

# Thesis Title

Optional Subtitle

E. B. Legrand

Master of Science Thesis



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For the degree of Master of Science in Systems and Control at Delft  
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E. B. Legrand

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by

E. B. LEGRAND

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# Abstract

This is an abstract.





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# Preface





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# 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  
June 2, 2022

E. B. Legrand



Man must sit in chair with open mouth for very long time before roast duck fly in.

— *Chinese proverb*



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# Chapter 1

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## 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	<b><i>abcde</i></b>	<b><i>ABCDE</i></b>	$\alpha\beta\gamma\delta\varepsilon$	<b><math>\Gamma\Delta\Upsilon\Omega\Theta</math></b>
Tensor	<b><i>abcde</i></b>	<b><i>ABCDE</i></b>	$\alpha\beta\gamma\delta\varepsilon$	<b><math>\Gamma\Delta\Upsilon\Omega\Theta</math></b>

**Table 1-1:** Caption

Math constants:  $i\epsilon\pi$

Variation:  $\delta S$

Musical isomorphism

Flat:  $X^\flat$

Sharp:  $\omega^\sharp$

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

Interior product:  $X \lrcorner \omega$

Lowercase mathcal:

Kinematic momentum:  $\mathfrak{p}p$

$E \xrightarrow{\pi} B$

$\Gamma(TM)$

$\mathcal{X}(TM)$

## 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.

- Matrices, vectors and tensors are bold upper case.
- Differential forms are typically denoted by Greek letters, with their rank as a superscript (cf. Arnol'd).

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## Chapter 2

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# **Symplectic and Contact Geometry in Economic Engineering**





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## Chapter 3

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# Liouville Geometry for Dissipative Systems

The contact-geometric counterpart of Hamiltonian and Lagrangian mechanics has been the subject of increasing academic interest in recent years, see for example van der Schaft [3], van der Schaft and Maschke [4], Maschke and van der Schaft [5], Bravetti et al. [6], de León and Lainz [7], etc. The conception of the idea arguably traces back to the work of Herglotz [8], who derived it using the variational principle, and the developments in differential geometry, by e.g. Arnol'd [9] and Libermann and Marle [10].

In this chapter, the direct connection is made between the Caldirola-Kanai Hamiltonian given by eq. (3-3) and the contact Hamiltonian described by Bravetti et al. [6], using Liouville geometry<sup>1</sup>. We then proceed to *contact Lagrangian mechanics*, strongly related to the Herglotz' work. Finally, the whole theory is explained from a thermodynamic perspective as well. While it was already known for some time (dating back to Arnol'd) that contact geometry is the preferred geometry for thermodynamics, its equivalence to contact geometry in (dissipative) classical mechanics has not been described in past literature. This underpins a famous statement by Vladimir Arnol'd that 'contact geometry is all geometry', in the sense that conservative mechanical systems can be considered as part of a larger class of systems for which energy dissipation *is* allowed. [11]

The traditional picture is that Hamiltonian mechanics takes place in the space of generalized positions and momenta, colloquially denoted by  $q$ 's and  $p$ 's. The generalized positions form coordinates of the configuration manifold, which encodes all the possible positions that the system can find itself in. The momenta, on the other hand, are *cotangent variables*: they live in the cotangent space of linear functions acting on tangent (velocity) vectors to the configuration manifold  $Q$ . We say that the Hamiltonian is a function on the *cotangent bundle* to the configuration manifold  $T^*Q$ . This cotangent bundle has a canonical 'symplectic' structure, given by its symplectic form  $\omega$ , that pairs every position direction with its corresponding

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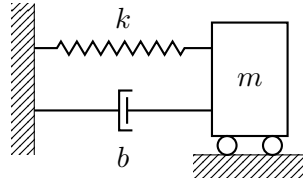
<sup>1</sup>It is interesting to note that Bravetti gives the Caldirola-Kanai method as an example of dissipative Hamiltonians in his paper, but fails to make the connection with his own method.

momenta:

$$\omega = \sum dq^i \wedge dp_i.$$

A vital property of symplectic manifolds (which include the cotangent bundle) is the fact that they are always even-dimensional: every position coordinate has a corresponding momentum and vice versa. Likewise, in an economic context this asserts that every product has its own price. It is precisely this symmetry that is broken by the introduction of contact manifolds.

The symplectic structure of Hamiltonian mechanics is related to the conservation of energy principle. The Hamiltonian function is conserved along the integral curves of the Hamiltonian vector field that it generates. For dissipative mechanics, this strict reciprocity between position and momentum is broken. Either, one constructs an explicit time-dependence and acknowledges the special nature of time, or one can introduce another coordinate that acts as ‘reservoir’ to facilitate the dissipation in the system. These Hamiltonian systems are known as *contact Hamiltonian systems*. One of the contributions of this thesis is to show how both methods are essentially equivalent, by connecting the most famous time-dependent model by Caldirola and Kanai to the contact Hamiltonian by Bravetti et al. [6].



**Figure 3-1:** Schematic of the mass-spring-damper system.

This chapter (and the application in the following chapter) is primarily concerned with the prototypical dissipative mechanical system: the linearly damped harmonic oscillator depicted in fig. 3-1, with the governing second-order differential equation being

$$m\ddot{q} + b\dot{q} + kq = 0. \quad (3-1)$$

The choice for this system is rather perspicuous, since it is arguably the ‘easiest’ dissipative system that also exhibits second-order dynamics and is linear in all terms. Furthermore, as discussed below, it serves as the test case of choice in the overwhelming majority of research into dissipative Lagrangian and Hamiltonian mechanics [12, 13]. However, the method described in this section can be generalized directly to a general (possibly time-dependent) potential function  $V = V(q, t)$ . To make calculations and notation easier, some special parameters are frequently used throughout this chapter, they are summarized in table 3-1.

### 3-1 The Caldirola-Kanai method

A traditional, engineering-inclined method to incorporate damping in the framework is to include a Rayleigh damping term in the Lagrangian to emulate linear damping forces, and this works ‘mathematically’ to derive the correct equations of motion [14]. Although frequently used for practical problems, this damping term is not really part of the *actual* Lagrangian — rather, it simply makes use of the notion of a generalized force that is not inherently part of

**Table 3-1:** Parameter conventions of the damped harmonic oscillator. To avoid confusion with the symplectic form  $\omega$ , angular frequencies are denoted by  $\Omega$  instead of the conventional lower case Greek letter.

