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E. B. Legrand

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DELFT UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF
DELFT CENTER FOR SYSTEMS AND CONTROL (DCSC)

The undersigned hereby certify that they have read and recommend to the Faculty of
Mechanical, Maritime and Materials Engineering for acceptance a thesis entitled

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by

E. B. LEGRAND

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Supervisor(s):

prof.em.dr.ir. M. Mendel

Reader(s):

prof.dr.ir. M.Y. First Reader

dr.ir. F.S.T. Reader-two

ir. Th. Reader-three

Abstract

This is an abstract.

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Preface

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my supervisor prof.dr.ir. M.Y. First Reader for his assistance during the writing of this thesis...

By the way, it might make sense to combine the Preface and the Acknowledgements. This is just a matter of taste, of course.

Delft, University of Technology
March 4, 2022

E. B. Legrand

“To doubt everything, or, to believe everything, are two equally convenient solutions; both dispense with the necessity of reflection.”

— *Henri Poincaré*

Chapter 1

Introduction

Original Liouville ideas:

- Showcase complex behaviour using the van der Pol oscillator
- (Optimal) control of the distributions using the Brockett approach
- (Stochastic) inputs, link with Langevin equations
- Liouville thing (in continuity form, not incompressibility) can be applied to any diff. eq.
- Bayesian inversion of chaotic systems; guess the initial state by sampling after a certain time
- Define as streamtube, continuity equation asserts that streamlines cannot cross; i.e. streamtubes are conserves. To reduce computational complexity, define level sets (curves in 2-D) and check how they deform through the evolution of the phase space fluid; should always contain the same amount of probability throughout the evolution of the system.

Notation check

Object	Roman lower	Roman upper	Greek lower	Greek upper
Standard	<i>abcde</i>	<i>ABCDE</i>	$\alpha\beta\gamma\delta\varepsilon$	$\Gamma\Delta\Upsilon\Omega\Theta$
Vector	<i>abcde</i>	<i>ABCDE</i>	$\alpha\beta\gamma\delta\varepsilon$	$\Gamma\Delta\Upsilon\Omega\Theta$
Tensor	<i>abcde</i>	<i>ABCDE</i>	$\alpha\beta\gamma\delta\varepsilon$	$\Gamma\Delta\Upsilon\Omega\Theta$

Table 1-1: Caption

Christoffel symbol: Γ

Math constants: $i\epsilon\pi$

Variation: δS

Musical isomorphism

Flat: X^\flat

Sharp: ω^\sharp

Lie derivative: $\mathcal{L}_X H$

Interior product: $X \lrcorner \omega$

Lowercase mathcal:

Kinematic momentum: $\mathfrak{p}p$

About mathematical notation and sign conventions

For symplectic geometry, the sign convention used by Abraham and Marsden [1] and Cannas da Silva [2] is observed — not the one used by Arnol'd in his *Mathematical methods of classical mechanics*, nonetheless often referred to in this text.

Part I

Symplectic Economic Theory

Hamiltonian economics

2-1 Symplectic formulation

Lie derivatives & Max' question

The Lie derivative of the tautological form $\alpha = p dq$ with respect to the Hamiltonian vector field

$$X_H = \frac{\partial H}{\partial p} \frac{\partial}{\partial q} - \frac{\partial H}{\partial q} \frac{\partial}{\partial p}$$

is denoted by

$$\mathcal{L}_{X_H} \alpha.$$

Using Cartan's magic formula ($\mathcal{L}_V \theta = d(V \lrcorner \theta) + V \lrcorner d\theta$), this expression can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{X_H} p dq &= d(X_H \lrcorner p dq) + X_H \lrcorner d(p dq) \\ &= d(X_H \lrcorner p dq) - X_H \lrcorner \omega \\ &= d(X_H \lrcorner p dq) - dH \\ &= d\left(\frac{\partial H}{\partial p} p\right) - dH \\ &= d(\dot{q}p) - dH \\ &= d(\dot{q}p - H) \\ &= dL \end{aligned}$$

Explicitly in components:

$$\mathcal{L}_{X_H} \alpha = [X_H^\nu (\partial_\nu \alpha_\mu) + (\partial_\mu X_H^\nu) \alpha_\nu] dx^\mu$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{L}_{X_H}\alpha &= \left[\frac{\partial H}{\partial p} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial q} p \right) + \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial q} \frac{\partial H}{\partial p} \right) p - \frac{\partial H}{\partial q} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial p} p \right) - \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial q} \frac{\partial H}{\partial q} \right) 0 \right] dq \\
&\quad + \left[\frac{\partial H}{\partial p} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial q} 0 \right) + \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial p} \frac{\partial H}{\partial p} \right) p - \frac{\partial H}{\partial q} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial q} 0 \right) - \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial p} \frac{\partial H}{\partial q} \right) 0 \right] dp \\
&= \left[\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial q} \frac{\partial H}{\partial p} \right) p - \frac{\partial H}{\partial q} \right] dq + \left[\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial p} \frac{\partial H}{\partial p} \right) p \right] dp
\end{aligned}$$

Compare this with the expression using the Cartan equation:

$$\begin{aligned}
d\left(\frac{\partial H}{\partial p} p - H\right) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial q} \left(\frac{\partial H}{\partial p} p \right) dq + \frac{\partial}{\partial p} \left(\frac{\partial H}{\partial p} p \right) dp - \frac{\partial H}{\partial q} dq - \frac{\partial H}{\partial p} dp \\
&= \left[p \frac{\partial}{\partial q} \left(\frac{\partial H}{\partial p} \right) + \frac{\partial H}{\partial p} \frac{\partial p}{\partial q} - \frac{\partial H}{\partial q} \right] dq + \left[p \frac{\partial}{\partial p} \left(\frac{\partial H}{\partial p} \right) + \frac{\partial H}{\partial p} \frac{\partial p}{\partial p} - \frac{\partial H}{\partial p} \right] dp
\end{aligned}$$

which coincides with the previous expression.

2-2 The Liouville theorem

This section explores the different forms in which the Liouville theorem appears, both in classical mechanics and the general study of differential equations.

2-2-1 About divergence

In this text, divergence appears in general levels of generalization, from the standard vector calculus definition to one in terms of differential forms that applies to curved spaces as well.

CHECK Foundations of mechanics p. 130 for a rigorous treatment of divergence on manifolds.

2-3 Variational formulation

Chapter 3

Lagrangian economics

Part II

Autonomous systems

Chapter 4

Harmonic oscillator

Although the harmonic oscillator is a topic that has been studied in tremendous detail, also from a stochastic perspective because of its importance in quantum mechanics, it proves to be an instructive starting point for this research as well [3]. Several reasons apply, most importantly that the solutions may be obtained analytically and that the Hamiltonian phase space is two-dimensional, which allows for straightforward visualization of the result.

