

VARIATIONAL PRINCIPLES FOR MULTISYMPLECTIC SECOND-ORDER CLASSICAL FIELD THEORIES

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Abstract

We state a unified geometrical version of the variational principles for second-order classical field theories. The standard Lagrangian and Hamiltonian variational principles and the corresponding field equations are recovered from this unified framework.

Key words: *Second-order classical field theories; Variational principles; Unified, Lagrangian and Hamiltonian formalisms*

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1 Introduction

As stated in [9], the field equations of a classical field theory arising from a partial differential Hamiltonian system (in the sense of [9]) are locally variational, that is, they can be derived using a variational principle. In this work we use the geometric Lagrangian-Hamiltonian formulation for second-order classical field theories given in [4] to state the variational principles for this kind of theories from a geometric point of view, thus giving a different point of view and completing previous works on higher-order classical field theories [1, 8].

(All the manifolds are real, second countable and C^∞ . The maps and the structures are assumed to be C^∞ . Usual multi-index notation introduced in [6] is used).

2 Higher-order jet bundles

(See [6] for details). Let M be an orientable m -dimensional smooth manifold, and let $\eta \in \Omega^m(M)$ be a volume form for M . Let $E \xrightarrow{\pi} M$ be a bundle with $\dim E = m + n$. If $k \in \mathbb{N}$, the k th-order jet bundle of the projection π , $J^k\pi$, is the manifold of the k -jets of local sections $\phi \in \Gamma(\pi)$; that is, equivalence classes of local sections of π by the relation of equality on every partial derivative up to order k . A point in $J^k\pi$ is denoted by $j_x^k\phi$, where $x \in M$ and $\phi \in \Gamma(\pi)$ is a representative of the equivalence class. We have the following natural projections: if $r \leq k$,

$$\begin{array}{lll} \pi_r^k: J^k\pi & \longrightarrow & J^r\pi & \pi^k: J^k\pi & \longrightarrow & E & \bar{\pi}^k: J^k\pi & \longrightarrow & M \\ j_x^k\phi & \longmapsto & j_x^r\phi & j_x^k\phi & \longmapsto & \phi(x) & j_x^k\phi & \longmapsto & x \end{array}$$

Observe that $\pi_r^s \circ \pi_s^k = \pi_r^k$, $\pi_0^k = \pi^k$, $\pi_k^k = \text{Id}_{J^k\pi}$, and $\bar{\pi}^k = \pi \circ \pi^k$.

If local coordinates in E adapted to the bundle structure are (x^i, u^α) , $1 \leq i \leq m$, $1 \leq \alpha \leq n$, then local coordinates in $J^k\pi$ are denoted (x^i, u_I^α) , with $0 \leq |I| \leq k$.

If $\psi \in \Gamma(\pi)$, we denote the k th prolongation of ϕ to $J^k\pi$ by $j^k\phi \in \Gamma(\bar{\pi}^k)$.

Definition 1 A section $\psi \in \Gamma(\bar{\pi}^k)$ is holonomic if $j^k(\pi^k \circ \psi) = \psi$; that is, ψ is the k th prolongation of a section $\phi = \pi^k \circ \psi \in \Gamma(\pi)$.

In the following we restrict ourselves to the case $k = 2$. According to [7], consider the subbundle of fiber-affine maps $J^1\bar{\pi}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ which are constant on the fibers of the affine subbundle $(\bar{\pi}^1)^*(\Lambda^2 T^*M) \otimes (\pi^1)^*(V\pi)$ of $J^1\bar{\pi}^1$ over $J^1\pi$. This subbundle is canonically diffeomorphic to the $\pi_{J^1\pi}$ -transverse submanifold $J^2\pi^\dagger$ of $\Lambda_2^m(J^1\pi)$ defined locally by the constraints $p_\alpha^{ij} = p_\alpha^{ji}$, which fibers over $J^1\pi$ and M with projections $\pi_{J^1\pi}^\dagger: J^2\pi^\dagger \rightarrow J^1\pi$ and $\bar{\pi}_{J^1\pi}^\dagger: J^2\pi^\dagger \rightarrow M$, respectively. The submanifold $j_s: J^2\pi^\dagger \hookrightarrow \Lambda_2^m(J^1\pi)$ is the *extended 2-symmetric multimomentum bundle*.