Name	Symbol	Value	Units
Damping coefficient	$\gamma$	$b/m$	$\text{s}^{-1}$
Undamped frequency	$\Omega_o$	$\sqrt{k/m}$	$\text{s}^{-1}$
Damped frequency	$\Omega_d$	$\sqrt{\Omega_o^2 - (\frac{\gamma}{2})^2}$	$\text{s}^{-1}$
Damping ratio	$\zeta$	$\frac{b}{2\sqrt{mk}}$	—

the system. As such, this method only works on a superficial level: the pristine differential geometric foundations of mechanics do not leave room for such ad hoc tricks. There is, as a result, also no Hamiltonian counterpart for this method.

The historical attempts to do better than the Rayleigh method were primarily motivated by the application of the (dissipative) Hamiltonian formalism in quantum mechanics through discretization. For this application, a sound mathematical structure is of the essence, which calls for a more rigorous approach. A celebrated paper by Dekker [12] provides an excellent summary of many attempts up to 1981. Indeed, the well-studied approach developed by Caldirola [15] and Kanai [16] was intended exactly for this purpose. This method features an explicit time-dependence both in the Lagrangian function

$$L_{\text{CK}}(q, \dot{q}, t) = e^{\gamma t} \left( \frac{1}{2} m \dot{q}^2 - \frac{1}{2} k q_1^2 \right), \quad (3-2)$$

and the corresponding Hamiltonian function:

$$H_{\text{CK}}(q, \rho, t) = \frac{\rho^2}{2m} e^{-\gamma t} + \frac{1}{2} k q^2 e^{\gamma t}. \quad (3-3)$$

In latter equation,  $\rho$  refers to a special ‘canonical momentum’, that is

$$\rho \equiv \frac{\partial L_{\text{CK}}}{\partial \dot{q}}, \quad (3-4)$$

which is related to the ‘true’ kinematic momentum by the relation  $\rho = p e^{\gamma t} = m \dot{q} e^{\gamma t}$ . As such, it is also clear that the Caldirola-Kanai Lagrangian and Hamiltonian functions are related by the Legendre transformation *with respect to the canonical momentum*:

$$H_{\text{CK}} = \rho \dot{q} - L_{\text{CK}}.$$

From either eq. (3-2) or eq. (3-3), the equations of motion are readily derived (for the Hamiltonian case with respect to  $\rho$  after which the transformation to  $p$  can be effected). Indeed,

after taking the appropriate derivatives, one obtains:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial L_{\text{CK}}}{\partial \dot{q}} \right) - \frac{\partial L_{\text{CK}}}{\partial q} &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow e^{\gamma t} (m\ddot{q} + m\gamma\dot{q} + kq) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

for the Lagrangian case. Likewise, Hamilton's equations yield: [17]

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{q} &= \frac{\partial H_{\text{CK}}}{\partial \rho} = \frac{\rho}{m} e^{-\gamma t} = \frac{p}{m}, \\ \dot{\rho} &= -\frac{\partial H_{\text{CK}}}{\partial q} = -kq e^{\gamma t}. \end{aligned}$$

The relation between the time derivatives of the momenta  $\dot{p}_1$  and  $\dot{\rho}$  is slightly more involved since one must invoke the product rule as a result of their time-dependent relation:

$$\dot{\rho} = e^{\gamma t} (\dot{p}_1 + \gamma p). \quad (3-5)$$

Substitution yields the correct equation for  $p$ , though the equation is again multiplied by  $e^{\gamma t}$ . Because the latter is sufficiently well-behaved (that is, it has no zeros), it can be removed without any problems.

**Geometric perspective** To put the above derivation in a geometric setting, define the Liouville 1-form as

$$\alpha = \rho dq \quad \Rightarrow \quad \omega = -d\alpha = dq \wedge d\rho,$$

where the symplectic 2-form will be used to obtain Hamilton's equations. The Hamiltonian eq. (3-3) is explicitly time-dependent. This will give rise to a time-dependent vector field governing the solution curves.<sup>2</sup> The construction of the vector field associated with a time-dependent Hamiltonian follows the same construction rules as a normal Hamiltonian (using the isomorphism given by  $\omega$ ), but 'frozen' at each instant of  $t$ . Even more bluntly speaking, one simply ignores the  $t$ -coordinate during the derivation, only to acknowledge the dependence at the very end. This leads to the following vector field, 'suspended' on the  $\mathbb{R} \times Q$  space:

$$\tilde{X}_{H_{\text{CK}}} = -e^{\gamma t} kq \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho} + e^{-\gamma t} \frac{\rho}{m} \frac{\partial}{\partial q} + \frac{\partial}{\partial t}.$$

The suspension is important to make the final coordinate transformation from  $\rho$  to  $p$  work properly. Indeed, effecting the transformation  $(q, \rho, t) \mapsto (q, e^{-\gamma t} \rho, t)$ , one obtains

$$\tilde{X}_{H_{\text{CK}}} = (-kq - \gamma p) \frac{\partial}{\partial p} + \frac{p_1}{m} \frac{\partial}{\partial q} + \frac{\partial}{\partial t}.$$

---

<sup>2</sup>A *time-dependent vector field* on a manifold  $M$  is a mapping  $X : M \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow TM$  such that for each  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ , the restriction  $X_t$  of  $X$  to  $M \times \{t\}$  is a vector field on  $M$ . [10] An additional construction of importance, called the *suspension* of the vector field, is a mapping

$$\tilde{X} : \mathbb{R} \times M \rightarrow T(\mathbb{R} \times M) \quad (t, m) \mapsto ((t, 1), (m, X(t, m))),$$

that is to say, it lifts the vector field to the extended space that also includes  $t$  and assigns the time coordinate with a trivial velocity of 1. [1]

It is worthwhile to ponder on some apparent peculiarities in the Caldirola-Kanai method, for they will be explained elegantly by the contact-Hamiltonian formalism. Firstly, the role of the two-different momenta is not very clear from the get-go, apart from being a consequence of the way the Caldirola-Kanai Lagrangian is formulated. This has also been the reason for considerable confusion in the academic community (see Schuch [18]). Furthermore, there is the special role of the time coordinate, which is merely a parameter in the Hamiltonian function; for it does not partake in the dynamics of the system. Finally, there is the special role of the factor  $e^{\gamma t}$  through which the time-dependence makes its appearance both in the Lagrangian and the Hamiltonian.