Although the Liouville theorem is usually expressed directly in terms of Poisson brackets (which, in turn, have a trivial form if expressed in Darboux coordinates), a slightly more insightful approach is taken here. More specifically, instead of applying the Poisson brackets directly, they are formulated like so:

$$\{f, g\} = X_g(f) = \mathcal{L}_{X_g} f$$

where X_g is the Hamiltonian vector field associated to g . The definition of Poisson brackets in terms of Hamiltonian vector fields makes it easy to draw connection between fluid mechanics and the classical mechanics.

For the undamped harmonic oscillator, the configuration manifold M is simply \mathbb{R} . As such, the cotangent bundle $T^*M = \mathbb{R}^2$. The Hamiltonian, being a smooth

$$H : T^*M \rightarrow \mathbb{R} : H(p, q) = \frac{m}{2}p^2 + \frac{k}{2}q^2. \quad (4-1)$$

To apply Liouville's theorem, the Hamiltonian vector field X_H associated with H must be found. By definition, one can do this by virtue of the canonical isomorphism induced by the symplectic 2-form:

$$dH(\cdot) = \omega(X_H, \cdot),$$

this isomorphism is sometimes denoted by ω^\sharp , colloquially called the ‘musical isomorphism’. In terms of the interior product, this pairing takes the form [4, 1]

$$X_H \lrcorner \omega = dH. \quad (4-2)$$

The differential 1-form dH is

$$dH = kq dq + \frac{p}{m} dp,$$

such that, by means of eq. (4-2), the Hamiltonian vector field becomes

$$X_H = \frac{p}{m} \frac{\partial}{\partial q} - kq \frac{\partial}{\partial p}.$$

Having found the Hamiltonian vector field, Liouville's theorem can be applied to to an arbitrary distribution ρ over the phase space:

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = -\{\rho, H\} = -X_H(\rho) = -\frac{p}{m} \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial q} + kq \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial p}. \quad (4-3)$$

This is a simple transport equation without diffusion (that is, ρ is a *passive scalar*); hence, the initial probability distribution will simply 'drift' along the streamlines of the Hamiltonian flow. As such, this problem is analogous to a flow that is purely characterized by convection.

4-1 Solution of the Liouville equation

The convection equation may be readily solved using the method of characteristics.

The method of characteristics

Equation (4-3) is part of a larger class of linear first-order PDE's of the form^a [5, p. 207].

$$\sum_{i=1}^n a_i(x_1, \dots, x_n, \rho) \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial x_i} = c(x_1, \dots, x_n, \rho), \quad (4-4)$$

which are traditionally solved using the *method of characteristics*. This method attempts to find characteristic lines along which the solution is constant, as to convert the PDE problem into an ODE problem. More specifically, one wishes to find a parameterization of x_i and ρ such that:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dx_i}{ds} &= a_i \\ \frac{d\rho}{ds} &= c. \end{aligned} \quad (4-5)$$

Given this parameterization, the PDE can be easily rewritten as follows: [5]

$$\frac{d\rho}{ds} = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial x_i} \frac{dx_i}{ds}.$$

The solution of the ODE problem then produces the trajectories for the characteristics. The reparameterization in terms of s must be accompanied by another reparameterization of the initial conditions in terms of the variable(s) r_i ; essentially, s provides the parameterization along the characteristic curves while r_i is the parameterization of the initial curves. The expressions for r_i are found by asserting that $x_i(0) = r_i$, and

then solving for the integration constants that are still present in the found ODE solutions. Then, finally, one solves the ODE in terms of the characteristic parameterization (s, r_1, \dots, r_n)

$$\frac{d\rho}{ds} + c(x_1(s, r), \dots, x_n(s, r))\rho = 0,$$

after which that solution can be written in terms of the old coordinates to obtain the solution of the PDE.

^aIf the functions a and c depend on ρ , the equation is called *semilinear*. This is, however, never the case for a PDE arising from the Liouville equation.

The former approach presents a ‘classical’ engineering perspective of the method of characteristics. However, the underlying mechanism may also be explained using the language of exterior calculus and contact geometry, which already plays a prominent role in this text. As outlined by Burke [6], the solution of a first-order PDE may be represented as an integral manifold of the *differential ideal* of two particular differential forms^a. The PDE given by eq. (4-4) is ‘encoded’ in two particular 1-forms that will constitute the differential ideal. The purpose is to find a general expression for the associated vector field that generates the integral manifold. The first 1-form, θ , contains the ‘total differential’ of ρ :

$$\theta = d\rho - \sum_{i=1}^n \underbrace{\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial x_i}}_{\xi_i} dx_i.$$

Secondly, the PDE itself (that is, the functions a_i, c) must be captured by another form, in this case the 0-form

$$\phi = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \xi_i - c,$$

from which a 1-form can be constructed using the exterior derivative:

$$d\phi = \sum_{i=1}^n \left(a_i d\xi_i + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x_i} dx_i \right) + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \rho} d\rho.$$

The purpose is then to find characteristic vectors v, w , whose integral curves are the characteristics of the solution. The vectors v, w must satisfy the conditions: [6, p. 215]

$$v \lrcorner d\phi = 0 \quad w \lrcorner d\phi = 0 \quad (4-6)$$

to ensure that it satisfies the PDE equation (this means that v is tangent to the hypersurface given by ϕ);

$$v \lrcorner \theta = 0 \quad w \lrcorner \theta = 0, \quad (4-7)$$

to enforce that ξ are truly partial derivatives (they have no component pointing in the direction of the characteristics); and finally

$$w \lrcorner v \lrcorner d\theta = 0 \quad (4-8)$$

to form a integral ideal. The integral manifold of the characteristic vectors then constitutes the solution of the PDE.

^aFor an algebra A , an ideal is R is a subset of a A such that for all $a \in A$ and $x \in I$, it is true that $x \bullet a \in I$; i.e. it is closed under the multiplication operator \bullet of the algebra A [7]. In this case, the vector space is the space of 1-forms on the contact space $(x, \frac{\partial p}{\partial x}, \rho)$. The \bullet operation of the algebra of forms is the exterior multiplication (or wedge product); the term *differential ideal* refers to the fact that the ideal is closed under the *derivation* on the algebra as well. Here, the derivation on the algebra of forms is the exterior derivative.