All the canonical geometric structures in $\Lambda_2^m(J^1\pi)$ restrict to $J^2\pi^\dagger$. Denote $\Theta_1^s = j_s^*\Theta_1 \in \Omega^m(J^2\pi^\dagger)$ and $\Omega_1^s = j_s^*\Omega_1 \in \Omega^{m+1}(J^2\pi^\dagger)$ the pull-back of the Liouville forms in $\Lambda_2^m(J^1\pi)$, which we call the *symmetrized Liouville forms*.

Finally, let us consider the quotient bundle $J^2\pi^\ddagger = J^2\pi^\dagger/\Lambda_1^m(J^1\pi)$, which is called the *restricted 2-symmetric multimomentum bundle*. This bundle is endowed with a natural quotient map, $\mu: J^2\pi^\dagger \rightarrow J^2\pi^\ddagger$, and the natural projections $\pi_{J^1\pi}^\ddagger: J^2\pi^\ddagger \rightarrow J^1\pi$ and $\bar{\pi}_{J^1\pi}^\ddagger: J^2\pi^\ddagger \rightarrow M$. Observe that $\dim J^2\pi^\ddagger = \dim J^2\pi^\dagger - 1$.

3 Lagrangian-Hamiltonian unified formalism

(See [4] for details). Let $\pi: E \rightarrow M$ be the configuration bundle of a second-order field theory, where M is an orientable m -dimensional manifold with volume form $\eta \in \Omega^m(M)$, and $\dim E = m + n$. Let $\mathcal{L} \in \Omega^m(J^2\pi)$ be a second-order Lagrangian density for this field theory. The *2-symmetric jet-multimomentum bundles* are

$$\mathcal{W} = J^3\pi \times_{J^1\pi} J^2\pi^\dagger \quad ; \quad \mathcal{W}_r = J^3\pi \times_{J^1\pi} J^2\pi^\ddagger.$$

These bundles are endowed with the canonical projections $\rho_1^r: \mathcal{W}_r \rightarrow J^3\pi$, $\rho_2: \mathcal{W} \rightarrow J^2\pi^\dagger$, $\rho_2^r: \mathcal{W}_r \rightarrow J^2\pi^\ddagger$, and $\rho_M^r: \mathcal{W}_r \rightarrow M$. In addition, the natural quotient map $\mu: J^2\pi^\dagger \rightarrow J^2\pi^\ddagger$ induces a natural submersion $\mu_{\mathcal{W}}: \mathcal{W} \rightarrow \mathcal{W}_r$.

Using the canonical structures in \mathcal{W} and \mathcal{W}_r , we define a *Hamiltonian section* $\hat{h} \in \Gamma(\mu_{\mathcal{W}})$, which is specified by giving a local *Hamiltonian function* $\hat{H} \in C^\infty(\mathcal{W}_r)$. Then we define the forms $\Theta_r = (\rho_2 \circ \hat{h})^*\Theta \in \Omega^m(\mathcal{W}_r)$ and $\Omega_r = -d\Theta_r \in \Omega^{m+1}(\mathcal{W}_r)$. Finally, $\psi \in \Gamma(\rho_M^r)$ is *holonomic* in \mathcal{W}_r if $\rho_1^r \circ \psi \in \Gamma(\bar{\pi}^3)$ is holonomic in $J^3\pi$.

The *Lagrangian-Hamiltonian problem for sections* associated with the system $(\mathcal{W}_r, \Omega_r)$ consists in finding holonomic sections $\psi \in \Gamma(\rho_M^r)$ satisfying

$$\psi^* i(X)\Omega_r = 0, \quad \text{for every } X \in \mathfrak{X}(\mathcal{W}_r). \quad (1)$$

Proposition 1 A section $\psi \in \Gamma(\rho_M^r)$ solution to the equation (1) takes values in a $n(m+m(m+1)/2)$ -codimensional submanifold $j_{\mathcal{L}}: \mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{L}} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{W}_r$ which is identified with the graph of a bundle map $\mathcal{FL}: J^3\pi \rightarrow J^2\pi^\ddagger$ over $J^1\pi$ defined locally by

$$\mathcal{FL}^* p_\alpha^i = \frac{\partial \hat{L}}{\partial u_i^\alpha} - \sum_{j=1}^m \frac{1}{n(ij)} \frac{d}{dx^j} \left(\frac{\partial \hat{L}}{\partial u_{1_i+1_j}^\alpha} \right) \quad ; \quad \mathcal{FL}^* p_\alpha^I = \frac{\partial \hat{L}}{\partial u_I^\alpha}.$$

The map \mathcal{FL} is the *restricted Legendre map* associated with \mathcal{L} , and it can be extended to a map $\widehat{\mathcal{FL}}: J^3\pi \rightarrow J^2\pi^\ddagger$, which is called the *extended Legendre map*.