## 3-2 From time-dependent to contact Hamiltonian systems

In the subsequent discussion the original Hamiltonian will be progressively lifted to higher-dimensional spaces in order to include dissipation in the Hamiltonian formalism. First of all, to a contact manifold, which is odd-dimensional: as mentioned, we need an additional degree of freedom — which has no momentum conjugate to it — to keep track of the dissipation in the system. This degree of freedom is sometimes referred to as a *gauge variable*, denoted by  $q_0$ . However, performing calculations in contact geometry directly is cumbersome and un insightful: to quote Vladimir Arnol'd once more, ‘one is advised to calculate symplectically but to think rather in contact geometry terms’. Hence, we make use of the *symplectization* of the contact structure, which gives rise to a so-called *Liouville structure*, and ‘pretend’ that we are dealing with the symplectic case. This symplectization will add yet another dimension to the system. [3, 19]

### 3-2-1 Symplectization & Liouville structures

The contact manifold of our system is three-dimensional, with coordinates  $p, q$  and  $q_0$  — the latter is the gauge variable for the dissipation in the system. It can be viewed as the manifold of contact elements associated with the extended configuration manifold  $M$  for which  $q$  and  $q_0$  are coordinates, denoted by  $\mathbb{P}(T^*M)$ . The contact form on  $\mathbb{P}(T^*M)$  is given by

$$\alpha = dq_0 - p dq, \quad (3-6)$$

which accentuates the special role of the  $q_0$  in the system dynamics. Contact forms are, by their very nature, ambiguous, for they represent a distribution of hyperplanes, which coincides with the kernel of the 1-form. Multiplication with a nonzero factor yields a different form with the same kernel, that is to say, they represent the same contact structure. This is the reason behind the ‘projective’ nature of contact mechanics<sup>3</sup>. Hence, one may just as well multiply the 1-form with a nonzero factor  $\lambda$ :

$$\lambda(dq_0 - p dq) \quad \lambda \in \mathbb{R}_0.$$

The factor  $\lambda$  can be considered to be an extra degree of freedom (leaving the contact structure unaffected), which provides a ‘lift’ from the odd-dimensional manifold to an even-dimensional one, which is called the symplectification of the contact manifold. [9]

<sup>3</sup>As explained in appendix A, the manifold of contact elements is bundle-isomorphic to the projectivization of the cotangent bundle.

More formally, introduce the *principal*  $\mathbb{R}_\times$ -bundle  $T_0^*M \xrightarrow{\pi} \mathbb{P}(T^*M)$ , where  $\mathbb{R}_\times$  acts in the fiber through ‘dilations’ of the fiber which amounts to an equal scaling of all the cotangent variables (this is the multiplication by  $\lambda$  in the above expression). Here,  $T_0^*M$  is the cotangent bundle to  $M$ , but with the zero section removed — this is required for the group to act freely. This principal bundle  $T_0^*M \xrightarrow{\pi} \mathbb{P}(T^*M)$  admits what is called a *fibered symplectic Liouville structure*, given by the Liouville form [10]

$$\theta = \lambda(dq_0 - p dq).$$

To restate the above in canonical coordinates, choose<sup>4</sup>

$$\rho_0 = \lambda \quad \text{and} \quad \rho = -\lambda p \quad (3-7)$$

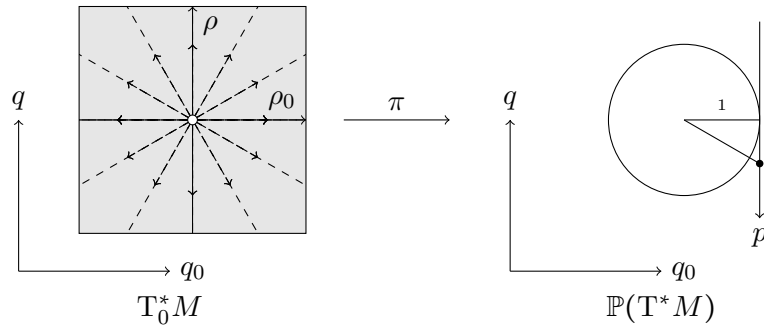
such that

$$\theta = \rho_0 dq_0 + \rho dq, \quad (3-8)$$

which is the Liouville form on  $T^*M$ . [10, p. 308] The Liouville form defines a symplectic structure given by<sup>5</sup>

$$\omega = -d\theta = dq_0 \wedge d\rho_0 + dq \wedge d\rho.$$

The manifold  $T_0^*M$  is called the symplectization of the contact manifolds, and consists of all four-tuples  $(q_0, q, \rho_0, \rho)$  for which  $\rho_0$  and  $\rho$  do not simultaneously vanish. For now, we have not assigned any specific meaning to the coordinates given above, but they will turn out to match with the notation used in eqs. (3-2) and (3-3), etc.



**Figure 3-2:** Illustration of the principal  $\mathbb{R}_\times$ -bundle  $T_0^*M \xrightarrow{\pi} \mathbb{P}(T^*M)$ . The total space  $T_0^*M$  is the cotangent bundle to  $M$  with zero section removed, which is shown on the left. The action by the multiplicative group  $\mathbb{R}_\times$  is illustrated by the arrows, for it acts as a scaling (dilation) on all the cotangent variables. The origin is not part of the fiber, for it is part of the zero section. The bundle projection  $\pi$  projects all points that are on the same orbit (straight lines through the origin) to a single point on the base manifold: the projectivized cotangent bundle  $\mathbb{P}(T^*M)$ . The former space has a symplectic structure while the latter space has a contact structure. Observe from eq. (3-7) that  $p = \rho/\rho_0$ , i.e. such that  $p$  is a coordinate for the projectivization by stereographic projection, as shown on the right.

Finally, the *Liouville vector field*  $Z$  associated with the Liouville structure is the vector field that represents the dilation of the fiber in the symplectization. It is defined as

$$Z = \omega^\sharp(\theta) = \rho_0 \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho_0} + \rho \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho}. \quad (3-9)$$

<sup>4</sup>The minus sign is there to obtain the conventional form of the Liouville form in symplectic geometry.