As it turns out, the method of characteristics takes a particularly simple form for the harmonic oscillator (and Hamiltonian systems in general). The reparameterization in terms of s is

$$\frac{dp}{ds} = -kq \quad \frac{dq}{ds} = \frac{p}{m} \quad \frac{dt}{ds} = 1. \quad (4-9)$$

which immediately yields $t = s + c_1$ (choose $c_1 = 0$ without loss of generalization), and the former two equations simply resort to a time-reversed solution of the Hamiltonian problem in terms of p and q . Solving the ODE to obtain the characteristic lines is therefore, rather unsurprisingly, equivalent to finding the phase trajectories of the Hamiltonian system. For the harmonic oscillator, these trajectories are

$$\begin{aligned} q(t) &= c_2 \cos(\omega t) + \frac{c_3}{m\omega} \sin(\omega t) \\ p(t) &= c_3 \cos(\omega t) - m\omega c_1 \sin(\omega t). \end{aligned} \quad (4-10)$$

Solving for $q(0) = r_1$ and $p(0) = r_2$, yields $r_1 = c_2$ and $r_2 = c_3$. Now, because the ‘forcing term’ $c(\cdot)$ is not present in the Liouville equation (for autonomous systems), the solution of the second ODE is trivial:

$$\rho(t) = \rho_0(r_1, \dots, r_2),$$

(... Jacobian? ...)

where ρ_0 is the initial distribution. It is an encouraging observation that the method of characteristics is easily extended towards non-autonomous systems, leaving the possibility for control action or external disturbances, which may well be of a stochastic nature themselves.

The solution to the Liouville equation is found by writing the initial distribution in terms of p , q and t . Since q and p depend linearly on r_1 and r_2 , this is a matter of taking the inverse of the associated matrix.

$$\begin{pmatrix} q \\ p \end{pmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \cos(\omega t) & \frac{1}{m\omega} \sin(\omega t) \\ -m\omega \sin(\omega t) & \cos(\omega t) \end{pmatrix}}_{\Phi(t)} \begin{pmatrix} r_1 \\ r_2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

This transformation matrix represents a symplectic transformation of the phase plane; symplectic matrices have a unit determinant¹. More specifically, the above matrix is a ‘squeezed’ rotation matrix. Inversion and resubstitution of t then yields:

$$\begin{pmatrix} r_1 \\ r_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\omega t) & \frac{-1}{m\omega} \sin(\omega t) \\ m\omega \sin(\omega t) & \cos(\omega t) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} q \\ p \end{pmatrix},$$

this is the time-reversed flow of the Hamiltonian vector field; a counterclockwise rotation in the phase plane.

¹Due to the equivalence of $\text{Sp}(2, \mathbb{R})$ and $\text{SL}(2, \mathbb{R})$, having a unit determinant is a necessary and sufficient condition for a 2×2 matrix to be symplectic; this condition is only necessary for higher dimensional vector spaces [8].

4-1-1 Motivation using exterior calculus

In this section, the reasoning given by Burke [6] using exterior calculus is applied to the problem to motivate the validity of the solution given above. The solution is the integral manifold of tangent vectors to the contact space $(t, q, p, \xi_t, \xi_q, \xi_p, \rho)$, where $\xi_t = \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t}$ etc. As such, the tangent vectors \mathbf{v} and \mathbf{w} can be associated with seven-tuples:²

$$\mathbf{v} = (v_t \quad v_q \quad v_p \quad v_{\xi_t} \quad v_{\xi_q} \quad v_{\xi_p} \quad v_\rho)$$

$$\mathbf{w} = (w_t \quad w_q \quad w_p \quad w_{\xi_t} \quad w_{\xi_q} \quad w_{\xi_p} \quad w_\rho).$$

Likewise, the one-forms θ and $d\phi$ can be written as seven-tuples, too:³

$$\theta = (-\xi_t \quad -\xi_q \quad -\xi_p \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 1)$$

$$d\phi = \left(\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} \quad \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial q} \quad \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial p} \quad 1 \quad \frac{p}{m} \quad -kq \quad \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \rho} \right).$$

Applying the conditions eq. (4-6) and eq. (4-7) to \mathbf{v} is simply equivalent to the application of a ‘dot product’ (i.e. a duality pairing);

$$\theta(\mathbf{v}) = 0 \iff v_\rho = v_t \xi_t + v_q \xi_q + v_p \xi_p.$$

$$d\phi(\mathbf{v}) = 0 \iff \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} v_t + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial q} v_q + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial p} v_p + v_{\xi_t} + \frac{p}{m} v_{\xi_q} - kq v_{\xi_p} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \rho} v_\rho = 0.$$

Finally, all the conditions on \mathbf{w} can be combined into the following statement: since $\mathbf{w} \lrcorner \theta = 0$ and $\mathbf{w} \lrcorner d\phi = 0$, condition eq. (4-8) is equivalent to stating that the 1-form $\mathbf{v} \lrcorner d\theta$ is a linear combination of θ and $d\phi$ [6]. Using the Lagrange multipliers λ and μ , the condition reverts to

$$\mathbf{v} \lrcorner d\theta = \lambda \theta + \mu d\phi.$$

Using the properties of the interior product and the exterior derivative, one obtains

$$v_t d\xi_t - v_{\xi_t} dt + v_q d\xi_q - v_{\xi_q} dq + v_p d\xi_p - v_{\xi_p} dp = \lambda \theta + \mu d\phi.$$

A particular choice of the Lagrange multipliers can be made to cancel two of the seven components, in this case those in $d\xi_t$ and $d\rho$, respectively the fourth and last entry in the ordered tuple representation, $\lambda = -v_t \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \rho}$ and $\mu = v_t$. This results in five additional equations:

$$v_{\xi_t} = -v_t \left(\xi_t \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \rho} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} \right)$$

$$v_{\xi_q} = -v_t \left(\xi_q \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \rho} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial q} \right)$$

$$v_{\xi_p} = -v_t \left(\xi_p \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \rho} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial p} \right)$$

$$v_q = \frac{p}{m} v_t$$

$$v_p = -kq v_t$$

²With respect to the basis $\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial q} \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial p} \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi_t} \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi_q} \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi_p} \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho} \right).$

³With respect to the basis $(dt \quad dq \quad dp \quad d\xi_t \quad d\xi_q \quad d\xi_p \quad d\rho).$

These equations, combined with the former two conditions can be used to determine \mathbf{v} up to a factor (choose $v_t = 1$):

$$\mathbf{v} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{p}{m} & -kq & -\xi_t \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \rho} - \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} & -\xi_q \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \rho} - \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial q} & -\xi_p \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \rho} - \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial p} & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Now, observe that, because of the (semi-)linearity of the original equation, the vector \mathbf{v} can be projected to the (t, q, p) -space (the other components have no influence on the solution). As such, one must find the integral curves of the projected vector field

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \frac{p}{m} \frac{\partial}{\partial q} - kq \frac{\partial}{\partial p},$$

which is precisely the Hamiltonian vector field in the extended (contact) phase space, or to quote Arnol'd [8, p. 237], *the velocity vector of the phase flow in extended phase space*; the integral lines are the *vortex lines* of the integral invariant of Poincaré-Cartan $p dq - H dt$. Hence, to find a solution of the PDE problem, one strives to integrate the above vector field, where the initial conditions serve as parameters. The initial conditions can then be solved at the point $t = 0$ for the initial solution. This is precisely the methodology that is applied *ad hoc* in the previous section.