4 Variational Principle for the unified formalism

If $\Gamma(\rho_M^r)$ is the set of sections of ρ_M^r , we consider the following functional (where the convergence of the integral is assumed)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{LH}: \Gamma(\rho_M^r) &\longrightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ \psi &\longmapsto \int_M \psi^* \Theta_r \end{aligned}$$

Definition 2 (Generalized Variational Principle) *The Lagrangian-Hamiltonian variational problem for the field theory $(\mathcal{W}_r, \Omega_r)$ is the search for the critical holonomic sections of the functional \mathbf{LH} with respect to the variations of ψ given by $\psi_t = \sigma_t \circ \psi$, where $\{\sigma_t\}$ is a local one-parameter group of any compact-supported ρ_M^r -vertical vector field Z in \mathcal{W}_r , that is,*

$$\left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_{t=0} \int_M \psi_t^* \Theta_r = 0.$$

Theorem 1 *A holonomic section $\psi \in \Gamma(\rho_M^r)$ is a solution to the Lagrangian-Hamiltonian variational problem if, and only if, it is a solution to equation (1).*

(Proof) This proof follows the patterns in [2] (see also [3]). Let $Z \in \mathfrak{X}^{V(\rho_M^r)}(\mathcal{W}_r)$ be a compact-supported vector field, and $V \subset M$ an open set such that ∂V is a $(m-1)$ -dimensional manifold and $\rho_M^r(\text{supp}(Z)) \subset V$. Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_{t=0} \int_M \psi_t^* \Theta_r &= \left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_{t=0} \int_V \psi_t^* \Theta_r = \left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_{t=0} \int_V \psi^* \sigma_t^* \Theta_r = \int_V \psi^* \left(\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sigma_t^* \Theta_r - \Theta_r}{t} \right) \\ &= \int_V \psi^* \mathbf{L}(Z) \Theta_r = \int_V \psi^* (i(Z) d\Theta_r + d i(Z) \Theta_r) = \int_V \psi^* (-i(Z) \Omega_r + d i(Z) \Theta_r) \\ &= - \int_V \psi^* i(Z) \Omega_r + \int_V d(\psi^* i(Z) \Theta_r) = - \int_V \psi^* i(Z) \Omega_r + \int_{\partial V} \psi^* i(Z) \Theta_r \\ &= - \int_V \psi^* i(Z) \Omega_r, \end{aligned}$$

as a consequence of Stoke's theorem and the assumptions made on the supports of the vertical vector fields. Thus, by the fundamental theorem of the variational calculus, we conclude

$$\left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_{t=0} \int_M \psi_t^* \Theta_r = 0 \iff \psi^* i(Z) \Omega_r = 0,$$

for every compact-supported $Z \in \mathfrak{X}^{V(\rho_M^r)}(\mathcal{W}_r)$. However, since the compact-supported vector fields generate locally the $C^\infty(\mathcal{W}_r)$ -module of vector fields in \mathcal{W}_r , it follows that the last equality holds for every ρ_M^r -vertical vector field Z in \mathcal{W}_r . Now, for every $w \in \text{Im} \psi$, we have a canonical splitting of the tangent space of \mathcal{W}_r at w in a ρ_M^r -vertical subspace and a ρ_M^r -horizontal subspace,

$$\mathbf{T}_w \mathcal{W}_r = V_w(\rho_M^r) \oplus \mathbf{T}_w(\text{Im} \psi).$$

