

Jacobi's Identity on Poisson Brackets (Poisson's Identity):- If X, Y, Z are function of q & p only, then

$$[X, [Y, Z]] + [Y, [Z, X]] + [Z, [X, Y]] = 0$$

Proof : $[X, [Y, Z]] + [Y, [Z, X]] = [X, [Y, Z]] - [Y, [X, Z]]$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \left[X, \sum_j \left(\frac{\partial Y}{\partial q_j} \frac{\partial Z}{\partial p_j} - \frac{\partial Y}{\partial p_j} \frac{\partial Z}{\partial q_j} \right) \right] \\ &\quad \left[Y, \sum_j \left(\frac{\partial X}{\partial q_j} \frac{\partial Z}{\partial p_j} - \frac{\partial X}{\partial p_j} \frac{\partial Z}{\partial q_j} \right) \right] \end{aligned} \quad \dots(1)$$

$$\text{Let } \sum_j \frac{\partial Y}{\partial q_j} \frac{\partial Z}{\partial p_j} = E, \quad \sum_j \frac{\partial Y}{\partial p_j} \frac{\partial Z}{\partial q_j} = F$$

$$\sum_j \frac{\partial X}{\partial q_j} \frac{\partial Z}{\partial p_j} = G, \quad \sum_j \frac{\partial X}{\partial p_j} \frac{\partial Z}{\partial q_j} = H$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore (1) \Rightarrow & [X, [Y, Z]] - [Y, [X, Z]] \\ &= [X, E - F] - [Y, G - H] \\ &= [X, E] - [X, F] - [Y, G] + [Y, H] \end{aligned} \quad \dots(2)$$

$$\text{Let } E = \sum_j \frac{\partial Y}{\partial q_j} \frac{\partial Z}{\partial p_j} - \left(\sum_j \frac{\partial Y}{\partial q_j} \right) \left(\sum_j \frac{\partial Z}{\partial p_j} \right)$$

$$\therefore E = E_1 E_2$$

Similarly $F = F_1 F_2$, $G = G_1 G_2$, $H = H_1 H_2$

\therefore RHS of (2) becomes

$$\begin{aligned}
[X, E] - [X, F] - [Y, G] + [Y, H] &= [X, E_1 E_2] + [Y, H_1 H_2] - [X, F_1 F_2] - [Y, G_1 G_2] \\
&= [X, E_1] E_2 + [X, E_2] E_1 - [X, F_1] F_2 - [X, F_2] F_1 - [Y, G_1] G_2 \\
&\quad - [Y, G_2] G_1 + [Y, H_1] H_2 + [Y, H_2] H_1 \\
\therefore \text{RHS of (2) is} &= \left[X, \sum_j \left(\frac{\partial Y}{\partial q_j} \frac{\partial Z}{\partial p_j} \right) \right] - \left[X, \sum_j \left(\frac{\partial Y}{\partial p_j} \frac{\partial Z}{\partial q_j} \right) \right] \\
&\quad - \left[Y, \sum_j \left(\frac{\partial X}{\partial q_j} \frac{\partial Z}{\partial p_j} \right) \right] + \left[Y, \sum_j \left(\frac{\partial X}{\partial p_j} \frac{\partial Z}{\partial q_j} \right) \right]
\end{aligned}$$

Using properties $[X, E_1 E_2] = [X, E_1] E_2 + [X, E_2] E$,

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \left[X, \sum_j \frac{\partial Y}{\partial q_j} \right] \sum_j \frac{\partial Z}{\partial p_j} + \left[X, \sum_j \frac{\partial Z}{\partial p_j} \right] \sum_j \frac{\partial Y}{\partial q_j} \\
&\quad - \left[X, \sum_j \frac{\partial Y}{\partial p_j} \right] \sum_j \frac{\partial Z}{\partial q_j} - \left[X, \sum_j \frac{\partial Z}{\partial q_j} \right] \sum_j \frac{\partial Y}{\partial p_j} \\
&\quad - \left[Y, \sum_j \frac{\partial X}{\partial q_j} \right] \sum_j \frac{\partial Z}{\partial p_j} - \left[Y, \sum_j \frac{\partial Z}{\partial p_j} \right] \sum_j \frac{\partial X}{\partial q_j} \\
&\quad + \left[Y, \sum_j \frac{\partial X}{\partial p_j} \right] \sum_j \frac{\partial Z}{\partial q_j} + \left[Y, \sum_j \frac{\partial Z}{\partial q_j} \right] \sum_j \frac{\partial X}{\partial p_j} \\
&= \sum_j \left\{ \frac{-\partial Z}{\partial q_j} \left(\left[\frac{\partial X}{\partial p_j}, Y \right] + \left[X, \frac{\partial Y}{\partial p_j} \right] \right) + \frac{\partial Z}{\partial p_j} \left(\left[\frac{\partial X}{\partial q_j}, Y \right] \left[X, \frac{\partial Y}{\partial q_j} \right] \right) \right\} \\
&\quad + \sum_j \left\{ \frac{\partial Y}{\partial q_j} \left[X, \frac{\partial Z}{\partial p_j} \right] - \frac{\partial Y}{\partial p_j} \left[X, \frac{\partial Z}{\partial q_j} \right] - \frac{\partial X}{\partial q_j} \left[Y, \frac{\partial Z}{\partial p_j} \right] + \frac{\partial X}{\partial p_j} \left[Y, \frac{\partial Z}{\partial q_j} \right] \right\} \\
&\quad \dots (3)
\end{aligned}$$