4-2 Initial Gaussian distribution

The solution of the Liouville equation to any initial distribution is simply found by substituting the (q, p) dependence with transformation stated above. This solution is simply obtained by effecting the substitution

$$\begin{pmatrix} q \\ p \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \Phi^{-1}(t) \begin{pmatrix} q \\ p \end{pmatrix}$$

in the original distribution ρ_0 . Alternatively, one can see this as an affine transformation of the original random variable in the other direction, that is,

$$\begin{pmatrix} q_0 \\ p_0 \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \Phi(t) \begin{pmatrix} q_0 \\ p_0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} q \\ p \end{pmatrix}$$

For example, an initial bivariate Gaussian distribution centered at some initial point (q_0, p_0) with covariance matrix Σ subject to the linear transformation $\Phi = \Phi(t)$ yields again a Gaussian: [9]

$$\begin{pmatrix} q(t) \\ p(t) \end{pmatrix} \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\Phi \begin{pmatrix} q_0 \\ p_0 \end{pmatrix}, \Phi \Sigma \Phi^\top\right). \quad (4-11)$$

This result is, after all, not quite a surprise: the Gaussian distribution is transported by the convective stream of the phase space fluid; the mean drifts along its original phase space trajectory as if it were a single particle. The variance changes continuously by the transform given by Φ . Interestingly, because Φ has a unit determinant, $\det(\Phi \Sigma \Phi^\top) = \det(\Sigma)$; as such, the *entropy* of the Gaussian remains constant throughout, and equal to its initial value

$$\frac{1}{2} \log(\det(2\pi e \Sigma)).$$

Marginal distributions Equation (4-11) represents a specific bivariate Gaussian distribution at any point in time. Therefore, the marginal time-dependent distributions of p and q as a function of time may readily be obtained from the joint distribution: [9]

$$\begin{aligned} q(t) &\sim \mathcal{N}\left(\cos(\omega t)q_0 + \frac{1}{m\omega} \sin(\omega t)p_0, \sigma_q \cos^2(\omega t) + \frac{\sigma_{pq}}{m\omega} \sin(2\omega t) + \frac{\sigma_p}{m^2\omega^2} \sin^2(\omega t)\right), \\ p(t) &\sim \mathcal{N}\left(\cos(\omega t)p_0 - m\omega \sin(\omega t)q_0, \sigma_p \cos^2(\omega t) - \sigma_{pq}m\omega \sin(2\omega t) + \sigma_q m^2\omega^2 \sin^2(\omega t)\right) \end{aligned} \quad (4-12)$$

given that $\Sigma = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_q & \sigma_{qp} \\ \sigma_{qp} & \sigma_p \end{pmatrix}$. Figure 4-1 shows the time-varying distribution of q and p in the form of the mean with a 2σ -confidence interval. Clearly, the uncertainty for p is largest

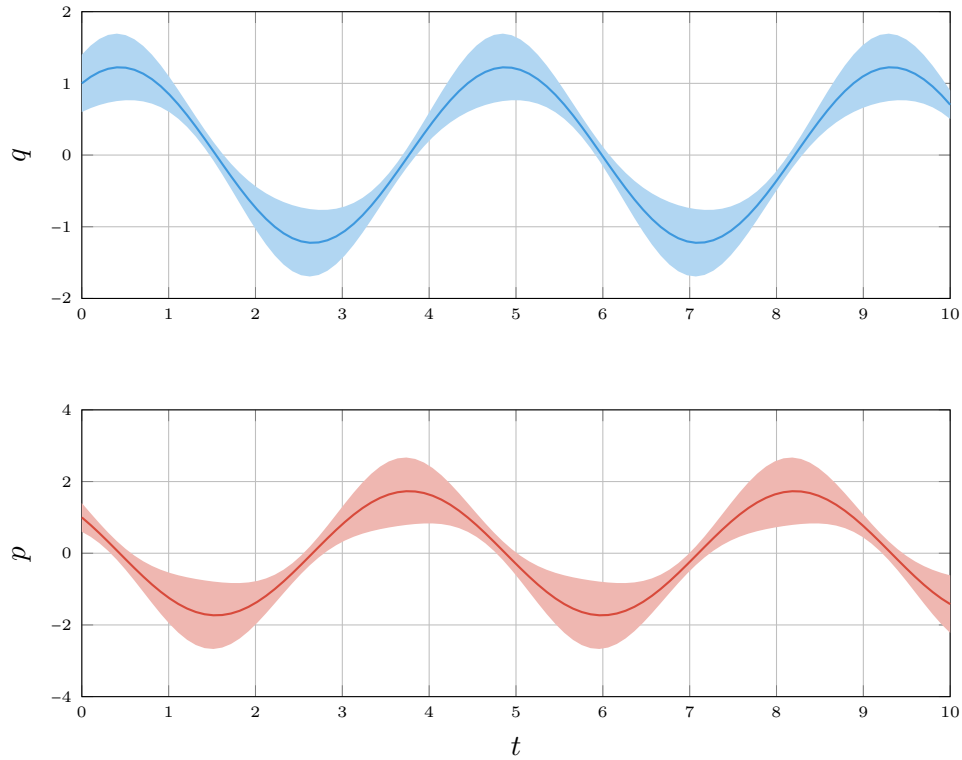


Figure 4-1: The marginal distributions given by eq. (4-12). The solid line represents the evolution of the mean, while the shaded area is a 95% confidence interval, i.e. two standard deviations from the mean, given that the distribution is normal.

when it's change is minimal; at the troughs and peaks of the sine wave; the same is true for q . Because both are a quarter cycle out of phase, their uncertainties 'exchange'. This is a compelling substantiation of Heisenberg's uncertainty principle, which states that canonical variables such as p and q cannot be measured simultaneously to arbitrary precision. [discuss with Max]

Fourier duality and the Heisenberg uncertainty principle

Bla bla bla

Averages in time The motion of the harmonic oscillator is periodic. As such, the ‘average distribution over time’ may be given a compact support over a single period. The distribution given by eq. (4-11) may be considered to be a distribution *conditioned* on time. To find the averaged distribution, the joint distribution $\Pr(p, q, t) = \Pr(p, q | t) \Pr(t)$ may be marginalized with respect to t :

$$\rho(p, q) = \int \rho(p, q | t) \rho(t) dt.$$

Assuming that time is uniformly distributed over the period of the oscillations, the former expression is equivalent to:

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(\mathbf{x}) &= \int_0^\infty \rho_{\text{normal}}(\mathbf{x}; \Phi(t)\mathbf{x}_0, \Phi(t)\Sigma\Phi(t)^\top) \rho_{\text{uni}}(t; 0, T) dt \\ &= \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{T\sqrt{4\pi^2 \det(\Sigma)}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{x}-\Phi(t)\mathbf{x}_0)^\top (\Phi\Sigma\Phi^\top)^{-1}(\mathbf{x}-\Phi(t)\mathbf{x}_0)} (u_0(t) - u_T(t)) dt, \\ &= \int_0^T \frac{1}{T\sqrt{4\pi^2 \det(\Sigma)}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{x}-\Phi(t)\mathbf{x}_0)^\top (\Phi(t)\Sigma\Phi(t)^\top)^{-1}(\mathbf{x}-\Phi(t)\mathbf{x}_0)} dt, \end{aligned} \quad (4-13)$$

where u_c refers to the Heaviside step delayed by c , and $\mathbf{x} = (p \ q)$. Furthermore, probability density functions are unconventionally denoted by $\rho(\cdot; \cdot)$ to maintain the analogy with fluid dynamics, where the arguments and parameters are separated by a semicolon. In this case $\rho_{\text{normal}}(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\mu}, \Sigma)$ refers to a multivariate normal distribution with mean vector $\boldsymbol{\mu}$ and covariance matrix Σ , and $\rho_{\text{uni}}(t; a, b)$ refers to a scalar uniform distribution with bounds a and b . Figure 4-2 visualizes a numerical solution for this integral for some particular parameter values. Equation (4-13) may be solved analytically for a simple case (normalized units and diagonal covariance), where the final solution is expressed in terms of the modified Bessel functions.⁴

Energy distribution The energy distribution is a generalized chi-squared distribution, because it is a general quadratic form of a normally distributed vector with nonzero mean [11].

⁴In this case Φ becomes an orthogonal matrix, which considerably simplifies the evaluation of the integral; the time-dependent argument of the exponential then reverts to a simple rotation, which can then be solved using the integral identity:

$$\int_0^{2\pi} e^{A \cos(\varphi) + B \sin(\varphi)} d\varphi = 2\pi I_0(\sqrt{A^2 + B^2}),$$

I_0 being the modified Bessel function of the first kind [10].

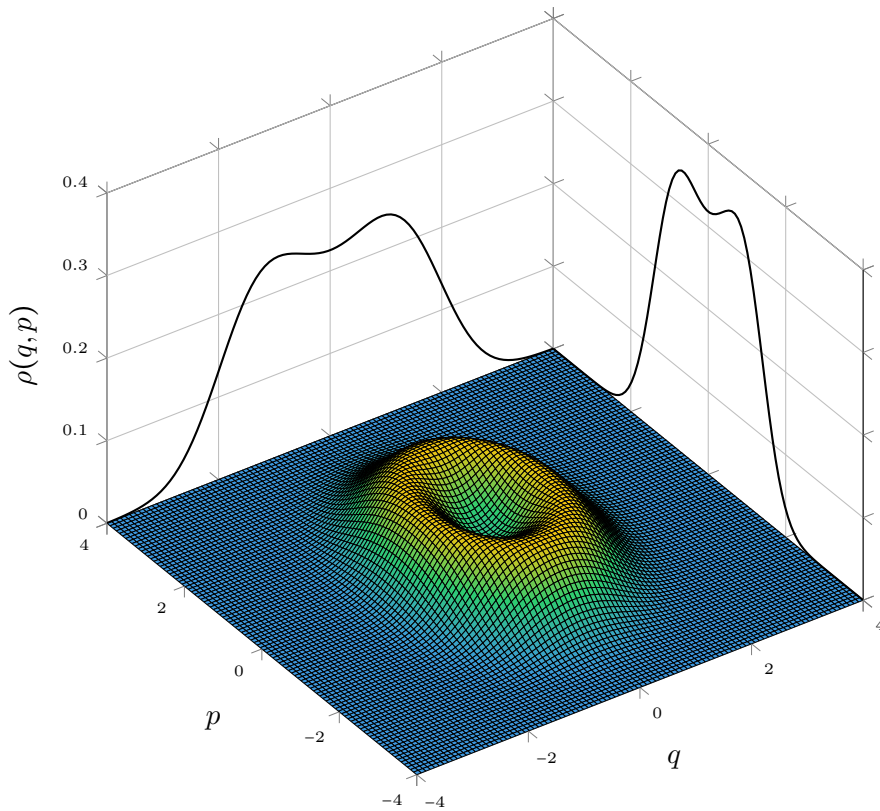


Figure 4-2: Numerical solution of the time-averaged distribution given by eq. (4-13), for $m = 1$, $k = 2$, $\Sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 0.2 & 0.1 \\ 0.1 & 0.2 \end{pmatrix}$ and $x_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$. The marginalized distributions for p and q are shown as well.

Chapter 5

Damped harmonic oscillator

In their most traditional fashion, the Hamiltonian and Lagrangian treatments of mechanical systems do not incorporate energy dissipation; that is, they assume the conservation of (mechanical) energy in the system. The classical theory does allow for an optional explicit time-dependence of the Hamiltonian and Lagrangian, but although this may allow one to incorporate dissipation, it is no direct solution for the dissipation problem. Although this may seem odd from the perspective of the engineering field, where dissipation really is the rule rather than the exception, dissipation is arguably not of primary concern for physicists. This is because dissipation is considered to be a *macro-phenomenon*; that is, it arises because one chooses not to model certain degrees of freedom in the system, while physicists are often concerned with ideal system descriptions on the macro-scale. Nonetheless, the celebrated report by Dekker [12] provides an overview of the (often fruitful) attempts that have been made to include dissipation in the Hamiltonian and Lagrangian description; the former may allow one to consider dissipation on the quantum level as well — this is beyond the scope of this text. In addition to these methods, recent developments in the economic engineering group have proposed two new methods to deal with linear damping in mechanical systems, see Hutters [13] and Mendel [14]. In the following section, these methods are placed in a slightly more rigorous (read: geometric) context, after which they serve as the apparatus for the Liouville equation on the damped harmonic oscillator.

5-1 Dissipative classical mechanics: an overview

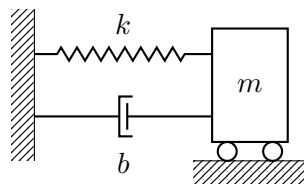


Figure 5-1: Schematic of the damped harmonic oscillator.

The damped harmonic oscillator considered in this text is the one that features a damper ‘in parallel’ with the spring, as shown in fig. 5-1. The corresponding second-order differential equations are:¹

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} q \\ \dot{q} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1/m \\ -k/m & -b/m \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} q \\ \dot{q} \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{or} \quad m\ddot{q} + b\dot{q} + kq = 0. \quad (5-1)$$

The state-transition matrix has eigenvalues

$$\lambda = \frac{1}{2} \left(-\frac{b}{m} \pm \sqrt{\left(\frac{b}{m} \right)^2 - 4\frac{k}{m}} \right)$$

which is often expressed in ‘polar coordinates’, using the *damping ratio* ζ and the *undamped natural frequency* Ω :

$$\lambda = -\Omega \left(\zeta \pm i\sqrt{1 - \zeta^2} \right)$$

Moreover, the system is assumed to be underdamped, or equivalentl $\zeta < 1$. Solutions are then of the form

5-2 Lagrangian mechanics

The method proposed by Mendel [14] is closely related to the time-dependent Caldirola-Kanai Hamiltonian (as mentioned, the corresponding Lagrangian was already devised by Bateman in 1931 [15, 12]). However, there are some important differences: the time-dependent method takes the dissipation into account simply wrapping the Lagrangian with an exponential discount function so as to include the real part of the eigenvalues into the solution. (... discuss contribution ...)

