

Townsend bolded exercise after (2.24).

$$\frac{d\dot{\alpha}}{d\lambda} = \dot{\alpha} = (\overset{*}{k^m} p_m) = \overset{*}{k^m} p_m + \overset{*}{k^m} \dot{p}_m$$

The Lagrangian doesn't contain  $x^m$  terms, so

$$0 = \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta x^m} = \frac{d}{d\lambda} \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta \dot{x}^m} \text{ or } \frac{d}{d\lambda} p^m = \dot{p}^m$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d\dot{\alpha}}{d\lambda} = \overset{*}{k^m} p_m$$

$$\text{But } \overset{*}{k^m} = \dot{x}^\lambda (D_\lambda k^m)$$

$$\text{By defn, } (\overset{*}{k^m} \overset{*}{\alpha})_{\mu\nu} = 2 D_\mu k_\nu = 0 \quad (\text{because } k \text{ is knl})$$

$$\Rightarrow \dot{x}^\lambda (D_\lambda k^m) = 0 \Rightarrow \overset{*}{k^m} p_m = 0 \text{ as well.}$$
$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\dot{\alpha} = 0}$$

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9.3.2024