Using the identity,

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} [X, Y] = \left[\frac{\partial X}{\partial t}, Y \right] + \left[X, \frac{\partial Y}{\partial t} \right]$$

Then, we find that R.H.S. of equation (3) reduces to

$$= \sum_j \left\{ -\frac{\partial Z}{\partial q_j} \frac{\partial}{\partial p_j} [X, Y] + \frac{\partial Z}{\partial p_j} \frac{\partial [X, Y]}{\partial q_j} \right\}$$

+ 0 (All other terms are cancelled)

$$= - \sum_j \left\{ \frac{\partial Z}{\partial q_j} \frac{\partial [X, Y]}{\partial p_j} - \frac{\partial Z}{\partial p_j} \frac{\partial [X, Y]}{\partial q_j} \right\}$$

$$= -[Z, [X, Y]]$$

$$\text{or } [X, [Y, Z]] + [Y, [Z, X]] = -[Z, [X, Y]]$$

$$\Rightarrow [X, [Y, Z]] + [Y, [Z, X]] + [Z, [X, Y]] = 0$$

Particular Case

Let $Z = H$, then

$$[X, [Y, H]] + [Y, [H, X]] + [Y, [X, Y]] = 0$$

Suppose X & Y both are constants of motion, then

$$[X, H] = 0, [Y, H] = 0$$

Then Jacobi's identity gives

$$[H, [X, Y]] = 0$$

$\Rightarrow [X, Y]$ is also a constant of Motion. Hence poisson's Bracket of two constants of Motion is itself a constant of Motion.

Poisson's Theorem

The total time rate of evolution of any dynamical variable $F(p, q, t)$ is given by

$$\frac{dF}{dt} = \frac{\partial F}{\partial t} + [F, H]$$

Solution : $\frac{dF}{dt}(p, q, t) = \frac{\partial F}{\partial t} + \sum_j \left[\frac{\partial F}{\partial q_j} \dot{q}_j + \frac{\partial F}{\partial p_j} \dot{p}_j \right]$

$$= \frac{\partial F}{\partial t} + \sum_j \left[\frac{\partial F}{\partial q_j} \frac{\partial H}{\partial p_j} - \frac{\partial F}{\partial p_j} \frac{\partial H}{\partial q_j} \right]$$

$$\frac{dF}{dt} = \frac{\partial F}{\partial t} + [F, H]$$

If F is constant of motion, then $\frac{dF}{dt} = 0$.

Then by Poisson's theorem,

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial t} + [F, H] = 0$$

Further if F does not contain time explicitly, then $\frac{\partial F}{\partial t} = 0$

$$\Rightarrow [F, H] = 0$$

This is the requirement condition for a dynamical variable to be a constant of motion.

Jacobi-Poisson Theorem :- (or Poisson's Second theorem)

If u and v are any two constants of motion of any given Holonomic dynamical system, then their Poisson bracket $[u, v]$ is also a constant of motion.

Proof:- We consider $\frac{d}{dt}[u, v] = \frac{\partial}{\partial t}[u, v] + [[u, v], H]$... (1)

using the following results,

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}[u, v] = \left[\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}, v \right] + \left[u, \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} \right] \quad \dots(2)$$

$$[u, [v, w]] + [v, [w, u]] + [w, [u, v]] = 0 \quad \dots(3)$$

$$\therefore (1) \Rightarrow \frac{d}{dt}[u, v] = \left[\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}, v \right] + \left[u, \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} \right] + [[u, v], H] \quad \dots(4)$$

Put $w = H$ in (3), we get

$$[H, [u, v]] = -[u, [v, H]] - [v, [H, u]]$$

$$\Rightarrow -[[v, H], u] - [[H, u], v] = [[u, v], H] \quad \dots(5)$$

from (4) & (5), we get

$$\frac{d}{dt}[u, v] = \left[\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}, v \right] + \left[u, \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} \right] - [[v, H], u] - [[H, u], v]$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \left[\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}, v \right] + \left[u, \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} \right] + [u, (v, H)] + [[v, H], v] \\
 &= \left[\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + [u, H], v \right] + \left[u, \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + [v, H] \right] \\
 \Rightarrow \quad \frac{d}{dt}[u, v] &= \left[\frac{du}{dt}, v \right] + \left[u, \frac{dv}{dt} \right]
 \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

Because $\frac{du}{dt}$ and $\frac{dv}{dt}$ both are zero as u & v were constants of motion.

$$\therefore (6) \Rightarrow \frac{d}{dt}[u, v] = 0$$

\Rightarrow The Poisson bracket $[u, v]$ is also a constant of motion.