<sup>5</sup>The nondegeneracy condition on the contact structure guarantees that this structure is indeed symplectic.

Vector field (components) colinear with the Liouville vector fields are called *vertical*; they represent dissipative action in the system. After the vertical components are removed, the remaining vector field is called *horizontal*.

[Liouville automorphisms, commute with the Liouville vector field -> very important in the chapter about split-quaternions]

To summarize, we lifted the original system with symplectic structure  $dq \wedge dp$  to a contact manifold through the addition of a gauge variable  $q_0$ . We then symplectified the contact manifold to a four-dimensional system, with ‘positions’  $(q_0, q)$  and ‘momenta’  $(\rho_0, \rho)$ .

#### The importance of the zero section

Poincaré lemma, closed exact, Coen’s form not holomorphic.  
You have to cheat somewhere to make this thing work.

$$\mathcal{L}_X \omega = dX \lrcorner \omega + X \lrcorner d\omega$$

First form should be closed to make expression vanish, but is it also exact? Not on the same domain. Hamiltonian has a different domain than  $d'H$ , i.e. forms are closed but not exact (on the entire domain), which is why you can’t be on simply connected domain.

$\mathbb{R}^4 / \{(q_0, q, 0, 0)\}$  not simply connected

### 3-2-2 Homogeneous Hamiltonian systems

The theoretical construction of the past section serves an important purpose, because it is the symplectified space which is the proper setting for the Caldirola-Kanai Hamiltonian discussed in section 3-1. Along with the symplectification of the contact structure described in the past section, we can do the same with a contact Hamiltonian system.

There is a one-to-one correspondence between contact Hamiltonians on  $\mathbb{P}(T^*M)$  and a special class of Hamiltonians on the symplectified space  $T_0^*M$ . These are the Hamiltonians which are *homogeneous* in the cotangent variables with degree 1:<sup>6</sup>

$$\mathcal{H}(q_0, q, \lambda \rho_0, \lambda \rho) = \lambda \mathcal{H}(q_0, q, \rho_0, \rho) \quad \text{or} \quad \mathcal{L}_Z \mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}, \quad (3-10)$$

with  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}_0$ ,  $H \in C^\infty(T_0^*M)$  and  $Z$  defined according to eq. (3-9). Given that  $H$  is indeed homogeneous of degree 1, this correspondence is in canonical coordinates:

$$\mathcal{H}(q_0, q_1, \rho_0, \rho_1) = -\rho_0 H\left(q_0, q_1, -\frac{\rho_1}{\rho_0}\right) \quad (3-11)$$

<sup>6</sup>This is a consequence of the Euler theorem for homogeneous functions. If  $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}(\mathbf{q}, \boldsymbol{\rho})$  is homogeneous of degree  $r$  in  $\boldsymbol{\rho}$ , then

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \rho_i \frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial \rho_i} = r \mathcal{H}.$$

Therefore, for homogeneity of degree 1, we have:

$$\mathcal{L}_Z \mathcal{H} = Z(\mathcal{H}) = \sum_{i=1}^n \rho_i \frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial \rho_i} = \mathcal{H} \quad \text{with} \quad Z \equiv \sum \rho_i \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho_i}.$$

The correspondence between the

where  $\mathcal{H} \in C^\infty(T_0^*M)$ ,  $H \in C^\infty(\mathbb{P}(T^*M))$  and  $p = -\rho_i/\rho_0$  is a coordinate for the projectivized fiber. Likewise, there is also a direct correspondence between the vector fields generated by these Hamiltonians, and therefore the system dynamics. This is the reason why we go through the trouble of symplectification in the first place, because it offers computational advantages. It is possible to derive the contact equations directly (as Bravetti et al. [6] does), but it does not offer the same amount of insight as its symplectified counterpart. [3, 9]

Now, recall the Caldirola-Kanai Hamiltonian in eq. (3-3). Instead of assuming a direct time-dependence, we will think of the time-dependence as the gauge momentum, i.e.  $\rho_0 = -e^{\gamma t}$ . However, we will now consider  $\rho_0$  to be a coordinate in its own right, instead of directly using the expression above. The Caldirola-Kanai Hamiltonian is then written as (cf. eq. (3-3)):

$$H_{\text{CK}} = -\rho_0 \left[ \frac{1}{2m} \left( -\frac{\rho}{\rho_0} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{2} k q^2 \right].$$

The motivation to make this particular choice is twofold: first, observe that  $\mathcal{H}$  is homogeneous in the cotangent variables  $\rho_0, \rho$ , and second, that their fraction yields the *real* momentum:  $p = -\rho/\rho_0$ . However, we must acknowledge a potential dependence on  $q_0$ , since we want to convert the explicitly time-dependent Hamiltonian into a contact Hamiltonian. We therefore add the arbitrary function  $f(q_0)$ , whose value is to be determined later, and also multiply by  $\rho_0$  to maintain homogeneity. Denote the homogeneous Hamiltonian by  $\mathcal{H}$ :

$$\mathcal{H} : T_0^*M \rightarrow \mathbb{R} : \quad \mathcal{H}(q_0, q, \rho_0, \rho) = -\rho_0 \left[ \frac{1}{2m} \left( -\frac{\rho}{\rho_0} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{2} k q^2 + f(q_0) \right]. \quad (3-12)$$

Using the correspondence given by eq. (3-11), the homogeneous Hamiltonian may be ‘projected’ to the contact Hamiltonian  $H$ :

$$H : \mathbb{P}(T^*M) \rightarrow \mathbb{R} : \quad H(q_0, q, p) = \frac{p^2}{2m} + \frac{1}{2} k q^2 + f(q_0). \quad (3-13)$$

Numerically, this contact Hamiltonian is the same as the Hamiltonian for an undamped mass-spring system but it is defined on the contact manifold that also takes into account the gauge variable  $q_0$ .