This approach for Lagrangian systems to damped systems (the prototypical example here is, of course, the damped harmonic oscillator) revolves around the definition of a nonstandard Lagrangian function on an extended configuration space. Instead of only position q , the extended configuration space is a pair that fixes both position and time. The extended space is denoted by M , consequently $m \in M$ has natural coordinates (q, t) . Hence, whereas the standard configuration manifold is one-dimensional, it is now two-dimensional, which means the corresponding tangent and cotangent bundles are four-dimensional².

Because t defines the configuration of the system, it is not an independent coordinate; that is, it can be varied at will. The independent coordinate is denoted by τ , also referred to as the ‘path indexation variable’, for that is its only significance. Mendel [14] calls this *proper time* as a testament to its parallel in the theory of special relativity [17].

¹Although a linear potential force is assumed here, this treatment generalizes to any potential function $U = U(q, t)$ that does not involve the generalized velocity in a straightforward manner.

²The inclusion of time into the configuration space (or phase space in the Hamiltonian context) is a recurring theme in many important works for various reasons. For example Arnol’d [8, p. 90] uses it to apply the Noether theorem to time-invariance, while [6, p. 332] uses it to treat time-dependent systems as if they were time-independent (this is essentially equivalent to the method given here). As is discussed later in this section, Dirac [16] touches upon it in his discussion of homogeneous Lagrangians and the Legendre transform thereof.

Traditionally, Lagrangian mechanics is staged in the tangent bundle to the configuration manifold. The notation used in this section is something of a delicate matter, since the traditional dot notation for tangent vectors usually refers to the actual time t , not τ . It is considered undesirable to break with this convention, which is why the tangent velocity vectors with respect to the q and t -coordinate are denoted by v_q and v_t respectively. Hence, the tangent bundle at issue has the chart-induced coordinates (q, t, v_q, v_t) . As Burke [6] points out, for (proper) time-dependent systems, it is more natural to look at the contact bundle CM rather than the tangent bundle TM because it makes it possible to deal with the explicit τ -dependence directly³. Hence, consider the line-element contact bundle CQ with projection map π ,

$$CM \xrightarrow{\pi} M \quad \text{with} \quad \pi : (\tau, q, t, v_q, v_t) \mapsto (\tau, q, t).$$

The idea is, again, now to establish a differential ideal (like in section 4-1) whose integral manifolds are the solution trajectories of the damped harmonic oscillator system. Although it is not specifically required to use this approach, it helps to sort out some delicacies that appear in taking derivatives that would otherwise be concealed as a consequence of ambiguities in the Leibniz notation.

There are seven forms that constitute the differential ideal: two define the contact structure, two define the system dynamics and one defines a constraint that ties t and τ together.

Contact structure Two 1-forms, α_1 and α_2 define the contact structure. Roughly speaking, they provide the ‘bookkeeping’ of the derivatives. The larger spaces CM and TM essentially offer too much ‘freedom’: not every curve in these spaces coincides to lifted version of the solution curve on M . Said otherwise, they guarantee tangency (or contact) when the solution trajectory is brought down to the configuration manifold. These 1-forms are:

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_1 &= dq - v_q d\tau \\ \alpha_2 &= dt - v_t d\tau. \end{aligned} \tag{5-2}$$

System dynamics The mechanics of the system are enforced by two additional 1-forms β_1 and β_2 . This is where the ‘proper’ Lagrangian comes in to play. The proper Lagrangian L is defined as a discounted version of the naive Lagrangian L which one would use for an undamped system by taking the difference of the kinetic and potential energy of the system. The naive Lagrangian is equal to

$$L_0 = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{q}^2 - \frac{1}{2}kq^2.$$

However, as a consequence of the extended phase space \dot{q} does not represent a generalized velocity. By means of the chain rule, it can readily be expressed as a function of v_q and v_t :

$$\dot{q} = \frac{v_q}{v_t},$$

³Intuitively, one can think of a contact bundle as a ‘homogenized’ version of a tangent bundle. When two submanifolds are in contact, it means their tangent spaces coincide locally; tangency is a stronger condition that also involves the *magnitude* of the tangent vectors. A *contact element* is an equivalence class of submanifolds in contact at a point. A *contact bundle* is the manifold of points in the underlying base manifold, each paired with a contact element.

which allows to take derivatives with respect to the chosen coordinates of CM . The proper Lagrangian L is defined as:

$$L : TM \rightarrow \mathbb{R} : L(q, t, v_q, v_t) \equiv v_t L_0(q, t, v_q, v_t),$$

that is, the naive Lagrangian is ‘discounted’ by v_t . The term discounting is used here because the solution of v_t will turn out to be an exponential, which makes it analogous to the practice of discounting in economics and finance. As stated by Burke [6], these ‘mechanical’ 1-forms have the general form

$$\begin{aligned}\beta_1 &= d\left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial v_q}\right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial q} d\tau, \\ \beta_2 &= d\left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial v_t}\right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial t} d\tau.\end{aligned}\tag{5-3}$$

To find these β ’s, one must therefore evaluate the appropriate partial derivatives of the Lagrangian. First, the conjugate momenta can be obtained by taking the partial derivative of the Lagrangian with respect to both generalized velocities. Firstly,

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial v_q} = v_t \frac{\partial L_0}{\partial \dot{q}} \frac{\partial \dot{q}}{\partial v_q} = v_t m \left(\frac{v_q}{v_t}\right) \frac{1}{v_t} = m\dot{q} \equiv p,\tag{5-4}$$

which means that the momentum conjugate to v_q is *equal to the classical notion of momentum* $p = m\dot{q}$. Secondly,

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial L}{\partial v_t} &= L_0 + v_t \frac{\partial L_0}{\partial v_t} = L_0 + v_t \frac{\partial L_0}{\partial \dot{q}} \frac{\partial \dot{q}}{\partial v_t} \\ &= L_0 - v_t \frac{\partial L_0}{\partial \dot{q}} \frac{v_q}{v_t^2} = -\frac{1}{2}m\dot{q}^2 - \frac{1}{2}kq^2 \equiv W,\end{aligned}\tag{5-5}$$

i.e. the momentum conjugate to v_t is the negative of the total mechanical energy of the system⁴. When added to an appropriate constant for the initial mechanical energy, W yields the total work dissipated by the damper. The ‘force’ terms are less involved, for they have only a dependence on a single coordinate:

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial q} = -kq \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial L}{\partial t} = 0.\tag{5-6}$$

Taking exterior derivatives of eq. (5-4) and eq. (5-5), the mechanical 1-forms can be obtained:

$$\begin{aligned}\beta_1 &= \frac{m}{v_t} dv_q - \frac{v_q}{v_t^2} dv_t + kq d\tau \\ \beta_2 &= \left(\frac{v_q}{v_t}\right) \frac{m}{v_t} dv_q - \left(\frac{v_q}{v_t}\right) \frac{mv_q}{v_t^2} dv_t + kq dq.\end{aligned}\tag{5-7}$$

⁴This is precisely how Arnol’d [8] demonstrates the conservation of energy as a consequence of Noether’s theorem applied to Lagrangians invariant under time translations.

