

Convexity of the constraint

We want to establish strong duality for the functional $L : A \times B \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with¹ $A = H_{\sharp}^1(J, \mathbb{R}^4)$, $B = \mathbb{R}^6$, and

$$L(\eta, \mu) = \int_J \Lambda_{\mathbf{g}} \dot{\eta}(t) \cdot \eta(t) dt + \mu^T \left[\int_J \dot{\eta}(t) \wedge \eta(t) dt - \omega \right], \quad (1)$$

for some bivector $\omega \in \bigwedge^2 \mathbb{R}^4 \simeq \mathbb{R}^6$. The map $\mu \mapsto L(\eta, \mu)$ is concave for any $\eta \in A$ since it is an affine function. For the map $\eta \mapsto L(\eta, \mu)$ we note that the matrix $\Lambda_{\mathbf{g}}$ being positive definite implies that the map $\eta \mapsto \int_J (\Lambda_{\mathbf{g}} \dot{\eta}(t) \cdot \dot{\eta}(t)) dt$ is convex. Next, we observe that for $\alpha \in [0, 1]$, we have for an arbitrary $\mu \in B$ that

$$\begin{aligned} & (\alpha \dot{\xi} + (1 - \alpha) \dot{\eta}) \wedge (\alpha \xi + (1 - \alpha) \eta) \\ &= \alpha^2 (\dot{\xi} \wedge \xi) + (1 - \alpha)^2 (\dot{\eta} \wedge \eta) + \alpha(1 - \alpha) [\dot{\xi} \wedge \eta + \xi \wedge \dot{\eta}] \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

$$= \alpha^2 (\dot{\xi} \wedge \xi) + (1 - \alpha)^2 (\dot{\eta} \wedge \eta) + \alpha(1 - \alpha) \frac{d}{dt} [\xi \wedge \eta]. \quad (3)$$

By integration over J of this expression, the last terms vanishes due to the periodicity of ξ and η . Thus, we have

$$\begin{aligned} L(\alpha \xi + (1 - \alpha) \eta, \mu) &\leq \alpha \int_J \Lambda_{\mathbf{g}} \dot{\xi}(t) \cdot \dot{\xi}(t) dt + (1 - \alpha) \int_J \Lambda_{\mathbf{g}} \dot{\eta}(t) \cdot \dot{\eta}(t) dt \\ &\quad + \alpha^2 \mu^T \int_J \dot{\xi}(t) \wedge \xi(t) dt + (1 - \alpha)^2 \mu^T \int_J \dot{\eta}(t) \wedge \eta(t) dt - \mu^T \omega. \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Now, as $\alpha \in [0, 1]$, we have $\alpha^2 \leq \alpha$ and $(1 - \alpha)^2 \leq (1 - \alpha)$. Therefore, we have

$$L(\alpha \xi + (1 - \alpha) \eta, \mu) \leq \alpha L(\xi, \mu) + (1 - \alpha) L(\eta, \mu), \quad (5)$$

i.e. the functional $\eta \mapsto L(\eta, \mu)$ is convex for any $\mu \in B$.

¹Here $J = [0, 2\pi]$ and $H_{\sharp}^1(J, \mathbb{R}^4)$ denotes all the 2π -periodic functions $J \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^4$ with square-integrable weak derivative.