Now to derive the equations of motion. As mentioned, this is easiest in the symplectified space because Hamilton’s equations can be readily applied (the reader can consult appendix A for the direct derivation). Because we are using canonical coordinates, the Hamiltonian vector field

$$X_{\mathcal{H}} = \omega^\sharp(d\mathcal{H})$$

corresponds to Hamilton’s equations in the familiar form:

$$\frac{d\rho}{dt} = -\frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial q}, \quad \frac{d\rho_0}{dt} = -\frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial q_0}, \quad \frac{dq}{dt} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial \rho}, \quad \frac{dq_0}{dt} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial \rho_0}. \quad (3-14)$$

Observe that this motivates why one has to take the partial with respect to the ‘other’ momentum in the Caldirola-Kanai momentum: we are dealing with a specific instance of a more general class of homogeneous coordinates of the cotangent variables. Of course, the variable of interest is the actual momentum  $p$ , not the scaled version  $\rho$ . The time-derivative of  $p$  can be written in terms of  $\rho$  and  $\rho_0$ , completely analogous to eq. (3-5):

$$p = -\rho/\rho_0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{dp}{dt} = -\frac{1}{\rho_0} \frac{d\rho}{dt} + \frac{\rho}{\rho_0^2} \frac{d\rho_0}{dt} = -\frac{1}{\rho_0} \frac{d\rho}{dt} - \frac{p}{\rho_0} \frac{d\rho_0}{dt}. \quad (3-15)$$



Given eq. (3-12), the partial derivatives of  $\mathcal{H}$  and  $H$  are related through the by relations: [9]

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial q} &= -\rho_0 \frac{\partial H}{\partial q}, \\
 \frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial q_0} &= -\rho_0 \frac{\partial H}{\partial q_0}, \\
 \frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial p} &= -\rho_0 \frac{\partial H}{\partial p} \frac{\partial p}{\partial \rho} = \frac{\partial H}{\partial p}, \\
 \frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial \rho_0} &= -H - \rho_0 \frac{\partial H}{\partial p} \frac{\partial p}{\partial \rho_0} = -H - \frac{\partial H}{\partial p} \frac{\rho}{\rho_0} = \frac{\partial H}{\partial p} p - H.
 \end{aligned} \tag{3-16}$$

Hence, the *contact* equations of motion can be found by combining of eq. (3-5) and eq. (3-16):

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{dq}{dt} &= \frac{\partial H}{\partial p} \\
 \frac{dp}{dt} &= \frac{1}{\rho_0} \frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial q} + \frac{p}{\rho_0} \frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial q_0} = -\frac{\partial H}{\partial q} - p \frac{\partial H}{\partial q_0} \\
 \frac{dq_0}{dt} &= \frac{\partial H}{\partial p} p - H.
 \end{aligned} \tag{3-17}$$

Some observations are important to note:

- The evolution of the position  $q$  remains the same as for the ‘normal’ (undamped) case.
- The evolution of the momentum operator picks up a term that is depends on presence of the gauge variable in the contact Hamiltonian.
- The evolution of the gauge variable is equal to the Legendre transformation of the contact Hamiltonian with respect to  $p$ .

We are now ready to determine the nature of the as of yet unknown function  $f$  to obtain the correct equations of motion. By comparing eq. (3-15) and eq. (3-17), the following relation must hold:

$$\frac{1}{\rho_0} \frac{d\rho_0}{dt} = \frac{\partial H}{\partial q_0} = \frac{df}{dq_0}.$$

Furthermore, since we initial ‘substituted’  $e^{\gamma t}$  in favor of  $\rho_0$ , the left hand side of the equation should be equal to  $\gamma$  for it to be consistent with the Caldirola-Kanai Hamiltonian. Hence, we know that  $\frac{df}{dq_0} = \gamma$ , or  $f(q_0) = \gamma q_0$  up to a constant, which we choose to be zero. Although this may seem like an odd construction, the only thing we did is made the contact equation of motions equivalent with the time-dependent equations of motion. Now, the fact that  $\rho_0 = e^{\gamma t}$ , ceases to be an a priori assumption, and is derivable through Hamilton’s equations:

$$\frac{d\rho_0}{dt} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathcal{H}} = \gamma \rho_0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \rho_0 = e^{\gamma t} + C$$

As such, we have for the contact Hamiltonian:

$$H : \mathbb{P}(T^*M) \rightarrow \mathbb{R} : \quad H(q_0, q, p) = \frac{p^2}{2m} + \frac{1}{2}kq^2 + \gamma q_0, \tag{3-18}$$

and this is precisely Bravetti's result. For the homogenous Hamiltonian on the symplectified space, we have:

$$\mathcal{H} : T_0^*M \rightarrow \mathbb{R} : \quad \mathcal{H}(q_0, q, \rho_0, \rho) = -\rho_0 \left[ \frac{1}{2m} \left( -\frac{\rho}{\rho_0} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{2} k q^2 + \gamma q_0 \right]. \quad (3-19)$$

It is easily verified that the contact Hamilton equations eq. (3-17) yield the correct equations of motion for the damped harmonic oscillator:

$$\frac{dq}{dt} = p/m \quad \frac{dp}{dt} = -kq - \gamma p.$$

On the other hand, the equation of motion for  $q_0$  requires some additional considerations; this is the subject of the next section.

### 3-2-3 Interpretation of the canonical variables

From eq. (3-17), the time-rate of change of  $q_0$  is equal to Legendre transformation of  $H$  with respect to  $p$ . This Legendre transformation is equal to the Lagrangian.

Liebermann and Marle [10] refer to this function, which is formally equal to

$$A = Z \lrcorner dH - H$$

by the name *elementary action*. Probably, this is the  $H$  without the  $q_0$  term. So this would be the abbreviated action.

Hence, we have

$$q_0 = \int_0^t (\cdot) dt$$

## 3-3 Legendre involution

In the classic, symplectic case, the Legendre transformation is used to pass from the Hamiltonian to the Lagrangian formalism and vice versa. This is because the Legendre transform facilitates a mapping between the tangent and cotangent bundle. If the Lagrangian (or Hamiltonian) is (hyper)regular (i.e. the mass matrix is invertible), this mapping is a diffeomorphism. [20]

One would be tempted to use the normal Legendre transformation on the symplectified Hamiltonian  $\mathcal{H}$ . This approach will meet some problems though:

- A homogeneous function is not regular in the homogeneous variables — naturally, a degree of freedom still resides in the action of the multiplicative group. Therefore, the mapping from the cotangent to the tangent bundle is not a diffeomorphism. Said otherwise, there is not a one-to-one correspondence between the homogeneous momenta and the associated velocities in the Lagrangian description.

