

Legendre transform, part II.

6.1

Let  $M$  be a manifold,  $L: TM \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  a Lagrangian.

We assumed: for all  $q \in M$ , all  $v \in T_q M$  the form

$$d^2L_{(q,v)}: T_q M \times T_q M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$d^2L_{(q,v)}(v_1, v_2) = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t_1 \partial t_2} \Big|_{(0,0)} L(q, v + t_1 v_1 + t_2 v_2)$$

is

positive definite.

We showed: under this assumption the image  $\mathcal{O}$  of the Legendre transform

$$L_L: TM \rightarrow T^*M$$

is an open subset of  $T^*M$  and

$$L_L: TM \rightarrow \mathcal{O}$$

is a diffeomorphism. [Pretty soon we'll make a further assumption that  $\mathcal{O} = T^*M$ . This holds for the

Lagrangians of the form  $L(q, v) = \frac{1}{2} g_q(v, v) + V(v)$

where  $g$  is a Riemannian metric on  $M$  and

$V: M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a smooth function, a potential.]

Def We define the Hamiltonian  $H: \mathcal{O} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  associated with  $L: TM \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by

$$H(q, p) = \langle p, L_L^{-1}(q, p) \rangle - L(L_L^{-1}(q, p)).$$

'for all  $q \in M$ ,  $p \in T_q^* M$ .

Here  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle: T_q^* M \times T_q M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

is the canonical pairing.

Remark

In coordinates  $L_L(q_1 - q_0, v_1, \dots, v_n) = (q_1 - q_0, \frac{\partial L}{\partial v_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial L}{\partial v_n})$ .

Hence

$$(H \circ L_L)(q_1 - q_0, v_1, \dots, v_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial L}{\partial v_i} \cdot v_i - L(q_1 - q_0, v_1, \dots, v_n)$$

Recall that there is a vector field  $X_L$  on  $TM$  associated to  $L: TM \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . The integral curves of  $X_L$  satisfy the Euler-Lagrange equations. Recall that we have arrived at these equations by looking at the extremal curves of the action

$$A_L(\gamma) = \int_a^b L(\gamma, \dot{\gamma}) dt.$$

On the other hand we have a globally defined tautological 1-form  $\alpha \in \mathcal{D}'(T^*M)$ , which in coordinates

$$(\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_n, p_1, \dots, p_n) : T^*U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \text{ is given by}$$

$$\alpha = \sum p_i dq_i.$$

Then

$$\omega = d\alpha$$

is a globally defined 2-form on  $T^*M$ . In coordinates

$$\omega = \sum dp_i \wedge dq_i.$$

Hence  $\omega$  is nondegenerate.

Consequently  $H: \mathcal{O} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and  $\omega$  together define a Hamiltonian vector field

$$X_H = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial H}{\partial p_i} \frac{\partial}{\partial q_i} - \frac{\partial H}{\partial q_i} \frac{\partial}{\partial p_i}.$$

The coordinate-free definition of  $X_H$  is

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

(Alternatively we could have set  $\omega = -d\alpha$  and defined  $X_H$  by

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

Both conventions are used.)

Our goal is to prove:

Theorem 1 Let  $L: TM \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a Lagrangian so that the corresponding Legendre transform

$$L_L: TM \rightarrow T^*M$$

is a diffeomorphism. Then  $\forall q \in M, \forall v \in T_q M$

$$(*) \quad (DL_L)_{(q,v)} X_L(q,v) = X_H(L_L(q,v))$$

To prove the theorem, we need some differential geometry.

We start with:

① Definition Let  $M, N$  be two manifolds. A <sup>(continuous)</sup> map  $F: M \rightarrow N$  is smooth (equivalently  $C^\infty$ ) if it is smooth in coordinates:

$\forall x \in M \exists$  coordinate chart  $\varphi: U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  (with  $x \in U$ )

a coordinate chart  $\psi: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  (with  $F(x) \in V$ )

so that  $\psi \circ F \circ \varphi^{-1}: \varphi^{-1}(U \cap F^{-1}(V)) \rightarrow \psi(V)$

is  $C^\infty$ .

Special case:  $N = \mathbb{R}$ . Then  $\varphi: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \varphi(x) = x$  is

a coordinate chart on  $N$ . Thus  $f: M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is  $C^\infty$

if  $\forall x \in M, \forall$  coordinate chart  $\varphi: U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ ,

$$f \circ \varphi^{-1}: \varphi(U) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

is  $C^\infty$ .

