdot \delta x_1 - m_1a_1 \cdot \delta x_1 +$ $+m_2g\cdot\delta x_2-m_2a_2\cdot\delta x_2=0$ $-m_1g \cdot 2\delta x_2 - m_12a_2 \cdot 2\delta x_2 + m_2g \cdot \delta x_2 - m_2a_2 \cdot \delta x_2 = 0$

$$a_2 = \frac{m_2 - 2m_1}{m_2 + 4m_1}g, \qquad a_1 = -2a_2$$

Dynamics 2



<u>A question</u>: what about the centrifugal force?

<u>The answer</u>: its work on virtual displacement is equal to zero.

Dynamics 3 more difficult problem



Thermodynamics

Find additional pressure inside the spherical soap bubble.

Increase the bubble radius by δR . The work of additional pressure is $\Delta p \cdot 4\pi R^2 \cdot \delta R$, the increase of surface energy is $2\sigma \cdot \delta(4\pi R^2) = 16\sigma \pi R \delta R$ (two surfaces). So $\Delta p \cdot 4\pi R^2 \cdot \delta R = 16\sigma \pi R \delta R$, or



Electrostatics 1



Note:

$$f_{\text{ext}} S \delta R = -w \delta V = -w S \delta R \quad (w = \frac{\varepsilon_0 E^2}{2})$$

Difficulty with magnetism



Where is mistake?

Electrostatics 2

Find the force at which a dielectric (ϵ) slab is pulled into the gap between the plates of parallel-plate capacitor. Capacitor voltage is *U*.

Connect the plates with a source ($\mathcal{E} = U$). Then E = U/d = const.Virtually increase x by δx .

$$\delta W = \delta x ld \left(\frac{\varepsilon_0 E^2}{2} - \frac{\varepsilon_0 \varepsilon E^2}{2} \right) < 0 \quad \left(\text{or } \delta W = \frac{\delta C U^2}{2} \right)$$

But Fdx > 0! Why? $\delta W = F\delta x + \delta A_{\text{source}}$

 $ec{F}$

h

 $\delta A_{\text{source}} = \mathcal{E}\delta q = \mathcal{E}(\delta C \mathcal{E}) = 2\delta W \implies F\delta x = -\delta W > 0$

$$F = \frac{\varepsilon_0 \left(\varepsilon - 1\right) l U^2}{2d}$$



$$F\delta x = \delta W = -\frac{q^2}{2C^2}\delta C = -\frac{\delta C \cdot U^2}{2} > 0$$



 f_{ext} is pointed inward, f_{magn} is pointed outward

Thank you