- As a consequence of Euler's theorem for homogeneous functions, the Legendre transformation for a homogeneous function is necessarily equal to zero. For any homogeneous function  $H$  (of degree 1), Euler's theorem states that

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \rho_i \frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial \rho_i} = \mathcal{H},$$

i.e. the function is equal to its associated 'action', and therefore the expression for the Legendre transformation vanishes. [21, 22]

There is a better path to take. In essence the Legendre transform is (and was originally meant to be) a *contact transformation*.



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## Chapter 4

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# Split-Quaternions as Dynamical Systems

! orthogonal refers to 'regular' orthogonal, Lorentz-orthogonal makes the distinction.

Motivation:  $\mathbf{u}$  seems to be 'aligned' with major direction of the elliptic trajectory in the Lorentz-orthogonal subspace, generated by the action of its cross-product. Show this formally by making use of the eigenvectors.

The basis vectors  $\{\mathbf{e}_2, \mathbf{e}_3\}$ , where  $\mathbf{e}_2$  is the orthogonal projection of the vector  $\mathbf{e}_1 = \hat{\mathbf{u}}$  on its Lorentz-orthogonal subspace, and  $\mathbf{e}_3 \triangleq \mathbf{e}_1 \times_L \mathbf{e}_2$ , form the real and imaginary parts of two of the eigenvectors of the matrix  $\mathbf{U}_{\times_L}$ .

Because the basis vectors  $\mathbf{e}_2$  and  $\mathbf{e}_3$  are also orthogonal in the Euclidean sense, the

*Proof.* Let  $\hat{\mathbf{u}} = u_1 \hat{\mathbf{i}} + u_2 \hat{\mathbf{j}} + u_3 \hat{\mathbf{k}}$ . A normal vector to the Lorentz-orthogonal subspace is  $\hat{\mathbf{n}} = u_1 \hat{\mathbf{i}} - u_2 \hat{\mathbf{j}} - u_3 \hat{\mathbf{k}}$ . Then, the basis vectors are

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{e}_2 &= \hat{\mathbf{u}} - \frac{\langle \hat{\mathbf{u}}, \hat{\mathbf{n}} \rangle}{\langle \hat{\mathbf{n}}, \hat{\mathbf{n}} \rangle} \hat{\mathbf{n}} \\ \mathbf{e}_3 &= \hat{\mathbf{u}} \times_L \mathbf{e}_2 = -\frac{\langle \hat{\mathbf{u}}, \hat{\mathbf{n}} \rangle}{\langle \hat{\mathbf{n}}, \hat{\mathbf{n}} \rangle} (\hat{\mathbf{u}} \times_L \hat{\mathbf{n}}), \end{aligned} \tag{4-1}$$

because the Lorentz-cross product distributes over addition and  $\hat{\mathbf{u}} \times_L \hat{\mathbf{u}} = \mathbf{0}$ . The proposition above claims that  $\mathbf{e}_2 + i\mathbf{e}_3$  is an eigenvector of the matrix  $\mathbf{U}_{\times_L}$ . Hence, it must be the case that  $\mathbf{U}_{\times_L}(\mathbf{e}_2 + i\mathbf{e}_3) = \lambda(\mathbf{e}_2 + i\mathbf{e}_3)$ , where  $\lambda$  is then an eigenvalue of the matrix. This can be verified by replacing the action of  $\mathbf{U}_{\times_L}$  with the cross product. Plugging in the definition and

exploiting the linearity of the Lorentz cross-product, one obtains:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \hat{\mathbf{u}} \times_L (\mathbf{e}_2 + i\mathbf{e}_3) &= \hat{\mathbf{u}} \times_L \mathbf{e}_2 + i(\hat{\mathbf{u}} \times_L \mathbf{e}_3) \\
 &= \mathbf{e}_3 + (\hat{\mathbf{u}} \times_L \mathbf{e}_3)i \\
 &= \mathbf{e}_3 + (\hat{\mathbf{u}} \times_L (\hat{\mathbf{u}} \times_L \mathbf{e}_2))i \\
 &= \mathbf{e}_3 - \frac{\langle \hat{\mathbf{u}}, \hat{\mathbf{n}} \rangle}{\langle \hat{\mathbf{n}}, \hat{\mathbf{n}} \rangle} (\hat{\mathbf{u}} \times_L (\hat{\mathbf{u}} \times_L \hat{\mathbf{n}}))i.
 \end{aligned}$$

The triple cross-product expansion, or ‘Lagrange formula’, relates the regular cross product to the corresponding dot product:

$$\mathbf{a} \times (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}) = \mathbf{b} \langle \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{a} \rangle - \mathbf{c} \langle \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \rangle.$$

This well-known identity generalizes (easily verified) to the Lorentzian counterpart of the cross- and inner products:

$$\mathbf{a} \times_L (\mathbf{b} \times_L \mathbf{c}) = \mathbf{b} \langle \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{a} \rangle_L - \mathbf{c} \langle \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \rangle_L.$$

Using the Lagrange formula, the above expression becomes

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{e}_3 - \frac{\langle \hat{\mathbf{u}}, \hat{\mathbf{n}} \rangle}{\langle \hat{\mathbf{n}}, \hat{\mathbf{n}} \rangle} (\hat{\mathbf{u}} \langle \hat{\mathbf{u}}, \hat{\mathbf{n}} \rangle_L - \hat{\mathbf{n}} \langle \hat{\mathbf{u}}, \hat{\mathbf{u}} \rangle_L)i \\
 &= \mathbf{e}_3 - \left( \hat{\mathbf{u}} \frac{\langle \hat{\mathbf{u}}, \hat{\mathbf{n}} \rangle_L \langle \hat{\mathbf{u}}, \hat{\mathbf{n}} \rangle}{\langle \hat{\mathbf{n}}, \hat{\mathbf{n}} \rangle} - \hat{\mathbf{n}} \frac{\langle \hat{\mathbf{u}}, \hat{\mathbf{n}} \rangle}{\langle \hat{\mathbf{n}}, \hat{\mathbf{n}} \rangle} \right)i \\
 &= \mathbf{e}_3 - \left( \hat{\mathbf{u}} - \hat{\mathbf{n}} \frac{\langle \hat{\mathbf{u}}, \hat{\mathbf{n}} \rangle}{\langle \hat{\mathbf{n}}, \hat{\mathbf{n}} \rangle} \right)i \\
 &= \mathbf{e}_3 - \mathbf{e}_2 i.
 \end{aligned}$$

The latter is the scalar multiple of the vector  $\mathbf{e}_2 + \mathbf{e}_3$  by  $-i$  - hence, this is indeed an eigenvector of the corresponding matrix. ■

Because  $\mathbf{e}_2$  and  $\mathbf{e}_3$  are also orthogonal in the normal sense, they are aligned with the major axes of the elliptic trajectories generated by the cross product. Hence, they can be used to find a basis of the invariant subspace which makes the trajectories identical to those in the phase plane.

