

Consider a Lagrangian

$$L = \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{(\dot{x}_j - f_j)^2}{2g_j^2} \quad (1)$$

The canonical momenta are

$$p_{x_i} := \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}_i} = \frac{\dot{x}_i - f_i}{g_i^2} \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N$$

The total time derivatives of the canonical momenta are

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{p}_{x_i} &= \frac{d}{dt} \left[\frac{\dot{x}_i - f_i}{g_i^2} \right] \\ &= \frac{(\ddot{x}_i - \dot{f}_i)}{g_i^2} - \frac{(\dot{x}_i - f_i)}{g_i^3} \dot{g}_i \\ &= \frac{(\ddot{x}_i - \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_j} \dot{x}_j)}{g_i^2} - \frac{(\dot{x}_i - f_i)}{g_i^3} \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{\partial g_i}{\partial x_j} \dot{x}_j \\ &= \frac{\ddot{x}_i}{g_i^2} - \left[\frac{1}{g_i^2} \sum_{j=1}^N \left(\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{(\dot{x}_i - f_i)}{g_i} \frac{\partial g_i}{\partial x_j} \right) \dot{x}_j \right] \end{aligned}$$

The partial derivatives of the Lagrangian are

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_i} &= \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left[\frac{(\dot{x}_j - f_j)^2}{2g_j^2} \right] \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^N -\frac{\partial f_j}{\partial x_i} \frac{(\dot{x}_j - f_j)}{g_j^2} - \frac{\partial g_j}{\partial x_i} \frac{(\dot{x}_j - f_j)^2}{g_j^3} \end{aligned}$$

The Euler-Lagrange equation for x_i reads

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{p}_{x_i} &= \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_i} \\ \Rightarrow \quad \frac{\ddot{x}_i}{g_i^2} - \left[\frac{1}{g_i^2} \sum_{j=1}^N \left(\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{(\dot{x}_i - f_i)}{g_i} \frac{\partial g_i}{\partial x_j} \right) \dot{x}_j \right] &= \sum_{j=1}^N -\frac{\partial f_j}{\partial x_i} \frac{(\dot{x}_j - f_j)}{g_j^2} - \frac{\partial g_j}{\partial x_i} \frac{(\dot{x}_j - f_j)^2}{g_j^3} \end{aligned}$$

Rearranging, we have

$$\ddot{x}_i = \sum_{j=1}^N \left(\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{(\dot{x}_i - f_i)}{g_i} \frac{\partial g_i}{\partial x_j} \right) \dot{x}_j - g_i^2 \frac{\partial f_j}{\partial x_i} \frac{(\dot{x}_j - f_j)}{g_j^2} - g_i^2 \frac{\partial g_j}{\partial x_i} \frac{(\dot{x}_j - f_j)^2}{g_j^3}$$

1 Special cases

1.1 One-dimensional dynamics

In one dimension, the Lagrangian reads

$$L = \frac{(\dot{x} - f)^2}{2g^2} \quad (2)$$

and the equation of motion reads

$$\begin{aligned} \ddot{x} &= \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + \frac{(\dot{x} - f)}{g} \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} \right) \dot{x} - g^2 \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \frac{(\dot{x} - f)}{g^2} - g^2 \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} \frac{(\dot{x} - f)^2}{g^3} \\ &= \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + \frac{(\dot{x} - f)}{g} \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} \right) \dot{x} - \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} (\dot{x} - f) - \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} \frac{(\dot{x} - f)^2}{g} \\ &= \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \dot{x} + \frac{(\dot{x} - f)}{g} (\dot{x} - f + f) \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} (\dot{x} - f) - \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} \frac{(\dot{x} - f)^2}{g} \\ &= \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \dot{x} + \frac{f(\dot{x} - f)}{g} \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} (\dot{x} - f) - \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} \frac{(\dot{x} - f)^2}{g} + \frac{(\dot{x} - f)^2}{g} \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} \\ &= \frac{f(\dot{x} - f)}{g} \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} + f \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \end{aligned}$$

In the case of additive noise (i.e. $g = \text{const.}$), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \ddot{x} &= f \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \\ \implies 2\ddot{x}\dot{x} &= 2f \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \dot{x} \\ \implies \dot{x}^2 &= f^2 + C \\ \implies \dot{x} &= \pm \sqrt{f^2 + C} \end{aligned}$$

as we might expect. Using the plus sign and $C = 0$ corresponds exactly to deterministic dynamics, which the additive noise dynamics will coincide with when it is possible to go from x_0 to x_f in the specified amount of time T using only deterministic motion.

1.2 Two-dimensional dynamics

Assume that $g_1 = g_1(x)$ and $g_2 = g_2(y)$, so that $\frac{\partial g_1}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial g_2}{\partial x} = 0$. We have a Lagrangian

$$L = \frac{(\dot{x} - f_1)^2}{2g_1^2} + \frac{(\dot{y} - f_2)^2}{2g_2^2} \quad (3)$$

and equations of motion

$$\begin{aligned} \ddot{x} &= \left(\frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x} + \frac{(\dot{x} - f_1)}{g_1} \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial x} \right) \dot{x} + \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial y} \dot{y} - g_1^2 \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x} \frac{(\dot{x} - f_1)}{g_1^2} - g_1^2 \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x} \frac{(\dot{y} - f_2)}{g_2^2} - g_1^2 \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial x} \frac{(\dot{x} - f_1)^2}{g_1^3} \\ \ddot{y} &= \left(\frac{\partial f_2}{\partial y} + \frac{(\dot{y} - f_2)}{g_2} \frac{\partial g_2}{\partial y} \right) \dot{y} + \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x} \dot{x} - g_2^2 \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial y} \frac{(\dot{x} - f_1)}{g_1^2} - g_2^2 \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial y} \frac{(\dot{y} - f_2)}{g_2^2} - g_2^2 \frac{\partial g_2}{\partial y} \frac{(\dot{y} - f_2)^2}{g_2^3} \end{aligned}$$

Simplifying a little, they read

$$\begin{aligned} \ddot{x} &= \left(\frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x} + \frac{(\dot{x} - f_1)}{g_1} \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial x} \right) \dot{x} + \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial y} \dot{y} - \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x} (\dot{x} - f_1) - g_1^2 \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x} \frac{(\dot{y} - f_2)}{g_2^2} - \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial x} \frac{(\dot{x} - f_1)^2}{g_1} \\ \ddot{y} &= \left(\frac{\partial f_2}{\partial y} + \frac{(\dot{y} - f_2)}{g_2} \frac{\partial g_2}{\partial y} \right) \dot{y} + \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x} \dot{x} - g_2^2 \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial y} \frac{(\dot{x} - f_1)}{g_1^2} - \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial y} (\dot{y} - f_2) - \frac{\partial g_2}{\partial y} \frac{(\dot{y} - f_2)^2}{g_2} \end{aligned}$$