Thus, if $Y \in \mathfrak{X}(\mathcal{W}_r)$, then

$$Y_w = (Y_w - \mathbf{T}_w(\psi \circ \rho_M^r)(Y_w)) + \mathbf{T}_w(\psi \circ \rho_M^r)(Y_w) \equiv Y_w^V + Y_w^\psi,$$

with $Y_w^V \in V_w(\rho_M^r)$ and $Y_w^\psi \in \mathbf{T}_w(\text{Im} \psi)$. Therefore

$$\psi^* i(Y) \Omega_r = \psi^* i(Y^V) \Omega_r + \psi^* i(Y^\psi) \Omega_r = \psi^* i(Y^\psi) \Omega_r,$$

since $\psi^* i(Y^V)\Omega_r = 0$, by the conclusion in the above paragraph. Now, as $Y_w^\psi \in T_w(\text{Im}\psi)$ for every $w \in \text{Im}\psi$, then the vector field Y^ψ is tangent to $\text{Im}\psi$, and hence there exists a vector field $X \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$ such that X is ψ -related with Y^ψ ; that is, $\psi_* X = Y^\psi|_{\text{Im}\psi}$. Then $\psi^* i(Y^\psi)\Omega_r = i(X)\psi^*\Omega_r$. However, as $\dim \text{Im}\psi = \dim M = m$ and Ω_r is a $(m+1)$ -form, we obtain that $\psi^* i(Y^\psi)\Omega_r = 0$. Hence, we conclude that $\psi^* i(Y)\Omega_r = 0$ for every $Y \in \mathfrak{X}(\mathcal{W}_r)$.

Taking into account the reasoning of the first paragraph, the converse is obvious since the condition $\psi^* i(Y)\Omega_r = 0$, for every $Y \in \mathfrak{X}(\mathcal{W}_r)$, holds, in particular, for every $Z \in \mathfrak{X}^{V(\rho_{\mathbb{R}}^r)}(\mathcal{W}_r)$. \blacksquare

5 Lagrangian variational problem

Consider the submanifold $j_{\mathcal{L}}: \mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{L}} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{W}_r$. Since $\mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{L}}$ is the graph of the restricted Legendre map, the map $\rho_1^{\mathcal{L}} = \rho_1^r \circ j_{\mathcal{L}}: \mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{L}} \rightarrow J^3\pi$ is a diffeomorphism. Then we can define the *Poincaré-Cartan m -form* as $\Theta_{\mathcal{L}} = (j_{\mathcal{L}} \circ (\rho_1^{\mathcal{L}})^{-1})^* \Theta_r \in \Omega^m(J^3\pi)$. This form coincides with the usual Poincaré-Cartan m -form derived in [5, 7].

Given the Lagrangian field theory $(J^3\pi, \Omega_{\mathcal{L}})$, consider the following functional

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{L}: \Gamma(\pi) &\longrightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ \phi &\longmapsto \int_M (j^3\phi)^* \Theta_{\mathcal{L}} \end{aligned}$$

Definition 3 (Generalized Hamilton Variational Principle) *The Lagrangian variational problem (or Hamilton variational problem) for the second-order Lagrangian field theory $(J^3\pi, \Omega_{\mathcal{L}})$ is the search for the critical sections of the functional \mathbf{L} with respect to the variations of ϕ given by $\phi_t = \sigma_t \circ \phi$, where $\{\sigma_t\}$ is a local one-parameter group of any compact-supported $Z \in \mathfrak{X}^{V(\pi)}(E)$; that is,*

$$\left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_{t=0} \int_M (j^3\phi_t)^* \Theta_{\mathcal{L}} = 0.$$

Theorem 2 *Let $\psi \in \Gamma(\rho_M^r)$ be a holonomic section which is critical for the functional \mathbf{LH} . Then, $\phi = \pi^3 \circ \rho_1^r \circ \psi \in \Gamma(\pi)$ is critical for the functional \mathbf{L} .*

Conversely, if $\phi \in \Gamma(\pi)$ is a critical section for the functional \mathbf{L} , then the section $\psi = j_{\mathcal{L}} \circ (\rho_1^{\mathcal{L}})^{-1} \circ j^3\phi \in \Gamma(\rho_M^r)$ is holonomic and it is critical for the functional \mathbf{LH} .

(Proof) The proof follows the same patterns as in Theorem 1. The same reasoning also proves the converse. \blacksquare

6 Hamiltonian variational problem

Let $\tilde{\mathcal{P}} = \text{Im}(\widetilde{\mathcal{FL}}) \xrightarrow{\tilde{j}} J^2\pi^\dagger$ and $\mathcal{P} = \text{Im}(\mathcal{FL}) \xrightarrow{j} J^2\pi^\dagger$ the image of the extended and restricted Legendre maps, respectively; $\tilde{\pi}_{\mathcal{P}}: \tilde{\mathcal{P}} \rightarrow M$ the natural projection, and $\mathcal{FL}_o: J^3\pi \rightarrow \mathcal{P}$ the map defined by $\mathcal{FL} = j \circ \mathcal{FL}_o$.