Constraint equation Finally, the damping structure of the system is encoded in the ‘discount rate’ of time t with respect to proper time, given by the 1-form

$$\phi = dt - \frac{d\tau}{\lambda\tau}. \quad (5-8)$$

This 1-form is, for all intents and purposes, ‘embarrassingly integrable’ — it provides a direct one-to-one relation between t and τ , and therefore represents a proper time-dependent holonomic (rheonomic) constraint on the system.

Solution of the exterior system

5-3 Legendre transform

The usual story in classical mechanics professes that the Lagrangian representation is equivalent to the Hamiltonian representation, which are connected through the so-called Legendre transform. From a geometric perspective, the Legendre transform switches the Lagrangian function on the tangent bundle in favour of the Hamiltonian function on the cotangent bundle, or vice versa. Along with the transformed function, the associated *variational problem* in the Lagrangian setting converts to the integration of the Hamiltonian vector field generated by the Hamiltonian function. In physics, the deeper significance of the Legendre transform is often discarded in favour of the expression $\dot{q}^i p_i - L$, which only holds when the Lagrangian is strictly convex, or hyperregular, and assuming on-the-fly that $p_i \equiv \partial L / \partial \dot{q}^i$. In this text a more geometric approach is taken in accordance with Abraham and Marsden [1], where the concept of the ‘fiber derivative’ is favoured over the Legendre transform. For well-behaved Lagrangians the traditional notion of the fiber derivative and the Legendre transform coincide; but if not, there are some subtle complications that are relevant for this discussion.

As mentioned, the Legendre transform (or fiber derivative) ‘preserves information’ — that is, it is involutive and unique — if the function at issue is strictly convex. The Hessian of \mathcal{L} with respect to the generalized velocities is

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial \dot{q} \partial v_q} & \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial \dot{q} \partial v_t} \\ \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial \dot{q} \partial v_t} & \frac{\partial}{\partial v_t} \left(L - \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}} \dot{q} \right) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial \dot{q} \partial v_q} & \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial \dot{q} \partial v_t} \\ \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial \dot{q} \partial v_t} & -\frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial \dot{q} \partial v_t} \dot{q} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial p}{\partial v_q} & \frac{\partial p}{\partial v_t} \\ \frac{\partial p}{\partial v_t} & -\frac{\partial p}{\partial v_t} \dot{q} \end{pmatrix}$$

such that the determinant of this Hessian is

$$\frac{\partial p}{\partial v_q} \dot{q} \frac{\partial p}{\partial v_t} - \left(\frac{\partial p}{\partial v_t} \right)^2 \stackrel{5}{=} \left(\frac{\partial p}{\partial v_t} \right)^2 - \left(\frac{\partial p}{\partial v_t} \right)^2 = 0,$$

i.e. the Hessian is singular and has one vanishing eigenvalue; because the other eigenvalue is positive (the trace of the Hessian can be shown to be positive if v_t is), the Hessian is positive semidefinite. This prevents one to easily effect the Legendre transform of \mathcal{L} , for this Hessian is the Jacobian of the fiber derivative $\mathbb{F}\mathcal{L}$, which means that the fiber derivative does

⁵Because $\frac{\partial p}{\partial v_q} \dot{q} = \frac{\partial p}{\partial v_t} \frac{\partial v_t}{\partial \dot{q}} \frac{\partial \dot{q}}{\partial v_q} \dot{q} = \frac{\partial q}{\partial v_t} \frac{-v_q}{\dot{q}^2} \frac{1}{v_t} \dot{q} = -\frac{\partial p}{\partial v_t}$.

not provide a bijective mapping between the tangent and cotangent bundles (cf. the implicit function theorem). For the damped harmonic oscillator, the fiber derivative results in

$$\begin{aligned} p &\equiv \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial v_q} = m \frac{v_q}{v_t} \\ W &\equiv \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial v_t} = -\frac{1}{2} \left(m \left(\frac{v_q}{v_t} \right)^2 + k q^2 \right). \end{aligned} \quad (5-9)$$

Equation (5-9) shows that there is no unique way to assign the velocity pair (v_q, v_t) to a conjugate momentum pair (p, W) through the fiber derivative. Indeed, as discussed by Cannas da Silva [2, p. 122], *strict convexity* of a function \mathcal{L} , that is, the Hessian of \mathcal{L} be positive definite, is required for the Legendre transform to be a diffeomorphism between TQ and T^*Q . The root of this issue can be found in the fact that p, W only depend on \dot{q} , which fixes only the relative proportion between v_q and v_t — roughly speaking, it acts on the *projectivization* of the cotangent space, as shown in section 5-3.

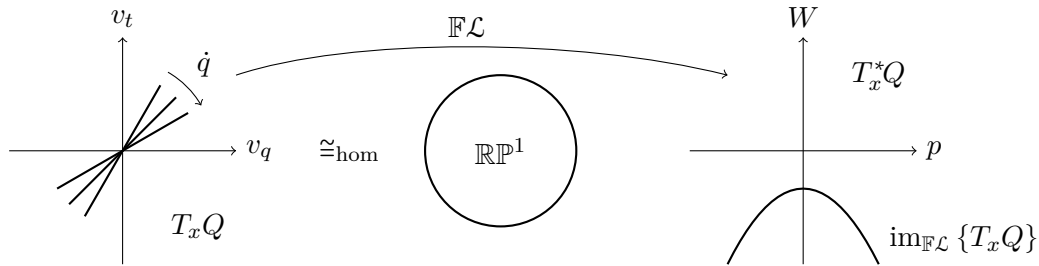


Figure 5-2: Graphical illustration of the singularity of the Lagrangian. The fiber derivative provides a pointwise mapping between the cotangent space $T_x Q$, where $x = (q, t)$, and the cotangent bundle $T_x^* Q$, but this mapping is neither injective nor surjective. The mapping $\mathbb{F}\mathcal{L}$ acts injectively on the projectivization of the tangent space — in this case, \mathbb{R}^2 / \sim , where \sim denotes the equivalence relation $(v_q, v_t) \sim (\lambda v_q, \lambda v_t)$ — it takes the equivalence classes $[v_q : v_t]$ as an argument. Furthermore, the image of the entire tangent space is restricted to a parabolic subset of the cotangent space.