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## Chapter 5

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# Conclusion





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# Appendix A

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## Contact geometry

This appendix provides a short introduction to the basic concepts of contact geometry that are relevant in this thesis, particularly chapter 3.

### A-1 Contact structures

A *contact element* on a manifold  $M$  is a point  $m \in M$  combined with a tangent hyperplane  $\xi_m \subset T_m M$  (a subspace of the tangent space with codimension 1). The term ‘contact’ refers to the intuitive notion that if two submanifolds ‘touch’, they share a contact element: they are *in contact* (which is a slightly weaker condition than tangency). [2] For example, contact elements to a two-dimensional manifold are simply lines through the origin in the tangent space, contact elements on a three-dimensional manifold are planes through the origin, etc.

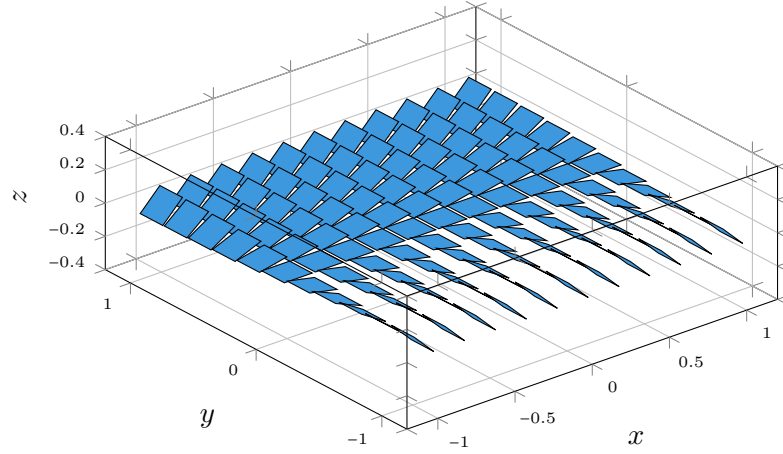
A *contact manifold* is a manifold  $M$  (of dimension  $2n + 1$ ) with a *contact structure*, which is a smooth field (or distribution) of contact elements on  $M$ . Locally, any contact element determines a 1-form  $\alpha$  (up to multiplication by a nonzero scalar) whose kernel constitutes the tangent hyperplane distribution, i.e.

$$\xi_m = \ker \alpha_m \tag{A-1}$$

This  $\alpha$  is called the (local) *contact form*, and it acts like a ‘normal (co-)vector’ to the hyperplane. For the field hyperplanes to be a contact structure, it must satisfy a nondegeneracy condition: it should be *nonintegrable*. This can be expressed as the Frobenius condition for nonintegrability: [2, 1, 9]

$$\alpha \wedge (d\alpha)^n \neq 0,$$

where integrable distributions would have this expression vanish everywhere. Roughly equivalent statements are that (i) one cannot find foliations of  $M$  such that the  $\xi$  is everywhere tangent to it, or (ii) that  $d\alpha|_\xi$  is a *symplectic form*. In this treatment, all contact forms are assumed to be global, which is the case if the quotient  $TM/\xi$  is a trivial line bundle, i.e. the orientation is preserved across the entire manifold [11].



**Figure A-1:** The standard contact structure on  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , given by the contact form  $dz - y dx$ ; the hyperplanes tilt more in the increasing  $y$ -direction.

The *Darboux theorem* for contact manifolds states that it is always possible to find coordinates  $z, x_i, y_i$  such that locally, the contact form is equal to

$$dz - \sum y_i dx_i,$$

which is also called the standard or natural contact structure. The standard contact structure on  $\mathbb{R}^3$  is illustrated in fig. A-1. Finally, it is clear that the contact form singles out a ‘special direction’ in the tangent space at every point of the manifold. This direction is given by the unique *Reeb vector field*,

$$R_\alpha \in \mathcal{X}(M) : \quad R_\alpha \lrcorner d\alpha = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad R_\alpha \lrcorner \alpha = 1,$$

that is, it locally points in the ‘direction’ of the contact form.

## A-2 The manifold of contact elements

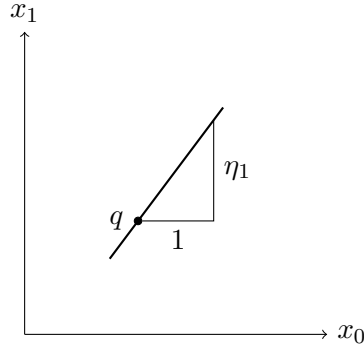
A contact manifold is a manifold with a contact structure. One can, however, associate a *canonical*  $(2n - 1)$ -dimensional contact manifold to *any*  $n$ -dimensional manifold  $Q$ , just like one can always find a canonical symplectic structure on  $T^*Q$ . Roughly speaking, this attaches a fiber containing all possible contact elements to every point of the manifold  $Q$ . As it turns out, this ‘manifold of contact elements’ has a natural contact structure.