A Lagrangian density $\mathcal{L} \in \Omega^m(J^2\pi)$ is *almost-regular* if (i) \mathcal{P} is a closed submanifold of $J^2\pi^\dagger$, (ii) \mathcal{FL} is a submersion onto its image, and (iii) for every $j_x^3\phi \in J^3\pi$, the fibers $\mathcal{FL}^{-1}(\mathcal{FL}(j_x^3\phi))$ are connected submanifolds of $J^3\pi$.

The Hamiltonian section $\hat{h} \in \Gamma(\mu_{\mathcal{V}})$ induces a Hamiltonian section $h \in \Gamma(\mu)$ defined by $\rho_2 \circ \hat{h} = h \circ \rho_2^*$. Then, we define the *Hamilton-Cartan m-form* in \mathcal{P} as $\Theta_h = (h \circ j)^* \Theta_1^s \in \Omega^m(\mathcal{P})$. Observe that $\mathcal{F}\mathcal{L}_o^* \Theta_h = \Theta_{\mathcal{L}}$.

In what follows, we consider that the Lagrangian density $\mathcal{L} \in \Omega^m(J^2\pi)$ is, at least, almost-regular. Given the Hamiltonian field theory (\mathcal{P}, Ω_h) , let $\Gamma(\bar{\pi}_{\mathcal{P}})$ be the set of sections of $\bar{\pi}_{\mathcal{P}}$. Consider the following functional

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{H}: \Gamma(\bar{\pi}_{\mathcal{P}}) &\longrightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ \psi_h &\longmapsto \int_M \psi_h^* \Theta_{\mathcal{P}} \end{aligned}$$

Definition 4 (Generalized Hamilton-Jacobi Variational Principle) *The Hamiltonian variational problem (or Hamilton-Jacobi variational problem) for the second-order Hamiltonian field theory (\mathcal{P}, Ω_h) is the search for the critical sections of the functional \mathbf{H} with respect to the variations of ψ_h given by $(\psi_h)_t = \sigma_t \circ \psi_h$, where $\{\sigma_t\}$ is a local one-parameter group of any compact-supported $Z \in \mathfrak{X}^{V(\bar{\pi}_{\mathcal{P}})}(\mathcal{P})$,*

$$\left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_{t=0} \int_M (\psi_h)_t^* \Theta_h = 0.$$

Theorem 3 *Let $\psi \in \Gamma(\rho_M^r)$ be a critical section of the functional \mathbf{LH} . Then, the section $\psi_h = \mathcal{F}\mathcal{L}_o \circ \rho_1^r \circ \psi \in \Gamma(\bar{\pi}_{\mathcal{P}})$ is a critical section of the functional \mathbf{H} .*

Conversely, if $\psi_h \in \Gamma(\bar{\pi}_{\mathcal{P}})$ is a critical section of the functional \mathbf{H} , then the section $\psi = j_{\mathcal{L}} \circ (\rho_1^{\mathcal{L}})^{-1} \circ \gamma \circ \psi_h \in \Gamma(\rho_M^r)$ is a critical section of the functional \mathbf{LH} , where $\gamma \in \Gamma_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathcal{F}\mathcal{L}_o)$ is a local section of $\mathcal{F}\mathcal{L}_o$.

(Proof) The proof follows the same patterns as in Theorem 1. The same reasoning also proves the converse, bearing in mind that $\gamma \in \Gamma_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathcal{F}\mathcal{L}_o)$ is a local section. ■

7 The higher-order case

As stated in [4], this formulation fails when we try to generalize it to a classical field theory of order greater or equal than 3. The main obstruction to do so is the relation among the multimomentum coordinates used to define the submanifold $J^2\pi^\dagger$, $p_\alpha^{ij} = p_\alpha^{ji}$ for every $1 \leq i, j \leq m$ and every $1 \leq \alpha \leq n$. Although this “symmetry” relation on the multimomentum coordinates can indeed be generalized to higher-order field theories, it only holds for the highest-order multimomenta. That is, this relation on the multimomenta is not invariant under change of coordinates for lower orders, and hence we do not obtain a submanifold of $\Lambda_2^m(J^{k-1}\pi)$.

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