Exercise if  $F: M \rightarrow N$  is  $C^\infty$  and  $f: N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is  $C^\infty$

then so is

$$f \circ F: M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}.$$

② Differentials if  $F: M \rightarrow N$  is a smooth map between two manifolds, we define its differential

$DF_x : T_x M \rightarrow T_{F(x)} N$  by  
 $(DF_x(v))f = v(f \circ F)$   
 for all  $f \in C^0(N)$ , all  $v \in T_x M$ .

Exercise Check that  $DF_x$  is linear.

### ③ Vector fields on manifolds

Def A vector field  $X$  on a manifold  $M$  assigns to each point  $x \in M$  a vector  $X(x) \in T_x M$  so that the map  
 $X : M \rightarrow TM, x \mapsto X(x)$   
 is  $C^\infty$ .

Remark The smoothness of  $X$  amounts to: for any coordinate chart  $\varphi = (q_1, \dots, q_n) : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  on  $M$

$$X(x) = \sum X_i(x) \frac{\partial}{\partial q_i} \Big|_x$$

where  $X_1, \dots, X_n : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  are functions.

$X$  is smooth  $\Leftrightarrow X_1, \dots, X_n$  are all smooth.

### ④ Differential forms on manifolds

Definition: A differential 1-form  $\alpha$  on a manifold  $M$  assigns to each point  $x \in M$  a covector  $\alpha_x \in T_x^* M$  so that the map

$$\alpha : M \rightarrow T^* M$$

is smooth.

Notation  $\Omega^1(M) =$  space of differential 1-forms on  $M$ .

and  $X: Q \rightarrow TQ$  is a vector field. The contraction  
 $\iota(X)\omega \in \Omega^1(Q)$  is a 1-form defined by

$$(\iota(X)\omega)_x(v) = \omega_x(X(x), v)$$

for all  $x \in Q$ , all  $v \in T_x Q$ .

It will be useful to look at the linear algebra version of the contraction:

Let  $V$  be a vector space,  $\omega \in \text{Alt}^2(V)$  a skew symmetric bilinear map. Then  $\forall v \in V$  we have a covector  $\iota(v)\omega \in V^*$ . It is defined by

$$(\iota(v)\omega)(u) = \omega(v, u)$$

for all  $u \in V$ .

Exercise The map

$$\iota: V \times \text{Alt}^2(V) \rightarrow V^*, \quad (v, \omega) \mapsto \iota(v)\omega$$

is bilinear:  $\forall a_1, b_1, a_2, b_2 \in \mathbb{R}, v_1, v_2 \in V, \omega_1, \omega_2 \in \text{Alt}^2(V)$

$$\iota(a_1 v_1 + a_2 v_2)(b_1 \omega_1 + b_2 \omega_2) = \sum_{i,j=1}^2 a_i b_j \iota(v_i)\omega_j.$$

Remark More generally, for any  $k \geq 1$  we have a contraction ..

$$\iota: V \times \text{Alt}^k(V) \rightarrow \text{Alt}^{k-1}(V)$$

$$(\iota(v)\sigma)(u_1, \dots, u_{k-1}) = \sigma(v, u_1, \dots, u_{k-1})$$

$$\forall v \in V, \sigma \in \text{Alt}^k(V), u_1, \dots, u_{k-1} \in V.$$

Exercise  $\forall l_1, l_2 \in V^* \quad \forall v \in V$

$$\iota(v)(l_1 \wedge l_2) = l_1(v)l_2 - l_2(v)l_1$$

Remark The smoothness of  $\alpha: M \rightarrow T^*M$  amounts to:

(i) In any coordinates  $(q_1, \dots, q_n): U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  on  $M$

$$\alpha_x = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i(x) dq_i$$

where  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n: U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  are smooth functions.

(ii) For any smooth vector field  $X$  on  $M$  the function

$$\alpha(X): M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad x \mapsto \alpha_x(X(x))$$

is  $C^\infty$ .

Definition A differential 2-form  $\omega$  on a manifold  $M$  assigns to each point  $x \in M$  an alternating bilinear form  $\omega_x \in \text{Alt}^2(T_x M)$  so that

(i)  $\forall$  smooth vector fields  $X, Y$  on  $M$  the function

$$\omega(X, Y): M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad x \mapsto \omega_x(X(x), Y(x))$$

is  $C^\infty$ .

One can show that (i) is equivalent to:

(ii) for any coordinate chart  $(q_1, \dots, q_n): U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  on  $M$

$$\omega = \sum_{i < j} \omega_{ij} dq_i \wedge dq_j$$

and  $\omega_{ij}: U \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \quad 1 \leq i < j \leq n$  are  $C^\infty$ .

⑤

Exterior derivative  $d$ .