All of this boils down to the fact that the fiber derivative/Legendre transform is unable to express the transformed Lagrangian function completely in terms of the coordinates of the cotangent bundle. In this case, the Lagrangian function is called *degenerate* or *singular*; Lagrangians for which the fiber derivative produces a global diffeomorphism are called *hyperregular* [1, p. 236].

An additional observation is that the Lagrangian \mathcal{L} is *homogeneous of the first degree* in the generalized velocities v_q and v_t ; i.e. multiplication of all velocities by a factor λ is equal to multiplying the Lagrangian itself by that factor (to the ‘first power’, hence the first degree). This is, as discussed by Abraham and Marsden [1] and Dirac [16], a classical example of a singular Lagrangian. This makes the homogeneous Lagrangian function subject to the Euler theorem (on homogeneous functions); which means that the Lagrangian is a linear combination of its partial derivatives with respect to the generalized velocities [16]. Given that the Lagrangian is homogeneous, the Euler theorem asserts that

$$\mathcal{L} = v_q \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial v_q} + v_t \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial v_t} = v_q p + v_t W.$$

Substitution by the found expressions for p and W indeed recovers the original definition of the discounted Lagrangian. The point is though, that the above is *precisely* equal to the duality pairing that is used for the Legendre transform; as such, a ‘naive’ Legendre transform $v_q p + W v_t - \mathcal{L}$ will simply vanish in the strong fashion. Hence, according to the Dirac method,

$$H = v\phi$$

where ϕ is the first-order constraint

$$W + \frac{1}{2m}p^2 + \frac{1}{2}kq^2 = 0$$

Singular Lagrangians and the Dirac method

As mentioned, singular Lagrangians are Lagrangians for which the mass matrix

$$\left[\frac{\partial^2 \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{q}_i \partial \dot{q}_j} \right]$$

is rank-deficient. With slight abuse of notation, L denotes a general Lagrangian and \dot{q} the corresponding generalized velocities. This prevents one from finding the corresponding Hamiltonian representation in the traditional fashion using the Legendre transform, since this entire process hinges on the above Hessian to provide a bijective mapping between the tangent and cotangent spaces (pointwise), that is, to find a mapping between velocities and momenta. Paul Dirac developed a method to overcome this problem, as discussed by Dirac [16], Künzle [18], and Cisneros-Parra [19]. It is interesting to note that the last author considers degeneracy to be a property reserved for ‘artificial’ Lagrangians; by which he means those which do not correspond to real mechanical systems. This claim is, of course, refuted by the Mendel approach given in this text.

Because of the singularity of the Hessian, there must be a number of conditions on the conjugate momenta such that there remains an additional dependence between the conjugate momenta:

$$\phi_k(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}, t) = 0.$$

Using Dirac’s method, the resulting Hamiltonian is of the form: [19]

$$H = H_0 + \sum_k v_k \phi_k,$$

where H_0 denotes the ‘naive’ Hamiltonian found by taking a straightforward Legendre transform, and v_k new independent variables (i.e, additional coordinates of the cotangent space as to span its entirety). Aside from the *primary restrictions* ϕ_k , the Dirac method also imposes a consistency condition of the form

$$\dot{\phi}_k = 0,$$

from which the *secondary restrictions* are obtained.

Make sure to read https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_class_constraint#Geometric_theory for a geometric interpretation.

NOTE: Max uses ‘vanish identically’, is the same as strong/weak equality by Dirac

The Lagrangian 1-form is the pullback of the tautological 1-form under the fiber derivative. Lagrangian 1-form and 2-form, economic interpretation: market elasticities. Lagrange 2-form contains the market elasticities, quite literally the geometric encoding of the corresponding bond graph.

5-3-1 Hamiltonian mechanics

In this section, the method proposed by Mendel [14] is used to deal with the problem of dissipative systems in the framework of Hamiltonian mechanics. The prototypical example that is the harmonic oscillator with a linear (parallel) damping element. As noted, using a time-dependent Hamiltonian to include dissipative mechanics is not quite a new idea (cf. Dekker [12]), but the salient point here is the *symplectization* of the contact structure that normally underlies such a system. That is to say, there is an additional dimension on top of p, q, t to allow the manifold to be symplectic in the first place. For the damped harmonic oscillator, this boils down to a 2-dimensional configuration manifold Q with coordinates (q, t) , with at each point attached a cotangent space which contains elements of the form $\alpha dq + \beta dt$. To turn the cotangent bundle into a symplectic manifold by virtue of the bundle structure, define the tautological 1-form

$$\alpha = p dq + W dt \quad \alpha \in T^*(T^*Q),$$

from which the symplectic 2-form is obtained:

$$\omega = -d\alpha = dq \wedge dp + dt \wedge dW.$$

This results in a four-dimensional symplectic manifold (M, ω) .

5-3-2 Multi-degree of freedom systems

As noted by Udwadia and Cho [20], the general solution of the ‘inverse problem’ in Lagrangian mechanics becomes quickly intractable if the number of degrees of freedom in the grows (although the Helmholtz equations theoretically guarantee a solution). For linear systems, this can be easily understood from simple ideas in linear systems theory (which is not mentioned in the work of Udwadia and Cho [20]). The differential equation of the matrix solution for a general mechanical system has the form:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{q} \\ \ddot{q} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & I \\ -M^{-1}K & -M^{-1}B \end{pmatrix}$$

where M , K and B are the mass matrix, stiffness matrix and damping matrix respectively. Now, finding the ‘exponential envelope’ that is used in the Caldirola-Kanai style Lagrangians or Hamiltonians becomes a complicated matter in the general case: one needs to decouple the system into individual solutions, each with its discount factor. Naturally, this coincides precisely with an eigenvalue decomposition of the system, i.e.

$$\begin{pmatrix} q \\ p \end{pmatrix} = T \exp(J) T^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} q_0 \\ p_0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

If one assumes that all the system dynamics are underdamped and the matrix A is simple, then the J is diagonal with complex entries (each of which is paired with its complex conjugate). This is equivalent to a linear combinations of solutions $e^{\gamma t}(c_1 \cos(\Omega t) + c_2 \sin(\Omega t))$. Theoretically, one can find a Lagrangian for all the decoupled parts, each with their own discount ‘envelope’ to formulate the Lagrangian of the overall problem. Unfortunately, this is not possible in a closed-form fashion (only up to two degrees of freedom in general, for which it is the maximal polynomial order to which a closed form solution exist for the roots). One could however construct a ‘numerical Lagrangian’, by computing the eigenvalues given the parameters. Of course, this does not make the solution of the ODE’s easier, but it the Lagrangian itself can help to offer insights in the nature of the system.

5-3-3 Complex Hamiltonian

Coen’s method

Part III

Non-autonomous Systems

Chapter 6

Bla bla

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Glossary

List of Acronyms