The *manifold of contact elements* of an  $n$ -dimensional manifold is [2]

$$CQ = \{(q, \xi_q) \mid q \in Q \text{ and } \xi_q \text{ a hyperplane on } T_q Q\}.$$

This manifold  $CQ$  has dimension  $2n - 1$ . It is clear that  $C$  has a natural bundle structure, i.e.  $C \xrightarrow{\pi} Q$  where the bundle projection ‘forgets’ the contact element, that is

$$\pi : CQ \rightarrow Q : (q, \xi_q) \mapsto q.$$



**Figure A-2:** A point in the manifold of contact elements on  $Q = \mathbb{R}^2$ . A coordinate system for  $CQ$  consists of  $(x_0, x_1)$  to indicate a point on  $Q$ , and projective coordinates  $[\eta_0 : \eta_1]$ , which denote the contact element at that point. Without loss of generalization, one can choose  $\eta_0 = 1$ , and the remaining coordinate  $\eta_1$  covers all but one points in the projective space. A potential confusion rests in this two-dimensional example, since both the ‘hyperplane’ and the equivalence class of 1-forms are both lines in the tangent and cotangent space respectively. This is not the case for higher-dimensions, for which  $n - 1 \neq 1$ .

There is a convenient way to characterize this manifold of contact elements, for it is isomorphic to the *projectivization of the cotangent bundle* to  $Q$ , denoted by  $\mathbb{P}(T^*Q)$ . This projectivization can be defined in terms of an equivalence relation between two nonzero elements in the cotangent bundle at every point in the manifold:

$$\boldsymbol{\eta}, \boldsymbol{\chi} \in T_q^*Q \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\} : (q, \boldsymbol{\eta}) \sim (q, \boldsymbol{\chi}) \Leftrightarrow \boldsymbol{\eta} = \lambda \boldsymbol{\chi}, \quad \lambda \in \mathbb{R}_0, \text{ for all } q \in Q.$$

This equivalence relations identifies all the covectors in the cotangent space that are a nonzero multiple of each other. It is precisely this identification that takes care of the ambiguity in eq. (A-1), in that any nonzero multiple of a 1-form has the same kernel, and therefore gives rise to the same contact structure.  $\mathbb{P}(T^*Q)$  is then the quotient set of  $T^*Q$  (without zero section) with respect to the equivalence relation  $\sim$ . Visually, the projectivization of an  $n$ -dimensional vector space is the space of all *lines* through the origin in that vector space, which has dimension  $n - 1$ . It can be shown that this space is bundle-isomorphic to the manifold  $CQ$ . [2]

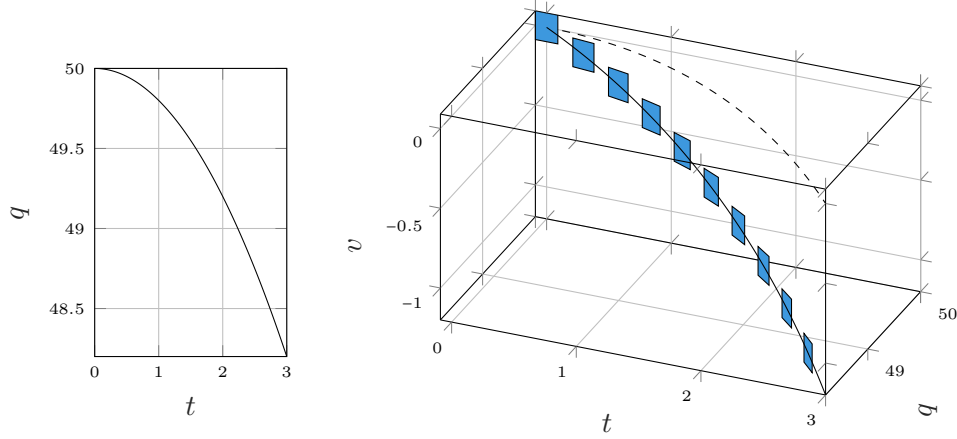
As shown in fig. A-2, coordinates of the equivalence class of 1-forms are ‘projective coordinates’,  $[\eta_0 : \eta_1 : \dots : \eta_{n-1}]$ , where  $\eta_i$  are coordinates for  $T_q^*Q$ . The projective coordinates acknowledge the invariance under multiplication by a nonzero number. If one assumes  $\eta_0$  to be nonzero, the tuple  $(1, \eta_1, \dots, \eta_n)$  provides coordinates that cover most of  $\mathbb{P}(T^*Q)$ .

Now, it remains to be explained why the ‘manifold of contact elements’ is itself a contact manifold. Indeed, there is a canonical field of hyperplanes *on*  $CQ$ , which lifts the hyperplane tangent to  $Q$  to a hyperplane tangent to  $CQ$  (this is akin to the ‘tautological’ trick played in the symplectic structure of the cotangent bundle). The contact structure distinguishes the curves in  $CQ$  that are lifted versions from curves in  $Q$ . This is illustrated in fig. A-3. [23] Said otherwise, a tangent vector on  $CQ$  lies in the hyperplane defined by the contact structure if its projection down on  $Q$  lies in the hyperplane on  $Q$  defined by the given point on the  $CQ$ .

This contact structure is associated with the 1-form:

$$\alpha = dx_0 + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \eta_i dx_i ,$$

given that the  $\eta_0$  is the ‘special’ coordinate which is chosen to be 1.



**Figure A-3:** Intuitive picture of the canonical contact on the manifold of contact elements. In this case, let  $(t, q) \in Q$ , and let  $v$  be a coordinate for the contact (line) element. The standard contact form is then  $dq - v dt$ . On the left, the curve corresponding to a falling object is shown in  $Q$ . When this curve is ‘lifted’ to  $CQ$ , the contact structure imposes that it be locally tangent to the contact structure, or that  $v = \frac{dq}{dt}$ . If the vertical direction is projected down onto the  $(q - t)$ -plane ( $C(Q) \rightarrow Q$ ), the hyperplanes defined by the contact structure are line elements tangent to the trajectory, making  $v$  the actual velocity of the curve.

### A-3 Contact Hamiltonian systems

Whereas deriving the equations of motion from a contact Hamiltonian system is more convenient through symplectification, it is also possible to do so while remaining within the realm of contact geometry. This has, for example, been demonstrated by Bravetti et al. [6].

#### Zoo of structures in literature

- Cosymplectic = structure on odd-dimensional manifold, closed 2-form  $\omega$  and closed 1-form  $\eta$ , with  $\eta \wedge \omega^n \neq 0$ .
- Presymplectic = structure on an even-dimensional manifold, rank of 2-form not maximal but at least constant.
- Precontact system = odd-dimensional extension of presymplectic.

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# Glossary

## List of Acronyms

## Mathematical notation

$v$       A (tangent) vector