For a smooth function  $f: M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  on a manifold  $M$

The 1-form  $df \in \Omega^1(M)$  is defined by

$$df_x(v) = v(f)$$

for all  $x \in M$ ,  $\forall v \in T_x M$ .

In coordinates

$$df = \sum \frac{\partial f}{\partial q_i} dq_i$$

For a 1-form  $\alpha \in \Omega^1(M)$ ,  $d\alpha$  is a 2-form.

In coordinates  $d\alpha$  is defined by

$$d\left(\sum \alpha_i dq_i\right) = \sum d\alpha_i \wedge dq_i$$

For a 2-form  $\omega \in \Omega^2(M)$ ,  $d\omega$  is a 3-form.

In coordinates  $d\omega$  is defined by

$$d\left(\sum \omega_{ij} dq_i \wedge dq_j\right) = \sum d\omega_{ij} \wedge dq_i \wedge dq_j$$

and so on.

In general  $d$  of a  $k$ -form is a  $(k+1)$ -form.

Def A  $k$ -form  $\eta$  is closed if  $d\eta = 0$ .

It is exact if there is a  $(k-1)$  form  $\xi$  so that  $\eta = d\xi$ .

Theorem  $d(d\xi) = 0$ .

Hence any exact form is closed.

(we'll won't prove this).

"Example" - The canonical 2-form  $\omega$  on the cotangent  $T^*Q$  is exact by definition, hence is closed.

Alternatively, in coordinates

$$\omega = \sum dp_i \wedge dq_i$$

$$\Rightarrow d\omega = 0.$$

Contractions of vector fields and differential 2-forms

If  $\omega \in \Omega^2(Q)$  is a 2-form on a manifold  $M$

Exercise  $\forall l_1, \dots, l_k \in V^*, \forall v \in V$   
 $\tau(v) (l_1 \wedge \dots \wedge l_k) = \sum_{i=1}^k (-1)^{k-i} l_i(v) l_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \widehat{l_i} \wedge \dots \wedge l_k$   
 where  
 $l_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \widehat{l_i} \wedge \dots \wedge l_k$  means that  $l_i$  was omitted.  
 (eg.  $l_1 \wedge \widehat{l_2} \wedge l_3 := l_1 \wedge l_3$   
 $\widehat{l_1} \wedge l_2 \wedge l_3 = l_2 \wedge l_3$  etc.)

### Proof of theorem 1 on p. 6.3

By definition  $X_H$  is the unique vector field on  $T^*M$  so that  
 $\tau(X_H) \omega = -dH.$

Therefore, in order to prove that

$$(D L_L)_{(q,v)} (X_L(q,v)) = X_H(L_L(q,v)) \quad \forall q \in M, v \in T_q M$$

it is enough to show that

$$(1) \tau((D L_L)_{(q,v)} (X_L(q,v))) \omega_{(q,p)} = -dH_{(q,p)}$$

where  $(q,p) = L_L(q,v)$ . Since

$$(D L_L)_{(q,v)} : T_{(q,v)} TM \rightarrow T_{(q,p)} T^*M$$

is an isomorphism, (1) is equivalent to

$$(2) \tau((D L_L)_{(q,v)} (X_L(q,v))) \omega_{(q,p)} = -dH_{(q,p)}((D L_L)_{(q,v)} w)$$

for all  $w \in T_{(q,v)}(TM)$ .

One more piece of differential geometry that we need:  
pullback

Let  $F: M \rightarrow N$  be a smooth map. For a  $k$ -form  $\sigma$  on  $N$  we define the  $k$ -form  $F^*\sigma$  on  $M$ , the pullback of  $\sigma$  by  $F$ , by the equation

$$(F^*\sigma)_x (v_1, \dots, v_k) = \sigma_{F(x)} (DF_x(v_1), \dots, DF_x(v_k))$$

for all  $x \in M, v_1, \dots, v_k \in T_x M$ .



Theorem 2(1) For all smooth functions  $f: N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and all smooth maps  $F: M \rightarrow N$

$$F^* df = d(f \circ F)$$

(2) If  $\omega \in \Omega^2(N)$ ,  $x_1, \dots, x_n: U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  coordinates on  $N$ , then

$$F^* \left( \sum \omega_{ij} dx_i \wedge dx_j \right) = \sum (\omega_{ij} \circ F) \cdot d(x_i \circ F) \wedge d(x_j \circ F)$$

where  $\omega = \sum \omega_{ij} dx_i \wedge dx_j$ .

Proof omitted.

We now look at the RHS of (2) above.

$$- dH_{(q,v)} \left( (DL_L)_{(q,v)} w \right) = - (L_L^* dH)_{(q,v)}(w) \stackrel{(\uparrow \text{Theorem 2 (1) above})}{=} - d(L_L^* H)_{(q,v)}(w)$$

On the other hand, the LHS of (2) is

$$\begin{aligned} \omega_{(q,v)} \left( (DL_L)_{(q,v)} X_L(q,v), (DL_L)_{(q,v)} w \right) &= (L_L^* \omega)_{(q,v)} (X_L(q,v), w) \\ &= \langle \tau(X_L) L_L^* \omega \rangle_{(q,v)}(w) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, since  $w \in T_{(q,v)}(TM)$  is arbitrary, it suffices to show:

$$(3) \quad - \tau(X_L) L_L^* \omega = d(L_L^* H)$$

We next compute in coordinates. Choose coordinates

$(q_1, \dots, q_n): U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  on  $M$ . Let

$(q_1, \dots, q_n, v_1, \dots, v_n): TU \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n$  and

$(q_1, \dots, q_n, p_1, \dots, p_n): T^*M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n$

denote the corresponding coordinates on  $TM$  and  $T^*M$ , respectively

In these coordinates

$$L_L(q_1, \dots, q_n, v_1, \dots, v_n) = \left( q_1, \dots, q_n, \frac{\partial L}{\partial v_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial L}{\partial v_n} \right)$$

and

$$\omega = \sum dp_i \wedge dq_i.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Consequently } d(L_L^* H) &= d \left( \langle R(q,v), v \rangle - L(q,v) \right) = \\ &= d \left( \sum_i \frac{\partial L}{\partial v_i} \cdot v_i - L(q,v) \right) = \sum_i \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial v_i} dv_i + v_i d \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial v_i} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial q_i} dq_i - \frac{\partial L}{\partial v_i} dv_i \right) \\ &= \sum_i \left( v_i d \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial v_i} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial q_i} dq_i \right) \end{aligned}$$

Recall that

$$X_L = \sum_k (v_k \frac{\partial}{\partial q_k} + B_k \frac{\partial}{\partial v_k})$$

where

$$B_k = \sum_i \left( \left( \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial v_k \partial v_i} \right)^{-1} \right)_{ki} \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial q_i} - \sum_j \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial q_j \partial v_i} v_j \right)$$

-  $L^* \omega = \sum dq_i \wedge d \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial v_i} \right)$  by Theorem 2 (2), the formula for  $L^*$  in coordinates and the fact that  $\omega = \sum dp_i \wedge dq_i$ .

Finally

Exercise 1 on p 6.7

$$- \iota(X_L) L^* \omega = \sum_{i,k} \left( \iota(v_k \frac{\partial}{\partial q_k} + B_k \frac{\partial}{\partial v_k}) dq_i \wedge d \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial v_i} \right) \right) =$$

$$= \sum_{i,k} \left( v_k \cdot \underbrace{dq_i \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial q_k} \right)}_{\delta_{ik}} \cdot d \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial v_i} \right) - d \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial v_i} \right) \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial q_k} \right) \cdot dq_i \right) + \underbrace{\sum_{i,k} B_k \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial v_i} \right)}_{\delta_{ik} \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial v_i} \right)}$$

$$+ B_k \left( \underbrace{dq_i \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial v_k} \right)}_{=0} \cdot d \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial v_i} \right) - d \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial v_i} \right) \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial v_k} \right) dq_i \right) =$$

$$= \sum_{i,k} \left( v_k \delta_{ik} d \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial v_i} \right) - v_k \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial q_k \partial v_i} dq_i - B_k \cdot \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial v_k \partial v_i} dq_i \right) =$$

$$= \sum_i v_i d \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial v_i} \right) - \sum_{i,k} v_k \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial q_k \partial v_i} dq_i - \sum_i \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial q_i} - \sum_j \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial q_j \partial v_i} v_j \right) dq_i$$

$$\left( \text{where we used } \sum_{k,i} B_k \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial v_k \partial v_i} = \sum_{i,j} \left( \sum_k \left( \left( \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial v_k \partial v_i} \right)^{-1} \right)_{ks} \cdot \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial v_k \partial v_i} \right) \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial q_s} - \sum_j \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial q_j \partial v_s} v_j \right) \right)$$

$$= \sum_i \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial q_i} - \sum_j \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial q_j \partial v_i} v_j \right)$$

$$= \sum_i \left( v_i d \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial v_i} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial q_i} dq_i \right) = d(L^* H).$$

□